

## Monthly Update **May 2018**

### **Important announcement – *requiring your urgent action***



New laws come into force in May 2018 which mean we need your permission to continue contacting you. As a supporter of FHL we hope you want to continue hearing about our projects and the work we do. The good news is its simple to give your consent - **just click [here](#) follow the instructions.**

FHL values your support and would like to assure you that any personal data we store about you is held securely and in complete confidence. You can read our full privacy policy [here](#) or ask the office to send you a copy – [office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](mailto:office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk)

Please note:

- We will only contact you in the way(s) you choose.
- You can ask to be unsubscribed at any time by contacting the office.
- We will use email where possible to keep our costs low.

### **Highlights in this month's update include:**

- [A thank you from Reem in our Bethlehem office](#)
- [Fundraising news from Shropshire](#)
- [A report from Gaza City](#)
- [An invitation to a Kensington Garden Party](#)
- [A Silver Jubilee concert in Jersey](#)

Any comments or questions please contact the office 01926 512980 [office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](mailto:office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk). We are always delighted to share news of your fundraising events - please email photographs to the above address.

## A 'Thank You' from our Bethlehem Office

On his recent visit to the West Bank FHL's Peter Rand spent time with Nancy Wahhab and Reem Aburdeneh who staff FHL's office in Beit Jala, close to Bethlehem. The casework they handle is large and varied with needy Christians of all ages contacting them for help or being referred through church parishes.

When Peter spoke with Reem she was keen that supporters knew how grateful the Christian community in the West Bank are for the support received through FHL:



*"On behalf of the people and myself, I express heartfelt thanks for all you do. I want to thank you again and thank those who donate and think about others (especially those who are in need and appreciate anything) for their generous donations, and help us complete our mission and assist those in our community. Friends of the Holy Land in Bethlehem welcome you any time to visit us in Bethlehem."*

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

## Fundraising News from Shropshire

Grateful thanks go to the FHL Wallasey Group, who recently sent the Kenilworth office a cheque for £1,500.



This impressive figure was the result of a number of fundraising events including a Good Friday collection, a Passover meal, and a bingo evening. Pat Revans, the local FHL Diocesan Coordinator, has also been busy inspiring students at St Anselm's College in Birkenhead. Pat is a regular visitor to the College where he talks about the work of FHL and how we support the Christian community in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel

and Jordan, giving a particular focus on projects supporting Christian employment in tourism. His talks have so inspired students at the College that they recently presented him with a cheque for £300, the result of a Lenten collection. For more on this story click [here](#) .

FHL are always looking for volunteers to help with speaking opportunities - for more information contact [office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](mailto:office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk) 01926 512980.

If you have photographs or news to share about FHL fundraising activities please contact our Communications Manager, Marion Homer, at [marion.homer@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](mailto:marion.homer@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk) or call 01926 512980.

## A Report from Gaza City

FHL works closely with Fr Mario, the Parish Priest of the Holy Family Parish in Gaza City. Fr Mario was instrumental in setting up FHL's employment project to support young Christians living on the Strip. Below, Fr Mario shares the problems faced by Christians living in Gaza and how the church attempts to help their young people.



*"Living in Gaza is like living in an open air prison since we can't leave - we can't visit relatives, look for work, medicines or visit hospitals on the outside. There is widespread poverty. When I arrived in 2012 the situation was already very difficult. Over time, you would hope the situation would get better, but it's got worse. I think we must pray and ask God to end the injustice and conflicts in this land."*

Fr Madden (FHL's Diocesan Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Liverpool) prompts us to remember the prayer shared by the Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales at their April meeting in Leeds. At this meeting, they discussed the Middle East, the continuing conflict in Gaza and the ongoing blockade, which prevents adequate medical assistance and undermines hopes for peace.

## The Bishops' Prayer:



*Almighty Father,*

*We pray for the peoples of the world caught up in conflict and strife. We remember with particular love the people of Syria and Gaza; we pray for those whose love of neighbour has been destroyed in the bitterness of enmity.*

*May their fear be submerged in compassion. May their distrust be diluted by hope, as a vision of peace and Easter joy illuminates all darkened minds and hate-filled hearts. We ask this in the name of the Risen Christ. Amen*

## An Invitation to a Kensington Garden Party



Kensington Friends of the Holy Land Group invite you to a Midsummer Garden Party on the forecourt of Our Lady of Victories Church, Kensington High Street, London W8 - to be held on Friday, 22nd June, from 7pm.

This is now an important annual event for FHL having shown itself in previous years to be both hugely enjoyable and a successful fundraiser. There will be lots of food, fizz and, of course, summer Pimms. Entertainment will include a string quartet and a raffle with excellent prizes. Come and see the transformation of OLV's church forecourt turned into an urban garden for the day.

Tickets cost £25 - to reserve a place call 020 7937 4778 or 0774 684 7126 or email [fhlkensington@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fhlkensington@hotmail.co.uk). For location details [click here](#)

## Silver Jubilee Concert in Jersey

FHL RC Portsmouth Diocesan Coordinator, Iain MacFirbhisigh, has shared news of a fundraising concert for FHL to be held at St Mary and St Peter's Church, St Helier, Jersey on the evening of 23 June at 7.30pm. The event is set to be a memorable one as the concert is



under the direction of Nick Cabot MBE, who is organist and conductor of the Jersey Island Singers, Jersey's Trinity Church Choir and the Jersey Symphony Chorus, as well as being one of the driving forces behind the Jersey International Choir Festival. The concert will be a celebration to mark 25 years since Iain's ordination. To reserve your place at this wonderful occasion please email [fhljersey@gmail.com](mailto:fhljersey@gmail.com). For more on this story click [here](#)

## 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.

## **FHL Carol Service, Lichfield Cathedral**

**Saturday December 8<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm**

After the success of last year's event the Dean of Lichfield Cathedral, the Very Revd. Adrian Dorber, has once again kindly arranged for a dedicated Christmas Carol Service to be held at Lichfield Cathedral. This will be a ticketed event with all proceeds going to FHL. More information on this special occasion will follow soon.

### **Contact Details:**

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