

Friends of the Holy Land Urged To Engage In Hope Filled Action

On March 16th over 60 Anglican and Roman Catholic representatives gathered at Lambeth Palace for FHL's second national Diocesan Coordinators conference. With 25 Catholic and Anglican dioceses represented, it reflected FHL's ecumenical and apolitical credentials. Headline speaker Dean Hosam Naoum from St Georges Cathedral in Jerusalem urged those attending to engage in "hope filled action" by working together through FHL to support vulnerable Christians living in the Holy Land. The day focused on the importance of pilgrimage, particularly the experience of ecumenical pilgrimage, and the growth and success of FHL since its foundation in 2009.

The Rt Revd. Dr. John Inge, Bishop of Worcester, who chaired the morning session said, "The strength of FHL shows how God can grow significant initiatives out of the smallest things. FHL helps us in our role as Christians to bring hope in what can appear to be a hopeless situation."

For full report please click here <http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/Home/News/FHL-Urged-To-Engage-In-Hope-Filled-Action>



Casino Royale

The Diocese of Shrewsbury recently held a very successful and entertaining fundraising event. Parishioners from St Alban's, Liscard, Holy Apostles & Martyrs in Wallasey and St Joseph's, Seacombe joined together to hold a Casino Night using Monopoly money. This event raised £1,100 and was one of several original ideas supported by the Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) with assistance from the Catenian Association.



Water Project in Zababdeh

On his recent visit to the Holy Land Peter Rand travelled to the north of the West Bank to the small town of Zababdeh. With around 4,500 inhabitants, 80% of which are Christian, Zababdeh has been the site of a significant FHL water project. In Spring 2016, assisted by generous donations from the Diocese of Ely, FHL made the town a grant of £16,500 to transform the water supply for many hundreds of residents. This funding provided a new feeder pipe from a private water supply on the edge of the town linking it to the town's drinking water reservoir. In addition, a separate 1,500-metre pipe, to a metal reservoir provided irrigation for crops. This was especially important, as agriculture is a key source of income for many local inhabitants. This project was a substantial undertaking for FHL, so it was reassuring to hear the town's Mayor say 'this single donation has



enabled the town to enjoy drinking water throughout last summer'.

Zababdeh meeting with Mayor his wife and Chief Engineer for Municipality

Opportunity to Join an Ecumenical Pilgrimage

An important aspect of FHL's work is to encourage pilgrimage and actively express support and solidarity with our Christian family living within the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan. We are delighted therefore, to share details of an ecumenical pilgrimage organised through the Cathedrals of Lichfield and St Chads in Birmingham. The Dean of Lichfield, the Very Revd Adrian Dorber, is arranging a 12 day pilgrimage from the 12th to the 18th March in 2018. The all-inclusive cost will be £1,877 per person based on a shared room, and a coach to Heathrow from Lichfield is part of the package. It is intended that during the pilgrimage both Anglican and Catholic liturgies will be celebrated, providing a wonderful opportunity to bond and share experiences across both churches. For further information please contact kate.durrant@lichfield-cathedral.org. The pilgrimage will involve some walking and climbing in and out of coaches.

School of Joy and St. Martha's House

Peter's visit to the Holy Land coincided with Mother's Day, celebrated on Tuesday 21 March in the West Bank. Therefore, Peter organised Monday visits to two of FHL's 'flagship projects' so he could join preparations for the next day's festivities. A local entertainer had given his services free of charge at the School of Joy, with the resultant show having great similarities to a Christmas Pantomime over here! At St. Martha's House, all the women came for the whole day, usually only 50% would attend on any one given day. They were joined by local clergy to enjoy music and a special lamb lunch, normally beyond the budget of St. Martha's. However, with it still being Lent, many women were fasting; the tradition being that for 40 days, no meat, fish, milk, cheese, eggs or oil are consumed. Peter was struck by the strict adherence to this wherever he went in the West Bank during that week, but did spot that this fasting might not always include alcohol! Amongst the very many real difficulties faced by so many at these two places of refuge Peter reported that it was good to see everyone with a smile on their faces. FHL are grateful for the support of our many donors that enable these two valuable institutions to continue to provide this place of sanctuary.



School of Joy Mother's Day celebration pantomime



St Martha's House Mother's Day celebration lunch

Crib Boxes and the new £1 Coin

On the 28th March, a new £1 coin was introduced into circulation. We would be most grateful if all FHL Crib Box coordinators could make a diary note to empty crib boxes during September 2017. This will make sure that all old £1 coins are paid in to the FHL account before October 15th 2017 when the old £1 ceases to be legal tender. Reminders about this important date, along with Crib Box labels, will be sent out throughout the year with a final reminder in August.

FHL Director of Development

Peter Rand writes, 'After nearly 2 ½ years, we are sorry to be saying goodbye to Vicki, who is leaving to take a role nearer to her home in Leicestershire which requires less travel. Many of you will have met Vicki and appreciated her commitment to supporting the Charity and our work in the Holy Land. We wish her well. Meanwhile recruitment is underway and we shall hopefully have more news for you in the May Update.'