

# Pilgrimage with a Purpose

Fr Seamus Keenan took a group of his parishioners on pilgrimage in October 2005 to Jordan, Galilee and Jerusalem, beginning with a visit to Misdar School in Amman. He said "Going on pilgrimage is a natural thing to do after such a project. It is good to meet the Christian students we have been helping".

What was this project? Fr Seamus explains, "Shortly after arriving in the parish of St Joseph's Bedford in 2003, I initiated a project in support of the Christian community in the Holy Land. This took the form of raising funds to help equip and modernise a computer suite in Misdar School, Amman, Jordan, which falls under the responsibility of the Latin Patriarchate; a project organised through the Cambridge Nazareth Trust."

Back in June, Fr Emile Salayta came to our parish and told us "This support means so much to the Christians in the Holy Land who at the moment feel isolated from the Christians in the rest of the world". This helped us appreciate better the needs of the Church there and spurred us to continue our efforts to help.

During the pilgrimage, Margaret Waddingham, a teacher, brought along Barnaby Bear to meet the



students at Misdar School in their new computer suite funded by the Bedford Parish.

So how did a small parish raise the money? "Within the space of twelve months we raised £17,000. Our target was £11,700 so I was very pleased at the generous response of the people of the parish." Various fund-raising activities helped towards achieving this



amount: a parish variety concert, Easter Egg Raffle, parish Quiz, parish dance, other smaller events. The highlight, a sponsored 760 mile bicycle ride to Santiago de Compostela by the curate, Fr Gerard and two parishioners, raised £4,000.

The pilgrims received a tumultuous welcome from the students, teachers and parish priest Fr Yacoub. One of the group, Suzanne Moloney responded by singing the Ave Maria in Arabic. It was a memorable first day and a great start to the pilgrimage.

In conversation with Fr Yacoub, I suggested we keep up the link formed with the school by funding the cost of bringing a few students to Bedford for two weeks in the summer of 2006, staying with families in the parish and attending St Thomas More Upper School, Bedford. This was readily agreed, so we are now busy fund raising again to this end.

During our pilgrimage to the Holy Land, we not only visited the holy shrines but made contact with the Christian community. We visited the parish of Bir Zeit in the West Bank near Ramallah. I was invited by Fr Aziz to preach the homily at their Sunday Mass. Afterwards we met several parishioners in the parish hall. To my delight, Fr Aziz was then able to visit Bedford in November with two of his parishioners and concelebrate Saturday Mass in our Parish.



On his return Fr Seamus said "In all this, not only have we managed to forge links with the Christians in the Holy Land in their need, it has also been beneficial to our parish by way of bringing the people together in our common desire to help our brothers and sisters in the land of Our Lord's birth, who are the living stones of the Church there, still witnessing to Christ and his gospel."



**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY: This shows how the money has been spent**  
(Note: Administrative costs are met by separate dedicated donations)

Year	Total sent to schools	Fees	Projects
2002	£48,020	£28,450	£19,570
2003	£94,450	£48,600	£45,850
2004	£105,800	£60,000	£45,800
2005 (Tsunami effect)	£46,200	£45,000	£1,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>£294,470</b>	<b>£182,050</b>	<b>£112,420</b>
<b>Balance (at 31/12/2005)</b>	<b>£15,991</b>	<b>Donations Total</b>	<b>£310,461</b>

An update of our on-going programme of projects funded by the Trust. Fee sponsorship of Students and Teachers in Beit Sahour, Hashimi; Fuheis (to 2004); Zerka North (from 2005)

## Changes in Trustees and at the Latin Patriarchate

This year sees some developments. Peter Willis, who has been Chairman for the last five years, has stepped down but remains a Trustee. He has handed over the position of Chairman to Peter Smith, who has already given the Trust ten years of service as Secretary. David Smith, who was appointed a Trustee in 2004, is now Secretary.

Mrs Patricia Richardson remains a Trustee acting as Promotions Secretary with special responsibility for supporting our Coordinators around the UK. Paul Young has handed over the role of Treasurer to Brian Sellers. Tony Ockenden advises the Trustees about the status and financing of the Latin Patriarchate schools in the Holy Land. Meanwhile, at the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem, we say a fond farewell to Mgr William Shomali, who moves from the position of Administrator to become Rector of the Seminary. Mgr William has been a wonderful source of guidance and direction about the priorities for the Christian Schools in the Holy Land.

Fr Shawki has been appointed as the new Administrator. He visited England in June with the Patriarch. As a seminarian he came to Lancashire to help and learn English.

Trustees, Peter Willis, Mrs Patricia Richardson, David Smith, and adviser, Tony Ockenden met Fr Shawki in October when they were in Jerusalem on Pilgrimage. They wanted to understand his priorities for the Latin Patriarchate Schools and to gain his guidance on the next two projects he wishes the Cambridge Nazareth Trust to fund in 2006.

## Zerka North Project completed

This project to provide a new computer suite for students and young adults is now operating successfully to the benefit of the local community. Fr Fares said: "This was one of my ambitions, to provide our students and young adults with a good quality facility in which they can enhance their skills and knowledge. They are thrilled with the support they have received from the Cambridge Nazareth Trust."

**CNT Cambridge Nazareth Trust**  
Charity No. 289084

[www.CambridgeNazarethTrust.org](http://www.CambridgeNazarethTrust.org)

Secretary: 68 Goldington Avenue, Bedford MK40 3DA, UK

### SPONSORSHIP FORM

Please enter relevant information in all sections

I will sponsor:

**SCHOOL FEES**  Yes  
..... Pupils at £18 a month. Total £ ..... per month

**KEY TEACHERS**  Yes  
..... Teachers at £150 a month. Total £ ..... per month

I will contribute to the **Small Projects Fund**  Yes

paying either £ ..... a month or a one-off sum of £ .....

for a one-off contribution to the **Small Projects Fund**

I hereby enclose a cheque for £ ..... as a single contribution

I have completed the Banker's Order form below and it is ready to be sent to my bank for the **Cambridge Nazareth Trust** to receive on the 15th day of the next month and thereafter:  Yes

EITHER Annually on 15th May, the sum of £.....

OR on the 15th day of each month the sum of £.....

Reference number..... (This will be added by the Trust)

### Bankers Order Form

To the Manager .....

Bank Plc  
This order is additional to any existing order in favour of the same payee (Delete if inappropriate)

Pay to: **Girobank plc Sort code: 72 00 02**  
for a/c **Cambridge Nazareth Trust Account No. 8 299 4505**  
on the 15th day of the next month and thereafter:

EITHER Annually on 15th May, the sum of £..... until further notice.

OR on the 15th day of each month the sum of £..... until further notice.

Name of account to be debited .....

Account No ..... Sort Code .....

Please complete the details on the back and send to CNT

## Patriarch and Patron meet in Liverpool

His Beatitude Michel Sabbah, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem concelebrated Sunday Mass with Archbishop Kelly, Patron of the Cambridge Nazareth Trust, in Liverpool's magnificent Metropolitan Cathedral on 19th June on the occasion of the Patriarch's Jubilee.

Archbishop Kelly said, "The blessing of giving this sermon gives me no problem. It is very simple because the word of God proclaimed across the Catholic world today is the heartbeat of the Church in Jerusalem. There could be few more fitting days to feel more deeply than usual, through the presence of His Beatitude Michel Sabbah, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, our communion with that Church who is Mother of us all."

## Equipment for Fr Rick for Jifna Elementary School

Fr Rick shows the audio visual equipment for his young pupils in their brand new elementary school at Jifna, near Ramallah.

This equipment was funded by a legacy from the late Tim Kennedy who was a founder of the Cambridge Nazareth Trust. Fr Rick said "The children are delighted with their new school and its modern equipment

which makes their learning more fun. We thank Tim Kennedy's family for this support which is so valuable to our small community."

## Cambridge Nazareth Trust

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[www.CambridgeNazarethTrust.org](http://www.CambridgeNazarethTrust.org)

Cambridge  
Nazareth  
Trust



Helping Young People of the Holy Land

Today... for all their Tomorrows...

Dear Reader

By the end of 2005 we had sent out almost £300,000 (£294,470) to help with the education of Christian children in the Holy Land. This money has enabled parents to pay fees and has provided our selected schools with up to date equipment, particularly in computer technology. To our many supporters who have been tremendously generous over these years, we extend our warmest thanks. It has been possible to send such a large amount of money since 2002 because of the generosity of many individuals as well as several large donations.

A year ago, many people in many countries gave with overwhelming generosity to those affected by the tsunami. We did feel a knock-on effect from that as our income dipped. We hope that 2006 will see a resumed growth in funds so we can reach our target.

During 2005, we witnessed some very special achievements by individuals and parish groups. Tony Ockenden, our adviser, well into his later seventies, launched himself into space by parachuting some 12,000 feet earthwards in a bid to raise money - his reward, almost £5000 in sponsorship money! We say, "Well done Tony!" He has yet to choose his special project.

Another feat has been that of St Joseph's Parish, Bedford. They raised £17,000 for their Misdar School project in Jordan. Then a group, led by parish priest Fr Seamus Keenan, and including CNT Trustees Peter Willis and David Smith, went on pilgrimage in October to see how their funds had been used. They returned knowing their efforts had been greatly appreciated and had borne much fruit.

Indeed, we must also remember the effects your donations are having on the educational opportunity and results that the students are achieving. Your trustees have seen first hand the transformation in classrooms and facilities in the schools we have helped. Fr. Hanna Kildani, Director of the Patriarchate Schools in Jordan advised us that their 2005 senior exam results were outstanding.

On the weekend of 25 & 26 June, at the invitation of the parish priest and Jim McCahill, the organist at Our Lady of Walsingham, Corby, I spoke at their Masses about the Christians in the Holy Land and the work of CNT. Their second collection was an astonishing £745. It showed me once again how open our parishes are to supporting this important work.

Our task then is to increase our level of support, but how? May I suggest that our individual supporters get their parishes involved and copy St Joseph's Bedford. On behalf of the trustees I urge you all to think of ways to get more people aware of the tremendous needs of those in the Holy Land. Once again I thank you all for your generous support.

God bless you all and thank you...

Peter Smith, Chairman and Trustee

[www.CambridgeNazarethTrust.org](http://www.CambridgeNazarethTrust.org)



# Leap of Faith



Tony celebrates after his jump

## Jumping for Christian Children in the Holy Land

Tony Ockenden OBE, aged 77, who has been to the Holy Land many times in recent years, says that he has always wanted to do a parachute jump and decided 2005 was the year to get on and do it. His family rallied around sponsoring him for a tandem parachute jump at Hinton Sky Diving Centre, near Brackley, Northants on 14 June last year.

Caroline Smith and her fiancé Tom Morris also jumped with him on a memorable day that raised £5,000 for CNT.

Tony said "The jump was a truly fantastic experience for me and I feel somewhat guilty to have raised money for an event that was so personally pleasurable. However, as you know, the education of the Christian children in the Holy Land is close to my heart and the Cambridge Nazareth Trust does wonderful work towards that cause. I was particularly grateful that two Head Teachers of Latin Patriarchate schools in Jordan, Sisters Caroline and Lina, were able to be present. And to have more than twenty other family and friends around made the day one I shall not forget in a hurry. I do thank everyone most heartily for their donations and I know the Trustees of the CNT are thrilled with the result."



Caroline Smith and fiancé Tom Morris



How the children at Hashimi School, Jordan drew the event



Tony with school children in Jordan



Sisters Lena and Caroline keep a watchful eye



Relieved smiles all round



A young pupil talks with Sister Caroline and Head Teacher Mrs Monica Basham

### Holy Land teachers visit UK

Sisters Caroline and Lina, who are in charge of Latin Patriarchate Schools in Jordan, visited several UK Catholic Schools in June 2005. After watching Tony Ockenden's parachute jump, they visited St Thomas Aquinas School, Bletchley, which had raised funds for science equipment for Hashimi School, Jordan. It was an opportunity to talk also about the future exchange visits of Holy Land teachers, being planned for spring 2006 to improve their English. This follows on from the very successful online distance learning and one week Amman residential course for twenty Latin Patriarchate teachers during the summer of 2005, run by Strawberry Hill teacher training college, in South London. Sister Caroline was Head Teacher of Madaba Girls High School in Jordan in 2005 when they had excellent results in the Tawjihi exams. [see article below]

### Tawjihi (High School) results in Jordan

Fr Hanna Kildani, Director of Schools in Jordan sent us this email. "July 29th was a memorable day for our Latin Patriarchate Schools and for all the Catholic Schools in Jordan on the occasion of the Tawjihi Exam results (like A Levels in UK) in all three fields, scientific, literary and information technology. Each year, the Ministry of Education indicates the best '10' results in each specialisation across Jordan (about 120,000 students).



Top Ten of Jordan: we had four students in the Top Ten in Jordan, three from Madaba and one from Fuheis.

Top Ten in Provinces: we had four students in the Top Ten in three provinces, Madaba, Fuheis, Al Husson. Top 75 schools in Jordan: we had eight positions in the Top 75 in Jordan

These very good marks and positions are the result of years of hard work by students, teachers and supporting staff. It is also the result of the support you are offering from the CNT to these schools and to the Latin Patriarchate in general".

### SPONSORSHIP FORM

#### Gift Aid Declaration

I want  do not want  The **Cambridge Nazareth Trust** to treat this and all future contributions as GIFT AID donations.

*(This declaration enables the Trust to recover a tax refund)*

I understand that I must be paying an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the Charity claims on my donations (currently 28 pence for each pound you give). You can cancel this declaration at any time. If, in the future, you do not pay tax equal to that which is claimed then cancel the declaration. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment. Please notify the CNT if you change your name or address.

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I am representing: Self / Group / Parish / School / Company

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(if applicable)

Date...../...../.....

Signature .....

Please detach and return to: **Cambridge Nazareth Trust**  
Treasurer: 6 Furness Close, Bedford MK41 8RN, UK  
Charity Number 289084

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