



FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

SUMMER 2011

“Working together to support the Christians in the Holy Land”

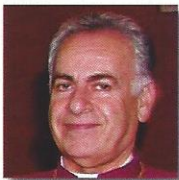


From the Sons of the Earth Association, an FHL Partner in the Holy Land
“Thank you for your support at Easter”



HIS BEATITUDE FOUAD TWAL
LATIN PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM

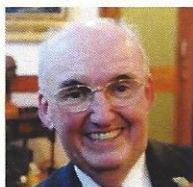
“We have the right to dream for a better future in this land”



THE RIGHT REVEREND SUHEIL DAWANI
ANGLICAN BISHOP IN JERUSALEM

“The Christian presence in the Holy Land is critical to building a new future where mutual respect, shared goals for all of God’s children and a tolerant way of life are the building blocks for peace”

Message from the Chairman



“It is with great pleasure that we welcome the initiative of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, seeking active support for the Christians in the Holy Land.

In so many ways local Christians represent the continuing presence of Jesus in the land where he was born, lived and died. They are currently suffering greatly. We are sure that Christians around the world, acting together, can provide the moral support and practical assistance to enable them to rebuild their lives and provide the better future that is so earnestly sought.

We are delighted that the Archbishop of Canterbury has identified the organisation, Friends of the Holy Land, as being an effective partner in this major initiative and look forward to working with him in the future”

PURPOSE

The FHL was established in 2009 to support the Christians in the Holy Land. We work in close cooperation with the Christian churches there and in the UK.

Our work is entirely non-political and is carried out with the backing and blessing of Anglican and Catholic Bishops in England and Wales.

OBJECTIVES

Our objectives on behalf of the Christians in the Holy Land are:

- To raise awareness of the challenges they experience
- To encourage prayers to be offered for their intentions
- To generate and channel financial resources to provide a sustainable future
- To encourage visits to the Holy Land to meet with local Christians

PATRONS

The Most Reverend Rowan Williams,
Archbishop of Canterbury

The Most Reverend Vincent Nichols,
Archbishop of Westminster

The Most Reverend Barry Morgan,
Archbishop of Wales

The Most Reverend Patrick Kelly,
Archbishop of Liverpool

The Most Reverend Bernard Longley,
Archbishop of Birmingham

The Right Reverend Michael Langrish,
Bishop of Exeter

OFFICERS

Dr Michael F Whelan - Chairman

Mr Peter Rand – Vice-Chairman

Mr Tony Stokes – Hon. Treasurer

Mr Sean Higgins – General Manager

Distribution of Funds in the Holy Land

Many international agencies provide finance for major projects. The FHL provides resources for small projects that make a big difference to Christians in the community.

Funds are made available to support projects that contribute to the sustainability of the communities, especially the most vulnerable. These currently include:

Projects for the repair of deteriorating homes.

In recent months work has included rebuilding bathrooms and kitchens, making roofs watertight, restoring plumbing, repairing electrics and redecorating.

A few thousand dollars can go a long way to improving the lifestyle and dignity of many families where conditions have resulted in them huddling together in one room of a home when other rooms have become uninhabitable. There are still many projects to be completed. The FHL have gathered together its own workforce of skilled local tradesmen in Bethlehem. The team take a real pride in the quality of their work, as if it were their own properties they were repairing. They appreciate the double benefit of helping poor families whilst providing them with much needed employment.

