

# Newsletter Autumn 2013

Charity Reg No 289084



In April 2013, CNT Chairman, Bernard Whyte and several other pilgrims visited schools in the Holy Land. One objective was to reassess the need to support the education of children who cannot afford the necessary fees. We were left in no doubt as to the importance of maintaining Catholic Schools where Christian and Muslim children mix freely, and build lasting relationships.

The Latin Patriarchate employs some 1,528 teachers, and educates about 19,000 students in Palestine and Jordan. Support from the Ministry of Education is minimal, but the schools still must adhere to the educational requirements of the Ministry to maintain their licences. The average cost per student in Palestine is £736.

Contributions from families contribute only 58% as the schools are largely in marginalised areas with high unemployment. This year the Cambridge Nazareth Trust, through the generosity of donors, was able to send £36,331 to the Patriarchate to help with the shortfall.

So much has been achieved, but there is still a great need for support for the Christians of the Holy Land. Many of you will have been on pilgrimages and experienced for yourselves the hardships they endure. If we are to protect the 'Living Stones', our

heritage, we must continue to provide for the education of our Christian brethren to enable them to live with dignity, and maintain our Faith in the land of Christ's birth.

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 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. Despite this it is pleasing to note that the LPJ schools continually perform at the highest levels of academic achievement.





*Like most children, all want a look-in, at Ramallah.*

We are most thankful for the continued generous donations from parishes, schools and individuals.

If you would like to help or discover more about the Cambridge Nazareth Trust, see [www.cambridgenazarethtrust.org](http://www.cambridgenazarethtrust.org) or contact [bernardwhyte@btinternet.com](mailto:bernardwhyte@btinternet.com) Apart from Standing Orders, collection boxes are also available.

**The Chairman is delighted to announce that Rt. Rev. Alan Hopes, the newly appointed Bishop of East Anglia, has agreed to become a Patron of the Cambridge Nazareth Trust.**

### **Summer Camps 2013**

Over the last five years, forty four generous young people have volunteered to help with the Summer Camps in The Holy Land. This July, sixteen intrepid university students went to Palestine and during that time worked in parish summer camps in Aboud, Beir Zeit, Jifna, Ramallah and the Terra Sancta Centre in Beit Hanina. (Previous volunteers had spent their summers in parishes in Madaba, in Jordan, and in Beit Jala, Beit Sahour and Nablus in Palestine.) Several of them were returning volunteers who had encouraged others to follow in their footsteps, a testimony to their commitment, dedication and faith.

The volunteers engaged in fund raising activities before their departure and were able to take with them, over the years, the remarkable amount of over £15,000. Cambridge Nazareth Trust provided the link to the Just Giving website which was used by the volunteers for fund raising. Their activities helped to publicise the need for educational opportunities for young people growing up in the Holy Land.

*'His Beatitude, Patriarch Fouad Twal, knowing that much of the achievements and successes reported would not have been accomplished without the unwavering commitment and dedication of partners supporters and individual benefactors, particularly recognises ... The Cambridge Nazareth Trust .....and many other partners'.*

*Latin Patriarchate Schools Year Book 2011/2012*

### **Tony Ockenden OBE**

A long serving member of the CNT stood down in July this year. Tony Ockenden has given valuable service to the Trustees, bringing his vast experience to help and advise the Trust through the changes both in the Holy Land and in the changing scene in the UK.

Tony served in the Forces in Palestine and after the second World War, kept in contact with families and friends through his work in the Middle East. A frequent visitor to the Holy Land, he was ideally placed to give various insights into the many changes which have occurred during the last sixty years.

The Chairman expressed his gratitude for Tony's outstanding contribution to the work of the Trust and to the Latin Patriarchate through his 'knowledge and understanding of educational matters pertaining to the Holy Land'.

By his long association with the 'Living Stones', the Christian people of the Holy Land, his perception of the people, and the work on their behalf, Tony has made a difference. Thank you!

### **Where have we come from?**

CNT was set up in 1984 by Tim Kennedy, Bob Philp and Pater Dore, all Knights of the Holy Sepulchre from Cambridge, who had seen the need to support children by small and immediate donations which was not possible through the KHS. As Walsingham, 'England's Nazareth' is also in the Diocese of East Anglia, the Cambridge Nazareth Trust was founded to assist with the education of people under 25. The Trust mainly supported the Nazareth School for the Deaf and Dumb, an orphanage in Ein Karem and the Bethlehem Ephepheta Centre. Increasingly the Trust began to support small educational projects and paying school fees for students. To date, over £500,000 has been raised.

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