

Monthly Update **Aug 2017**

National Gathering Exclusive **Saturday 30 Sept, 10am- 4pm, Kenilworth, CV8 1HL**

Welcome

Welcome to FHL's August 2017 update. This month we focus entirely on the National Gathering and how working with FHL 'Gives Hope to Vulnerable Christians'.



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

The day will focus on what FHL does best. Firstly, by sharing news of the challenges faced by Christians living in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan, and secondly, by describing the support FHL currently gives to over 2,000 of those Christians.

The National Gathering takes place on Sat 30th Sept, 10am - 4pm, at the Parish Centre at St Francis of Assisi Church Kenilworth CV8 1HL. A warm invitation is extended to new and existing supporters. There is no cost to attend and lunch is provided so please spread the word and invite your friends.

To reserve your place at the National Gathering

Please complete the attached form or contact the office. To assist with planning we would be grateful to receive reservations by the 22nd September. If you need advice with travel plans, need collecting from the bus or train station, or require help identifying suitable overnight accommodation please contact the office.

01926 512980 or email office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

Speakers at the National Gathering

We are proud to introduce supporters to Hussam Wahhab, a member of FHL's Bethlehem based committee. Hussam will be on his first visit to the UK and will share the challenges he faces as a Christian living in Bethlehem, will discuss the impact of FHL and explain what else needs to be done. Other speakers include FHL Coordinator for Chester Diocese the Revd. Lynn Boyle who will be joining us fresh from a visit to the Holy Land. Lynn has many inspiring ideas about parishes working together in support of their Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. We will also hear from FHL's Peter Rand, who has now clocked up 21 visits to the Holy Land, including five to Gaza. See below for more information on our speakers.

Could you share your ideas?



The National Gathering includes an opportunity to share your thoughts on how we can 'bring hope to vulnerable Christians' living in the Holy Land. We are looking for volunteers to speak for just 2 minutes on this subject, which should allow for 250 spoken words. If you would like to speak please let the office know by the 31st August, and provide a brief synopsis of your chosen topic.

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Hussam Wahhab



For the last seven years, Husam Wahhab has been a voluntary member of FHL's Bethlehem committee whilst working as a lecturer and accountant at Bethlehem University. He is married with five children and has two brothers living in the United States. Faced with the daily challenges of life in the West Bank, including water shortages and restricted travel, it would be understandable that

Husam too may wish to emigrate. However, Husam has a strong sense of personal mission that keeps him in Bethlehem. In a recent phone call, he shared that he is daily "scared of so many things". Yet despite those feelings, Husam makes the decision to stay - with a humble and awe-inspiring commitment to live out his faith in the service of his fellow Bethlehem Christians.

Revd. Lynn Boyle



Lynn Boyle is vicar of St Paul's Parish, Stockport and FHL coordinator for the Chester Diocese. Since 2004, she has made countless visits to the Holy Land, and is an enthusiastic advocate of engaging with the 'living stones'. At the time of the National Gathering Lynn will have just returned from an 11-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land including visits to flagship projects such as St Martha's House and the School of Joy. Lynn will share with us how essential it is to connect with the 'Living Stones' through prayer, fundraising and face-to-face meetings when possible.

Peter Rand MBE



Peter has been involved as FHL Vice Chairman since autumn 2009, when the charity was launched. In the last 4 years, Peter has been the principle link with our Committee in the Holy Land visiting 4 or 5 times/year as well as supporting the growth of FHL in the UK. Peter says, "I will always be grateful to our founder, Michael Whelan, for introducing me to Friends of the Holy Land. My first pilgrimage in March 2010 made an impact on me that I could never have anticipated.

Every time I visit I witness changes to the lives of many Christians because of the generosity of time, money and resources of so many of our supporters in this country. To have seen the continued growth of our impact over there (22% more grants in the last year) has been humbling."

Diary Dates

National Gathering: Sat 30th Sept 10am - 4pm

Parish Centre at St Francis of Assisi Church 110 Warwick Road, Kenilworth CV8 1HL

FHL Carol Service Friday: 15th Dec 7.30pm Lichfield Cathedral

A ticketed event with proceeds to FHL, information to follow.

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