

## FHL's Patrons



His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols,  
Archbishop of Westminster  
*"The development of Friends of the Holy Land will make it a more effective expression of our support for brave fellow Christians in all the difficulties they face."*

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

*"I am very pleased to have become a patron to the Friends of the Holy Land. I support the essential work this charity is doing in the Holy Land, giving practical help and moral support to those in the greatest need."*



The Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon,  
Archbishop of Liverpool  
*"The complexities of the Middle East tempt us to turn our back on our fellow Christians, in the belief it is too hard to help them effectively. It is a great relief therefore, to see FHL navigate these challenges, showing UK Christians how they can support Christians living in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan."*

The Most Reverend Patrick Kelly, Archbishop Emeritus of Liverpool

*"... an excellent and very practical way of supporting the local Church in the Holy Land."*



The Most Reverend. Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham  
*"I am very pleased to support this work being carried out in aid of the Christians in the Holy Land. I am glad to be associated with FHL and regard this as a very effective way in which to show our support for our brothers and sisters in these Christian communities of the Holy Land."*

The Right Reverend Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark

*"Our Christian brothers and sisters in the land of our Lord's birth, death and resurrection are a very small minority. As such the bonds of solidarity in prayer and friendship such as those extended by FHL are vital. I am glad to support the work of the Friends as a Patron."*



The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Lord Williams of Oystermouth  
*"We have always relied on the historic presence of Christians in the Holy Land. They need our help now to sustain themselves in hard times."*

The Right Reverend Doctor Michael Langrish, retired Bishop of Exeter  
*"If ever Christians in the Holy Land needed friends that time is now."*



## Organisation

FHL is a Registered Charity. We have a National Management Committee that reports to a Board of Trustees who meet regularly to guide our work in the Holy Land, to review progress and to plan future projects. The Trustees ensure full accountability for all funds raised and distributed by FHL and its partners. Our Holy Land Committee has its roots in the Christian communities there; it advises our National Committee on local issues, investigates applications for assistance and identifies projects for our support.

Most of our supporters are organised through groups established in parishes throughout the United Kingdom. A majority of bishops have appointed a diocesan co-ordinator to help spread the FHL message across their diocese and to support parish groups.

If you would like to know how to help the Christian people and communities of the Holy Land, either individually or by joining a support group in your parish, please contact our office or visit our website for information.

Please tell your friends and family about Friends of the Holy Land, remember our Christian brothers and sisters in your prayers and, if you have not already visited the Holy Land, think about joining a pilgrimage. It is a wonderful spiritual experience to walk in the footsteps of Christ and the 'Living Stones' will make you very welcome!



We are an ecumenical and apolitical charity existing to help and support the Christian population of the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan – the part of the world that Christians think of as the 'Holy Land'. Our purpose is to secure a resilient and enduring Christian community there.



### Friends of the Holy Land

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Registered Charity No 1130054

*"The Christian presence in the Holy Land is critical to building a new future where mutual respect, shared goals for all God's children and a tolerant way of life are the building blocks for peace."*

The Most Revd Suheil Dawani, Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem

*"We have the right to dream for a better future in this land."*

H.B. Fouad Twal, Emeritus Archbishop and Patriarch of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem

## FHL's Purpose

Over the last 70 years the Christian people of the Holy Land have faced increasing economic and political pressure and their numbers have steadily fallen. In 2009 Friends of the Holy Land (FHL) was established to help and encourage a resilient and enduring Christian community there. Working closely with the churches in the UK and in the Holy Land, our work is entirely apolitical and has the backing and blessing of Anglican and Catholic Bishops in England, Scotland and Wales.

## Our Objectives

- To raise awareness of the challenges facing the Christians of the Holy Land
- To encourage prayer on their behalf
- To generate financial resources to give them a sustainable future
- To encourage visits (pilgrimage) to the Holy Land to meet local Christians

## Christians in the Holy Land

For more than two millennia, the Holy Land has been the home of Christians. Indeed, as the place of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection, it is the birthplace of Christianity itself and is central to the Christian faith. Cities such as Bethlehem and Jerusalem once bustled with local Christians, but now Christians account for less than 2% of the population.

Those who remain suffer from restrictions to travel, high levels of unemployment and poverty, poor living conditions, a shortage of social services and affordable health care, and a constant uncertainty about their present and future. This is the price they pay for remaining in the Holy Land, the land of their birth and heritage.

We believe that the Holy Land must not become a cultural museum; it must continue to be the home of a vibrant and secure Christian community, the Living Stones of our faith. FHL supports Christian people and communities, especially children and the elderly, to help them remain in the Holy Land, to improve their lives and develop the resilience they need to survive in difficult times.

## Supporting Christians in the Holy Land

Several international agencies are active in the Holy Land, supporting major projects and institutions. We concentrate instead on smaller, sustainable forms of support that quickly make a big difference to local Christian families, especially the most vulnerable. Our activities fall into five main categories:

### Education

We support education in the Holy Land as a vital way to ensure the future of Christian communities, funding students at schools and universities when this is beyond the resources of their families.

### Employment

We provide 'seed corn' funding to help new businesses and to generate employment, particularly for young people. We import hand-crafted goods directly from the Holy Land for sale at modest cost in the UK to sustain Christian factory workers, and we encourage the engagement of Christian owned hotels, restaurants and tour guides for pilgrimages to help support their Christian employees.

### Family Support

After careful and compassionate assessment by our locally engaged and professionally qualified staff, a struggling family enrolled on our family support programme will benefit from a regular financial supplement. Relative to UK standards the amounts are modest but the additional income makes a vitally important difference to the welfare of an impoverished Christian family.

### Health

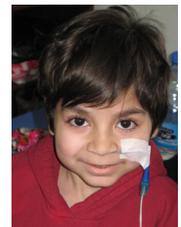
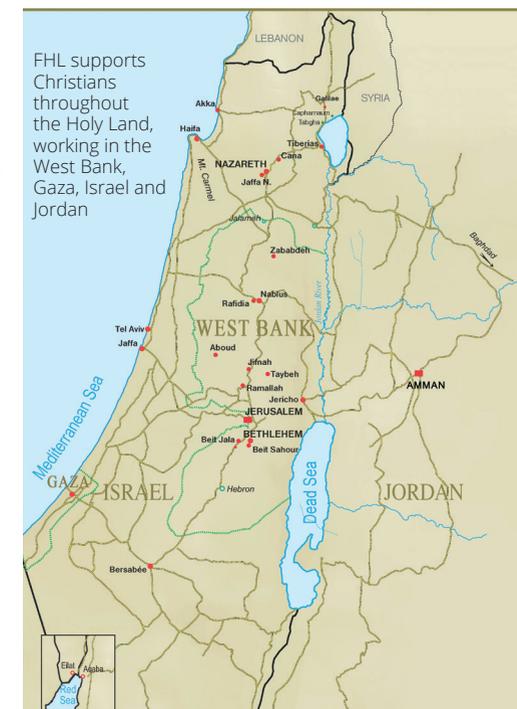
There is no equivalent to the NHS in the West Bank and Gaza. We fund medicines, operations and hospital visits, contributing to the treatment of the neediest Christians. Since our foundation in 2009 we have been the principal financial supporter of St. Martha's House, the first day-care centre for elderly women in Bethlehem.

### Housing

The provision of adequate housing is vital to encourage a sustainable Christian presence in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan. Our project work in housing is varied and includes house renovations to eradicate damp, the division of family homes into two units, refurbishments to suit mobility needs and water supply projects to help counter the impact of water shortages.

## Pilgrimage

FHL believe that for the Christian community in the Holy Land to flourish more pilgrims must make time to visit local Christians and support the local Christian economy. FHL suggest that pilgrimage itineraries have a balance of visits to holy sites mixed with opportunities to engage with the 'Living Stones' of the Christian faith. We encourage UK Christians visiting the Holy Land to pray with the local community or to visit a school or children's home - to show local Christians they are not forgotten.



## Donations

Please consider how you can help our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land by

- Making a one off donation
- Completing a regular standing order
- Gift aiding your donation if you are a UK tax payer
- Collecting small change in an olive-wood crib box
- Asking for donations for FHL instead of presents at your next celebration
- Making a legacy to FHL in your will