



FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

“FRIENDS – HELPING CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND”

October 2014 update from the FHL

- **2014 National Gathering**

Thank you to all who were able to join us at the National Gathering last Saturday. We heard two inspiring presentations from Archbishop Bernard Longley and Revd. Dominic Barrington. Both speakers shared their wide experience of the Holy Land. Archbishop Bernard asked us to be creative in spreading our message across the Christian community in this country. Fr. Dominic shared his enthusiasm from leading over 30 pilgrimages! For those of you who were able to join us, you will have received a feedback survey. Your views of the day and how it can be improved are very important to us, so please complete the survey as soon as you can, so we can summarise and return the findings to you! We are distributing the slides and questions/answers to everyone who was present. If anyone else would like a copy please email or telephone Karen in the office.

- **Gaza Update**

We now have details, photographs and repair costs of individual Christian families in Gaza whose homes have been damaged during the recent war. **We now need more funds to pay for these repairs.** Our Emergency ‘Family Support’ Appeal will remain open, so please spread the word among your friends and parishioners. Please ask that the Fund is mentioned in your Parish newsletter. How quickly the media move on to other stories, but the plight of our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land remains.

- **Visit to the Holy Land**

Peter Rand writes, “It is only 3 weeks since I returned from Bethlehem and Jerusalem. It has been so busy, it seems much longer! From meeting many families and holding many meetings, I was struck by how badly the events in Gaza and Iraq have affected the day to day lives of those I met. Increased levels of unemployment, increased fear of the future, greater uncertainty and more families looking to emigrate were among the key messages I heard. Yet, the UK stands as a beacon of support with an increase in pilgrimages from this country, when too many from elsewhere in the world cancelled at the first sign of conflict. More than ever, we need to remember them in our prayers.

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



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- **Trustees Meeting**

At a Trustees meeting on 11 September the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 March 2014 were approved and are now on the Charities Commission website. Have a look at the Accounts which includes the Trustees Report which summarises another successful year for FHL. www.charitycommission.gov.uk

- **Clifton and Chester Diocese**

Chairman, Jim Quinn, had successful meetings during September with newly appointed FHL Diocesan Coordinators in the RC Diocese of Clifton and the C of E Diocese of Chester.

- **West Drayton**

Peter spoke at all 4 Masses at the Parish in West Drayton on 13/14 September. 'I was enormously encouraged by the tremendous support from parishioners and look forward to returning on 22 October to set up a FHL Group.'

- **Pilgrimages**

During Peter's visit to Jerusalem, he met with the pilgrims on the Birmingham Archdiocese Pilgrimage led by Bishop David McGough and Canon Mevyn Tower. The enthusiasm for the work of FHL is anticipated to lead to further FHL Parish Groups in the Archdiocese. At the end of November, Peter is planning to meet with pilgrims during the Westminster Pilgrimage. Cardinal Vincent Nichols has agreed to visit families in and around Bethlehem, being supported by FHL.

- **FHL Pilgrimage – your views please**

The Management Committee are due to make a decision on whether FHL should run another FHL Pilgrimage following the success of the one in 2013. This might be in 2015 or 2016 or the decision might be made to not run specific FHL pilgrimages. The focus on volunteers' time and resources might be better spent on encouraging as many pilgrimages as possible from around the UK to visit FHL projects, meet local families and support the local Christian economy. Before making decisions, the Management Committee would like to hear from you. Please drop an email to the office or call us, if you would prefer.

- **A message from Karen, FHL Office Manager**

Christmas Cards (card No 6 Sold out), Calendars and plenty of Olive Wood stock available but order early to avoid disappointment. Flyers attached.

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With the shelves filling up with ideas for Christmas, Lindy Wilson asked me to remind everyone that they can raise money for Friends of the Holy Land when shopping on line just by using easyfundraising.org.uk. There are no catches and it's completely free to use. It's really simple - just shop online via easyfundraising.org.uk with over 2,700 well known retailers like Amazon, John Lewis, Argos, M&S, eBay (and many more!) and whenever you buy something online, the retailer makes a donation to Friends of the Holy Land. Download the Donation Reminder to make it even easier, as it reminds you about getting a donation when you go on any website that gives donations. So far with only a few people using it FHL has received £155.

Get started now and take advantage of a current promotion offer and FHL will receive an additional £5 when you collect £10 of donations with this invitation link -

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/36F38Z/>

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