

CAMBRIDGE NAZARETH TRUST



Helping young people of the Holy Land to have a bright future...

Registered Charity 289084

Newsletter 2012

Chairman's report

The objective of The Cambridge Nazareth Trust is to aid education and training of young people under 25 years of age in the Holy Land, (Palestine, Israel, Jordan and the Lebanon). Christian schools receive minimum financial support from local government. It is the sole responsibility of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem (LPJ) to ensure the working of these schools.

In the increasingly desperate circumstance of daily life in the Holy Land, the LPJ schools are places of refuge, safety and protection, encouraging personal and spiritual growth and development. Most of the LPJ schools are in semi-urban environments and in some cases, remote villages. These communities have been economically and socially distressed through many years of repeated isolation and underdeveloped infrastructure.

The Palestine communities have long suffered from closures and segregation policies of occupation. Government schools do not provide religious teaching. It is pleasing to note that the LPJ schools are continually in the higher tables of academic achievement.

Since its foundation, 25 years ago, the CNT has concentrated on providing funding for education in schools that are maintained by the LPJ and are open to both Christian and non-Christian students alike. The LPJ subsidises tuition costs of needy students and maintains

schools in the marginalised areas. It relies heavily on donations from external sources. The donations to LPJ were, to date, £ 26, 500 for 2011-2012

The Cambridge Nazareth Trust is proud to be a significant partner, providing more than £500,000 since its foundation. This has been made possible through the unwavering commitment and dedication of partners, supporters and individual benefactors.

Schools between them have raised over £1000, Tenterden CWL donated £50, and over £4360 was received from the parishes of St Brendan, Corby, St Vincent de Paul, Bolton, including the splendid £3,295 from St Philip Howard, Cambridge.

Summer Camps

More recently, the Trust has undertaken projects in support of education by enabling university undergraduates to visit the Holy Land, during the summer vacation, to help run Summer Camps for children. These have been extremely successful, both in providing extra-curricular activities, and giving the visiting students a once in a lifetime experience of conditions in the occupied lands of Palestine.

Our thanks are due to volunteers from previous years, Kathryn and Becky Lland and Michael Lewis who inspire others to follow in their footsteps. Some of these volunteers gave up their annual leave to support the camps.

The CNT is indebted to Margaret Waddingham who gives up so much of her time to organise these visits, and to Fr Paul Maddison and Palestine Pilgrimage.

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. Twenty teachers from Jordan, Palestine and Israel enjoyed specially designed e-learning programmes with workshops taught by the 'Flying Squad' tutor team. The project began last year and the results to date have been highly acclaimed..

Twinning Schools

We have found that in publicising the work of the Cambridge Nazareth Trust, and by raising funds, pupils at schools in England and Wales have shown a great desire to know what it is like in the LPJ schools. Links have been established for the exchange of ideas both socially and educationally.

Through our contacts we have arranged twinning with specific schools, such as St John Fisher Catholic High School, Peterborough, with Al Ahliyyah High School Ramallah.

One of the most important outcomes of twinning is that the pupils themselves in the Holy Land are incredibly amazed and pleased that someone outside their immediate environment cares about their plight and wish to share their experiences.

It is hard to appreciate just how isolated the communities in the Holy Land really are. They do not have freedom to travel beyond their immediate neighbourhood, being severely restricted by the Israeli authorities. This can impact heavily on patterns of work and education when, for no acceptable reason, people are prevented from going about their ordinary business.

Ecumenism

It is most encouraging to read in the tenth edition of the LPJ Jerusalem Newsletter of the day to day dialogue that takes place between the Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox communities. The editorial states;

'The ecumenical approach is the best way of remaining a strong united front. Accordingly, Christians must not live for themselves alone. Living as heirs of Christ and the Apostles is a leavening of solidarity between churches.'

It is worth pointing out that the Christian schools in the LPJ do not restrict admission to

Christian children only. 44% of the pupils are Christian, the remainder being mostly Muslim, in the Palestinian Territories.

The Trustees

The four Trustees are the Chairman, Bernard Whyte, Patricia Richardson, Benedict McHugo, the Secretary, and John Shoreland, KSG; Tony Ockenden, OBE, Margaret Waddingham, Mgr. Eugene Harkness, Margaret Cassidy, and Donald McEwen, KSG, are advisers; Phil Parker is the Treasurer.

All of the Trustees have visited and continue to visit the Holy Land in order to acquaint themselves with the position of those 'living stones' whom the Trust is supporting.



The Latin Patriarch with Zababdeh graduates

OUR APPEAL

If you are an existing donor to CNT we thank you most sincerely for your continued support. We can assure you that your funds are wisely and carefully used. Overheads are minimal as the Trustees and Adviser members visit the Holy Land at their own expense, and administration expenses are covered by specific donations.

Should you wish to revise your standing order, please complete the enclosed mandate and return it to the Treasurer. CNT collection boxes are now available.

We cannot stress enough how much we depend on you to carry out this fantastic 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.

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.

Thank you very much for your continued support. As you see it is invaluable.

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