



**St John**

06

A review of the  
year's activities

EYE HOSPITAL, JERUSALEM







Welcome and thanks

As political tension intensified,  
so we redoubled our efforts to  
bring succour to those in need.





The Lord Vestey DL  
*Chairman*



Anthony Chignell  
*Order Hospitaller*



Rod Bull  
*Chief Executive*

## Contents

History	4
Teaching and Training	5
Outreach	6
The St John Family	8
Fundraising	9
Finance	10
Board and Chief Executive	11

## Dear Colleagues and Supporters

We are pleased to present this, our second Annual Report. As in previous years, 2006 brought many challenges, some new to us; some not so new. The political situation continued to hit the news headlines while our day-to-day work within Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank continued regardless. This year we treated more patients than ever before – this achievement is even more remarkable considering the ongoing construction of the Separation Wall, which now extends far into the West Bank. Our staff at the Hospital and at our static clinics have applied themselves with dedication and devotion, and their efforts have been supplemented by our international visitors upon whom we are so dependent.

Our mobile outreach teams never cease to amaze with their ingenious ways of reaching their far-flung destinations.

The regard we have for our staff located in Gaza cannot sufficiently be expressed. They all live and work under extremely difficult and, on occasions, dangerous conditions. Yet, despite such hardships, they continue to serve the needy and underprivileged members of their community.

In our report next year we will have the chance to look back on our 125th anniversary year and the opportunity it has provided for thanksgiving and rededication for us and all who support the Hospital.

Following on from the success of our static clinic in Hebron, which opened at the end of 2005, we will commence clinical activities during 2007 in the town of Anabta, located in the North of the West Bank. The Centre will provide much needed services to the major population areas of Nablus, Jenin, Tul Karem and Qalqilya.

We look forward to receiving your continuing support.

*Alister*      *Anthony Chignell*      *Rod Bull*

# History

The hospitalling tradition of St John can trace its origins to the First Crusade in the eleventh century, when the Order was formed to look after pilgrims in the Holy Land.

From the outset, the Hospitallers made no distinction between religions – Christians, Muslims and Jews were treated alike.

Over time, the Order of St John became more military and – having been expelled from Palestine in the thirteenth century – was later in occupation at Cyprus (until 1310), Rhodes (until 1523) and Malta (until 1798). However, the Hospitallers never forgot their devotion to the sick and built hospitals in all of their headquarters.

The Order in England was for a long time rich and powerful and was then probably the largest non ecclesiastical landowner in the country. It was eventually dissolved in 1540 leaving many reminders of its presence scattered about the country. The Order was re-established by Queen Victoria, who was the first Sovereign head, and it became known as The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. It was decided to purchase land in Jerusalem on which to build an

eye hospital, and a mandate for this purpose was acquired from the Ottoman government.

Thus in 1882, The Order of St John, returning to its ancient origins, established the St John Ophthalmic Hospital. It was situated on the Bethlehem Road, near the Jaffa Gate and provided care, treatment and hope of recovery for the many patients that relied on our services.

The state of Israel was created in 1948 at the end of the British mandate. The Hospital (the original site of which is now the Mount Zion Hotel) was now sited in Israel – and, therefore, relatively inaccessible to the population of East Jerusalem from which came the vast majority of patients.

After a spell when St John carried on its mission in the Old City, a fresh start, aided by generous international support, was made with the building of the new

Hospital. This large, impressive, modern structure – on Mount Scopus in the Sheikh Jarrah district of East Jerusalem – was opened in 1960.

Recent years have seen extensive updating of the Hospital buildings, and all the facilities of a modern hospital are now present. The equipment, in both the outpatient and operating areas, is to a very high standard – enabling sophisticated diagnosis and treatment of eye disease. The upgrading and modernising is continuous.

The Order of St John was restructured in 1999 and the Hospital was established both as a separate charity and as a wholly-owned corporate subsidiary of The Order.

Thus the Order Hospitaller, and the Board (under its Chairman The Lord Vestey DL) are appointed by the Order and charged with the welfare of the Hospital.



1. Painting of The Grand Master and senior knights hospitaller in 14th century.  
2. The Knights' Castle at Rhodes.  
3. The original Hospital building, now the Mount Zion Hotel (right).



1. Dr Omar Abdel Dayem, Trainee Doctor (sponsored by the Priory for Wales) screens a patient for Diabetes at an Outreach Clinic in Jericho (far left).
2. Judith Musallam, Orthoptist examines a young male patient (left).
3. Ahmad Maáli, Director of the School of Nursing addresses students at the Sir Stephen Miller School of Nursing (below).

# Teaching and Training

In its vision to provide a service of excellence to the community it serves, the Hospital considers teaching, training and continuous medical education a vital factor in achieving this goal.

To enable us to accomplish our objectives, we have set up a comprehensive four year residency programme. This includes regular tutorials by senior staff members, journal reviews by the residents, wet lab surgical training and much more. The main course adopted is that recommended by the American Academy of Ophthalmology, together with some of the guidelines of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, UK. The course is recognised by both the Palestinian and Jordanian Boards of Ophthalmology and the first two years by the Royal College of Ophthalmologists.

We have a Joint Training Programme within Israel, with the world-renowned Hadassah Hospital, which proves an asset in boosting opportunities for Palestinian doctors, who would otherwise find it very difficult to secure a position outside the country. This year has seen the fruit of this cooperation: two well trained Oculoplastic Surgeons have completed their fellowships and an Israeli Board certified ophthalmologist completed his five year residency in Hadassah, with distinction.

In 2006, we had 23 visiting volunteer doctors from the UK, USA, Sweden, Australia and Jordan. These visitors, besides providing specialised service to our patients, played a vital part in imparting skills and sharing recent trends with our staff.

We are also committed to teach undergraduates of Al-Quds University Medical School, who come to us in batches, staggered through the academic year.

All of the above would just be good ideas if it wasn't for the benevolence and generosity of our donors, to whom we are eternally grateful.

The teaching and training of nurses is, of course, of vital importance and we are proud to run the only accredited training course for Ophthalmic Nurses in the

Middle East. The unique expertise of our graduates ensures the Hospital, its static Clinics and Outreach Teams maintain the highest standard of nursing care. A total of eight nurses graduated during the year.

A new training course for nurses as Orthoptic Assistants is underway and we have great ambitions for the future.

The Sir Steven Miller School of Nursing is managed by Mr. Ahmad Maáli, who co-ordinates all aspects of Nurse Education.

Volunteer doctors provided specialised service to our patients and played a vital part in imparting skills.





# Outreach

Because of increasingly stringent restrictions on travel to Jerusalem, patients’ access to the main Hospital proved gruelling and, for some, impossible.

## Mobile Outreach Clinics

Our mobile outreach clinics continued to serve as a vital network, reaching out to the most remote areas in the region – without cost to the marginalised communities. We have stepped up the mobile outreach clinics so that they are now operational five days a week.

The St John Mobile Outreach team vehicle, which goes out two days a week, has been in operation since 1982, and is sponsored in part by the Christoffel Blindenmission (CBM).

The second Outreach Team, funded by the European Commission for Humanitarian

Aid Office (ECHO) was established in 2004, in response to the growing demand to reach and treat more patients. It goes out three days a week.

In addition to medical treatment, patients were educated about diabetes and other eye diseases with potential sight threatening effects. Teachers and health care workers were educated on how to recognise potential visual threatening problems in children, and school children were screened.

During 2006 the teams saw over 10,000 patients, 4,000 of whom were children.

More than 5,000 patients were screened for diabetes and, out of these, 400+ received laser treatment ‘in the field’ and about 1,400 were referred back to the main Hospital, primarily for surgery.

Thanks to the dedication of the Mobile Outreach Teams, and the grants which have funded their work, many more people have had their vision saved and/or restored, and the potential burden on society has been markedly reduced.



The Separation Wall.

1. An Outreach Team visits a village in the West Bank (right).
2. Jabalia located at the northern end of the Gaza strip is the largest Palestinian refugee camp. It has been the scene of much violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (far right).
3. In response to increased security restrictions and the near completion of the 'Separation Wall' we stepped up our Mobile Outreach Clinics to five days per week (below).



## Static Clinics

The Gaza Strip has a population of 1.4 million. More than 70 ophthalmologists are working there but only 15 of these are properly trained. We feel keenly our responsibility to provide quality eye care to the marginalised people in this increasingly isolated area.

Not surprisingly, in spite of the escalation of trouble, our St John - Gaza Clinic, operational since 1992, has been very busy.

- The number of patients seen rose from 11,751 in 2005 to 13,629, in 2006.
- The number of surgeries increased to 450, thanks largely to employing an additional surgeon.

- Older children with congenital cataracts - common, because of the high incidence of consanguinity over generations - who would often have to be sent to the main Hospital in Jerusalem or to Egypt, can now be operated on in the Gaza clinic.

This increased activity, which is likely to grow even further, will require us to look for an additional place to build a clinic.

In the south of the West Bank, we opened the St John - Hebron Eye Centre in November 2005 and it is rapidly outgrowing its space. During 2006 the Centre met with an overwhelming response from the local population, seeing 11,521 patients and performing 1,129 Phaco-cataract operations, more than we could have ever imagined.

We have since employed another ophthalmologist to help cope with the patient load.

Both Static Clinics continued to refer more complex cases back to the main Hospital in Jerusalem.

## During 2006 nearly 35 thousand people were seen at our Mobile and Static Outreach Centres.



# The St John Family

The Hospital is proud of its membership of the St John Family and this position is reflected in the strategic plan of the Order.

The Hospital, in order to undertake its charitable work, is reliant on support from the eight Pories of the Order. This much-appreciated aid has increased year on year and in 2006 exceeded £1 million for the first time.

In addition to donations in-kind, the Pories encourage much-needed expatriate medical staff, to volunteer their services at the Hospital. In 2006, six of the eight Priory Hospitallers visited the Hospital.

Regular and very welcome visits are also made by the Great Officers of the Order.

As a member of the Grand Council, the Order Hospitaller attended and reported to the annual meeting of the Order which, in 2006, was held in Scotland.

The Hospital is also supported by the Alliance Orders of St John, both collectively and individually. Thus, in partnership with Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe, we have won grants from the European Union to support our mobile outreach work. The Swedish Order

has provided educational support and the Swiss Commandery has supplied us with valuable equipment.

Our relationship with the Sovereign Military Order of Malta is cemented by our regular mobile outreach clinics held at the Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem.

We would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital, to thank the Pories, Associations and Alliance Orders for all their hard work and wonderful support throughout 2006.



1. Nasrallah Khalyleih, Outreach Co-ordinator sponsored by St John Fellowship, (left).
2. In partnership with Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe, we have won grants from the European Union to support our Mobile Outreach work, (below).





# Fundraising

2006 saw the establishment of a new fundraising and communications team in London and in Jerusalem.



Over 150 guests enjoyed the beautiful surroundings of Spencer House for the Chairman's Reception in 2006.

This was a very ambitious project but, by the end of the year we were seeing very positive returns on our investment. Trust income was up by more than 20% and Jerusalem Scene, which had always been a stable source of income for the Hospital, more than doubled its donations.

Trust income was instrumental in funding vital projects for the Eye Hospital – especially our mobile Outreach programme, the School of Nursing and our Joint Training Programme with the world-renowned Israeli Hadassah Medical Centre. Trusts also sponsored the salaries of crucial members of staff – an increasingly important source of income for the Eye Hospital. Recurring donors continued their patronage of the Eye Hospital and we welcomed the support of many new trusts throughout the year.

The urgently needed renovation of the Doctors' Flats was made possible by a grant from The Trusthouse Charitable Foundation, a fantastic start to our major capital refurbishment programme. Two further donations were generously made by the Clothworkers' Foundation and the Blyth Watson Charitable Trust. These ensured that by the end of the year we were well on the way towards securing the funds for the refurbishment and upgrading of the Nurses' Home.

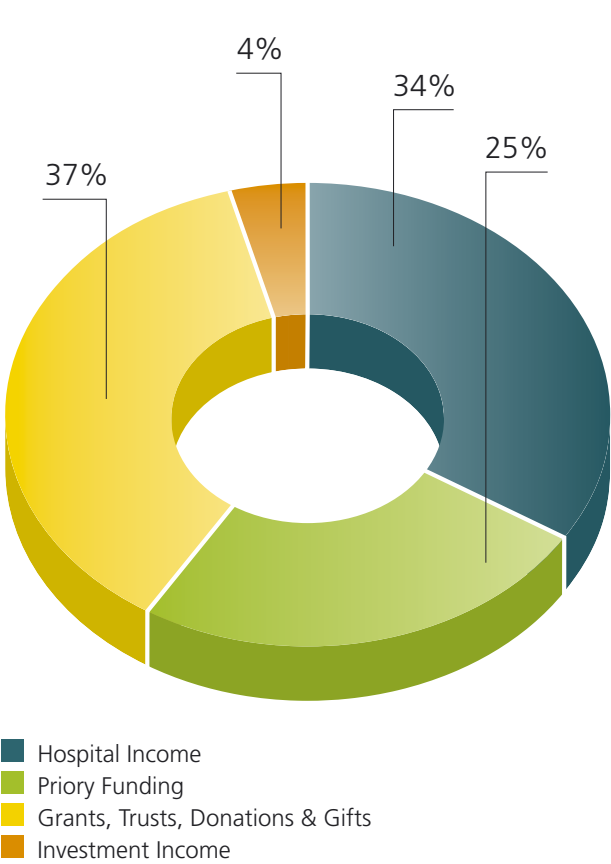
*The Jerusalem Fundraising Office secured £408,735 from new donors, and £163,460 was raised as additional funds from existing donors.*

*Prominent new donors were: Care International, the Pontifical Mission for Jerusalem, The Welfare Association, and the largest town planning office in East Jerusalem.*

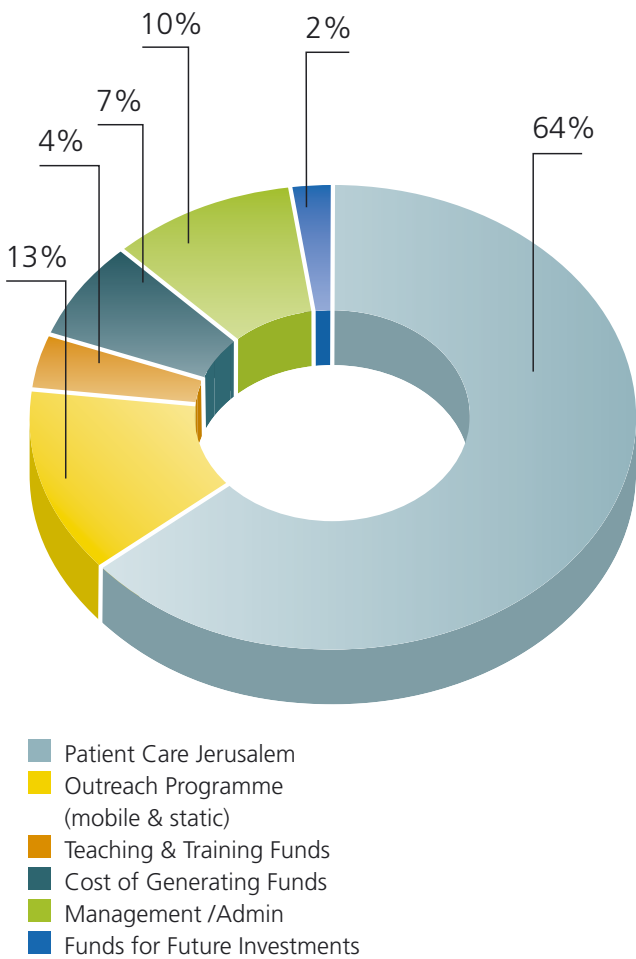


# Finance

Sources of Funds (£4.557m)



Uses of Funds (£4.557m)



As can be seen in the charts above, funding amounted to £4.557m and expenditure £4.481m, resulting in a net operating surplus of £76,000 which has been set aside for future investments.

Year-on-year, the Hospital relies on voluntary income as a major provider of funds. During 2006, voluntary income of £2.806m

constituted 62% of incoming resources; while £1.513m (34%) of total incoming resources came from the Hospital's charitable activities, the remaining 4%, related in the main, to income from investments. Included within voluntary income is the staggering sum of £1.152m so generously donated by the Priors of the Order of St John.

During 2006 expenditure, in the furtherance of our charitable activities, amounted to

£3.720m, representing 83% of total resources spent. These costs included managing the Hospital in Jerusalem; two mobile outreach clinics; two static clinics located in Gaza and Hebron in addition to the continuation of active teaching and training for Doctors, Nurses and Paramedical personnel. The cost of generating funds represented 7% of total expenditure, with governance costs at 10%.



# 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 Rod Bull**

Chief Executive Officer

## **Mr Robert Ehinger Krehl**

## **Mr Nicholas Ridley**

## **Dr Harold Climenhaga**

## **Miss Roslyn Emblin JP**

Retired 24 June 2007

## **Dr John Jenkins CMG, LVO**

Resigned 22 November 2006

## **Mr John Talbot FRCS, FRCOphth**

## **Mr Philip Hardaker FCA**

Appointed 16 March 2006

## **Mr Laird Mortimer**

Appointed 16 March 2006

## **Mr Michael Stewart**

## **Mr Richard Makepeace**

Appointed 24 June 2007

## **Mr Alistair Wood**

Appointed 24 June 2007





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