

Monthly Update **January 2019**

Welcome to FHL's Jan 2019 Update. **Happy New Year!**

This month we have articles on:

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Peter Rand looks forward to 2019

2019 will be a milestone year for FHL – in November we will be 10 years old. Who would have believed



that the actions of a small but dedicated group of pilgrims, under the guidance of our much missed founder Michael Whelan, could have had such a profound and lasting impact?

Peter Rand writes "My vision for the future of FHL is that our simple objectives should reach every UK Christian regardless of denomination – increasing their awareness of the plight of our brothers and sisters, praying for them, offering them practical support and encouraging pilgrimage so they can put their hands on the shoulders of those who feel forgotten.

The needs of the Church in Jerusalem are as old as the Epistles, when Paul collected for the 'poor of Jerusalem'. Almost the first obligation undertaken by the Church was to support the Church in Jerusalem and this remains as necessary today as it was two thousand years ago. Should you wish to make a new year contribution to support our continued work please follow this [link](#)."

To read Peter's full message click [here](#)

£6K raised in one weekend

In just one weekend Westminster parishioner John Scanlan, raised a staggering £6,000 for 'Friends of the Holy Land'. Over the weekend of the 8th and 9th December John spoke at all seven Masses held at Westminster Cathedral. John shared FHL's aims and objectives with over 1000 parishioners and visitors, relating his talk specifically to our work in Gaza and the urgent need to support and encourage young Christians living on the Strip.

John spoke about the importance of prayer saying;



"I remember years ago being asked to pray for the fall of the Berlin wall. Despite the inadequacy of my prayers and my lack of belief that this could ever take place - it did! May I therefore ask all of you to continue your fervent prayers for Christians in the Holy Land? The suffering church is in urgent need of your intercession, which is as important as your financial generosity."

FHL supported John in his endeavours by providing a number of newsletters, prayer cards and gift aid envelopes which were distributed at each Mass. The Kenilworth office are still receiving donations generated by the weekend's activity, but we estimate that the total raised will be in excess of £6,000. For the full story click [here](#).

Can you help FHL identify other similar speaking opportunities?

Please let us know if you can identify any similar speaking opportunities, we can either provide a speaker or assist any FHL supporter in making similar presentations. Please contact the office on 01926 512980 or email office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk to discuss.

Helping Diana

On a recent trip to the West Bank FHL's Bethlehem's team, Nancy and Reem, showed FHL trustee



Peter Rand new cases of Christians requiring our support, including that of Diana, who lives on her in the old city of Bethlehem. Diana's house is in a very poor state of repair with two very old exterior doors that won't close properly leaving large gaps making the house cold and allowing snakes to get in.

To add to her problems Diana suffers from asthma, exacerbated by her poor living conditions, and requires medicines costing more than £100 a month. Diana receives some help from her sister and

FHL works with another Christian charity in Bethlehem to provide support to cover her medical and electrical bills. The hope is that funds can now be found to help with house repairs. To donate now to support cases like Diana's please click [here](#).

Wyre Forest Fundraising

A cheque for £1,600 was passed to FHL Chairman Jim Quinn after December's Lichfield carol service.



This was the latest in a number of fundraising donations made by Worcestershire's Wyre Forest Group, taking their 2018 total to a hugely impressive £5,251.

The money was raised principally from three events; a 'Pie and Mash' lunch at St Ambrose's Church in Kidderminster, a Wine Tasting in Bewdley and a Fashion Show in Stourport on Severn at fashion retailer 'M&Co' - other groups may be interested to know that 'M&Co' offer their stores nationally for charity fundraising events. Additionally, the Group raised money via the sale of Christmas cards and olive wood gift items, as well as by donations made through crib collections across the area.

Since 2009, when the Wrye Forest Group formed, they have raised over £55,417 to assist FHL's work supporting Christians in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan. To read the full story click [here](#)

Rosary Sisters School in Bethlehem

During his recent visit to the Holy Land FHL Trustee Peter Rand visited the Rosary Sisters School in Bethlehem where FHL supports a number of Christian students. The School was founded in 1893 to



serve both Christian and Muslim children from low-income families in the Bethlehem area. Many children are from the local refugee camps. The Rosary Sisters School is committed to admitting pupils regardless of their family income, so the majority of their limited funding goes to covering tuition and

teacher salaries. FHL assists by contributing to the fees of all the Christian children attending the school, which in turn allows the school to extend their support to the wider community. The Christian

authorities are generous in support of Christian families who cannot afford school fees. However, help from FHL is essential to enable the largest number of Christian children to access a Christian education in the Holy Land.

We are keen to increase the amount of funding available to support Christian children like those at the Rosary School. Could you organise an event to raise £300? – this would cover the annual school fees of one Christian child.

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