



FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

“FRIENDS – SUPPORTING THE CHRISTIANS” April 2013 update from the FHL

- **FHL Chairman, Michael Whelan**

Michael is finishing his course of daily radiotherapy this week – 5 months of continuous chemo and radiotherapy. It has left him with a very sore throat and increasing difficulty with eating. He remains cheerful and keen to know everything that the FHL volunteers are achieving around the country. We now pray for a good report following scans after Easter. Please keep Michael and Norah in your prayers.

- **“Christians in the Holy Land – Improving their lives”.**

Thank you to the hundreds of you that travelled from far and wide to Westminster Cathedral Hall on 19 March. The opening message from Archbishop Vincent Nichols who was in Rome for the Inauguration Mass of Pope Francis provided an encouraging start to the evening. His message stated that “practically no other reason other than a Papal inauguration would have kept me from being at this evening’s event. For its theme “Christians in the Holy Land – improving their lives” is one extremely close to my heart. I am most grateful to the Friends of the Holy Land for organising this gathering.....”

We have received very encouraging feedback from many who attended. Thank you for the most generous collection, all of which will be sent to support the Christians in the Holy Land to improve their lives. Thank you also to all those who responded to the appeal to complete standing orders; from £1 to £100 per month, they are all much appreciated.

We have circulated the presentations from the four speakers to all those who attended for whom we have email addresses. If you would like a copy please contact the office.

- **What a year!!!**

If the third FHL financial year ending on Easter Sunday is to be judged on the generosity of you our donors, then it has been a wonderful year. It is difficult to believe we launched just 3.5 years ago. This year your donations will be close to one-third of a million pounds, of which 85% has either been distributed or is allocated to support the Christians on the Holy Land. Thanks to the work of our volunteers and the generosity of all involved, our costs remain around 16% and falling. We begin 2013/2014 with promises of significant additional funds, providing us with the confidence to expand our list of beneficiaries in the West Bank and beyond.

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Registered Charity 1130054



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- **FHL Distributions in the Holy Land**

Distributions continue and our Representative Committee have met on three occasions during the last month to propose new projects for the FHL as we begin a new year.

- **Volunteer Nurse**

Thank you very much to Cathy Allen who has responded to the request from the Latin Patriarchate to support the Beit Afram Elderly Care Home in Taybeh. Cathy flies out on 3rd April and returns on 3rd June. We wish you well, Cathy, and will keep you and the residents of Beit Afram in our prayers. May God Bless you for your generosity.

- **Sean's Travels and Roundup**

A snowy return to the West Midlands from the North West last Friday after a speaking engagement with Dr Mary Brennan and friends (West Kirby) provided the end to a busy month of travelling. Thank you to the local Friends (LPA22) for a generous group contribution and individuals who have adopted families.

Speaking to the Mother's Day congregation at St Francis of Padua in Edgware was the end of the line for Sean on Saturday and Sunday 9th and 10th March; the end of the Northern tube line that is. Thanks to the congregation and Mgr. Martin Hayes for their generosity. And thanks to local FHL Ambassador James Agha for the introduction and John Scanlan for putting Sean up for the night.

Sean also had a chance to meet in person supporters at the Westminster Cathedral public meeting who had travelled into London for the evening and is looking forward to visiting Hampstead, Tolworth and Weybridge in due course to say "Thank You" in person. The local Solihull Friends have been raising money through social events including a pancake race and a trip to a local amateur musical production. Thanks to Richard Bird and Steve/Jenny Roper in particular. Finally, the flight is booked for 14 May when Sean will be packing in a week of visits to projects and people in Jerusalem and the West Bank.

- **News of Patrons**

The Trustees are delighted to confirm that The Most Reverend Patrick Kelly, Archbishop Emeritus of Liverpool, has chosen to remain as a Patron of the FHL, following his retirement. We are very grateful that his wide experience and interest in the challenges of the Christian Community in the Holy land will be available to us.

The Management Committee and Volunteers in Kenilworth wish all 'Friends' around the country a Very Happy and Blessed Easter. We pray that our Brothers and Sisters in the Holy Land who are celebrating Easter at this time may enjoy peace and the Blessings of Our Lord

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