



## **FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND**

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

**August 2014 update from the FHL**

- **FHL EMERGENCY ‘FAMILY SUPPORT’ APPEAL**

The media has been full of the conflict in Gaza and we pray for a swift resolution. The impact is spreading. On Tuesday morning the Latin Patriarchate school was partially destroyed along with an office and other church facilities. As Cardinal Vincent Nichols said in a statement yesterday, *‘Faced with the increasing violence that is engulfing the people of Gaza, my thoughts and prayers, and those of the catholic community, are constantly with all those who have lost loved ones and whose lives are shattered by this conflict. The pain, anguish and sense of hopelessness of those men, women and children cry out that war is not the answer. As this conflict shows, violence breeds violence. Along with so many others, I plead for an immediate truce in Gaza that will not only put an end to this latest carnage but that will also address at last the core problems behind this conflict which has so blighted the lives of all the peoples of the Holy Land.’*

FHL fully supports that position. Our role is to offer help to those individual Christian families who are in the greatest need in the region and with the increased demands on our resources, including from families in the Holy Family Parish in Gaza, we are launching today an FHL Emergency ‘Family Support’ Appeal. Every penny raised will go direct to families, including those recommended to us by Fr. Jorge, the Parish Priest at the Holy Family Church in Gaza. FHL Vice-Chairman Peter Rand writes, ‘Please be generous. You can either donate on-line or by sending a cheque or standing order to the FHL office. Please gift-aid your donation if you are eligible to do so. The needs of our brothers and sisters will last well after the immediate conflict is over and out of the headlines.’

- **FHL Chairman, Jim Quinn**

Can you please remember Jim in your prayers, He was admitted to hospital on Monday whilst on holiday in the south-west and is expected home today.

- **National Gathering 27 September 2014.**

Everyone is invited to the 4<sup>th</sup> FHL National Gathering. We are very pleased to welcome as our speakers, the Most Reverend Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham and Revd Dominic Barrington, Parish Priest at the Anglican Parish of Ss Peter and Paul in Kettering. Control +Click the link below for a draft programme of the day and registration form.

[Draft Programme and Registration Form](#)

- **FHL Christmas cards and 2015 FHL Calendar**

Cards are being printed in Bethlehem and will be arriving shortly, together with a new innovation, a FHL Calendar. Please contact the office for an order form, which will be available shortly.

**Friends of the Holy Land**  
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- **Welcome to Oliver**

We welcome Oliver Doyle to the office as an intern for 6 weeks. Oliver is studying Arabic and Hebrew at London University and will be spending a year in Jerusalem from Sept 2015.

- **Sean's July Travels**

Sean reports: 'An extensive month of travelling from Bristol to Morpeth via York and Ilkley, then Ealing and Weybridge. Clifton Diocese pulpit talks and collection kicked off the month; thanks to the Diocesan Co-ordinator, Mgr Bernard Massey for accommodating me. Then it was on to an excellent meeting and support from the General Synod of the Church of England in York where our patrons were very keen to say hello. Our display was in situ and manned from Friday until Tuesday. That day Fr. Abusada from the School of Joy arrived by train, celebrated midday Mass at St. Wilfrid's, courtesy of Fr. Richard Duffield and then visited the Minster. We then travelled to Ilkley where an evening with local FHL stalwart, Paul Kennedy, enabled interested locals to question Fr. Abusada first-hand about his work and FHL's unique role. Indeed one couple, keen to support his work, talked of 'booking a seat on the bus', a reference to an earlier project to provide a mini-bus for St. Martha's House. Wednesday took us to Wensleydale and the route of the Tour de France cycle race a week earlier; some much needed respite in the beauty of the National Park. Geoff Harris, local vicar Simon White and local RC priest, Fr. Lawrence Jones, provided welcome commitment and support to our guest in Morpeth. Then it was on to Whitley Bay and a meeting with the Newcastle Diocese FHL Co-ordinator, Revd Jane Wood. This rounded off an important opportunity to thank existing supporters and interest new ones.

Following a presentation in the Benedictine Abbey in Ealing of a cheque from the local Catenian Circle and a social gathering at the subsequent BBQ, it was on to Weybridge and a shared platform with former Consul General to Jerusalem, Sir Vincent Fean, and Bishop to the Forces, Richard Moth, at which over two hours of information, opinion and encouragement of FHL was much in evidence. Thanks to Mo McDonnell for organising and Javier and Carmen for hosting. 1000 miles in a hot car but very worthwhile.

- **Pat Revans**

FHL Ambassadors around the country are undertaking sterling work to spread our message, none more so than Pat in the Shrewsbury Diocese, who is also the FHL Diocesan Coordinator. Thank you for all the Parish presentations and support of the many fundraising activities around the Diocese and to all the other ambassadors around the country. Are you ready to volunteer to spread the message. Joining us at the National Gathering would be an excellent introduction and you can talk with Sean as to what is involved.

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- **St. Luke's Hospital Nablus**

The quarterly report was received in early July identifying those Christian patients whom FHL have supported between April and June; 151 named cases, each with 1 – 1,000 dollars, covering contributions from medications to operations. This is an excellent example of where FHL support individual Christian families whilst at the same time supporting the work of the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem, under whose management the hospital is run.

- **Burnt houses, medications, home refurbishments and soon school fees**

The range of demands on FHL funds continues to grow, whilst we still need to fund our core projects such as school fees for the new academic year starting next month. Have you thought about sponsoring a child's education? As well as working through our local Committee, the local clergy and selected institutions to identify the most needy cases, we also receive applications from Caritas Jerusalem, with whom we expect to build more regular contact. For example they brought a case to us of a family in Zababdeh whose house needed urgent refurbishment after a fire. Caritas investigated the family need and will supervise the work, providing FHL with receipt and reports, in return for our contribution of \$7,200.

- **FHL Website**

Have you visited the website recently? [www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk) The **Home** page now includes a report on the FHL at General Synod in York, the FHL Prayer for the Christians in the Holy Land and a video of the conversation between Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Jim Quinn. The **News** page includes access to the Draft Programme and Registration Form for the National Gathering on 27 September, the current newsletter and a link to all previous monthly updates. Go to '**Support Us**' to donate to the FHL General Fund (including the emergency 'Family Support' Appeal), to the Beit Sahour Housing Project and to the Ely Diocese Water Project. Standing order and gift-aid forms are available or alternatively you can donate through CAF (Charity Aid Foundation). You can also view our Celebration Flyer. The idea of asking you family and friends to make a donation to FHL rather than give you a present at your next big birthday or anniversary is growing in popularity!

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