



## **FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND**

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

#### **December 2014 update from the FHL**

- **Thank you**

Jim Quinn, FHL Chairman, writes, ‘December is an opportune time to thank everyone who has supported FHL in any way during 2014 – those who have donated either by one-off donations or standing orders; who are Ambassadors or Diocesan Coordinators and those who support local Groups. Thank you also to the Trustees, to members of the Management Committee and to the FHL team of staff and head office volunteers’.

- **Welcome to Vicki**

We are pleased to welcome Vicki Urch who has joined FHL as Director of Development. Vicki has over 20 years experience in the third sector and has a particular interest in supporting the homeless and deprived. During December Vicki will be undertaking an induction period and in the New Year will start contacting FHL ‘Friends’ around the country.

- **Visit to the Holy Land**

Peter Rand has just returned from a week in the Holy Land, during which time he showed FHL Trustee, Dr, David Ryall and Bishop Declan Lang, both representing the International Department of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, around FHL projects. He also addressed 125 Westminster Diocese pilgrims, visited Gaza with Cardinal Vincent Nichols and His Beatitude Fouad Twal, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, delivered funds for the repair of Christian owned homes in Gaza, to the Rosary Sisters School for school fees and to the Holy Family School for their psycho-social programme. He also showed the Cardinal around FHL projects in the Bethlehem area and visited with him some poor families supported by FHL. More detail will appear in the next newsletter

- **FHL Christmas cards and calendars**

There are still a few Christmas cards and FHL calendars left, so please contact the office on 01926 512980 or by email to [olivewoodproducts@btconnect.com](mailto:olivewoodproducts@btconnect.com) to place your order in time for Christmas!

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

**Email – [friendsoftheholylan@btconnect.com](mailto:friendsoftheholylan@btconnect.com) Website – [www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk)**

**Registered Charity 1130054**



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

Thank you to everyone who has ensured that FHL Advent posters now appear at the back of your churches. Already we have received donations from this initiative. Further copies are available from the office.

- **Gaza**

Peter Rand writes, 'My visit to Gaza on 23 November is my first experience of witnessing the results of a war-zone'. It has made a deep impression, especially of the resilience of the community, facing such hardship – row upon row of collapsed buildings, little clean water, a lack of electricity and often a permanent roof over their head. The orphanages were overflowing with new born babies who had no shelter; the faces of parishioners showed how weary they were of conflict. Yet the community came together to prayer and to open the hearts and their buildings to everyone. As the cold and the rain become more intense, please remember them and offer what support you can to alleviate their plight.'

- **Easy Funding**

With the shelves full of ideas for Christmas, join those 'Friends' who are raising money for Friends of the Holy Land when shopping on line just by using [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://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](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) with over 2,700 well known retailers like Amazon, Argos, M&S, eBay (and many more!) and whenever you buy something online, the retailer makes a donation to Friends of the Holy Land.

Get started now and visit - <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/36F38Z/>

When you collect £10 of donations with this invitation link, FHL will get an extra £5.

- **Next Newsletter**

The Winter/Spring 2015 Newsletter will be published in early January, full of the latest news from the Holy Land. If you do not receive a regular copy, please contact the office.

- **A Happy and Blessed Christmas**

Please remember in your prayers our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land at this time. Meanwhile the Trustees and Management Committee wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and many Blessings for 2015.

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