



*Newsletter Spring 2011*

*Registered Charity 289084*

*Chairman Bernard Whyte*

Chairman's Comments

Some of you reading this newsletter will not have heard of the Cambridge Nazareth Trust or know little of our aims and achievements. We were established some 25 years ago; we were established with the express purpose of assisting in the education of Christians in the Holy Land. In that time we have contributed over £500,000 to the schools of the Latin Patriarchate.

Many Christians are emigrating to more peaceful countries in the region because of the continuing difficulties in the Holy Land. As a result, the 'Living Stones', the direct descendants of the earliest followers of Jesus Christ, are diminishing to crisis levels. Through education we hope to encourage a stable thriving Christian Community which will play its part in the future development of the country. You will see later in the newsletter details of some of the projects and activities being undertaken by the Trust.

It is essential that the holy places where Jesus and his followers lived are maintained as places of reverence and worship, not merely as curiosities and historic tourist attractions. I am encouraged by the increasing numbers of pilgrims who are visiting the Holy Land, and who receive the many blessings that invariably come from this. It is not surprising, therefore, that on return to the UK, many pilgrims wish to help in some way to support the Christians in the Holy Land.

For the Cambridge Nazareth Trust a single donation can be made to our Treasurer [details below] or you may like to make a regular contribution by Standing Order [A form for this is attached]. Do visit our website for further information or contact me or one of the

Trustees. Gift Aid can be applied to all donations.

The Latin Patriarchate

His Beatitude Fouad Twal, has reorganised the LPJ education personnel. Fr Majdi Syriani, formerly Academic Director in Palestine, is now Director General of Education for all of the Latin Patriarchate. He has been succeeded in Palestine by Fr. Faysal Hijazen. The Academic Director in Jordan is now Fr Firas Nasrawin and the Academic Director in Israel is Deacon Giries Mansour. Fr Imad Twal, formerly the Academic Director in Jordan is now working for a doctorate at Liverpool Hope University. The success of the schools is very encouraging for all involved in their support.

Financial Needs

Despite the recession the Trust has managed to maintain reasonable donations each quarter this year despite the low bank interest rates. This money helps to pay for the education of the Christian children to attend school each day throughout the year, through both primary and secondary phases. At present for this year, this totals almost forty six thousand pounds, and this is down to your continued generosity. This way of helping the Christian community to survive in the very difficult circumstances that exist in the Holy Land has been decided by the Latin Patriarchate advisers as the best way to use the finance the Trust provides. After the provision of buildings, the children must be helped to attend the schools. That is the main work of the Trust.

Recent donations have been £300 from Noirmont Pleinheume Parish, Guernsey, £670 from Our Lady's Parish, Wellingborough, £565 from St Dunstan's Parish, Woking, Surrey, and £350 from the Marcella & Claude Digby Trust.

### Summer Camps 2010

The Summer Camps for last year were held in Palestine and Jordan. They were designed for schoolchildren who would otherwise have no holiday. The Trust supported volunteers from Queen's University, Belfast, Liverpool Hope and Bath Spa Universities. Three of the student volunteers raised £2040 and took it with them to the Middle East. All have made comments on their experiences and were unanimous in saying how taken aback they were by the great spirit of the people they met. Becky and Mickey both went to Jifna, Brendan and Paul went to Aboud, both in the West Bank, and Ana and Hilda, Mexican volunteers from Liverpool, went to Madaba in Jordan. All worked in summer camps for six weeks from the end of June 2010. They reported how welcome they had been made, and that they had had transforming experiences. Their help and support was greatly appreciated by the parishes who gave them accommodation.



Hilda teaching in a class at Madaba, Jordan, during this year

### Summer Camp 2011

Twelve student volunteers are looking forward to helping with the Camps in the West Bank in July 2011. They will be teaching English and using their talents to ensure that the children will have an enjoyable summer break. Palestine Pilgrimage will be organising their transport to, from and within the West Bank. They will leave Jifna for work in the parishes after days of a familiarisation session with Fr. Firas Aridah. At the end of their visit, they will have a few days in Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

### The English Language Project.

Improved Teacher Training is a high priority for the Patriarchate. CNT is supporting an

ambitious five phase programme to improve the teaching of English in the LPJ schools. This will provide 20 teachers from Jordan, Palestine and Israel with specially designed e-learning programmes with workshops and a team of 'Flying Squad' tutors. The project will begin in the Spring of this year.

### The Trustees

The four Trustees are Bernard Whyte, the Chairman, Patricia Richardson, Benedict McHugo, the Secretary, and John Shoreland, KSG; Margaret Waddingham and Tony Ockenden, OBE, are advisers; Phil Parker is the Treasurer. All of the Trustees have visited and continue to visit the Holy Land at their own expense in order to acquaint themselves with the position of the people whom the Trust is supporting.

We cannot stress enough how much we depend on you to carry out this brilliant work. Please send your donation to the Trust's Treasurer, Phil Parker, at 10, West End, Wilburton, Cambridgeshire, CB6 3RE. Cheques should be made out to *The Cambridge Nazareth Trust*. Thank you very much for your continued support. As you see it is invaluable.



The Latin Patriarchate Education Department identifies and prioritises the schools most in need of help. All funds are audited and accounted for to the sponsors of the Cambridge Nazareth Trust.

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