



## FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

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### JANUARY 2012 UPDATE FOR FHL PARISH/DEANERY/LPA GROUPS

- Welcome to another year in the secular calendar. We hope you all had a wonderful and Blessed Christmas.
- A question was asked at the **National Gathering** about showing on local letterheads the relationship between Groups and the National FHL Charity. Having consulted the lawyers we can confirm that it is quite in order to add that you are “.....supporting the National Friends of the Holy Land Charity”. ‘Affiliation’, ‘in partnership with’ or any other phrases should be avoided so we comply with the requirements of the Charities Commission.
- With thanks to **Our Lady of the Wayside** Parish for their support to the School of Joy. £1,650, donated by the O’Mahoney Trust, was received at the school in December. Friends of The Holy Land are happy to act as conduits for donations to the school and have a robust audit trail in place which ensures accountability.
- **National Gathering.** We promised to report on the survey of those who attended the National Gathering in November. Thank you to all those who responded, around 70% of the attendees. This provides the Management Committee with some valuable ideas for future events. The responses were very encouraging:
  - **Administration.** Everyone rated the clarity of the advanced information 7/10 or higher. 52% said 10/10 ! Thank you.
  - **Balance of the day.** 95% rated the balance 7/10 or higher.
  - **Presentations.** 86% rated them 8/10 or higher.
  - **Group discussions.** 68% rated these between 7 and 9 out of 10. 32% between 4 and 6. Room for improvement next time
  - **Q & A sessions.** 95% rated these between 7 and 10.
  - **Start and Finish times.** All but a handful thought the timing was fine, given the *distance some had to travel.*
  - **Day of the week.** Only one person preferred an alternative day of the week.
  - **Which month.** Overall, November was rated the best choice with strong support for May, June, October and September.
  - **Improvements.** As the above indicates, most people were very satisfied with the day ... “inspirational, very good, I felt privileged to be there”... There were

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Registered Charity 1130054



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many valuable suggestions, each of which will be considered carefully. What was clear was the benefit of this being an annual event. So watch this space!!!!

- **Vatican Radio.** If you would like to hear the dulcet tones of Vice-Chairman, Peter Rand who was interviewed before Christmas by Vatican Radio, go to [www.radiovaticana.org/en1/Articolo.asp?c=547907](http://www.radiovaticana.org/en1/Articolo.asp?c=547907)
- **Ambassadors Information Pack.** Thank you to those who have volunteered their services as an FHL Ambassador. We are continuing our search for Ambassadors around the country who are able to acquaint themselves with the background and processes of the FHL, in order to answer the majority of questions they may be asked. To support this, an Ambassador's Information Pack has been produced. In December, John Scanlan spoke at Masses at Westminster Cathedral, enabling Sean to speak at Masses at Our Lady of Victories, Kensington on the same weekend. Please speak to Sean if you would like more information on the role.
- **Travel Bursary Awards** for 2011 have been awarded to Katherine and Anna who hope to travel out on pilgrimage to the Holy Land next year. Katherine wrote "I'm in tears. I'm so thankful. Thank you very much. You have made my Christmas" and Anna said "thank you for giving me this opportunity I look forward to seeing these places and to meet different people".
- **Crib Boxes.** With three months until the end of the FHL financial year, we are anxious to ensure that the proceeds of all the hundreds of crib boxes that have been distributed are received and used to support the Christians in the Holy Land. Let's aim to have them all collected by the end of February!!
- **Spreading the FHL message** In December, Sean spoke at St Michael's Wolverhampton and Sacred Heart, Ilkley, West Yorkshire and is looking forward to talking in Whaley Bridge and Yardley Wood, Birmingham in January. Peter is to talk at all the Masses at Our Lady & St. Anne's in Caversham on 21/22 January.
- **St Martha's House Mini Bus.** Thanks to some payments made to the FHL in advance of funds being raised, this project is now fully funded. Any further donations should be directed for the general support of St. Martha's House.
- **31<sup>st</sup> March.** Finally, with our financial year ending on March 31<sup>st</sup>, could all Group Treasurers work to sending in outstanding monies and contributions before that date. Thank you. A very Happy New Year to all "Friends".

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