



FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

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

- **FHL National Gathering – Saturday 7th September.**
One week to go before the FHL 3rd National Gathering in Kenilworth. It is still not too late for last minute bookings to hear up to date reports about the Christian situation in the Holy Land and the work of the FHL, both in the last 12 months and our plans for the future. Please confirm your attendance as soon as possible. Tel: 01926 512980 or e-mail : friendsoftheholylan@btconnect.com
Olive Wood orders including Christmas cards to Pam Highton at olivewoodproducts@btconnect.com for collection at the National Gathering.
- **Mass at Westminster Cathedral.** 5.30pm. Thursday 12 September. This Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Vincent Nichols, is being offered for Michael Whelan and the Friends of the Holy Land. We look forward to seeing everyone there.
- **Projects in the Holy Land.** Peter Rand, FHL National Vice-Chairman, writes, At the last meeting of the Management Committee, many requests were considered, including support to the following projects:
 - Fr. Imad Twal. Our Lady of Peace Centre in Amman. Fr. Imad is doing some wonderful work providing shelter and food for Christian refugees from Syria. The cost of supporting one family in one room is around 30 Euros per day to include electricity, drinking water, gas heating, cleaning materials, personal hygiene items and basic foodstuffs. He is currently supporting 46 families and FHL will provide an initial contribution of £5,000.
 - House renovation in Bethlehem. The committee approved a sum of \$3,000 to damp-proof and redecorate the accommodation of a bedridden lady and her daughter, living in very poor conditions outside Bethlehem. On my visit to the Holy Land last week I visited this house and met the family. The work is starting immediately and will make a very significant improvement to their quality of life.
 - School and University fees. \$60,000 has been allocated to supporting families across the West Bank and Gaza who otherwise would not be able to send their children to faith schools in the region. Consideration is also being given to requests from Fr. Johnny in Nablus, whom, I met last week, to support 4 families who are currently only able to send their children to Government schools but who are active supporters of the local Parish. The requirement is for around \$4,754.

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- FHL local representatives in the Holy Land agreed to support with \$2,000 the Anglican Diocese in Jerusalem to provide a University scholarship to Jaleel Khoury who will be involved in the management of Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza after his graduation.
- The FHL's mission is to provide both immediate family support where it is most needed and sustainable projects, particularly those that provide housing and employment. Consideration is currently being given to two more sustainable projects – a new sandwiching making business, based at St. Martha's House and a significant housing development project that will result in apartments in Beit Sahour for 10 young Christian families to own. This latter project requires funding of around \$180,000, with the land being donated to the FHL by the owner.'
- **Visit to the Holy Land.** During a whistle-stop 3 night visit to the Holy Land last week (including Nablus, Galilee, Taybeh, Reneh, Nazareth, Jericho, Bethlehem and Jerusalem) to finalise arrangements for the FHL Pilgrimage in 3 weeks time, Peter Rand and John Rice met with Parish Priests and other FHL contacts in the region. 'What continues to surprise me', writes Peter, 'are the different needs of the Christian community around the country. The network of contacts the FHL has established in the region is essential to ensure the right support is offered where it is most needed. Those coming on pilgrimage will have the opportunity to hear this direct, enabling them to share the information when we return home.
- **Trustees Meeting.** FHL trustees are meeting in London on 12 September. Agenda items include consideration of the next Chairman. Please keep the Trustees in your prayers.
- **St. Dunstan's, Mayfield – 'a Jazz Date with Jacqui'. Saturday 9 November. 7.30pm** Tickets cost £20, full view, and £15, restricted view and will be on sale from September via the parish Office (01435 873484) The FHL Co-ordinator in the parish is Jean Olney.
- **Peter's Travels.** In addition to time in the Holy Land, Peter is speaking at all four Masses this weekend at St. Mary Mother of God, Hornchurch, Essex, the parish of Fr. Paul Fox, the FHL Diocesan Co-ordinator for the Brentwood Diocese.
- **Sean's Travels:** In the North West, Southport August 17/18th and a new Group in the early stages centered around St Patrick's (Fr Mark Madden). The plan is to show a dvd on Monday 7th October in the Parish hall following a talk at Masses the previous weekend in Fleetwood at St Wulstans and St Edmunds.
- **Thank you.** Thank you to everyone for the condolences received in the office, following the death of Michael Whelan. They have been passed to his widow, Norah. Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Michael and for Norah and the family. God Bless You All – Peter.

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