



FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

Monthly Update

October 2015

YOUR LAST CHANCE TO BOOK A PLACE -

We'd love to see you at the FHL Regional Gathering nearest you!

There's still time to book, and we've got space for more Friends to hear the latest news from the Holy Land. FHL's Chairman Jim Quinn and Vice Chairman Peter Rand have just come back from a working visit in which they had no less than 33 meetings, all to find out exactly what's needed there and improve the way we work. You'll also hear how FHL supports the neediest Christian families and sustainable projects to improve education, employment, health and housing.

North
Saturday 3rd October
10.30am to 4.00pm
Sacred Heart Parish Centre
7 Liverpool Road
Warrington
WA2 7JQ

South
Saturday 10th October
10.30am to 4.00pm
Our Lady & St Anne Parish Centre
South View Avenue
Caversham, near Reading
RG4 5AB

The venues each has good railway, road, and bus connections, and we've planned to end in time for everyone to get home in good time.

Whether you're new to FHL and the difficulties of the Christian population of the Holy Land or an old Friend this day will be a rare opportunity to learn more and share your thoughts and views with other Friends and the Management Committee. There will be NO COST other than personal travel and a voluntary donation towards the cost of lunch. To register now, phone the office - 01926 512980.

News from the Holy Land

Jim Quinn and Peter Rand spent five extremely busy days in the Holy Land in September, and report that life for Christians there has become even more difficult, with significant fewer tourists and pilgrims already making an impact on the local economy. The instability of the Middle East is inevitably affecting the mood, too, and in Israel there is considerable tension over the huge reduction in state support for Christian schools, with over 30,000 students on strike in protest. Fortunately this does not affect the schools FHL supports, as they are all in the Palestine National Authority's jurisdiction.

FHL wants to reach more Christians in the Holy Land, and several of Jim and Peter's meetings took them to areas new to FHL, including Israel, where there is significant poverty among Christian families that we believe we should and can help.

We're always pleased to know if we are meeting our objectives for the Christians of the Holy Land, and Jim and Peter heard from a number of contacts that FHL is well respected in the area, and that we have a good reputation. We always want to do more and better, of course, so time was spent on looking at how we can improve the way we work, the systems we use and the way we reach out to people in need.

Come to one of the Regional Gatherings to hear Jim Quinn and Peter Rand give a fuller report of their meetings, the work we're doing to support the neediest Christian families and our sustainable projects in the Holy Land. We know you'll be inspired by what we've been able to do, with your help and generosity, and that you'll want to keep going as a Friend of the Holy Land.

Funds still needed for school fees

Very soon FHL will have to start payments of school and university fees for over 200 Christian families, and we need more donations to help us meet the cost.

It's important for the future of their community that Christian children have a Christian education, and the church schools give a better education than the Government-run schools, where there is some evidence of pressure on Christian students to convert to Islam. And although the church schools charge a small fee, it's not comparable with private education in the UK even though still too much for the poorest families to afford.

A lump sum or a standing order will make a big difference to one family. Just £20 per month, gift-aided, covers the FHL commitment to school fees for one child at many faith schools in the West Bank and Gaza. Please help as much as you can - and of course, further information and Gift Aid forms are available from www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk, or from the FHL office, 01926 512980.

Christmas cards

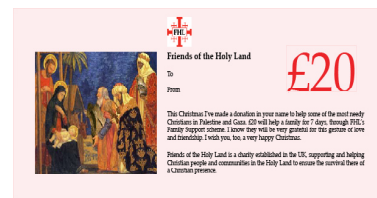
The 2015 FHL Christmas cards have arrived and are already selling fast. There's an order form attached with pictures of the seven designs. Send your order to the FHL office before your favourite design sells out!

Christmas Gift Vouchers

Last year the Jersey FHL Group sold Christmas Vouchers to their supporters as gifts for friends instead of traditional presents. It was so successful that we've now produced FHL Gift Vouchers for £5, £10 and £20.

- £5 will help a poor family pay for costly essentials such as 5 pints of milk or 3 kilos of rice.
- £10 will pay for a lunch for a needy widow at St. Martha's House, a Day Care Centre for elderly ladies in Bethlehem, for 2 days a week for 5 weeks.
- £20 will help a family for 7 days, through FHL's Family Support scheme.

Do please buy these for your friends in place of the usual Christmas gift, and help a needy Christian family in the Holy Land. Contact the FHL office, 01926 512980, for further details and to order your Christmas Vouchers.



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Registered charity No1130054

Friends of the Holy Land was founded in 2009 to help and support the Christian population of the Holy Land. We work to improve education, employment, health and housing, and to develop a resilient and enduring Christian community there.