

## Monthly Update **January 2018**

**Welcome** to the Jan 2018 Monthly Update. Subjects covered this month include:

- Christmas letters to FHL from Holy Land leaders
- FHL aspirations for 2018 and how you can help
- Report from our wonderful carol Service at Lichfield Cathedral
- Momentum from October's National Gathering - £10k already raised
- Welcome to our new Trusts and Foundations Manager
- Any comments or questions please contact the office 01926 512980 or email [office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](mailto:office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk)

### **New Year Messages from the Holy Land**

Mindful of recent events in Jerusalem and the West Bank we felt it important to share the Christmas letters we received from our partners in the region.

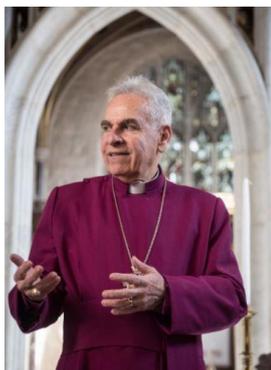
Archbishop Pizzaballa, the Apostolic Administrator for the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem,



wrote: *"...The unilateral nature of the President's action will not provide a solution to the difficult problems of Jerusalem's status... Locally our people are greatly hurt and disappointed... All of us here are cognizant of the tremendous support we receive from Friends of the Holy Land. In moments of sadness, the awareness of your prayers and solidarity bolster our flagging spirits..."* To read

the full letter please look at the news article [here](#).

Archbishop Suheil, of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, shared an advent message and



prayer: *"...We have suffered an increase in tension, and sadly violence, in Jerusalem and the Holy Land. It is extremely saddening, that at a time when we gather together to celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace, that violence continues to mar the face of the world and to hurt the people of this precious land...We will continue to commit in prayer the wonderful partnership we share with you and give thanks for your support and friendship in all that we do..."*

To read the full letter please look at the news article [here](#).

Joseph Hazboun, of the Pontifical Mission of Jerusalem, shared a video message saying:



*"Greetings from Jerusalem - the city of peace and coexistence ... There is no doubt that recent actions by US President Trump are a significant blow to the peace process..."* Joseph goes on to reinforce three things we should continue to do to support Christians in the Holy Land:

*"Firstly we should intensify our prayers...Secondly we must help raise Christian voices in context of the current situation... And thirdly - we must continue to give hope by providing practical support."* It is well worth watching the full video message which

you can see [here](#).

## Looking Forward to 2018

Maria McCaffery, FHL's new Chief Executive says, *"Our key objectives are as relevant today as*



*they were when we were established in 2009: To pray for our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, to raise awareness of their difficulties, to encourage pilgrimage and to provide direct, practical help."*

More specifically, in 2018 we aim to:

- build upon our media presence to raise the profile of Holy Land Christians
- appoint at least 10 new Ambassadors to speak on behalf of FHL in their local parishes
- support the establishment of at least 5 new local area groups

*(continued)*

- double our income from charitable trusts and foundations
- further develop our network of active supporters
- create a library of case studies to demonstrate our impact to encourage support
- support our diocesan network with enhanced resources to promote events and encourage the adoption of FHL as the beneficiary of Lent, Harvest and Advent appeals
- engage more effectively with influential stakeholders

If you feel you can help us in any of the above aspirations, specifically in our quest to establish more FHL groups and identify more FHL Ambassadors to speak in local parishes please contact the office 01926 512980 [office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](mailto:office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk). We can provide all materials, necessary training and travel costs.

### **FHL Carol Service Remembers Christians in Bethlehem**

Two hundred Christians, from differing traditions, came together at 'The Friends of the Holy



Land' carol service held at the Lichfield Cathedral on Friday 15th December. Standing shoulder to shoulder, and in the company of two bishops - one Anglican and one Roman Catholic - they prayed for peace and a greater understanding. Maria McCaffery FHL's new Chief Executive said,

*"We are very grateful to the Very Revd. Adrian Dorber, Dean of Lichfield Cathedral, for making this service possible...affording an opportunity to give thanks for the generous donations of time and money we receive, and to underline our ecumenical approach. Through FHL UK Christians of all traditions can show their Christian family in Bethlehem that their situation is not forgotten or ignored."* You can read the full report [here](#).

## Ideas Shared at National Gathering Raise £10k

In October we reported on FHL's National Gathering held at St Francis in Kenilworth. The culmination of this 'Day of Action' included renewed commitments to raise awareness of the challenges faced by Christians in the Holy Land. Since then we have seen a huge amount of activity and estimate that in excess of £10,000 has been raised already based on ideas shared at the Gathering. This is truly amazing and we thank you all for your efforts. To read the full report and see progress on actions tasked to the Kenilworth office please click [here](#).

## Welcome to our new Trusts and Foundations Manager

FHL are delighted to welcome Mick Boyle as our new 'Trusts and Foundations Manager'. Mick



will work two days a week for FHL based from his home near Stockport. His appointment takes our 'full-time equivalent' employee numbers to 2.2. The role will initially be for six months with the hope that it will be extended. Mick comes to us with excellent credentials having recently secured funding of over

£400,000 to support renovations at his local parish church. Peter Rand, FHL Vice Chair, said,

*"This is a very exciting development for FHL and not before time, (!) - as I complete this important task just before handing over the reins in the UK to Maria. I am very pleased that Mick is joining the team and wish him much enjoyment from the role and great success! I shall look forward to supporting his efforts to identify appropriate projects in the Holy Land for bids to charitable trusts and foundations."* [Read more](#)

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