

Monthly Update **May 2017**

FHL Makes Record Grants to the Holy Land



Thanks to the continued generosity and resourcefulness of our supporters the financial year ended 31 March 2017 will be another FHL record. Preliminary management figures, subject to inspection later in the year, indicate our highest ever level of income with sterling grants to the Holy Land increasing by around £100K, an increase of 20%. Despite this excellent news, and to help compensate for the pound's fall in value against the Shekel and US dollar, our need for a continued high level of donations remains. Additionally, our waiting list of needy Christian families continues to grow ... so there is still much work to be done.

Maria McCaffery - MBE New Director of Development



Peter Rand, FHL Vice Chairman and Executive Trustee writes: "I am very pleased to welcome Maria as FHL Director of Development. During the next couple of months Maria will complete her existing engagements and build her commitment to FHL to 4 days a week. For 10 years Maria was Chief Executive of RenewableUK, the UK's leading trade association for renewable energy, employing 54 staff with a turnover of £6.5 million. Prior to that Maria was Director General of the Institute of Export and was awarded an MBE in 1999 for services to international trade. She hails from Liverpool and lives in Kenilworth, just 10 minutes'

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walk from the office!! FHL is fortunate that she now wishes to give her time and experience to work with our many volunteers around the country to further grow our charity.”

Maria adds “I am absolutely delighted to be more actively involved with FHL and am overwhelmed by the warmth of the welcome I’ve received from everyone; colleagues, trustees, and volunteers - I’m very much looking forward to putting more faces to names in the future.”

The work that Vicki, our previous Director of Development, undertook securing funds from Charitable Trusts and Foundations would be moving to a new part-time role, we would keep you updated on recruitment.

Lent Initiatives



2017 saw a record number of parishes raising funds for FHL through Lent talks and lunches. The small parish of St. Joseph’s in Harrogate, has been very generous, raising over £3,000 for the School of Joy via three weekends of retiring collections supported by fundraising activities in the local school.

Similarly, a series of Lent Lunches, attended by parishioners at St. Mary’s parish in Linton, Cambridgeshire resulted in over £1,000 for Friends of the Holy Land.

FHL to Meet Archbishop Justin Welby in Bethlehem



On Monday 8 May, Peter and Maria will be in the Holy Land meeting with Archbishop Justin Welby. The Archbishop will be introduced to the FHL Holy Land Committee over breakfast and will then visit the home of Anwar Jackaman. In 2016 FHL

refurbished Anwar’s home to provide a separate bedroom, new kitchen and accessible ground floor shower/toilet facilities. He has been confined to a wheel chair for the last 4 years but still earns a modest income repairing small electrical appliances. A full report will appear in the Summer/Autumn newsletter published in early June.

Engaging Dioceses at Diocesan Synods



FHL was privileged to speak recently at the Coventry Diocesan Synod, and on the 13 May will speak at the Truro Diocesan Synod launching Truro's FHL Advent Appeal. Attendance at Diocesan Synods provides an excellent opportunity to share information about Christians living in the Holy Land and to show how working with FHL can help

the neediest Christian families in that community. *A request is made to anyone who can make such arrangements in their own Diocese in the next 12 months, to please contact the office. Please call the office on 01926 512980 or email office@friendsoftheholyland.org.uk*

Jewellery Rolls from Bethlehem



When FHL supporter Penny Lake was on pilgrimage to the Holy Land last year, she was seeking ideas for gifts to be sold at the Catenian National Conference held in Bristol this month. In discussion with Laila at St. Martha's House, an initial order of 100 jewellery rolls in a royal blue velour were commissioned with the Catenian logo and ribbon

ties in gold. The production of these rolls provided employment to the manufacturers in Bethlehem, an interest to the women of St. Martha's House who finished them off, a useful contribution to FHL funds and provides the ladies attending the Conference with a unique memory of the occasion.

Founded in 2009 Friends of the Holy Land helps and supports the Christian population of the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan. We work to improve education, employment, health and housing, and to develop a resilient and enduring Christian community in the Holy Land.

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