

## Monthly Update **March 2018**

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

- Update from Gaza including [personal testimonies](#) from FHL beneficiaries
- [Papal recognition for FHL's Peter Rand](#)
- [News on the closure at the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem](#)
- Fundraising updates: cycle rides around [Sea of Galilee](#) and [St Patrick celebrations in Kensington](#)

Any comments or questions please contact the office 01926 512980 [office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](mailto:office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk).

### **The Season of Lent**

Millions of Christians around the world are currently marking the season of Lent - often seen as forty



days of practical divinity, and an opportunity to put Christian beliefs into action. Many Christians consider 'Alms Giving' during Lent and we hope the stories in this update might encourage donations to support the many difficult cases put before us each month. For Lent prayer resources click [here](#)

*"Alms giving helps us to recognize our neighbour as our brother or sister, and to acknowledge that what we possess is never our's alone."* His Holiness Pope Francis.

### **Testimony from Gaza**

Regular readers will know that supporting the tiny Christian population of Gaza is a key FHL objective. We do this through two significant projects based in Gaza – supporting Christian university students and funding a two-year Christian youth employment programme, both run in partnership with the Pontifical Mission.



*"My name is George Anton. I am married to Nisreen and have three daughters, aged six, three and two years old. As a Christian family living in Gaza we have so many fears about the future. We have lived through three wars; our only hope for survival was through our faith that the Lord Jesus Christ would have mercy on this small piece of land."*



*"My name is Ramy Tarazi, I am 25 years old and I live in the Gaza Strip. I have a BA in accounting and I am employed by the Orthodox Culture Centre. I am so grateful to Friends of the Holy Land for supporting the youth of Gaza and giving me this opportunity to gain valuable work experience".*

For our full update from Gaza click [here](#)

## Peter Rand receives Papal recognition

FHL is delighted to report that Peter Rand (FHL Trustee and Vice Chairman) has been appointed a Knight of the Order of St Gregory the Great (KSG), one of the highest and most prestigious distinctions the Pope can bestow on an individual.



*"I feel humbled and greatly honoured to have been appointed a Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great (KSG). I thank everyone in the UK and the Holy Land who has contributed in any way to FHL, and feel all of you share in this award. Keep up the good work!"*

*"I invite you to join me at midday on Saturday 2 June at St. Francis Church, Kenilworth for my investiture by the Most Reverend Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham. Please confirm to me if you are able to attend by telephoning the FHL office - 01926 51280 - or by email*

*to [office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](mailto:office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk)."*

For more on this story and to read what Peter has to say about this great honour click [here](#).

## Holy Sepulchre closed in protest

Christian leaders in Jerusalem recently closed the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for four days in protest over a new tax policy and proposed property law.



*"The systematic campaign of abuse against Churches and Christians reaches its peak .... The greatest victims in this are those impoverished families who will go without food and housing, as well as the children who will be unable to attend school... May the Holy Spirit answer our prayers and bring a resolution to this historic crisis". Theophilos III, Fr Francesco Patton, Nourhan Manougian*

For more on this story click [here](#)

## Fundraising updates



Energetic supporters from the diocese of Leeds, Paul Sullivan and Nigel Cawthorne, have raised an impressive £2000 on a sponsored cycle ride around the Sea of Gallilee, to be split between FHL and a local Franciscan charity. To read Paul's account of his adventure click [here](#)



Good to hear of a fundraising event at Our Lady Of Victory in Kensington. On the 17<sup>th</sup> March they are holding at St Patrick's Night Party at 7.30pm with Irish music, wine (and Guinness!) and a performance of Irish Dancing. Tickets cost £15 email [fhlkensington@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fhlkensington@hotmail.co.uk). Mass, in honour of St Patrick, will be held beforehand at 6.30pm. For more information click [here](#)

## **New Rules on data protection**

Supporters may be aware of new data protection laws coming into effect from May 25th. These rules are known as 'GDPR' - General Data Protection Regulations.



GDPR reaffirms existing data protection legislation whilst protecting individuals with new rules concerning the use and storage of their personal data. Friends of the Holy Land takes such responsibilities very seriously and we are reviewing our procedures to ensure that we are compliant.

The new rules have specific relevance to this email update which we currently share with you as we believe it to be of 'legitimate interest'. However, should you wish to no longer receive these updates please email [office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](mailto:office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk) with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line and your full name in the body of the email.

## **Diary Dates**

### **FHL Diocesan Coordinators Conference, Lambeth Palace,**

**Tuesday June 19<sup>th</sup> 2018**

FHL have once again been offered the prestigious venue of Lambeth Palace to host our 'Diocesan Coordinators' Conference. Details of speakers etc are still being finalised. However, if you are an FHL DCO please save this date. More information to follow.

### **FHL National Gathering, Kenilworth,**

**Saturday September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018**

The date for 2018's National Gathering has been set as Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> September and the venue will be St Francis of Assisi Church, 110 Warwick Rd, Kenilworth CV8 1HL. More details will follow in due course but please mark this date in your diary.

## **Contact Details:**

Friends of the Holy Land  
Farmer Ward Road  
Kenilworth  
Warwickshire  
CV8 2DH  
01926 512980  
[office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](mailto:office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk)

**Registered Charity No 1130054**

*Copyright © 2018 Friends of the Holy Land, All rights reserved.*