



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

Cambridge Nazareth Trust

Newsletter

Spring 2019

CNT works to improve children's education by developing teachers' skills to ensure rich learning experiences

Murhabbah! Hello! Your parish might recently have prayed for the small Christian communities remaining in the Holy Land. As you know, our charity, Cambridge Nazareth Trust, CNT, was founded in Cambridge over 30 years ago with the express purpose of supporting the education of young Christians in the Holy Land.



November 2018: Jamama's pupils in Safout enjoying learning English the new way!

In December 2018, Sami El Yousef, CEO of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, spoke of *"the dedicated work of 1,580 teachers and staff serving 19,000 students in Jordan, Israel and Palestine, [including Gaza], through 41 Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem (LPJ) schools and 33 kindergartens. This remarkable network of Christian schools brings life to 55 parishes, serves the most economically challenged areas and caters for the poor, weak and marginalised."*

These schools depend upon charitable donations for their very existence. Through education, we encourage the Christian communities to play their part in the future development of their lands. Your kind donations remind these struggling peoples that they are not alone. In Jordan and Palestine, LPJ schools receive no state funding. The withdrawal of US humanitarian aid has made their situation all the more critical. The devastating effect of military occupation in Palestine cannot be overstated, with lives dictated and families divided by checkpoints, travel restrictions and the very high separation wall. In Israel, the five LPJ schools receive reducing amounts of state support and many Christians find themselves systematically discriminated against and marginalised. This will only increase in Israel with the new discriminatory laws brought in by the Israeli government.

Maintaining a Christian Presence in The Holy Land

How do we retain a Christian presence in the land where Jesus walked? We do this through the schools, educating the next generation. The faith of the pupils is outstanding and a source of inspiration. LPJ schools admit Christian and Muslim students including, very significantly, Muslim girls, who all learn alongside each other, acquiring mutual tolerance and respect.



Heba in Ader, Majd in Salt and Yara in Houson: their pupils discover the joys of learning English without a textbook

The English Project was started in 2011 after a request for help with the teaching of English and is ongoing. It has over time helped with the transformation of the LPJ educational system. A 'Flying Squad' of specialist English language tutors has spent time in Amman in Jordan and later in Ramallah in Palestine providing workshops and seminars - active learning, not lectures. The teachers enthusiastically seized the training KHS and CNT have provided and a change to student-centred learning has been fostered. Richenda, Jonny, and Jackie, the same dedicated tutors CNT has used for all the training, (now with David, our drama tutor) will be with us eight years later as we provide more training in Ramallah in April 2019 and in Amman in October 2019.



The Group 3 Teachers with the tutors and Suha Haddadin of LPJ



Group 2 teachers received advanced training

CNThas previously provided a bridge, heating, library books, computers, help with school fees and resurfaced dangerous playgrounds and it is now investing in people. We all know a teacher who has been significant in our lives - skilled teachers outweigh other resources.

Inspirational Teachers

These inspirational teachers all deserve our admiration. Think of Rula from Jubeiha School in Amman: she came to Oxford in 2012 and gained a TESOL qualification. She is now one of four LPJ Supervisors, making weekly school visits as the English Supervisor to the 25 LPJ schools in Jordan, inspiring, encouraging and supporting her colleagues.



Rula (left) in Drama training, the Drama Group in session and after receiving their certificates (right)

In November 2018 in Amman, 44 teachers, including Nadia, the Head of an LPJ school for Iraqi Refugees, received various levels of training. After the training, teachers post messages showing their new skills on WhatsApp forums, giving continuity, momentum and opportunities to share best practice and the latest initiatives. These WhatsApp forums are extensive, showing children enjoying working together, creativity and imaginative use of resources, the skills required in the 21st century. Most heart-warming and encouraging are the videos of senior pupils leading a Carol concert in fluent English and debating why Christmas must not be treated as a materialist celebration.

Successful Students - Smiles All Round !

LPJ schools are catching up. In Summer 2018, one LPJ student came first in the Tawjihi, the examination taken by all eighteen-year-olds in Jordan; four others came in the top ten. The LPJ students are proud of their teachers and their teachers are rightly proud of them.

Training provided by CNT has reaped dividends: the teachers say that it has exceeded expectations. We are asked to return again and again, for there is always more to do and remoter schools to help - the photographs feature schools not previously represented on CNT's training courses. I have been privileged to visit most LPJ schools over the past fourteen years and I have the highest admiration for their staff and the conduct of their pupils.



Win Win in Jema's class in Ashrafieh Reham's class concentrating in Mafrag Madlein's class in Zerka

Despite their limited resources, the LPJ schools are generous in offering tremendous support to the massive influx of refugees in Jordan. They provide afternoon schools for Syrian and Iraqi refugees. All NGO activity is in English and lessons in English provide both therapy and hope for traumatised Syrians and Iraqis who have fled to neighbouring countries. CNT's English language training has directly contributed to the LPJ's humanitarian support for refugees. The LPJ parish and school communities continue to give shelter, restore shattered self-esteem and provide hope. LPJ schools are safe havens. Their playgrounds are often the only places of safety and protection in their communities, particularly in Palestine.

Summer Camps

CNT is respected in the Holy Land. In addition to teacher training, CNT has supported Palestinian parish summer camps. In the absence of opportunities for holidays, these camps keep the children occupied during the long hot summer months.

In December 2018, Sami El Yousef, CEO of the LPJ, expressed his appreciation for this help. *On behalf of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, I express my warm and sincere gratitude to CNT for their genuine contribution to our work and mission and for extending their cooperation to complete several projects for the LPJ. With your generous support, the LPJ was able to contribute to the success of 41 summer camps in the different parishes across the Diocese in Palestine, Jordan and Israel for the years 2017 and 2018.*

These beleaguered and brave Christian communities urgently need our support to ensure their survival and to promote peace in their communities. The pupils and their teachers are always amazed and delighted to know that so many people are aware of their existence and care and pray for them. This awareness gives hope, the greatest of all gifts. They say Shukran, thank you, for your generosity and solidarity of spirit.

John Shoreland KSG, who died at Christmas 2018, was an inspirational educationalist and a long-standing supporter of CNT. John prepared many of CNT's newsletters and ensured that CNT reached a wider audience by publishing some of them in *Networking, Catholic Education Today*. May he rest in peace.

Visits from Trustees

CNT Trustees will on request visit parishes or schools to give presentations on CNT's work. Contact Margaret Waddingham, details below. Trustees regularly visit the Holy Land at their own expense to meet the people whom the Trust is supporting.

You can help by

- praying for the success of our mission
- donating online or by cheque payable to Cambridge Nazareth Trust (can be gift aided)
- making a standing order (can be gift aided)
- organising fund raising in your parish or school

To achieve our aims of sending highly experienced trainers from England each year, we need to raise £10,000 every year. Please help by being as generous as you can. Thank you.

Please send cheques to the Treasurer, Phil Parker, 10 West End, Wilburton, Ely, CB6 3RE.

Phil can provide a gift aid declaration, as can Margaret (e-mail address below).

Bank account: Cambridge Nazareth Trust, Santander Bank, sort code 09-01-52, a/c no 82994505

Our Patron is The Rt. Rev. Alan Hopes, Bishop of East Anglia. The trustees of CNT are Margaret Waddingham (Chairman), Mgr. Eugene Harkness, Donald McEwen and Benedict McHugo (Secretary), with Phil Parker as Treasurer.

CNT will never give your personal details to any other organisation

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