

Monthly Update **July 2018**

Welcome to the May 2018 FHL update - news this month includes:

Highlights in this month's update include:

- Report on our third Lambeth Palace Conference
- News on the 2018 National Gathering and how to reserve your place
- Candle selling enterprise in support of the School of Joy in Beit Sahour
- A round up of summer fundraising initiatives
- Diary dates

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.

FHL at Lambeth Palace

Over 60 Anglican and Roman Catholic representatives, from 25 dioceses, gathered at Lambeth Palace in June for FHL's third National Conference. The event clearly demonstrated FHL's success in uniting UK Christians in the cause of providing relief to their Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. FHL CEO, Maria McCaffery, reported that the FHL office in Bethlehem was seeing an increased number of Christians seeking help, creating an urgent need to extend our support. The impact of FHL's work was shown through the presentation of a number of case studies. These projects included day care for elderly Christian women in Bethlehem, school fees for Christian children in Israel, financial assistance for Iraqi Christian refugees in Jordan and scholarships for Christian university students in Gaza.



Lambeth speaker Revd. David Longe, having recently returned from 3 years as Chaplain to the Archbishop of Jerusalem, endorsed FHL's achievements saying,



"I have been struck by the way in which FHL approaches some very difficult situations. Its approach is simple - it seeks to come along side Christians in the Holy Land who are suffering, offering them tangible support that makes a real difference. Sadly, the situation in the Holy Land means FHL's work is even more crucial today than it was when it started. So many individuals and families face horrific circumstances and desperately need their help."

2018 National Gathering

Sat. Sept. 22nd, 10am – 4pm

Parish Centre, St Francis of Assisi Church,
Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 1HL



Whether you are a long-standing FHL supporter, or want to learn more about our work, this year's National Gathering promises something for everyone. The event is free to attend and lunch is included, so gather up some friends and join us in Kenilworth on Saturday Sept. 22nd. Responses from speakers are expected shortly and we hope to have some exciting news about that soon... In the meantime, please reserve your space now, last year's event was very successful so we are expecting places to go quickly this year – you can book using the registration form attached. Alternatively, contact the office on 01926 512980.

Candles made and sold with joy!



Robert Foskett, aged 11 and studying at The King's School in Worcester, has raised a hugely impressive £830 for the School of Joy in Beit Sahour by selling candles. In March last year Robert heard Fr. Mamdouh Abusada speak about the work he undertakes as Director of the School of Joy in Beit Sahour, near Bethlehem. The talk had a profound effect on him. Robert reports, *"This is when I started to think about what I could do to help. I have called my enterprise Kerzen mit Herzen, literally 'candles with hearts'. Sales have gone very well, I should be*

able to continue to make a lot of money for the School."

When FHL Chairman Jim Quinn was made aware of this venture, discussions were held with Robert and Fr. Mamdouh about how the candle enterprise could best help the School.

"Robert is a talented man. I call him man, not boy. We have in the school a front garden. We would like to make the garden safe, clean and look beautiful. With Roberts's money we can cover 60 sq. metres with thick strong artificial grass. We will call it 'Robert's Garden'. Fr. Mamdouh



Fr Mamdouh in the existing garden at the School of Joy and Roberts candles

Summer 'fun' raising!

The summer fundraising season is upon us and supporters are making excellent use of the recent lovely weather. Transforming the outside of their church into a summer idyll FHL's Kensington group held a garden party, complete with string quartet and raffle, and raised £5,000. The Kenilworth group, competing with the England/Panama football game, raised an impressive £800 with their summer tea party. Supporters in Jersey raised £3,400 through a fundraising concert marking 25 years of Iain McFirth (also FHL's RC Diocesan Coordinator for Portsmouth) as a Deacon in the Roman Catholic Church. Many thanks to you all.

The pictures below show scenes from Kenilworth and Jersey's fundraising activities.



Diary Dates

FHL National Gathering, Kenilworth Saturday September 22nd

The date for 2018's National Gathering is Sat 22nd September 10am - 4pm. The venue will be St Francis of Assisi Church, 110 Warwick Rd, Kenilworth CV8 1HL. Please confirm attendance by the 7th September. For more on this event and to reserve your space complete the attached form or contact the office: 01926 512980 or office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

FHL Carol Service, Lichfield Cathedral Friday December 7th 7.30pm

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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