

March 2017 Monthly Update

FHL Welcomes Fr. Mamdouh AbuSada

FHL is pleased to welcome Fr. Mamdouh, who runs the 'School of Joy' in Beit Sahour, for a two-week visit to the UK from 23rd March. The prevailing difficult political and economic situation in the Bethlehem area affects almost every member of the Christian Community, and children with special educational needs can suffer significantly. Many families are unable to meet the challenges posed by children needing extra support, and in the most difficult cases, some are abandoned to a life on the streets. The School of Joy aims to rehabilitate these children, many of whom have physical, mental or emotional difficulties, and prepare them to play a full and productive role in their community.

A big 'thank you' goes to Fr. John Deehan, FHL Diocesan Coordinator in the Westminster Diocese, who has arranged accommodation for Fr. Mamdouh in London throughout his visit and provided opportunities for him to speak in masses at St. Peter and St. Paul, Northfields, West London, and at Our Lady of Victories in Kensington over the two weekends. Fr. Mamdouh is also planning visits to St. George's Worcester and Morpeth in the northeast, where parishioners have supported the young people at the School for many years.

Very recently, Fr. Mamdouh accepted an invitation to speak to 350 sixth form students at the Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School in Kensington. The school, recently named as the Sunday Times Boys' Comprehensive of the Year, is very sympathetic to the work of the church in the Middle East. FHL newsletters and prayer cards will be distributed to each pupil. Paul Stubbings, Headmaster at the School, thanks FHL for their work, saying 'it's critically important'.

Following an appeal in FHL's Winter/Spring 2017 newsletter, we thank everyone who has given so generously to the School of Joy. These donations will make a significant impact to the contribution FHL can make during the next 2017 academic year.



Two boys who study at the School of Joy

Plymouth Diocese Deanery Meetings

Deaneries within the Diocese of Plymouth invited FHL to speak at a number of meetings. Peter Rand (FHL's Vice Chairman and Executive Trustee) and Vicki Urch (FHL Director of Development) were speaking at Deaneries in Newquay and Plymouth recently. The talks, organised by FHL Diocesan Coordinator Revd Deacon Michael Hughes, were part of a series of meetings in the Plymouth Diocese. The objective was to raise awareness for FHL's work, and to share Bishop Mark O'Toole's plans for a 2018 Holy Land Pilgrimage. Deanery level engagement within the Diocese of Plymouth has been very effective resulting in St Mary and St Catherine Church at Bridport selecting FHL for its Lent appeal. FHL welcomes the opportunity to speak at deanery level and encourages any FHL supporter or Diocesan Coordinator to contact the office on 01926 512980 or email vicki.urch@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk to discuss this further.



*Revd Deacon Michael Hughes
FHL Diocesan Coordinator for the Diocese of Plymouth*

Fundraising Teas at Fleetwood

Since returning from pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2013, two parishioners from St Wulstan's & St Edmund's Parish in Fleetwood, Lancashire have organised a number of FHL fundraising events. Over the last three years, this talented and imaginative group have held a series of themed afternoon teas raising over £4,500. Their latest venture, a Harvest themed Tea, raised £680, and will be donated to support the School of Joy. FHL Communications Manager, Marion Homer, would love to hear about other FHL fundraising events and is particularly keen to receive photographs of these activities. Please email marion.homer@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk or call her on 07736 611323.



Ladies of St Wulstan's & St Edmund's Parish in Fleetwood, Lancashire prepare for their Harvest themed Tea

Crib Boxes

May we remind supporters to empty FHL crib boxes well before the year-end on 31st March 2017? If you are a Diocesan Coordinator, or have a crib box for collecting change for Friends of the Holy Land, please empty it and send a cheque to the FHL office at the address below. Crib boxes are an important part of our fundraising and we thank all those who support us in this very practical way. If you need labels with the new FHL Office address, or have any queries regarding the crib boxes please contact Karen at the office on 01926 512980 or email office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

Diary Dates:

FHL Diocesan Coordinators' Conference, Lambeth Palace, Thurs 9th March 10am-4pm

The second FHL national conference is at Lambeth Palace on Thursday 9th March. All FHL Diocesan Coordinators and Diocesan Communication Officers are invited. We will report more on this next month.

2017 FHL National Gathering Kenilworth, Sat 30th Sept 10.30am to 4.30pm

The date for this year's National Gathering has been set as Saturday 30th September, 10.30am-4.30pm. The venue will be St Francis of Assisi Church, 110 Warwick Rd, Kenilworth CV8 1HL. More details will follow in due course but please mark this date in your diary.