



FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

“FRIENDS – HELPING CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND”

March 2014 update from the FHL

- **Reflections of FHL in the Holy Land from FHL Chairman.**

FHL Chairman, Jim Quinn, and Vice Chairman, Peter Rand, have just returned from a whirlwind 4 days in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. They had over 20 meetings, including two with the local FHL Committee, welcoming the latest member, Canon Hosan Naoum, Dean of St. George’s Cathedral, representing the Jerusalem Anglican Diocese. In reporting to the Trustees and UK Management Committee, Jim wrote “My most important reflection on our visit is the way in which at meeting after meeting women and men whose lives and commitment earn my respect and admiration in turn open up their hearts and souls and give their respect to FHL, its work and the way we are all conducting it. ‘Do not become like other NGO’s’ was the urgent advice of two huge workers at the coal face. It is clear that our four years of work has given the opportunity to those trying to meet the hard day to day reality of the needs they are addressing, to find out our real personality. Our mission and our conduct of that mission have led them to assess us as fellow workers in this particular vineyard of need and desperation. The eyes of people from Sister Sophie of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul to Bishop William Shomali and Bishop Suheil speak volumes of their appreciation of the work that our committee in the Holy Land are overseeing to make best use of the charity of returning pilgrims and others here in England and Wales. It was deeply moving and immensely satisfying to be within the community that is conducting this work”.

- **Masses of Thanksgiving for Cardinal Vincent Nichols**

FHL were represented at the Mass at Westminster Cathedral on 2 March, when a packed Cathedral applauded our new Cardinal and he responded by asking that every clap be replicated with a prayer for him. There was a great deal of interest from members of the congregation who passed by the updated FHL display stand and collected copies of the new FHL brochure.

You are reminded that subsequent Masses are at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral on 16 March and St. Chad’s Cathedral, Birmingham on 30 March.

**Friends of the Holy Land
2 Station Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 1JJ
Tel. 01926 512980**

Email – friendsoftheholylan@btconnect.com Website – www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

Registered Charity 1130054



FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

- **Dates for your Diary**

Croydon Deanery 8th at Thornton Heath and 15th March at Selsdon 2pm – 4pm. Two meetings, providing parishioners in the Deanery with more information on the work of FHL and how to support the Beit Sahour Housing Project. For more details contact rosita.thomas@sky.com (m. 07951 618368)

Bethlehem Icon School. London. 9th April

Support for the Bethlehem Icon School will be boosted by an exhibition and sale of work at Osbourne Studio Gallery, Motcomb Street, Belgravia, London of one of the gallery's artists, Sophie Wafboeffe. Sophie has an exhibition of work she has completed during a two year stay in Jerusalem. It is a ticket only event with 10% of the sales going to the BIC through FHL. The BIC Director, Ian Knowles, is flying in specifically from Bethlehem to be present and all FHL members, especially those in the London area, are invited. Peter Rand and Sean Higgins will be in attendance if you would like information on FHL. For more details please contact the FHL office.

- **Returning Pilgrims**

One of the opportunities to grow our support is to engage with those who return from pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The key to this process is to identify such pilgrimages, specifically from both Roman Catholic and Church of England parishes and dioceses. Therefore, if you hear about a pilgrimage, please inform the office. Thank you.

friendsoftheholylan@btconnect.com (for the attention of John Rice)

- **Registration**

FHL is now registered in the Holy Land as a branch of FHL in the UK. This will open many doors to greater levels of recognition and support in the region.

- **FHL Brochure**

We have a new FHL brochure. Copies can be supplied from the office. They provide an overview of our organisation and work in the Holy land. A 'soft copy' is attached.

- **Easter Cards**

Do you send Easter Cards to your friends and family? If not, how about starting this year! For the first time, FHL have ordered a small supply of two different cards from Bethlehem, where they have been designed and printed with all the sales going to support employment in the area and the work of FHL. Packs of 6 cost £2.75 plus postage. An order form with details is attached. Telephone the office or send us an email.

Friends of the Holy Land
2 Station Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 1JJ
Tel. 01926 512980

Email – friendsoftheholylan@btconnect.com Website – www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

Registered Charity 1130054