



## FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

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### “FRIENDS – HELPING CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND”

May 2014 update from the FHL

- **Holy Hour. Sunday 25 May. 3pm – 4pm.**  
On 24-26 May, His Holiness Pope Francis makes an historic pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It is a wonderful opportunity to raise awareness of the plight of Christians, particularly in the West Bank and Gaza. FHL Chairman, Jim Quinn, has written to each RC and Anglican Diocesan Bishop in England & Wales to suggest a holy hour or time of prayer between 3pm – 4pm on Sunday 25 May. This coincides with Pope Francis meeting local families in Bethlehem before making a private visit to the Grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem. An idea for your parish?
- **Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. 17<sup>th</sup> May**  
An Assembly in Crawley between 10am and 4pm on Saturday 17 May, run by the Pastoral Team at the A&B Diocese. It will ask the question, “How should Christians respond to the challenges in Israel/Palestine?” Speakers will include Canon Anthony Ball, former diplomat in the Middle East and now the Anglican Rector of Worth Church and Mary Lucas, CAFOD’s Programme Manager for the Middle East. Peter and Sean are planning to attend. Please contact the FHL Office for booking details.
- **Tarantara Charity Concert. Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June. Promoted by Worcester FHL**  
An evening listening to the wonderful voices of the Tarantara choir. For tickets please contact Marie – [mbbh464748@gmail.com](mailto:mbbh464748@gmail.com)
- **Talk by Sir Vincent Fean. Sunday 20 July. 7pm**  
Weybridge FHL Group have invited Sir Vincent Fean, former British Consul General in Jerusalem, to address a meeting, entitled ‘*Christian Living Stones; helping Palestinians to stay in the Holy Land*’. Prayers for the Christians in the Holy Land will be led by Bishop Richard Moth. There will be a meal preceding the talk. Venue: Westmount, West Road, Weybridge KT13 0LZ. All are welcome. Please contact Mo McDonnell if you can attend. Tel: 01932 846372.
- **About Summer Camp**  
For the third year FHL will be supporting Fr. Yousef to run his annual Saint Barbara Summer Camp in About in July. It is an inspirational initiative, bringing together 200 boys and girls between 4 – 17 years, from the Catholic and Orthodox parishes. It takes 50 volunteers to organise and offers a wide range of activities with a strong Christian focus of prayer; dancing, drama, arts & crafts, sewing, sports, outside games, music tuition and even visits to a local swimming pool. All the Christian children in the village gather to enjoy and to learn, when travel restrictions prevent them from enjoying a traditional ‘holiday’. The cost for each young person to attend is around £90. If you or your Group would like to sponsor some of the 200 youngsters to attend, please send your donations to the office.

**Friends of the Holy Land**  
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**Tel. 01926 512980**

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**Registered Charity 1130054**



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- **Cardinal Vincent Nichols**

Cardinal Vincent has recently recorded a 6 minute testimonial to Friends of the Holy Land and shared his personal view on the situation in the Holy Land. It can be viewed here

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/i83b3wzihv2cg6l/Cardinal%20Vincent%20Nichols%20Friends%20of%20the%20Holy%20Land.mov>

- **Meeting Archbishop Bernard Longley**

Jim Quinn and Peter Rand recently held a valuable meeting with Archbishop Bernard who was enthusiastic to support FHL in whatever way he could. Look out for some initiatives that will be announced shortly

- **Churches Together National Conference**

Peter spoke on 28 April at the Annual Assembly in Cardiff of Churches Together in GB and Ireland. He was invited to run two workshops, focusing on the situation in Gaza, following his recent visit. Peter writes that he 'was amazed by the breadth of Christian denominations and organisations in these Islands, each contributing in their own way to promoting Christian values to their congregations and members.'

- **Sean's Travels**

Sean has had a busy month around the country from addressing a deanery meeting in Camberwell to supporting FHL Ambassador, Pat Revans with pulpit presentations at St. Patrick's in Wellington, Shropshire. On 1 May, he represented FHL at the Mass for the installation of the Most Rev. Malcolm McMahon as the Archbishop of Liverpool.

- **Update from Karen, FHL Office Manager**

In addition to our daily engagement with 'Friends' around the country, our focus in the office at the moment is to install a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. We are keen to improve our contact with FHL supporters across the country. Hopefully, over the next few months you will notice the difference! Thank you to all of you who ordered Easter cards.

- **Church of England General Synod, York. 11 – 15 July**

Peter and Sean will be attending the Synod and look forward to meeting any of you who will be present. Please sign up for the Fringe Meeting to which members will have been invited. 8am on Saturday. Chaired and sponsored by FHL Patron, Bishop Christopher Chessun.

- **Recent family support**

In addition to the 50 families that receive regular monthly support, FHL received our quarterly report from St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus, run by the Anglican Diocese. This showed that FHL have supported 139 different Christian patients in the first quarter of 2014 with contributions towards their medications, operations and laboratory tests. Other recent cases include \$3,000 to refurbish a very poor kitchen and \$3,000 towards the restoration of house damaged by fire.

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