

MEET OUR NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE GUILD

Our Prior and Chairman of St John Scotland comes to the end of his term and we look at the children affected by the crisis in Gaza

Use the donation form inside this newsletter or online at stjohnseyehospital.org/gaza

CEO Update Dedication amidst Adversity
Staff profile Saving sight in Gaza



St John of Jerusalem
Eye Hospital Group

JERUSALEM SCENE

Autumn 2021

Treatment for all regardless of
ethnicity, religion, or ability to pay



Light at the end of the Tunnel

EMERGENCY APPEAL UPDATE ON PAGE 4



**YOUR SUPPORT KEEPS
OUR VITAL SIGHT-SAVING
SERVICES RUNNING**

DEDICATION AMIDST ADVERSITY

DR AHMAD MA'ALI
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Perseverance through COVID-19 and the recent conflict

Even in times of immense challenge, few things console me more than witnessing how the dedication of our staff makes a difference to so many people's lives. The Covid-19 lockdowns and the recent conflict in Gaza have brought this home to me all the more. I have no doubt that these situations will leave their marks for some time to come, but for me the message is clear; we will never lose sight of our vision to bring our services to the people who need it most.

Thanks to its successful vaccination campaign Israel has eased all restrictions including wearing masks. Life in Israel is going back to normal. The Pandemic seems also under control in the Palestinian areas where vaccinations are becoming more available. The school system was reopened in April and the Ministry of Health abolished its face mask mandate. The outcome for the Jerusalem Hospital was a 4% increase in outpatient numbers and cataract surgeries were up by 42% on last year. I am very pleased to confirm that all our Jerusalem staff have received both their Pfizer vaccines, whilst staff in Hebron and Anabta have received two doses of the Russian vaccine. In Gaza, most of the staff have received their first and second vaccines.

Although the Covid-19 virus is still taking its toll in Gaza, outpatient clinical activities were 4% higher than

the same period in 2020. In liaison with the Israeli Authorities, a plan has been submitted to give regular access to our doctors to perform much needed surgeries. The authorities have also given their initial approval for selected clinical staff to travel to Jerusalem to undertake training. So far, three of our doctors have been able to visit Gaza and performed vitally-needed oculoplastic and corneal transplant surgeries.

As you will have seen in the news, the recent conflict in Gaza has left Palestinians facing a humanitarian crisis with thousands of people being displaced and livelihoods lost. Though I am immensely relieved that our staff and their families were unharmed, our commitment is to support the people in Gaza who require urgent and ongoing eye treatment. We are hopeful that the current ceasefire will remain. However, we are under no illusion that we will need a significant deployment of our financial resources to deal the additional hospital care and outreach services to help the many thousands that have been affected by the recent conflict. The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group is exceptionally grateful to all our supporters and friends around the world for their continued generosity and goodwill during what has been a very difficult and unpredictable time. ○

43%

PATIENTS AND
COMPANIONS
WERE DELAYED OR
DENIED ACCESS
TO TREATMENT
OUTSIDE OF GAZA
IN DECEMBER 2020

70%

OF PEOPLE TREATED
IN OUTREACH
WERE WOMEN
AND CHILDREN



“Being able to see the huge difference we make in people’s lives is truly rewarding and makes the difficult days easier”

Mohammed El Huwwari is an Ophthalmic Nurse at St John’s Eye Hospital in Gaza, where he has worked since 2016. He is the sole provider for his family which includes his parents, brother, sister; as well as his wife and two children.

My work day starts in the early hours of the morning. Before leaving my home to wait for my taxi I have to make sure I have my hospital ID, without it I can’t get through the checkpoints and police closures to the hospital. Since COVID-19 police checkpoints have been erected to try and stem the cases. I usually arrive by 6.50 am in order to prep myself for a busy day ahead. I chose to come and work in the hospital because they are known to have the best services in the area. I saw this as not only an opportunity to develop my skill but to also do invaluable work for those in need. I love my work because I can actually see the difference we make to our patients.

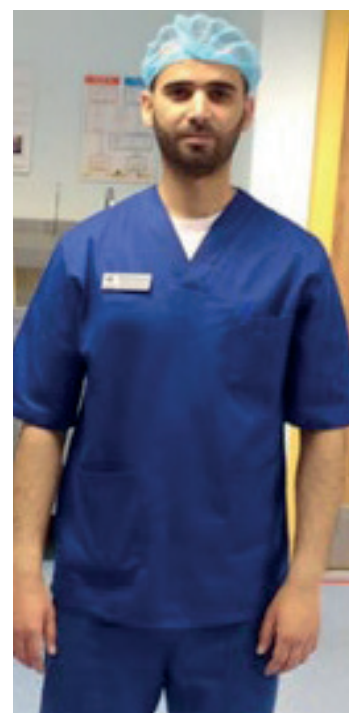
Working in Gaza is already difficult without COVID-19. We have regular power cuts which disrupts our work. The people of Gaza face military sieges, poverty and unemployment. COVID-19 just exasperated those difficulties. Staff getting sick and the hospital forced to close twice caused so many disruptions. Some days we were completely

overcrowded with an influx of patients and other days we hardly had anyone in.

During a time where so many are sick and you feel completely helpless, being able to help people is hugely rewarding. I remember a woman in her 60s coming to the hospital needing immediate care. Her eyes had significantly deteriorated and she was terrified of losing her vision, having poor visual acuity in both eyes. She needed a right eye phacoemulsification. We all reassured before she went in to surgery that is was a simple procedure and that she would be fine. After the operation, she was smiling, laughing and crying from sheer joy, it was not hard to be happy for her too. ○

LAST YEAR WE REACHED OVER

**107,000
PATIENTS**



Mohammed El Huwwari
prepped for surgery



Your support saves lives and offers hope

Children are often the forgotten casualties of societies living under harsh conditions and economic duress. This is no more true than it is in the Gaza Strip, where an estimated 36% of the population is under the age of 14 years (this being at least twice that of the UK), where the infant mortality rates are quadruple those of most Western nations*, and where life expectancy is about 65 years of age, 15 years less than the USA and the UK.

Coupled to poverty, 50% unemployment, and restricted movement in and out of neighbouring countries are the hardships of consanguinity and little or no access to health screening services. These conditions contribute to the dire quality of life experienced by many Gazans on a daily basis. Hospitals face a perennial struggle for lack of funds and adequate equipment, periodic conflicts, and limited training opportunities for their young doctors and nurses. These conditions affect over 2 million people on our own Mediterranean shores, and serve as a stark reminder to the international community of the need for stability and better opportunities in the region.

St John has long worked in Gaza, providing vital ophthalmic services to the population. In 2016 our new flagship hospital was opened in Gaza City and has since treated over 150,000 thousand patients, of whom 40,000 are children. In 2019, the year before lockdown, the Hospital saw a total of 33,413 patients (of which 6,817 were children), and undertook 335 paediatric operations. Despite pandemic restrictions, clinics and theatres have continued with relatively little disruption compared to the UK, perhaps due to the relative isolation of the region.

Thus, St John provides a vital service to children in Gaza, and the impact of international support for the Hospital cannot be overestimated. Injuries and infections require urgent treatment if a child's sight is to be saved, and other congenital diseases, such as droopy eyelid ('ptosis'), congenital glaucoma, squint and cataracts must be also be corrected early in life during the critical 'window' for visual development.

If treatment is delayed within the first ten years of life, the eye will become 'amblyopic', or 'lazy' due to developmental failure of the neural pathways from the eye to the occipital (visual) cortex in the brain. Sadly,

even today many adults in Gaza are affected by amblyopia for want of screening and specialist treatment earlier in their younger years, and this disability is a severe life-long handicap.

In addition to our work in Gaza City, St John also runs outreach clinics across the Gaza Strip screening for amblyopia, and arranging urgent treatment at our Gaza hospital in Gaza, or, if necessary, in Jerusalem. In the West, preschool visual screening at the age of four years identifies these patients early, but in Gaza no such universal health service exists. Thus, your support for St John in Gaza truly gives these children sight and hope for a better future, with opportunities stretching into adult life.

One area of great concern for children in Gaza is that of Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), in which severe retinal complications can occur due to the high oxygen levels needed in the neonatal period. Thanks to the recent generosity of the RTW Foundation in the US, we are now able to purchase a state-of-the-art digital retinal screening camera; detected early enough, these complications can be treated and a life of blindness avoided.

In finishing, we acknowledge the dedication of all our nurses, doctors, anaesthetists, and clerical staff, whose commitment to their patients in this unstable and difficult region is an inspiration. We remember that their sight-saving and life-changing work is only possible with your support and commitment. Their community is very different to ours, and your practical and financial support reaches children and their families throughout Gaza. In doing so, you give them sight, and hope for a better future. Thank you. ☺

The infant mortality rate is defined as the number of infant deaths before the age of one year for every 1,000 live births. In the Gaza strip the IMR is 13.6 deaths/1,000 population (2018 est.), being double that of the USA (average 6.5), and treble that of the UK (4.3).

References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_the_Palestinian_territories
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_the_United_States
<https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/infantmortality.htm>



Zeinab has been working as a nurse at St John's Eye Hospital in Gaza for the last five years. She is the sole provider for her widowed mother and sibling.

The years I have spent at the Eye Hospital has been incredible. They have helped me develop my skills as a nurse so that I can provide the best care for the patients that come through our doors

"Though we work in the most difficult areas, with regular power cuts, I love my job. Being able to help those in need makes it worthwhile."

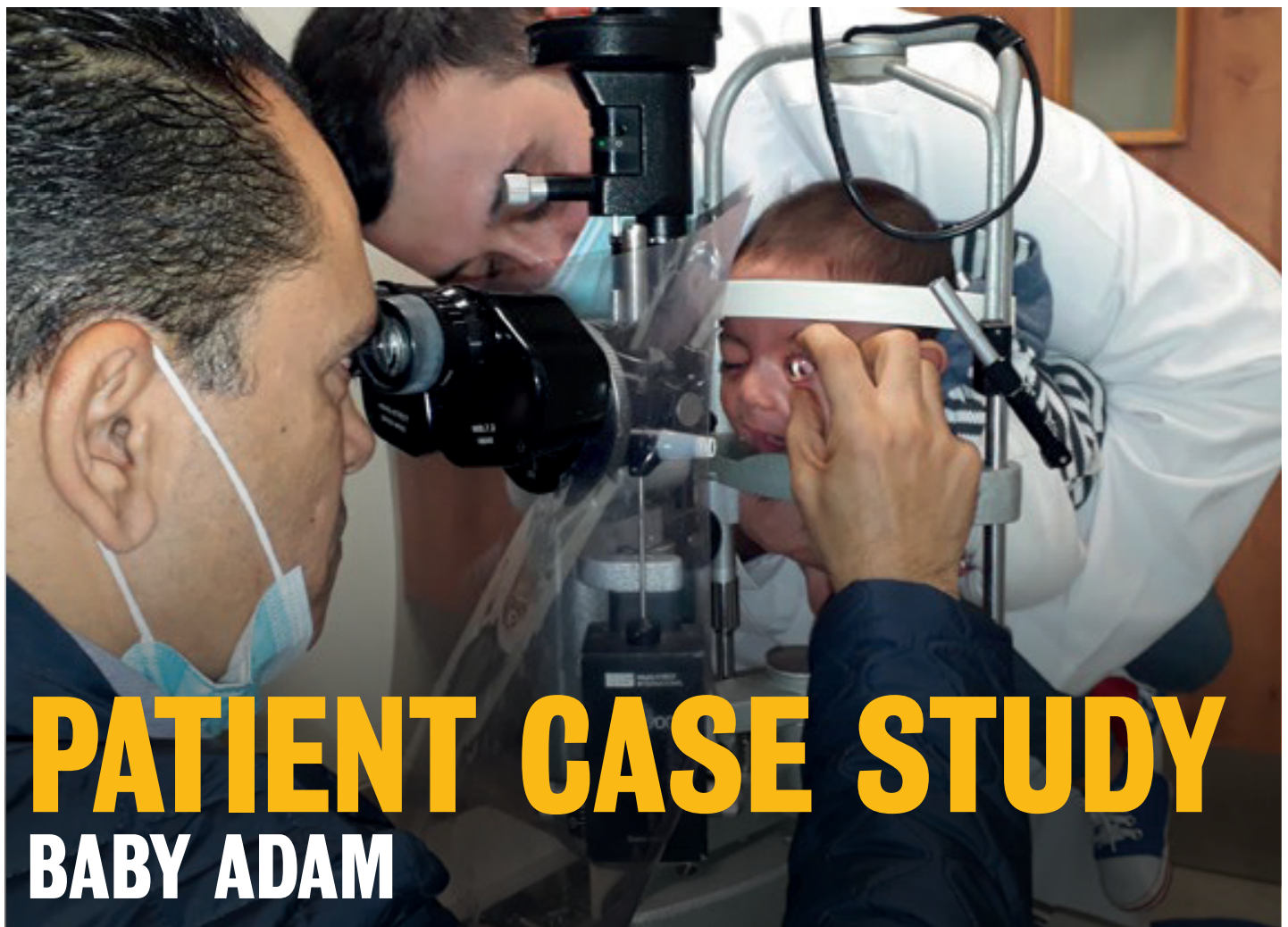
We face so many challenges during the pandemic with power cuts every day that hugely disrupts our work. A military siege in the Gaza Strip caused many disruptions to our deliveries of supplies. This had a huge knock on effect on our work plans and surgeries. We still are working through the backlog of patients that had to be suspended during the lockdown. The hospital was under a large strain with members of staff getting sick with COVID-19. Gaza is a challenging place to work due to the large amounts of poverty in the area so much so that some can't even afford to travel to the hospital for their surgeries or check-ups.

A 54 year teacher from Gaza come to the hospital with cloudy vision. Her vision had gotten

so bad, she was terrified of even crossing the road. She is someone who loves reading, writing and watching historical documentaries, which her diminished vision impaired her from doing. We diagnosed her with cataracts, which if left untreated, could lead to further ocular tissue damage. As a teacher this hugely impaired her ability to do her job. Unemployment is high in Gaza and losing her job could have been a close reality. She said she didn't even have money for her surgery. Despite her fears, she kept encouraging her children to keep focusing on their studies. Her operation was only a 20-minute procedure but the results were astounding! Her joy was infectious. She couldn't wait to get home to see her children and thanked the staff profusely. 🍷



"Though we work in the most difficult areas, with regular power cuts, I love my job. Being able to help those in need makes it worthwhile."



“Between decreased salaries and continuously applying for part-time work, we were in a constant state of fear on whether we could pay for the next bill.”

Adam Ahmad Al-Mubashir was 4-months old when his parents noticed issues with his sight. Adam had been suffering from Glaucoma since birth, causing him severe pain and distress. Glaucoma is an eye condition where the optic nerve that connects the eye to the brain becomes damaged. Adam’s parents were devastated at the news of their child’s condition, fearing he would lose his sight permanently. The family were already struggling to pay for other medical bills incurred when Adam’s father’s was diagnosed with heart disease.

Wider family members encouraged Adam’s parents to go the St John Eye Hospital in Gaza to see if he could be offered specialist help. His father met Dr Walid Mohamad, the only Glaucoma Specialist in Gaza, who diagnosed Adam’s case as Congenital Glaucoma. Dr Walid stated that urgent Anti-glaucoma surgery, 360 degrees sutures Trabeculotomy, was required. Adam went into surgery in November 2020 with Dr Walid himself performing the complex surgery. Post-op, Adam’s parents were delighted to see how much their baby’s eyesight improved.

Adam’s family expressed how very thankful they were to St. John Eye Hospital for saving their son’s eye sight. They also thanked Qatar Fund for Development for their generous contribution in treating of Adam because otherwise, they simply wouldn’t be able to afford it. ☺



OUR VISION

We work to eliminate avoidable blindness in the Holy Land and be recognised as the leader in the provision of quality eye care in Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.



Above and Below: Mark Strudwick presenting prizes while visiting the hospital

St John Scotland has long been a generous supporter of St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. Mark Strudwick CBE KStJ, is coming to the end of his term as Prior and Chairman of St John Scotland and tells us of the immense difference our work makes to the lives of so many people.



Above : Mark Strudwick visiting an outreach clinic

As the spiritual home of all St John organisations worldwide, Jerusalem, and the Eye Hospital, will always have a special place in the heart of St John members. Those of us in Scotland feel this most strongly, and are committed to supporting the work of the Eye Hospital Group alongside our fellow Priors.

Our support for the Eye Hospital has always been intended to help make a difference to those in need through a wide range of services and projects. We have helped fund the fitting-out of the Hebron clinic, the sponsorship of key roles including Medical Director and Head of Anaesthesiology and financial support for the Medical Resident Library. Most recently we have supported the purchasing of an Optical Slit Lamp unit along with supporting the Mobile Outreach Programme.

Sadly, I am coming to the end of my term of office but over the six years as Prior and Chairman of St John Scotland, I've had the pleasure of visiting Jerusalem and the Eye Hospital on several occasions, to see for myself the wonderful being carried out by such a dedicated team. On my last visit, in September 2019, I was able for the first time to enter Gaza to meet the medical and surgical teams and learn about the work of new the Gaza Hospital. The experience of going through so many logistical challenges to enter Gaza – even as a privileged visitor and guest of the Hospital – was one I will not forget. It clearly brought home how near

impossible it is for people living in Gaza to access the healthcare they need and to move about freely.

At home in Scotland, while affected like the rest of the world by the Covid-19 pandemic, we have been reflecting on our Strategy. In doing so, we have renewed our focus on improving the health and resilience of our communities through Patient Transport, CPR and Defibrillators, and Community First Responders. Whilst we remain committed to our charitable work at home, supporting the work of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital has been central to our mission since we were founded in 1947.

Indeed, 2022 marks a special milestone for both our organisations. As we celebrate our 75th anniversary year, the Eye Hospital will mark its 140th year. Reflecting on the difference our support has made to St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital for more than half its life, and the lives of those patients who have been treated over the years, brings us great joy and pride. I may be stepping down as Prior of St John Scotland but our organisation will continue to play its part to support the Eye Hospital and its future patients. It has given me great pleasure to set up a 'Strudwick' prize which I hope will continue to be awarded at the annual hospital prize giving. While we will not now have further visits in an official capacity, we do look forward to being able to visit as friends. ☺

Mark Strudwick CBE KStJ
 Prior, St John Scotland

45%

OF PATIENTS AND THEIR COMPANIONS IN GAZA ARE DELAYED OR DENIED ACCESS TO TREATMENT OUTSIDE OF THEIR AREA (21% FOR WEST BANK PATIENTS)'



Dr. Islam Al-Hashash
(right) states:

*“The techniques
I’ve learned will
gradually become
part of our
regular glaucoma
treatments at
the St John of
Jerusalem Eye
Hospital Group.*

Everybody who has come in contact with us say that the one thing that makes the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group so special is its staff. Without them the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group wouldn't function. Every day these are the people who turn our mission into reality. There is a shortage of both nursing and medical professionals across the Palestinian territories and this shortage is even more pronounced in eye care where there are only nineteen ophthalmologists per million of the population (compared to forty-nine per million in the UK).

To combat this, and ensure we remain ophthalmic leaders, we provide world-class education to the next generation of Palestinian eye health professionals. We offer up to ten places each year at our prestigious Sir Stephen Miller School of Nursing. This is complemented by a training programme for ophthalmic assistants in Gaza, as well as training general community health workers to identify and refer eye conditions to St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. Since the 1980s we have trained over 260 ophthalmic nurses and nursing assistants in both Jerusalem and Gaza. Those who stay with us have opportunities for further career development. A number of our graduates go on to train as allied health specialists such as orthoptists or retinal diagnostics.

Our ability to offer all 14 subspecialties of eye care (excluding oncology) is achieved through our Medical Residency Programme and Joint Teaching Programme. Our Residency Programme is the only training opportunity offered to Palestinians to specialise in ophthalmology. Once qualified, our specialists

will work across our services and are given the opportunity to undertake fellowships in subspecialties at St John or at one of our partner organisations.

The St John Ophthalmic Association (SOA) is a long-term and vital partner of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. Established in 2015, it promotes the coordination of postgraduate training, education and other activities across the Order of St John, with a special focus on St John Eye Hospital. Spearheaded by our Hospitalier, David Verity MD MA FRCOphth, the association enables fundraising and shared knowledge for St John through annual historical summits and medical conferences.

The St John Ophthalmic Association provides funds that enable individuals to undertake fellowships unique to our field of work. Details of the most recent and current fellowships are as follows:

- Glaucoma fellowship at Khadera Hospital in Northern Israel (finished 2021)
- Paediatric fellowship at Tel Aviv Hospital (September 2021)
- Oculoplastic Fellowship at Al Foula Hospital
- VR Training at Bier Shiva Hospital (October 2021).

One of the fellowship's participants in 2020 was Dr. Islam Al-Hashash who lives fifty kilometres north of Jerusalem. He obtained his medical degree in Egypt and joined the St. John Four-year Ophthalmic Residency Training Programme in 2012. He attained his Ophthalmic Specialisation in 2016 and joined the St. John medical team as a Junior Specialist.

Last June, Dr. Al-Hashash was accepted

on the one-year glaucoma fellowship in Hillel Yaffe medical center. His training schedule was made up of 2-3 days at the Glaucoma Clinic where he treated an average 60 cases a week. Dr. Al-Hashash comments: "glaucoma diseases are both medical and surgical and we follow the European Guidelines for their treatment". The Palestinian territories has a high number of glaucoma cases due to the high prevalence of diabetes and consanguinity which leads to complex and challenging cases of congenital glaucoma. This is especially true of people who live in the Gaza Strip

During his clinical work, he conducted treatment by SLT laser, YAG and micropulse. Needling (where a needle is used to drain fluid inside the eye) is another procedure he used. That said, the majority of his treatments were delivered via Minimal Invasive Glaucoma Surgery (MIGS), as XEN, Istent, Express and MIMS. Additionally, as part of his surgical training he carried out combined cataract and glaucoma surgeries.

In terms of his future ambitions, Dr. Al-Hashash hopes to obtain further experience in the field of congenital glaucoma along with the opportunity to attend more meetings and conferences related to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital's goals. He enthuses, "I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the St. John Eye Hospital and to the Balcombe Charitable Trust who sponsored my fellowship. They made it possible for me to get this excellent training in a professional setting and with a team who were cooperative and helpful, especially Dr. Beatrice Tiosano, Head of Eye Department and Glaucoma Consultant." 🍷

WELCOME TO JULIA CORKEY

THE NEW GUILD CHAIRMAN



My St John journey started aged 10 in the uniform supplies office of St John Ambulance, Northern Ireland. My late father, Patrick Corkey, was the Secretary of the Commandery of Ards. During the school holidays I helped out in the office where the lovely ladies kept me busy counting uniform badges and buttons. I loved the camaraderie and spirit in the office, we were just like a family. I soon became familiar with Ambulance and Order parlance from the different Cadet Divisions to the Badgers and the role of the Hospitaller. This sparked a lifelong interest with the Order of St John, St John Ambulance and the Eye Hospital in Jerusalem.

When I moved to London, my father encouraged me to get involved in St John in London. I was brought to an event at Guildhall, where I met the late Lord Vestey who very kindly encouraged me to join the group of volunteers known as 'the Guild'. Twenty-one happy years of supporting the Eye Hospital later I am now delighted and honoured to be Chairman of the Guild. At the suggestion of the late David Kingan, Bailiff Grand Cross and former Knight Commander of Ards I was also invited to join the Order's ceremonial staff in 2018. It was both an extraordinary honour and a moving experience to lay up David's Banner in St Paul's Cathedral at the 2019 St John's Day ceremony.

The purpose of The Guild is to steward donors, raise funds and awareness of the Eye Hospital, through an annual programme of events. The pandemic meant we had to quickly adapt the way that we worked. Under the energetic leadership of my predecessor Chair, Georgie Brooks, the Guild went digital pivoting all events to on-line, including the Gift of Sight Fair and raised £100k in the process – well over target.

This year we are focusing our fundraising on supporting the theatre staff in our Gaza Hospital and until restrictions are lifted, we will continue with virtual events. The first of the season was an excellent talk about the Eye Hospital and working in Gaza by David Verity MD MA BM BCh FRCOphth OstJ Hospitaller of the Order of St John. In April we hosted a fascinating evening entitled 'Jeremy Bowen in conversation with David Nott, War Doctor'. Both events drew a large international crowd from Jerusalem to Jordon, Sao Paulo to South Africa and the UK to USA.

It has been wonderful to extend our reach internationally and it is testament to the extraordinary sight-saving work of the St John Eye Hospital Group that it generates such avid interest and support across the Globe. 🍊



Julia with Georgie, Sarah and Shirley (other Guild members) at an Eye Hospital reception at Buckingham Palace 2016



Julia, Ursula, Denise, Ahmad, Elizabeth and Sarah-Jane. Jerusalem, September 2016.

Whilst the pandemic caused a halt to large events worldwide, The Guild continued to raise awareness and funds for the Eye Hospital by hosting various virtual events

Sight for Gaza *And the Role of the Hospitaller*



Sight for Gaza and the role of Hospitaller

In March David Verity MD, MA (OXON), BM BCH, FRCOPHTH, OSTJ, Order Hospitaller discussed the role of Hospitallers and the Eye Hospital in Gaza. In his passionate discussion, David described the current landscape of Gaza and how the eye hospital plays a key role in providing essential eye care to the population.



David Nott, author of War Doctor: Surgery on the Front Line, in conversation with BBC Middle East Editor Jeremy Bowen.

In April David Nott spoke intimately with Jeremy Bowen about his first hand experiences as an emergency doctor on the frontline.



Bridge in wonderful places – Online

For 20 years the Guild has organised Bridge in Wonderful Places. In May the event went virtual and was supported by the Lord Prior of the Order of St John, Professor Mark Compton.

Visit to the Oxford Centre of Islamic Studies

In July Richard Makepeace CMG MA (Oxon), long term supporter of St John Eye Hospital, conducted a tour of the Oxford Centre of Islamic Studies for Guild members

EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

GIFT OF SIGHT FAIR

The Guild's annual Gift of Sight Fair is scheduled to take place in Chelsea Town Hall on 30th November. Please put this date in your diary. There will be a panoply of fantastic stalls offering everything from jewellery to homewares, clothing to organic food and a wonderful selection of Palestinian olive oils, homewares and Christmas decorations. You will be able to do all your Christmas shopping in one fell swoop and support the Eye Hospital as well. If you are a small

business owner, we have a limited number of stalls left so please do apply on line at guildstjohn.com/for-stallholders.

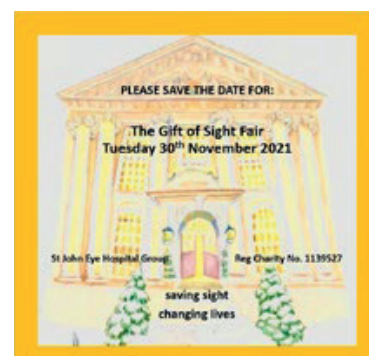
For more information on Guild events please go to:

Website: guildstjohn.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/guildstjohn

Instagram: www.instagram.com/guildstjohn

Contact: guildstjohn.com/contact-us



AUTUMN RECEPTION

Join us at our autumn reception for an evening of drinks and canapés. We have talks from special guests and a raffle where you can win very exciting prizes. Should there be rain on the day, the event will be moved indoors to The Galleries.

Date: Tuesday 5th October

Time: 6:00pm-9:30pm

Tickets price: £52

Book: See our Events page on our website or pay using our merchandise order form on page 17.

ROYAL PARKS HALF MARATHON: BALLOT PLACES

Do you have a ballot place in the Royal Parks Half Marathon? You can help raise money for St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group by registering as one of our runners. In return, we will provide you with tools and guidance for fundraising and training; as well as your very own running vest. The race route will take you through the beautiful settings of London's Royal Parks: Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, St James's Park and Green Park.

Date: Sunday 10th October

Time: 9:00am-4:00pm

Minimum fundraising target: £50

Registration fee: No fee, just register on our website (so we can send you a running vest and fundraising resources)

Deadline to apply: Friday 17th September



SCAN CODE TO
BOOK TICKETS



140TH CELEBRATION

In 1882 Queen Victoria gave her support to the formation of a new 'Eye Hospital of St John in Jerusalem'. Next year will mark 140 years of the hospital foundation and to celebrate the momentous occasion, we will be launching a detailed history book of the hospital. We will also be hosting exclusive events and launching special anniversary merchandise. Further details about our exciting anniversary activities will be included in our winter Jerusalem Scene.

Obituaries

In this special obituary feature, we recognise and pay tribute to a number of valued, generous and kind supporters who have sadly passed away. We are deeply indebted to them for their service to St John Eye Hospital



Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

It is with great sadness that we pay tribute to Prince Philip, an extraordinary royal consort who served the Queen and his country. Prince Philip is pictured signing the Jerusalem Hospital guest book in February 1967. On this date The Duke of Edinburgh took a tour of the Hospital's facilities and met some of our patients. At the time, The Duke was visiting Jordan and his visit to the Hospital was organised by King Hussein of Jordan. Prince Philip took an interest in the uses of the different rooms and future plans of the Hospital, at a time when the Hospital's infrastructure was still being developed.



Lord & Lady Vestey

Lady Vestey

Role(s): Joined the Ladies Guild in 1987

Died in November 2020

Lord Vestey GCVO, GCStJ, DL

Role(s): Patron of the St John Eye Hospital

Chancellor of the Order (1988-91)

Lord Prior of the order (1991-2002)

Died in February 2021

Lord and Lady Vestey were long-time supporters of the Eye Hospital. Lord Vestey served as Patron of the St John Eye Hospital Group for a great many years. Those who work at the Hospital held Lord Vestey in the highest regard and fondly recall his unwavering and invaluable support both from the UK and on his numerous visits to Jerusalem. Lady Vestey joined the Ladies Guild in 1987 and was extremely supportive of our fundraising events. Both were so very generous hosting various events in their home at Stowell Park, including a highly successful fashion show that raised a significant sum for the Eye Hospital. They will be sorely missed by so many people across St John. The Eye Hospital Group is indebted to the Vestey family for their energetic support and inspirational leadership and we send our thoughts and best wishes to their family at the sad loss of their devoted parents



Hassan Harbouk

Upon hearing the sad news that Hassan Harbouk (Abu Ibrahim) had passed away, it caused us to remember all the other nursing staff who worked at St John of Jerusalem Hospitals over the years. Many will remember Hassan who came from the picturesque village of Battir, near Bethlehem. Palestinian people are known for their hospitality, and Hassan was no exception. We recall being invited to Hassan's home for delicious food along with him giving us a tour around his village. Needless to say, we were frequently invited to other staff members' homes over the year, not only for delicious food, but for celebrations such as weddings and baptisms.

Hassan was one of the few nurses who actually worked in all three hospitals (Jerusalem, Gaza and Hebron). Others included Daoud Badran (Abu Elias), Hassan Abu Teen (Abu Adel), Saleh Jaidy (Abu Jawad) and Abdallah Kutari (Abu Mahmoud), all of whom gave well over forty years' service. We also remember Mahmoud Kutari (Abu Ahmad) who started work at the hospital as a young man and gave over sixty years' service.

In those early years there was no formal nurse training available, and staff were trained by visiting doctors and nurses from the UK, US, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Belgium, Sweden and Norway. However, they quickly became proficient in many ophthalmic procedures including the removal of corneal foreign bodies to the eye, administering sub-conjunctival injections and other ophthalmic procedures. These members of nursing staff also went on to become excellent theatre nurses, not to mention acting as interpreters for the expatriate staff.

We can only write about the staff we knew from 1971, which was the year we arrived as young nursing staff. Those we have mentioned here will always be remembered for the dedication and long service to the St John of Jerusalem Hospital Group, all of whom have been awarded the Serving Brother Medal of the Order of St John. We are honoured and privileged to have worked with such wonderful group of people.

Written by Jackie Jaidy MBE, Dame of the Order of St John and Ann Zawahreh, Commander of the Order of St John



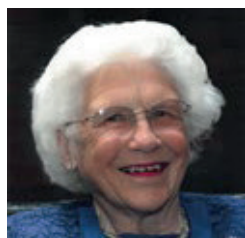
Richard Walduck KStJ, J. DL, JP, MA (Cantab), Hon DLitt.

Richard was the County President for Hertfordshire and a generous benefactor to all aspects of St. John. He made his hotels available for Presidents Conferences, dinners and other events, without charge. He was a kind, charming, larger than life character, and will be greatly missed by us all. Died in January 2021



Dr Tony Tyers

Dr Tyers visited the St. John Eye Hospital 11 times and performed 388 complex eye surgeries. In addition to his voluntary clinical work at the Hospital, he played a pivotal role in the training and mentoring of two of our oculoplastic surgeons. The two specialist trained by Mr. Tyers continue to provide specialist care to patients in Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza. We are truly indebted to Dr Tyers for his incredible and selfless work for the Hospital. Died in April 2020



Lady Miller DStJ

Role(s): Joined the Ladies Guild in 1981 Lady Miller joined the Ladies Guild in 1981 and was very supportive to her husband Sir Stephen Miller in his role as Hospitaller, 1981-1990. She was an indefatigable fundraiser for the Hospital arranging many events, organising supplies for the Hospital staff and patients and providing support to the team in Jerusalem. Died in January 2021



Lady Milton Thompson DStJ

Role(s): Joined the Ladies Guild in 1990
Died in January 2021
Wife of Sir Godfrey Milton Thompson, Hospitaller between 1991-1995. Lady Milton was a tireless supporter and fundraiser for the Hospital, arranging many events, organising supplies for the Hospital staff and patients and providing support to the team in Jerusalem. Died in January 2021



Sir Colin Imray KBE, CMG, KStJ

Role(s): Secretary General of The Order of St John between 1993-1997 Died in December 2020



The Rt Rev Bishop John Waine KCVO, GCStJ

Role(s): Prelate of the Order and regular visitor to the Hospital
Died in December 2020

MERCHANDISE

Shop now at shop.stjohnseyehospital.org or use the order form on page 17.



Tote bag (black) large

£10



Tote bag (white) small

£3.50



A5 Notebook

£10



Lapel Pin badge

£5



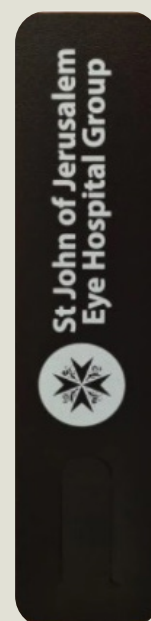
**Battery Charger
(with all connectors)**

£10



Umbrella

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**Free SJEHG bookmark
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£50.00 or more**



Mobile Outreach Van Model

£10.00

VALERIE: THE WHIRLWIND
My Life & Adventures



Valerie Young

Valerie: The Whirlwind – My Life & Adventures (autobiography)

Valerie Young OStJ has worked in the NHS for 38 years and has done voluntary work abroad, including hosting CPR and health and safety training sessions at St John Eye Hospital Jerusalem. In her autobiography, Valerie discusses the six months she volunteered at the hospital and her other medical and personal endeavours. All proceeds from the purchase of the book go towards St John Eye Hospital.

Black and white copy – £12 Colour copies – £22



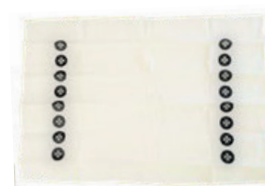
Flash light Pen

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4GB USB Memory Stick

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Tea Towel

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Swift card



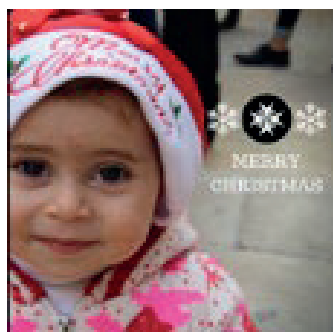
Snowy Roofs



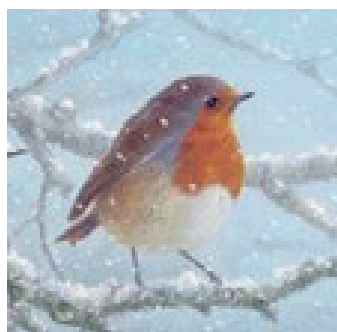
Nativity at Night



The Adoration



Merry Christmas



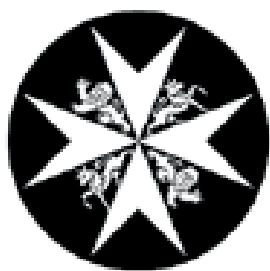
Robin



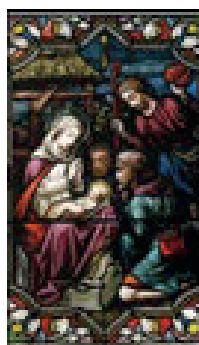
Watercolour of Anemones
and Holly by Janet Marsh.
£8.50 (pack of 10)



Lamb of God



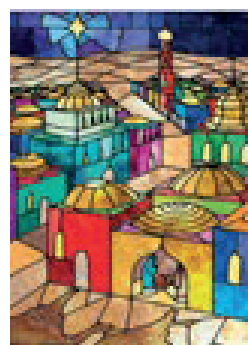
St John logo



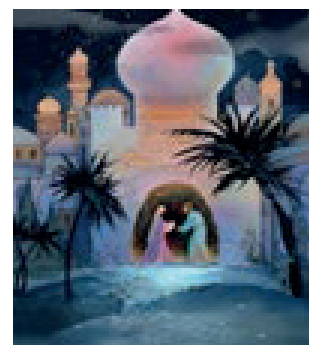
The Adoration
of the Shepherds



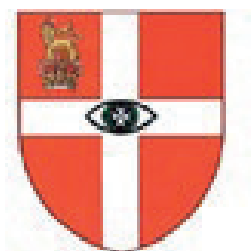
Mary and Jesus



Stained Glass



Bethlehem Evening



SJEHG card



Season's Greetings



Mobile outreach card

Item	Cost per unit	Number of units	Total (£)
New Christmas - Robin	£5.00 pack of 10		
New Christmas - Bespoke SJEHG card 'Seasons Greetings'	£5.00 pack of 10		
New Christmas - Bethlehem Evening	£5.00 pack of 10		
Christmas Card - Lamb of God	£5.00 pack of 10		
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Christmas Card - Watercolour of Anemones and Holly	£8.50 pack of 10		
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Christmas Card - The Adoration of the shepherds	£5.00 pack of 10		
Christmas Card - Mary and Jesus	£5.00 pack of 10		
Christmas Card - Snowy Roofs	£5.00 pack of 10		
Christmas - Mobile Outreach Van	£5.00 pack of 10		
Blank - Mobile Outreach Van	£5.00 pack of 10		
Blank - SJEHG Group Coat of Arms	£5.00 pack of 10		
Blank - St John Logo	£5.00 pack of 10		
Umbrella	£18.00		
Model Mobile Outreach Van	£10.00		
A5 Notepad	£10.00		
Lapel Pin Badge	£5.00		
Phone Battery Charger Pack	£10.00		
Flashlight Pen	£5.50		
4GB USB Memory Stick	£8.00		
100% Cotton Tea Towel	£5.00		
White Tote Bag small	£3.50		
Black Tote Bag Large	£10.00		
Valerie: The Whirlwind - My Life & Adventures Black and white	£12.00		
Valerie: The Whirlwind - My Life & Adventures Colour	£22.00		
Ticket(s) to the Autumn Reception 2021	£52.00		
		Merchandise total	

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