



FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

March 2016

Monthly Update

Christmas Crib Offerings

We are very grateful for the support of the Bishops of the Archdioceses of Birmingham and Southwark, and the Dioceses of Arundel & Brighton, Hexham & Newcastle, Leeds, Middlesbrough, Portsmouth and Wrexham for suggesting to their parishes that Friends of the Holy Land receive their 2015 crib offerings. So far this has raised just over £47,000 to support our fellow Christians in these troubled times, and to help ensure a Christian presence in the Holy Land for years to come. Thank you all.

FHL Lambeth Conference

On 7th April FHL will hold our first conference for Diocesan Co-ordinators, Ambassadors and Regional Directors. The purpose of the day is to exchange ideas, share successes and discuss practical solutions to help FHL meet our objectives and ensure a continuing Christian presence in the Holy Land. If you support us in one of these roles but haven't yet received a registration form, please contact us.

In the last twelve months we've significantly increased the number of Diocesan Co-ordinators working with us, and now we need to match this with more Ambassadors and Regional Directors. If you're considering one of these roles this is the conference for you - please contact the office for more information and a registration form. Alternatively call Vicki Urch, Director of Development, 07539 851099, to discuss the roles before making a decision.

Go Lean in Lent



FHL's Vice Chairman Peter Rand (right) and our Trustee Charles Reed, Foreign Policy Advisor to the Church of England, have challenged one another to lose weight during Lent, and at the same time raise money for needy Christians in the Holy Land. Their target is to lose at least 20lbs each in the 80 days from Ash Wednesday to 1st May, Easter Day in the Orthodox Church.

Their 'Go Lean in Lent' is up and running, and as they're both very competitive you can be sure they'll stick to it. So far they're reporting 'steady progress'! Please sponsor them now with a donation to ensure they have no alternative but to complete their challenge. We'll post their final weight loss on this site so during May you can donate for every pound they've lost.

Follow the link: <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/leaninlent/289650>, or donate through the FHL web-site - www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

Confidentiality

With all the media attention on charities recently, we want to reassure all our supporters that FHL regards your personal data as confidential. We assure you that your personal details will never be shared with or sold to any other organisation or charity. And you can have your name removed from our mailing list at any time by contacting the FHL office.

Crib boxes

Thanks to everyone who has a Crib Box to collect loose change for Friends of the Holy Land. Can we remind co-ordinators to empty the FHL Crib Boxes in their area now? Please empty all boxes and send FHL a cheque. And if you have a Crib Box and no-one has contacted you, please empty it yourself and send a cheque to the FHL office - the address is below. Please do this before our financial year ends on 31st March 2016.

If you need any new labels to reseal the boxes please contact the FHL office. Thanks once again for your practical support for Christians in the Holy Land. The Crib Boxes are one of our oldest and best fund-raising devices.

Fund raising events

Thanks to all the Parish groups and individuals, who have been organising fund-raising events in the run-up to Lent. The Fleetwood FHL Group ran a Valentine's Day Afternoon Tea in their Parish and raised £708 for FHL. The Solihull FHL group was kept busy making more than 120 pancakes for their Pancake Lunch, and raised £291. Thank you all for your imaginative ideas and your hard work.

A Message from Two Young Supporters

Hello - we are Millie and Emma, and we're pupils at St Helen's Catholic Junior School Academy. We'll be taking part in the Brentwood Fun Run on 20th March 2016 to raise money for FHL's work for the needy Christians of the Holy Land. Please support us.

Our fund-raising page is <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/sthelensrunners>

Count Your Blessings

This month we thank God for -

The blessing of employment and training schemes for young people in this country. Please pray for better employment opportunities in the Holy Land.

The blessing of the welfare system in the UK. Please pray that FHL can help all the Christian families in the Holy Land who need regular family support.

The blessing of our Church leaders. Please pray for all the clergy in the Holy Land.

The blessing of peace in our land. Please pray for an end to all conflict.

Prayers; this week we learned of the death of the mother of John Bradshaw, the member of our Management Committee responsible for FHL's communications. We hope you will join us in remembering them both in your prayers.

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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.