



## FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

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### “FRIENDS – SUPPORTING THE CHRISTIANS”

#### February 2013 update from the FHL

- **FHL Chairman, Michael Whelan**  
Many of you ask about Michael’s health. He is making good progress. He has begun his final course of chemo this week and will then be receiving daily radiotherapy which is due to finish at Easter. He is very appreciative of all your prayers and good wishes. Please keep Michael and Norah in your prayers.
- **“Christians in the Holy Land – Improving their lives”. Everyone is welcome!**  
This major event, being organised by the FHL, starts at 7pm on Tuesday 19 March at Westminster Cathedral Hall. Chaired by Archbishop Vincent Nichols, speakers include Sir Vincent Fean, HM Consul General in Jerusalem; Laila Asfoura, a Palestinian Christian living in Bethlehem and FHL representative; and Peter Rand, FHL National Vice-Chairman. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers. Admission is free and ticket only, available from the FHL office by e-mail, ‘phone or post. Please book as soon as possible and tell all your friends and other parishioners. Posters for church notice-boards and flyers are available. Why not organise a mini bus or just take the coach or train. 5 minutes walk from Victoria.
- **First FHL National Pilgrimage – 20/28 September 2013**  
This was fully booked within three weeks of being launched in early December. A waiting list is being maintained both for this year and the 2014 pilgrimage which is being planned.
- **Winter/Spring 2013 Newsletter**  
If you have not received your copy of this bumper issue or require a further supply for your parish or FHL Group, please contact the office.
- **Distributions in the Holy Land**  
Recent distributions have included Christmas gifts to around 300 families/individuals and the start of a programme to support eleven of the poorest families in the area with regular monthly contributions towards their food bills and other essential costs. Please enquire if you would like to sponsor one of those families at a cost of £100 per month. Also just received is a request to fund a serious operation for a parishioner in Jifna, costing around £7,000.
- **Candle making factory**  
Latest initiatives at the “Candles of the Holy Star” FHL factory include the provision of display cases in selected hotels in Bethlehem and Jerusalem to make our candles available at special prices to pilgrims. Brochures and an updated website are being developed.

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- **School of Joy**  
The latest news from Fr. Abusada is the instillation of touch screen TV's linked to computers in three of the classrooms, supplied by Bethlehem University. They run Arabic learning software. Each week, the university is sending a specialist to deliver an ICT teachers course to enable teachers to introduce new technology to the classroom.
- **Stop Press - Volunteer Nurses or Carers required**  
We have had a request from the Latin Patriarchate for volunteer nurses and carers to support the care home in Taybeh for a month or two. If anyone is able to help or knows anyone who can offer their services, please contact the office for details when they become available.
- **Farm Street and Spanish Place**  
Congratulations to FHL Ambassador John Scanlan and all the volunteers who supported recent pulpit presentations and retiring collections during January. A wonderful achievement!
- **Sean's Travels**  
The London Area has been the main focus for talks in January and concluded with showing the film "Bethlehem: Hidden from view" in Lingfield where a well informed, ecumenical audience is expected to come together as another local group of Friends. It was also a pleasure for me to meet my University Chaplain Fr Anthony Nye, SJ at the church of The Immaculate Conception, Farm Street while supporting John Scanlan.
- **Peter's Travels**  
January has seen introductions of the FHL to parishioners in Eastcote and Uxbridge parishes. Despite the snow a hard core of supporters were enthusiastic to consider fundraising activities and launch the FHL in their parish.
- **FHL Diocesan Co-ordinators**  
Last month Peter met with the FHL Diocesan Co-ordinator for the Anglican Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich. In early February he travels to the Middlesbrough RC Diocese and Newcastle Anglican Diocese to meet newly appointed Diocesan Co-ordinators.
- **Pilgrimages – FHL perspective**  
A new leaflet is available from the office in both electronic and hard copy which shares the FHL approach to pilgrimage. It recommends ways of supporting both the local Christian economy and opportunities to meet Christian families and communities.

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- **Crib boxes – time to empty!!**

It's time to empty those crib boxes. Local crib box co-ordinators will be in touch with you very soon. All contributions should be with the FHL office, please, by 15 March latest.

- **A Lenten Prayer**

Below are a series of suggested bidding prayers proposed by one of our volunteers. Why not speak to your Parish Priest, Rector or Vicar about including some of them during Lent? How about combining this with the proceeds of a frugal Lenten lunch being donated to the Christians in the Holy Land?

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND**

#### **Please join us in praying:**

- For young people that they get the educational opportunities that they need to give them a good start to life.
- For those struggling with poverty, poor housing and unemployment.
- For people with health issues; that they get the treatment and care they need.
- For the elderly suffering with loneliness and isolation.
- For the Clergy and the Church serving in the Holy Land, that they will be strengthened in their ministry of supporting the Christian community and bringing the love of Christ to those in need.

#### **Please also pray:**

- For a long-term peaceful solution to the situation in the Holy Land that is fair to all.
- That, as Christians, we can support our brothers and sisters in Christ in their time of need.
- For the FHL Management Team, all volunteers and the team of advisors living in the Holy Land; that the financial resources that we can provide will be used wisely and for those most in need.

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