

Monthly Update **April 2018**

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

- [Extra support secured for Christians in Jordan](#)
- [Extending FHL's reach in Scotland](#)
- [Fr. Mamdouh of the School of Joy visits the UK](#)
- [Marathon fundraising in Bethlehem](#)

Any comments or questions please contact the office 01926 512980 office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk.

We are always delighted to share news of your fundraising events - please email photographs to the above address.

Extending support in Jordan

In February we shared news of Peter Rand's visit to Amman in Jordan, and our intention to extend assistance to Christians in the region. The good news is funds have been allocated to support two new projects in Jordan whilst maintaining help to the one hundred Iraqi Christian refugees first identified in 2016.

Cheese making in Amman

Fr. Mario Cornioli, instrumental in identifying previous FHL projects, reports that resident Christian Jordanians



are suffering increased unemployment. Reflecting FHL's mission to develop resilient and enduring Christian communities in the Holy Land we are working with Fr. Mario to fund a small cheese making business. This business provides a modest income for ten Jordanian Christians in Ader village, in the Karak Province outside Amman. For two weeks in March an Italian expert visited Jordan to provide training in making cheese for local

Pizzerias in Amman. The project costs £10,000 to run, and uses 30 litres of sheep milk each day to produce 3.5kg of cheese. To date FHL have funded 50% of this amount and are seeking to raise the additional £5,000 in the next few weeks.

Could your parish or group help support this initiative?

Please contact the office: 01926 512980 office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

Update on Jordan dress making project- supporting Iraqi Christian Refugees



"This project, originally funded by FHL, is a real success story - supporters can be proud of the impact their donations have made on the lives of these young Christian women." **Peter Rand FHL Vice Chairman**

"As they work, you see them smiling. It helps them forget the violence and fear they have encountered." **Fr Mario Cornioli, Parish Priest, Latin Patriarchate, Amman,**
For more on Jordan click [here](#)

Iraqi Christian refugees in Jordan

Following Peter's meeting with Fr. George Kopti of Ashrafieh Parish in January, FHL has agreed to support an additional group of Iraqi Christian refugees who have settled in Amman. A grant of £4,500 was made to the Anglican Alliance to cover the cost of food coupons, medications and home appliances for 128 refugees, including 51 Children.

"I would urge our sisters and brothers to help us in our ministry among these Iraqi Christian families who were ready to lose everything, but not their Christian faith, when ISIS invaded their villages and homes."

Revd. George Al-Kopti, Vicar of St Paul's, Amman, Jordan

Extending FHL's message in Scotland

For some years FHL have enjoyed support from the Scottish Diocese of Galloway and FHL's Diocesan



Coordinator Revd. David Borland in the Parish of Ayr. Recently, the Bishop of Galloway, the Rt. Revd. William Nolan, arranged for FHL's Peter Rand to speak to all eight Roman Catholic dioceses in Scotland. The objective of this meeting was to ensure that every parishioner would know of FHL and our mission to support and help the Christian population in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan.

Peter writes: *"I was very pleased with the positive response I received and already have an appointment in early May to return to Scotland to meet with the Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, Leo Cushley. After 8 years, we believe the time is right to ensure Christians of all denominations in Scotland have an opportunity to hear about the plight of Christians in the Holy Land and how they can help. This initiative with the Catholic Bishops is an excellent first step in increasing that awareness amongst Scottish Christians."* For more on this story click [here](#).

Marathon running in Bethlehem

FHL are delighted to share news that David Longe, Chaplain in the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem, took part in the Palestinian Marathon to raise funds for the Ahli Arab Hospital. On Friday 23rd March David, along with his brother Will, joined thousands of runners weaving their way through the streets of Bethlehem. The Ahli Arab Hospital, an Anglican institution, is one of a few grass roots organisations in Gaza able to receive supplies from beyond the 1km 'no go zone' area that surrounds Gaza. This means the hospital is able to offer health care facilities, providing a lifeline for everyone living on 'The Strip', regardless of their faith.



David explains, *"The work of Ahli Hospital is an extraordinary ministry in the midst of great suffering. Often the hospital has to operate with a generator due to power cuts. The Hospital's plan to provide cancer treatment will be a lifeline to so many. Currently cancer patients have to cross into Israel to seek treatment in Jerusalem – and the majority of applications to cross are rejected. I took part in the Bethlehem Marathon to raise funds and awareness for cancer treatment at the Hospital. Due to strict doctor's advice I was unable to run a full marathon. So, I left my home in Jerusalem at 4.30am, walked the 12 miles to the starting line in Bethlehem's Manger Bethlehem, and then completed the 10km part of Marathon - the walk in was beautiful!"*



Many pilgrims will have met David, and his colleague Dean Hosam, a member of FHL's Holy Land committee, and worshipped with them at St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem.



To read a wonderful account of David's walk from Jerusalem to Bethlehem click [here](#)

To read more on David's ministry in Jerusalem click [here](#)



Please consider making a gift in thanksgiving for David's ministry and in support of Ahli Hospital in Gaza [here](#) – mark donations 'Longe Marathon'.

Fr. Mamdouh preaches to 3,600 in Hounslow Parish

In early March, Fr. Mamdouh AbuSada, Director of the School of Joy, spent two weeks visiting the UK. The



School of Joy, in Beit Sahour, is dedicated to helping young people aged 6-23 who have learning difficulties or have been abandoned by their families. With the help of FHL's Westminster Diocesan Coordinator, Fr. John Deehan, Fr Mamdouh addressed nine audiences in schools and churches across the diocese. On each occasion he shared the difficulties faced by Christians living in the West Bank and the challenging situations of the students in his School. During his first weekend,

he spoke at SS Michael and Martin in Hounslow. The total attendance, over five Masses, was 3,600 and the resulting donation was over £6,000.

Question: Is there a Parish with a higher attendance than this one at Hounslow? Please let us know.

Some Sad News

It is with great sadness that we share news of the death of FHL supporter Phil Beech. Phil was a founding member of the FHL group based out of St George's Catholic Church in Worcester and was a great supporter and fundraiser for FHL. Phil's funeral will take place at 12 noon on the 24th April at St. George's Roman Catholic Church, 1 Sansome Place, Worcester, WR1 1UG. Anyone wishing to pay their respects would be most welcome. Please remember Phil's family in your prayers at this time.

Diary Dates

FHL Diocesan Coordinators Conference, Lambeth Palace,

Tuesday June 19th 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 22nd 2018

The date for 2018's National Gathering has been set as Sat 22nd 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.

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