

## Monthly Update **August 2018**

### 2018 National Gathering

Saturday 22 Sept, 10.30am- 4pm,  
Parish Centre, St Francis of Assisi Church,  
Kenilworth, CV8 1HL

**Welcome** to FHL's August 2018 Update.

This month we focus entirely on our annual supporter event the 'National Gathering,' and we look



forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. Our office in Bethlehem continues to see a rise in referrals so our need for funds is urgent. The National Gathering's theme of '*More Christians Helping More Christians*' will show how UK Christians can use FHL as vehicle to support their brothers and sisters living in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan.

During the day we will focus on what FHL does best. Firstly, by sharing news of the

challenges faced by Christians living in the Holy Land, secondly by describing the support FHL currently gives to over 2,000 of these Christians each year, and thirdly by showing what more could be done with additional funds. A warm invitation is extended to all new and existing supporters. There is no cost to attend and lunch is provided, so please spread the word and invite your friends. For more information please look at our [National Gathering web pages](#) for more information.

Read on for details of:

- [The agenda](#)
- [The venue](#)
- How to [register](#) for this free event
- [Resources](#) available to share the event in your parish or church
- Information on [speakers](#)

## To reserve your place at the National Gathering

Last year's 'National Gathering' was extremely popular so we are encouraging supporters to



register early to secure a place this year. To reserve your free place please click [here](#) or call or email the office: 01926 512980  
office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk.

To assist with planning we would be grateful to receive reservations by Friday 7th

September. If you would like advice with travel plans, need collecting from the bus or train station, or require help identifying suitable overnight accommodation, please let us know. For more information on venue and travel directions please click [here](#).

## National Gathering Venue

FHL would like to express their thanks to St Francis of Assisi Church in Kenilworth for, once



again, making their premises available to us as a venue for our National Gathering. For more information on the location of St Francis click [here](#).

## National Gathering Speakers:

### Sami El Yousef - '*Christians in the Holy Land- what is their future?*'



We are proud to introduce Sami El Yousef as our keynote speaker - a native of the Old City of Jerusalem he belongs to one of the city's thirteen oldest Christian families. In his role as Chief Executive for the Latin Patriarchate Sami has seen first-hand the difficulties faced by Christians living in the Holy Land and the work of FHL in helping the neediest.

*"FHL's support is effectively directed to bring hope to a marginalised and weak community, showing them they are not forgotten. Through FHL the Holy Land knows it has a true friend in the UK who cares for their future, and stands ready to support them in education, employment, health, housing and social services."*

## Peter Rand MBE- 'Making the difficult decisions'

Also speaking at the National Gathering will be Peter Rand MBE, who has been a trustee of FHL since autumn 2009. Peter is FHL's principle link with our Bethlehem based committee and visits the Holy Land



four or five times a year.

*"I feel privileged to have made around 25 visits to the Holy Land in the last eight years. I spend most of my time visiting local families and hearing from those who support us on the ground. I look forward to sharing with those attending the National Gathering how we make the difficult decision as to whom we help."*

## Can you share news of the National Gathering?



Husam Wahhab, member of FHL's Holy Land committee speaking at last year's National Gathering:

*"We need to see more than just stones in the Holy Land- we need to see the Living Stones."*

The National Gathering plays a big part in raising awareness about our work and impact. Very often those attending one of our National Gatherings for the first time go on to become donors and volunteers. We are therefore asking for help in spreading the news about this free supporter event. We have created a National Gathering resources [web page](#) where you can download the following communication tools:

- an event [poster](#) - for display on church and community noticeboards
- [text](#) - suitable for use in notices and newsletters, which describes the National Gathering
- a print friendly registration [form](#)
- National Gathering [press release](#)

Please do share our message where you can and let us know how we can help you help us.

## Diary Dates

**National Gathering:** Sat 30th Sept 10am - 4pm

Parish Centre at St Francis of Assisi Church 110 Warwick Road, Kenilworth CV8 1HL

**FHL Carol Service Friday:** 15th Dec 7.30pm Lichfield Cathedral

A ticketed event with proceeds to FHL, information to follow.

## **Our contact details:**

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