

## Monthly Update **February 2018**

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

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- [House refurbishment for Christian family in Beit Jala](#)
- [Pilgrims meet 'living stones' at St Martha's house](#)
- Diary dates, including fundraising [Pancake Lunch](#)
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Any comments or questions please contact the office 01926 512980 [office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](mailto:office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk).

### **Urgent appeal to support Iraqi Christians refugees in Jordan**



#### **FHL's Peter Rand meets Iraqi Christian refugees in Amman, Jordan**

We recently shared our hope to support an additional 128 Iraqi Christian refugees in Jordan, including 51 children, currently residing in Ashrafieh parish in Amman. In January, whilst visiting Jordan, Peter Rand spoke with 30 of these refugees when he met with Fr. George Kopti, the Vicar of St. Paul's Anglican Church. *"It was very moving listening to these Christian refugees ... Many had fled Iraq with just the clothes on their back. None felt able to return as their houses had been destroyed. All had a vision of a better life for their families in Australia, Canada or the US. Meanwhile, they survive from day to day with the minimum of resources, the support of their faith, and now some practical help from FHL."*



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

*"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."*

FHL hopes to increase support in this area and ask for urgent help to share this story and encourage donations. To make an immediate online donation please click [here](#).

## House Refurbishment in Beit Jala



In February last year we reported on a refurbishment project to improve the living conditions of a Christian family in Beit Jala. Our Bethlehem committee identified the Saliba Bader family as needing substantial help to improve their home. The family, already facing financial difficulties supporting a grown up son with health issues, have a very small income and were unable to afford the changes required to improve their situation.

### ***Before and after shots of the refurbished kitchen***

Peter Rand, whilst visiting the Holy Land in January this year, was able to visit the project and report on progress, *"The change in the building since last year was impressive. The family now have a fully renovated kitchen, bathroom, electrics and pipework. Saliba, his wife Kawthar and their two grown up sons Majd and Alaa are preparing to move back in and enjoy their new home."*

## Pilgrims share joyful occasion at St Martha's House



FHL were delighted to hear of two Diocesan Pilgrimages visiting St Martha's House in Beit Sahour recently. Open four days a week the house provides support to poor and vulnerable elderly Christian women in Bethlehem, many of whom are widows,

living alone and with no one to look after them. FHL encourages pilgrimage organisers to make time in their itineraries to meet with these 'Living Stones' of the Holy Land, and were delighted to facilitate visits by two diocesan pilgrimages to St Martha's House. The women at the day centre have lived lives of hardship, warfare and discrimination so it means a lot to them to meet with their Christian brothers and sisters from around the world. Diocesan pilgrimages from Westminster and St Albans called into the day centre and spent an enjoyable and rewarding time there. Pilgrims talked with the St. Martha's women, listened to their stories and - as always - joined them in dancing, singing and prayer. For more on this story click [here](#)



*Laila Asfoura, member of FHL's Holy Land committee, welcomes Westminster pilgrims led by Bishop John Sherrington, and St Albans pilgrims to St Martha's House* For more on this story click [here](#)

## **Pancake Lunch - Tues Feb 13th, 11am – 2pm** **Olton Friary, St Bernard's Road, Solihull, B92 7BL**



We are delighted to share news of a seasonal fundraising event organised by the Solihull FHL group, which includes parishioners from the parishes of St Augustine's, Our Lady of the Wayside and Olton Friary in Solihull. FHL Ambassador Jenny Roper advises that a warm welcome is extended to anyone who can attend. The Pancake Lunch, now in its fifth

year, will take place in the lounge at the Friary and profits, from the suggested £2 donation, will support FHL's work in the Holy Land.

## **Lent Prayer Resources**



As we head towards Lent we often get requests for prayers suitable for this time of year, and that help us remember our brothers and sisters living in the Holy Land. In response we have written a set of prayers that can be used each week of Lent and also in Holy Week itself. To download these prayers in a print friendly format please click [here](#) or visit our [Lent Prayer web page](#)

## **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.

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