

Monthly Update **Sept 2017**

Welcome to the Sept 2017 Monthly Update, which this month includes news on:

- The [National Gathering](#) on Sat 30th Sept in Kenilworth and how to book your place
- How FHL are supporting [university students in Gaza](#)
- News of a partnership with [Friends of Bethlehem University](#)
- An update from [St Martha's House](#) - a day centre for elderly women in Bethlehem
- A reminder of how you can donate to FHL - just by shopping on line

Any comments or questions please contact the office 01926 512980

office@friendsofthehollyland.org.uk

Have you Reserved Your Place at the National Gathering?

Plans for our National Gathering in Kenilworth (Sat 30th Sept) are well under way. The



office is receiving a steady stream of registrations and travel plans for our headline speaker, Husam Wahhab member of our Holy Land Committee and lecturer at Bethlehem University, are being finalised. Places are still available so please do all you can

to share information about this event. Remember the day is completely free of charge and includes lunch. Places should be booked by 22nd Sept, to register please go to:

www.friendsofthehollyland.org.uk/national-gathering-/reserve-your-free-place or contact

the office 01926 512980 office@friendsofthehollyland.org.uk , who can also assist with

travel and accommodation plans. To help you share news of this event we have created a set of [National Gathering resources](#) ([poster](#), [press release](#), [sample newsletter copy](#)) which

you can also find on the website.

University Scholarships in Gaza

FHL has an active programme of support for the tiny Christian community living in Gaza.

Working in partnership with the Pontifical Mission we support a number of Christian



Students at university and college in Gaza. Statistics used to describe life in Gaza are harrowing; the majority of the population are reliant on international food aid and prospects for young people are bleak, with 65% unemployed. Our partner at the Pontifical Mission, Joseph Hazboun,

recently sent this report; *"This semester we have seen the impact of the lack of electricity in Gaza. Many students are unable to complete assignments and papers (where a computer and the internet is needed). The quality of the tap water is rapidly deteriorating. People are relying more on tank or bottled water for daily use that is a high household expense. We are unsure what the coming semester will hold for these students as daily life in Gaza continues to deteriorate. Our constant message to them is that they must continue to work hard despite these setbacks. We encourage them and do hope that this encouragement gives them the hope they need to strive for a better future."*

Please hold these students, working hard to give themselves and their community a better future, in your prayers and help us raising awareness of this situation where you can. For more information on Gaza look at our website news page:

www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/news/news/university-scholarships-in-gaza

EasyFundraising

Did you know there is a simple and easy way to raise money for FHL every time you shop online? All you need to do is visit www.easyfundrasing.org.uk to register, and then select 'Friends of the Holy Land' as your charity of your choice. Then every time shop on line a donation will go to FHL. It's as simple as that and you won't even notice you are giving!

Update on St Martha's House

Since our foundation in 2009 FHL has supported St. Martha's House, the first day care centre for elderly women in Bethlehem. You can read their latest newsletter [here](#) or go to <http://ow.ly/C2On30f5y5R>

Friends of Bethlehem University Select FHL

We are proud to announce, that from autumn this year, the 'Friends of Bethlehem



University' (FOBU) will channel support for the University through FHL. In 1999, in memory of Cardinal Basil Hume, FOBU created a Chair of Religious Studies at the University. Funds also allowed for the development of the University's library and the creation of 'Olive Aid'. Olive Aid had the dual aims of replanting olive trees destroyed during the construction of the 'Wall of Separation', as well as providing scholarships to the University.

Given the maturing years of FOBU trustees, they started work on closing the Charity as it had performed its main purposes. This involved identifying an organisation to take on their continuing support for the University, and in April this year they selected FHL. Data protection rules mean FHL cannot contact FOBU supporters directly. Therefore, if you are a supporter of FOBU wishing to continue support for students at the University, and have not renewed that support through FHL please contact the office: 01926 512980

office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk. To read FHL Chairman Jim Quinn's full FOBU read the report on our website: www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/news/news/friends-of-bethlehem-university

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.

Contact Details:

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