



FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

FEBRUARY 2012 UPDATE FOR FHL PARISH/DEANERY/LPA GROUPS

- **Peter Rand, FHL National Vice-Chairman, writes:** “What a wonderful start to 2012!! There has been a significant increase in enquiries into the office about the work of the FHL. News is spreading fast! This has resulted in invitations to share our experiences with like-minded organisations with a view to increasing our donations to send to the Holy Land; long term commitments from parishes to support the FHL; invitations to Anglican as well as RC Parishes and access to all pilgrims returning from the Holy Land going through one of the largest Pilgrimage organisers. Let us hope the momentum continues for the rest of 2012!”
- **Ambassadors.** The programme of engaging with volunteers who wish to support our work introducing the FHL to parishes by giving pulpit presentations, follow up meetings with a slide show and/or dvd of life in Bethlehem and working to set up groups, is all in top gear. We have three Ambassadors working closely with us and benefiting from the experience gained from 18 months of building a base of support at grass roots level. This number continues to grow.
Do you want to join their ranks? A comprehensive Ambassador Information Pack is provided together with one to one assistance. Contact Sean or Peter.
- **National volunteers. at the office.** We are very grateful to the growing band of volunteers who are helping with the increasing post bag and office needs. We hope to welcome new people to our number and especially thank Pat Southall who is passing on the baton, having been in at the start. Thank you Pat and to all our current and past volunteers in Kenilworth and around the country.
- **Sean’s travels.** This month Sean returns to Whaley Bridge in Derbyshire. If you have friends in the High Peaks around Glossop and Chapel En Le Frith, please let them know that the Sacred Heart RC Church is the venue for an evening presentation of the dvd “Bethlehem: Hidden from view” 7.30pm on Thursday 15 February. All welcome.
- **Michael’s travels.** Since Christmas Michael has been in the Holy Land for two visits; firstly, as an invited guest at the annual Holy Land Coordination meeting of Bishops

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from the United States, Canada and Europe in Jerusalem and secondly organising a small private pilgrimage for the Archbishop of Canterbury and 18 Anglican clergy and friends. Michael is back out there in February and on two separate occasions in March. One of these is a week's 'working visit' with Peter, to develop further representation and projects for the FHL.

- The FHL have been asked to facilitate a day of Continuing Ministerial Development for licensed ministers in an Anglican Diocese later in the year. The programme will include a greater understanding of what is happening in the Holy land, the position of the Christian Churches and how help can be provided.
- **National Gathering.** The output from the National Gathering, in particular writes ups of the group discussions and question & answer sessions was sent to those who attended. We would be delighted to send these to anyone who could not join us on the day. Please contact the office.
- **Office refurbishment.** The landlord has installed a new double-glazed frontage to the office. So no more rain water and drafts and hopefully a reduced heating bill!! Come and visit us when you are in the area. A quick 'phone call will confirm who is in that day.
- **Nominating the FHL as the recipient of raffle funds.** Peter will be in Wetherby later this month to speak about the FHL after dinner at a Catenian Ball, at which the proceeds of the raffle are being given to the FHL. Thank you to those in the Ilkley Group who have facilitated this opportunity. Is this an idea for others to follow?!
- **A message to all Group Treasurers ... and all "Friends"**. As the end of the financial year approaches, can we please request that all outstanding monies are paid in to the FHL national account or returned to the office by the end of February. This includes crib box money, please. We are planning the level of support we can offer to the local Christians in the Holy Land during the next 12 months and need to know the funds we have available at the start of the year.

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