



St John

05

A review of the
year's activities

EYE HOSPITAL, JERUSALEM



Welcome and thanks

**The eyes of the world
are on Jerusalem and
its surrounding areas**



The Lord Vestey
Chairman



Anthony Chignell
Order Hospitaller



Steve James
Chief Executive

Contents

Providing specialist eye care	4
Teaching and Training	5
Outreach	6
Priories	8
Fundraising	9
Finance	10
Board and Chief Executive	11

Dear Colleagues and Supporters

Events in the Middle East are changing so rapidly that, even as we write, we cannot know how they will affect the Hospital in the short term let alone the long term. One thing is certain, however: the eyes of the world are on Jerusalem and its surrounding areas as events unfold and change around us.

That the Hospital is there at all is interesting and worthy of many stories; the fact that it has been operating in Jerusalem for nearly 125 years is a testament to the commitment and support of so many people – our staff, our Board, the St John priories, our volunteers and many, many supporters.

Throughout 2005, against a backdrop that was both challenging and deeply rewarding, we treated over 64,000 outpatients in our various clinics around the country and performed more than 4,500 operations. Visiting doctors continued to treat patients and to pass on their skills to local trainee doctors. We welcomed many visitors from St John Ambulance, including the 2005 Cadets of the Year. We formed a network with the other five charitable Hospitals in East Jerusalem. And we opened a new eye centre in Hebron. Strategically, it was extremely important to open this satellite operation because of the problems for young and old patients of travelling to Jerusalem from the West Bank – made increasingly worse by the near completion of the Wall.

This is the first time we have produced an annual review. We do hope you enjoy reading about the tremendous work of our staff and volunteers in this volatile and wonderful part of the world. Thank you again for all your support.

Providing Specialist Eye Care

Ever since 1882, when we first established a Hospital in Jerusalem, St John has been recognised as a Centre of Excellence in the region for providing specialist eye care.

St John maintained its reputation as a Centre of Excellence during 2005, a year in which our doctors, nurses and paramedics were busier than ever, providing 24 hour care in all departments – Outpatients, Inpatients and Operating Theatres. We witnessed a year on year increase in the number of patients treated from 51,000 to over 64,000, and in the number of operations performed from 3,800 to over 4,500.

Meeting this increase in demand for our services, while at the same time maintaining our reputation, was only possible by ensuring we had sufficient surgeons, doctors, paramedics and nurses with the requisite specialist skills and experience available at all times. This was not an easy task, given the restrictions on employment, access and general movement imposed by the Authorities.

1. Sister Meg Dibsy with a baby patient from Jericho after cataract surgery
2. Dr Della Rocca and his oculoplastics team from the American Priory during their annual voluntary visit to the Hospital



Nevertheless, our core staff of local and expatriate doctors was able to cover the majority of sub-specialities of eye disease, these being:

- anterior segment disease;
- medical retinal disease;
- vitreoretinal surgery;
- oculomotility disorder;
- paediatrics;
- neurophthalmology.

To cover other specialities, such as oculoplastics and glaucoma, we were fortunate enough to be able to attract a large number of volunteer doctors from around the world, who also helped us to cope with the increased level of activity. Our sincere thanks goes out to all these doctors, both for the care they provided to patients, but also for their help in teaching and training our local ophthalmologists of the future.



Our Orthoptic Department, unique within the region, was also strengthened by the arrival of Mrs. Jane Tapley, a Senior Orthoptist from Reading, who helped mentor one of our recently trained Orthoptists, as well as provide support in all our areas of activity – Jerusalem, Gaza, Hebron and on the Mobile Outreach Clinics.

In a region where eye disease, particularly among children, is still ten times more likely to occur than in developed countries; where up to 80% of all blindness is preventable; and where the high incidence of diabetes may potentially result in blindness, our medical staff have made a significant impact in 2005 to help reduce the suffering both now and in the future. Our thanks and appreciation to them all. Their unique skills provide the Hospital with the highest standard of specialised ophthalmic medical treatment and nursing care.



1. Class of 2005, Sir Stephen Miller School of Nursing
2. Dr Omar Hammand is presented with his graduation certificate by Dr Charlie Kanawati

Teaching and Training

Teaching, training and continuous medical education of local doctors, and nurses is an essential part of our mission at St John. Thus, in 2005, we extended our in-house medical residency programme to four years, allowing the programme to be recognised by both the Palestinian and Jordanian Boards of Ophthalmology. (Two years of the programme are recognised by the Royal College of Ophthalmologists in the UK). The number of resident doctors undertaking this programme was also increased from four to five during the year.

Another aspect of our commitment to teaching is our Joint Cooperation Programme with the world renowned Hadassah Medical Centre in Israel. Last year we increased the number of Palestinian doctors we support to undertake the Israeli Board of Ophthalmology from two to three. In addition, two of our local Doctors started a one-year Oculoplastic Fellowship at Israeli Hospitals, the result of which will be to reduce our dependence on visiting oculoplastic surgeons in the future.

The medical teaching programme is not however limited only to our own doctors, but encompasses the wider community as well. With funding from the U.S. Priory, we provided students from the Al-Quds University Medical School with undergraduate teaching in Ophthalmology. Moreover, the Palestinian Medical Council referred a number of their doctors to us to complete a final year of training in

Ophthalmology at a 'recognised' Hospital, to allow them to sit for the Palestinian Board exams.

Nurse training is also vitally important. Eight students graduated in 2005 from the Sir Steven Miller Nursing School, the only accredited training school for Ophthalmic Nurses in the Middle East. Four of them replaced Hospital staff, who went to work in the new Hebron Eye Centre, three filled other vacancies in the Hospital, and one went on to do a Master's Degree in Jordan.

Our programme of Continuing Education for nurses flourished during 2005 under the supervision of Ahmad Maáli, the Senior Lecturer/Practitioner in the School. All grades of nurses received regular updating, postgraduate nurses with special talent were selected for training as Ophthalmic Nurse Practitioners, and we also began new training for nurses as Orthoptic Assistants.

St John is well known in the international ophthalmic community. Last year three nurses attended the Royal College of Nursing Ophthalmic Nursing Forum in the UK making presentations about their work.

Another triumph for the Hospital was the holding of the first Nursing Conference at the Hospital, which was attended by nurses from all around the region, and which will now become an annual event.

Teaching the future doctors and nurses in the region is a key element of the mission of St John



Outreach



1. Young patients at the ECHO funded Outreach Clinic in Jenin



2. Mobile Outreach Clinic en route throughout the West Bank

With the main Hospital being situated in East Jerusalem, St John has long recognised the need to reach out into the wider community to make access to our services more available to our patients.

This has now become even more relevant with the near completion of the 'Separation Wall', making travel from the West Bank and Gaza to the Hospital much more difficult, expensive and restrictive, particularly for our very young and very old patients.

To meet this challenge we stepped up our Outreach activities in 2005, both in terms of Mobile and Static Outreach Clinics. This was in line with our latest Strategic Plan to provide a series of sustainable Outreach clinics, which can save the sight and improve the vision of the marginalised communities in the region.

Mobile Outreach Clinics

The St John vehicles carrying the Mobile Outreach Teams have become a well-known sight in the remote towns, villages and refugee camps of the West Bank. In operation since 1982, the clinics provide primary eye care to patients who have difficulty in reaching the Hospital, and allows for patients with more serious disease to be referred back to the main Hospital in Jerusalem.

A second Outreach Team was established in 2004 with funding from the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), and we were successful in 2005 in extending this funding through to mid 2006. This second clinic now provides not only primary care, but also conducts laser therapy on site for patients with diabetic retinopathy, and operates an orthoptic service to screen and to assess children with visual defects.

Operating the clinics is no easy task however. Starting at 7.30 in the morning each day and often returning after dark, the teams are frequently held up at military checkpoints for hours, or worse still turned back and not allowed to enter a particular village, where perhaps 50-60 patients – men, women and children - are waiting expectantly for their arrival. However, with the motto of 'We will get through', the teams invariably find a way around the many obstacles, and arrive at the camp or village to be greeted by smiling faces – making the long and arduous journey all worthwhile.

With both clinics operating the whole year, we were able to see/treat 11,000 patients in 2005 compared with 7,000 in 2004.

The need for our Outreach services has become more acute as access for patients to Jerusalem becomes more difficult

Outreach Centres

In the **Gaza Clinic**, which has been operating since 1992, we stepped up our investment during the year:

- employing an extra surgeon,
- increasing the number of surgical days,
- establishing a programme of regular visits of both surgeons and orthoptists from Jerusalem – for both provision of care and training purposes,
- upgrading the Clinic with more modern equipment.

As a result, and despite all the problems in the area, which are seen daily in the media, we were able to see and treat 20% more patients and carry out 15% more sight-saving operations than in 2004. Our small team in Gaza were often required to go to great lengths in order to achieve this performance, however quality was never compromised.

This increase in activity has in turn however created its own problems, namely lack of space. The next task is therefore to build a larger clinic - a task, which will be extremely challenging in the current environment.

November saw the official opening by our Chairman, Lord Vestey, and the Governor of Hebron, of the new **St John Hebron Eye Centre**, the first of several Eye Centres planned throughout the West Bank. Based on the Gaza model, the Centre is now functioning as a mini Hospital with the same standards of care as the main Hospital in Jerusalem, providing both clinical and surgical care to patients in the densely populated Hebron and Bethlehem Governorates. Equally as important, it is acting as another referral centre for highly complex cases back to the Hospital in Jerusalem.

The nursing staff featured prominently in the planning and opening of the Hebron Eye Centre. Four members of the Hospital staff moved to work in the Hebron Eye Centre. An Ophthalmic Nurse Practitioner, Ghandi Modieh, took on the rather daunting task of co-ordinating the nursing, domestic and maintenance responsibilities and, of course, of liaising with the Medical Director of the Centre.

Already, the Centre is treating over 1000 patients per month, providing them with quality eye care, and saving them the difficult journey to Jerusalem.

Plans are now being drawn up to establish another St. John Eye Centre in the north of the West Bank.



1. Dr Assad examines a baby at the Gaza Clinic with suspected congenital cataracts

Our ambition is to provide a series of sustainable outreach clinics which can save the sight and improve the vision of the marginalised communities

Priories

There has been a steady increase in support from the St. John Priories throughout the world in recent years resulting in a record total sum in 2005 of £1,008,981.41.

The Lord Prior has used every opportunity in his worldwide travels to encourage Priories to remember the Hospital and the very difficult circumstances within which it operates in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza.

The CEO and his staff have welcomed many Priory visitors and volunteers throughout the year. In return the Chairman of the Board and Order Hospitaller have visited many of the headquarters of the family of St. John throughout the world. It is hoped more such visits will take place throughout 2006 and as part of the 125th anniversary celebrations in 2007.

Australia has increased their support by sponsoring additional members of the nursing staff. New Zealand has embarked on a new fund raising and awareness initiative, steadily increasing their annual donation. The United States of America continues to provide medical volunteers and salaried staff in addition to their exceptionally generous annual donation. Canada continues to fund the salary of a Consultant Paediatrician and underwrote the costs of her visit to Canada where she made presentations on her work in Jerusalem.

Wales has appointed representatives in the various counties, working towards the sponsorship of a member of staff. Scotland has enabled the Hospital to employ a member of staff to supervise the medical and nursing library and a fund to provide the latest textbooks and journals. This is in addition to their very generous staff sponsorship of the Medical Director.

Income from the Priory of England has steadily increased since the appointment of the present Priory Hospitaller who has travelled to most counties to spread the word. The majority of sponsored nurses are funded by Counties in England.

The impact of the annual contributions from the Priories on staff morale cannot be over estimated. Those serving The Order in the isolation of such a volatile region know that they are in the thoughts and hearts of the St. John family who appreciate their dedicated service and the many difficulties they face on a daily basis.



1. Nurse Saedda Kawwas, sponsored by St John Leicestershire & Northamptonshire, Priory of England with a young prosthetic patient
2. Paediatric Surgeon Dr Humam Rishmawi, sponsored by St John Canada, examines a young patient at the main Hospital in Jerusalem

Fundraising

It was decided to invest in a further development and professionalisation of our fundraising team.

Our major source of income in 2005, amounting to £1.862 million, was from traditional forms of fundraising, such as Grants from Government bodies, Trusts and Foundations, General Donations and Gifts, and Legacies. One Grant, which we were particularly pleased to receive, was the ECHO (European Commission for Humanitarian Aid) Grant for the continuation of the second Mobile Outreach Clinic, as such grants require extensive spadework and are only given to organisations, which have proved to be effective and successful in their area of charitable work. A special thanks goes to our sister organisation, Die Johanniter Unfall Hilfe in Berlin, without whom this project would not have been possible.

We were also successful in raising both funds and the profile of the Hospital by way of a number of Special Events throughout the year.

The St. John Charity Ball

Following the resumption of the St John Charity Ball in 2004, the event was held again in September 2005. The evening was a sell-out and raised over £15,000 towards the purchase of a 'Yag Laser' for the new Hebron Eye Centre. The star attraction of the evening was the magnificent prize donated by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Goltra (pictured above) from the US Priory of a 5-star trip to New York, which auctioned for £5,000. The St John Charity Ball is now an established event in the East Jerusalem social calendar.

Chairman's Reception

The Chairman's Reception was held at Two Temple Place in September, attended by the Grand Prior, HRH The Duke of Gloucester. Over £15,000 was raised on the evening, and it was an opportunity for us to say 'thank you' to many of our long-term friends and supporters.

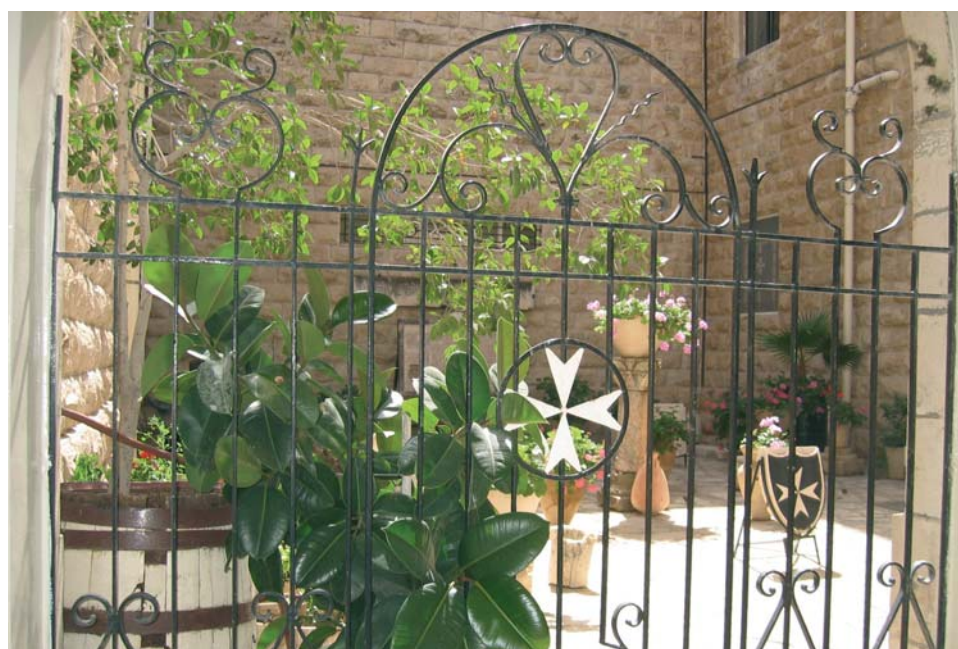
The Guild

Under the Chairmanship of the Order Hospitaller, Mr. Anthony Chignell, the Guild held a number of successful special events throughout the year, which collectively raised over £45,000 in the year. Events included:

- Gift of Sight Bridge Afternoon at the Polish Embassy
- Lecture by Sir Barry Jackson on Florence Nightingale
- Concert and Book Launch
- Fashion Show
- Gift of Sight Fair
- Tennis Tournament

Mrs. Lauretta Ridley took over the Chair at the end of the year, and we are sure the events in 2006 will be just as successful.

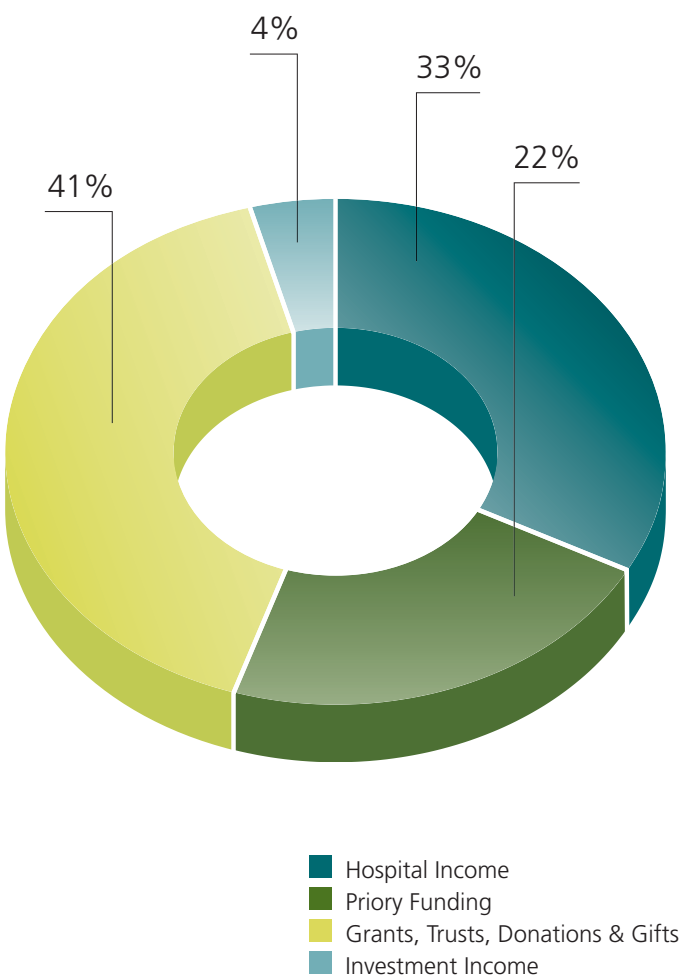
1. (Top) Mr & Mrs Peter Goltra members of the American Priory at the 2005 St John Eye Hospital Charity Ball
2. (Below) The Garden of Remembrance in the cloisters of St John Eye Hospital



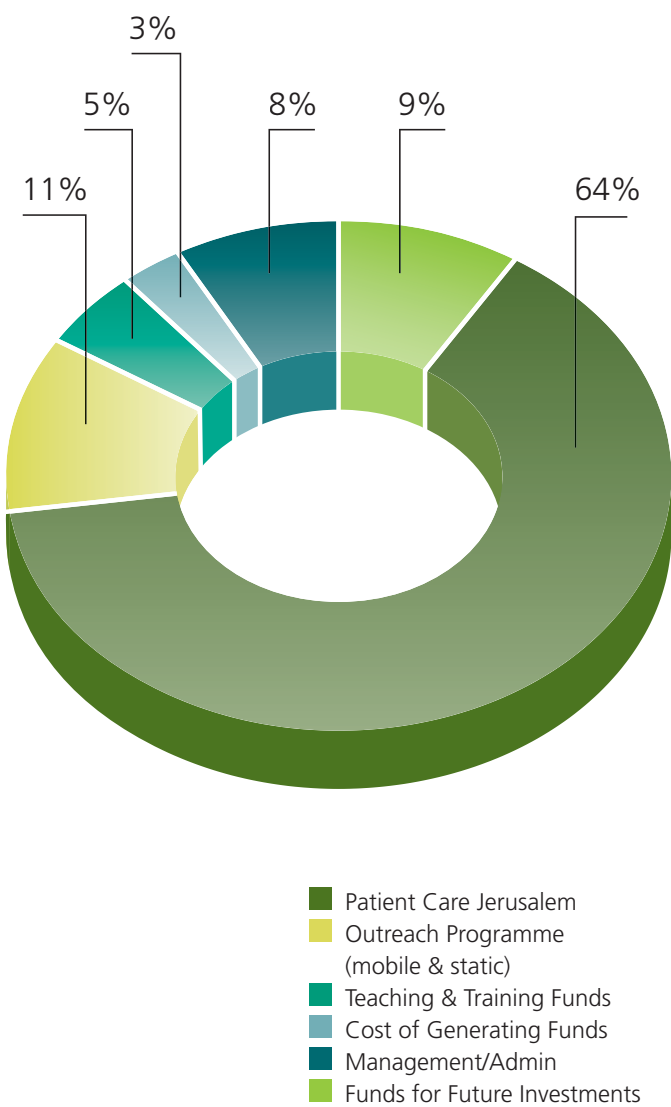
Notwithstanding our relative success this year, it was decided in October to invest in a further development and professionalisation of our fundraising team. This was in response to the increasing patient demand and to our plans for the further expansion of our medical activities in the future. As a result, we strengthened the fundraising teams in both London and Jerusalem, and put in motion a programme of new and exciting fundraising initiatives. The impact and benefits of these initiatives will be seen in 2006, 2007, our 125th anniversary year, and for many years to come.

Finance

Sources of Funds (£4.543m)



Uses of Funds (£4.543m)



Board & Chief Executive

The Lord Vestey DL

Chairman

Mr Antoine Mattar FCA, CTA

Deputy Chairman/Company Secretary

Mr Anthony Chignell MB, BS, DO, FRCS, FRCOphth

Order Hospitaller

Mr Steve James

Chief Executive Officer

Mr Robert Ehinger Krehl

Mr Nicholas Ridley

Dr Harold Climenhaga

Miss Roslyn Emblin JP

Mr Gilbert Hinckley OBE, DL

Resigned 25 June 2006

Dr John Jenkins CMG, LVO

Mr John Talbot FRCS, FRCOphth

Mr Philip Hardaker FCA

Appointed 16 March 2006

Mr Laird Mortimer

Appointed 16 March 2006

Mr Michael Stewart

Appointed 25 June 2005

Mr Hugh Peppiatt

Resigned 25 June 2005

Dr Joseph Walsh MD, FACS, FRCOphth

Resigned 25 June 2005





St John

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