

**The Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam
The Bishop of Salisbury**

7th September 2018

I welcome most warmly and commend Archbishop Justin's message to the Jewish community on the festival of Rosh Hashanah (New Year) which begins the holy days that lead to Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

I share his affirmation of warm friendship, both personal and communal, and pledge to stand with the Jewish community against antisemitism as set out in the IHRA definition and examples. Sadly, Salisbury has not been exempt from examples of antisemitic incidents.

I commend to all in the Diocese of Salisbury the Archbishop's statement and I hope that everyone will take a moment to read it and to watch the video of the discussion between Archbishop Justin and Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis here: <https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/news/latest-news/archbishop-justin-wishes-new-year-peace-and-security-british-jewish-community>.

The statement reads: "*During the 90-minute meeting, the Archbishop reflected on his predecessor Archbishop William Temple establishing the Council of Christians and Jews in 1942, with Chief Rabbi Joseph H Hertz, as a means of combatting the evils of antisemitism.*

This solidarity continues to be important in light of the increase in anti-Jewish attacks on cemeteries, synagogues, individuals and the "unspeakably appalling trolling" on social media, the Archbishop said, adding that the controversies over the definition of antisemitism underline the responsibility of all leaders in public life to ensure the security and wellbeing of Jewish people.

Archbishop Justin told the Chief Rabbi he was pleased that the Parliamentary Labour Party had adopted the IHRA without any caveats, but that this is the beginning of a journey and there is more work to be done. He offered his own unequivocal support for the IHRA definition of antisemitism, without any qualifications, and noted that he and his team at Lambeth Palace has been working on this understanding.

Archbishop Justin and the Chief Rabbi reflected on the challenges of discussing points of disagreement within and beyond our respective communities, such as political issues in Israel. The Chief Rabbi offered the Jewish idea of disagreeing well "for the sake of heaven" – a disagreement that must always have at the forefront the love and wellbeing of those that disagree with us. In the Middle East, Archbishop Justin affirmed the security and wellbeing of all communities.

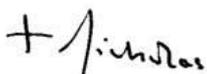
Following this meeting, Archbishop Justin acknowledges that Rosh Hashanah reminds of the virtues of self-reflection and indeed repentance. It is grounded in a shared conviction for Jews and Christians: that humanity is made in the image of God, and that each person is of special worth, even sacred.

For Christians, the principle that Jesus taught us of 'loving our neighbour as ourselves' underpins all that would guide us through these challenges.

I add my prayer that this Rosh Hashanah may be a time of blessing and sweetness for the Jewish community, and a time of reflection for all of us, that we may strive for the good of all.

Shanah Tovah!

Yours sincerely



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