



The Newsletter of St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group - The only charitable provider of expert eye care in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem; treating patients regardless of religion, ethnicity, or ability to pay

A landmark achievement for St John as our new Gaza Hospital opens to the public

One of our central aims at St John is to maintain our continued commitment to Gaza, in spite of the continued troubles the area faces.

It is testament to our great reputation and the dedication of our team that our new Gaza Hospital is the first build of any significance in the area to be completed since the 2014 conflict. Yet construction did not come without its setbacks. Conflicts during 2012 and 2014 halted our efforts entirely, and general political tension gave rise to tighter restrictions on bringing building materials into Gaza.

Of all the areas we serve in the oPt, Gaza remains the most desperate.

JCI
Award

Our Jerusalem Hospital staff celebrate being re-accredited by Joint Commission International - the gold standard for health care worldwide.

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From left to right: Our Chairman, the Governor of Gaza, a representative of Saab Erekat, a local Gazan boy and our Gaza Hospital Manager cut the ribbon at the opening of our new Gaza Hospital

In December 2015 approval for Gazans to obtain permits to access medical care in the West Bank dropped to its lowest level in seven years, at only 67.5%. Many conditions are left untreated as the permit system only serves to discourage people from seeking healthcare out-with Gaza. For those with eye conditions, this delay is the difference between making a full recovery or living their life without sight.

It is therefore no surprise that demand for our sight-saving services in

Gaza continues to rapidly increase every year. In 2008, our hospital saw 16,000 patients; in 2015, we saw 30,500. The previous hospital was so cramped that patients had to be prepared for surgery in the main waiting room, the staff changed for surgery in filing cupboards, and waiting lists grew longer every year. It was a facility doing its best with what it had – but it had reached maximum capacity.

The new hospital will significantly increase our capacity to reach and treat more patients;

meaning we have a much greater impact on preventable blindness in Gaza. Most importantly it has been designed to ensure we can continue to offer our services during times of conflict – an issue which unfortunately may arise again. The facility has a reinforced basement area, allowing staff and patients to take shelter in safety from any outside violence. Being purpose built, it will have better designed and laid out diagnostic and surgical rooms, allowing for improved quality of service.

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Thoughts from our CEO

Lots of exciting things have taken place over the last few months.

Top of the list is our JCI re-accreditation in April (the hospital was the first in East Jerusalem to achieve initial accreditation three years ago) and the opening of our new Gaza Hospital on 2nd June.

JCI accreditation indicates that we are operating in all departments to the highest international standards. Achieving this necessitated a great deal of work by everyone for several months prior to the inspectors arriving. The hospital came out of this process with flying colours which is very much to the credit of all our staff. The fact that we operate to the best international standards, despite limited funds and the many other challenges associated with being in East Jerusalem, reflects enormously well on the team.

The Chairman, Nicholas Woolf, and nearly all the senior management team attended the official opening of our new Gaza Hospital. The opening was very well attended and there was a great deal of

press interest, which is not surprising since there are not many good news stories in Gaza these days. The Chairman thanked the Emir of Qatar for generously funding the cost of the building and we are also grateful to the Norwegian government for their considerable help with equipment. The idea to build a new hospital in Gaza formed in June 2011 and it has taken an immense amount of hard work and innovation to turn this into a reality. Lord Vestey, our patron, can also take pride in our reaching this point as it was he who opened our old clinic in 1992 – he has taken a strong interest in the clinic ever since.

Coming in a close third on the list is our Muristan site, which will open later this year as a walk-in clinic in the middle of the Old City. It has now been completely renovated and is stunning. We have just received permission from the Archaeological Authority – necessary as there are ancient cisterns, tunnels and even tombs underneath the area – to turn the neighbouring space into a large garden. Mark Coreth, the world famous sculptor, has



The Governor of Gaza, Abed Al-Efrangi gifting a painting for our new Gaza Hospital to our CEO, trustee Maged Abu Ramadan and Chairman

started work on the life-size bronze olive tree with a canopy of swifts that will form the centrepiece.

The US Priory donated a 4x4 Landcruiser which will allow us to reach more remote areas on outreach and will also take our small team across into Jordan where we will be assisting UNRWA with a screening programme for refugees from Syria. In addition, thanks to generous funding from the Channel Islands, we shall be replacing our two outreach vans in the near future.

On the not so exciting but very important side of life, we have now replaced all the old water pipes and hydrants in the whole Jerusalem Complex. This is thanks to a very generous donation of \$200,000 by the Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust. These pipes had hardly been touched since 1961

and were badly damaged, costing the hospital thousands of dollars each year in leakage as well as putting our patients and staff at risk of drinking contaminated water. The replacement pipes are designed to cope with hard water and should be relatively maintenance free for decades to come.

In summary, nothing stands still here and we have plenty to show for our efforts, but the crux is that we are delivering a better service to our patients, as well as forging an increasingly effective and well-motivated team across all our Group. None of this would be possible without the unceasing and very generous support of all those who have donated to us and helped us generally in so many ways.

Brigadier Tom Ogilvie-Graham



Restoration of our Muristan Clinic is complete

After months of careful planning restoration of our ophthalmic clinic in the heart of the Old City of Jerusalem is finally finished.

In the centre of the Christian Quarter, within the Old City of Jerusalem, lies the ancient Muristan. The area, located just south of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, was

the structure was destroyed and rebuilt several times, however it is most associated with the Knights of St John, who established a hospital there to care for sick and injured pilgrims of all faiths in the Holy Land, in the early 12th century.

The soldier monks' tradition of treating all who came to their door is still one St John

will provide primary and emergency eye care for residents and tourists in the famed Old City. Many who live there are stallholders, who rarely travel too far for fear of losing necessary income. There are also various movement restrictions in place prohibiting residents from moving freely between the Old City and the outskirts of Jerusalem, where our main hospital is located. Therefore the clinic will provide easy access to eye care whilst also addressing the problem of residents not attending follow-up visits at the main hospital. The walk-in clinic is expected to see approximately 5,500 patients a year.

The renovation of the clinic work was carried out by the Old City of Jerusalem Revitalisation Programme, using international renovation standards for historical buildings, and at no cost to St John. Running costs have been mostly funded by long term partners, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, for which we are so grateful.

We are now focussing on restoration of the adjacent area into a garden and tourist destination for the thousands of pilgrims and visitors that frequent the Old City each year – which will bring revenue towards running costs.

Although this is a new project for this generation of St John, it is exciting to start a project on the site where



where King Antiochus V built a hospital following a divine vision on Golgotha. In 600 A.D., Pope Gregory the Great commissioned the construction of a hospital at the site, a place where Christian pilgrims to Jerusalem could be treated. Over the following centuries,



adheres to today – treating all patients no matter their religion, ethnicity or their ability to pay.

We have been working to restore this ancient Muristan site to its former capacity as a provider of healthcare. This beautiful building



the foundation of the Order was laid. We look forward to seeing where this venture will take us.

For more information about the project, or for enquiries to help to fund it, please get in touch.

Jerusalem Hospital Achieves JCI Reaccreditation



Nursing Director, Ahmad Ma'ali, and Head of Administration, Paul Williams, celebrating JCI success

St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group aspires to the highest standards of medical care, as well as administrative and financial transparency, and we work tirelessly to ensure this is the case, notwithstanding the difficult circumstances in which we operate.

As evidence of our high standards, the hospital is a member of the World Association of Eye Hospitals and is a member of the East Jerusalem Hospitals

Network supported by the EU and WHO. However our greatest achievement in patient standards was in 2013, when our Jerusalem Hospital proudly became the first in the oPt to be accredited by JCI (Joint Commission International) - the gold standard for health care worldwide.

JCI is a US-based organisation that has established patient safety and quality service standards and goals for health service facilities and its consultants are the most experienced in the industry. They

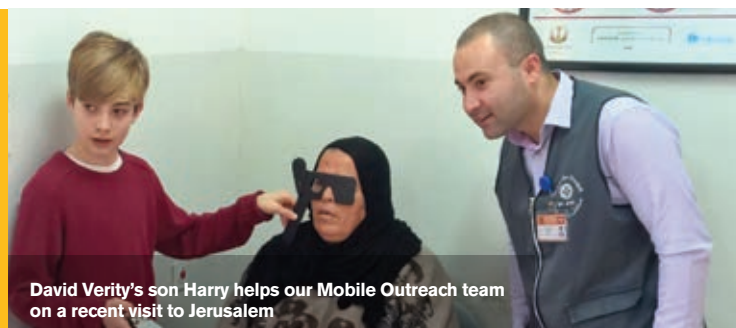
examine all aspects of care and safety of patients.

In April of this year our Jerusalem Hospital received a visit from JCI surveyors in order to undergo its three-year review for reaccreditation. The hospital underwent stringent testing to ensure that not only had we maintained the high standards that we had proven to operate at in 2013 but also that we had built upon and improved the hospital standards overall. After four days of thorough examination, we were absolutely delighted to achieve a total score of 96%.

Our Jerusalem Hospital Quality Manager, Whaleed Khateeb, had this to say:

"The JCI accreditation to the hospital is vital for many reasons. It helps with the Israeli Ministry of Health regulations as well as being an advantage when dealing with health insurance companies in the region. Most importantly it assures our generous donors of our commitment to quality of care and ensures that all our patients who visit us receive the high standard of treatment that they deserve."





David Verity's son Harry helps our Mobile Outreach team on a recent visit to Jerusalem



David Verity and one of our patients at one of our Mobile Outreach clinics

Reflections on the Work & Humanity of St John

Mr David Harding Verity MD MA (Oxon) BM BCh FRCOphth OStJ

St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group is and has always been served by remarkable people.

They support an organisation that exists to relieve suffering in a troubled part of the world, caring for patients with all forms of eye disease.

My first visit to Jerusalem was in the 1980's as a young medical student. Barely out of university, the dedication and humanity of both resident and visiting staff left a deep impression, qualities which, with hindsight, I now know influenced my career in the years that followed.

Thus it was that within a year of graduating that I took the advice of Dr Michael Sanders, to spend a longer period of time in Jerusalem as a junior doctor. I remember his words to me, peering over his half-moon glasses with a certain curiosity at another hopeful protégé, his considered opinion was that:

'We had better send you to Gaza.'

And if this sounded more of an admonishment than career advice, I shall not forget that

meeting, leading as it did to a rewarding year in Jerusalem in 1994 as a clinician and research scientist.

I spent my year collecting clinical and DNA data from Palestinian patients with Behcet's disease, a blinding condition prevalent on the trading routes between China and the Mediterranean basin, this geographical boundary leading to the term 'Silk Road Disease' as it is commonly known today.

A year in Jerusalem can be a formative time in a young life, in my case leading to new friendships still strong over twenty years later, numerous scientific publications, essential clinical experience, and completion of a medical doctorate (MD), which I subsequently dedicated to the patients of St John. I found that one opportunity frequently leads to another; this early experience, which so fascinated me, and still does, eventually paved the way to a Consultant post at Moorfields Eye Hospital in 2004, some 17 years after my first visit to Jerusalem. And in recognition of the many accomplished clinicians who taught and supported me over the

years – Sir Stephen Miller, Michael Sanders, Tony Tyers, Miles Stanford, Tony Chignell, Denise Magauran and Charlie Kanawati, to name but a few – the torch is passed on to the next generation.

In remembering these remarkable individuals, and the grave need of Palestinian patients, who suffer the double disadvantage of both eye disease and lost opportunities to them and their families, I realise that to work for St John is both a privilege, and something of an ethical duty too. In that, I often reflect on those oft-quoted words of Edmund Burke that 'The only requirement for strife to triumph... is that good men (and women) do nothing'. And after meeting and working with people from every corner of the world, from every walk of life, every religious background, all of whom have supported St John one suspects that their motivation echoes those same words.

As a new Trustee, I look forward to contributing to the work of St John, offering clinical advice and direction where I can, and perhaps most importantly, passing the torch onto the

next generation. To see the growing interest among Moorfields consultants and senior trainees for St John is enormously rewarding, and although there has long been a strong relationship between London and Jerusalem, these medical ties are now strengthening as never before. Indeed, 2016 sees the beginning of the new St John – Moorfields Association (SMA) which I hope will lead to increased exchange of ideas and research between our great institutions.

My own family have just visited St John, witnessing the real need in the Palestinian towns and villages where we worked together. Perhaps, then, I should not be surprised that the torch has indeed passed on already: the Hospital has kindly agreed to a working visit from my sixteen year old daughter this summer. I am enormously grateful to St John, and proud of her own determination to make a difference for these people, no matter how small.

***Pro Fide
Pro Utilitate Hominum***

(For the faith
For the service of mankind)

Happy Birthday to our Sovereign Head, Her Majesty the Queen

We would like to take this opportunity to wish Her Majesty a Happy 90th Birthday, and thank the Royal Family for their involvement with our charity over the years.

As the oldest specialist Christian charitable movement, the Order of St John has had many interactions with the Royal family throughout history. Our connection was fortified when we were

granted a Royal Charter from Queen Victoria in 1888, establishing the Order of St John as a Royal Order of Chivalry.

On 18th February 1967 we were granted a visit



Prince Phillip signing the Jerusalem Hospital guest book in 1967



Her Majesty Queen and our former CEO Rod Bull surveying a model of Jerusalem Hospital at our Patron's Reception 2009

to the hospital by the Duke of Edinburgh, who took a tour of our facilities and met with some of our patients, a day remembered fondly by all who were there. The Duke was visiting Jordan at the time, and his visit to the hospital was arranged by King Hussein of Jordan. Our current hospital building was still new at that point, and some of the infrastructure was still to be implemented. On his tour Prince Phillip asked what the different rooms were to be used for, and our future plans for the hospital - which has grown quite considerably since 1967!

Most recently in London, Her Majesty the Queen herself graced us with her presence at our Patron's Reception in 2009, which helped us to raise over £20,000 for the hospital, thanks to

the support of our Patron, Lord Vestey. Present were our London staff and some of our Jerusalem staff, as well as our longest serving volunteers, the Guild, and other loyal supporters. Denise Magauran (who served as Chief Surgeon for many years in our hospital before becoming a longstanding and active member of the Guild on her return to the UK) remembers the event very well:

'I remember meeting the Queen who looked absolutely beautiful in her purple outfit. I was nervous when I was called forward to greet her, but her Majesty was so gracious, and asked me all about working in Jerusalem, it was such an exciting occasion!'

St John-aided project

Two Palestinian teenagers win prestigious US award

Fifteen-year-olds Amal and Fatima, two girls from Jericho in the West Bank, have developed an innovative talking 'smart cane' to aid those who are visually impaired live a smarter and safer life.

The invention took five months to complete. It uses ultrasonic sensors to enable the cane to detect movement and hazards around them, including bodies of water or upcoming dips in the road. The sensors then relay information via headphones to the

user in Arabic (with the potential to be translated to other languages) which enables them to walk the streets with confidence. The cane will also light up at night, which allows other people to spot the user in the dark, ensuring their further safety. The experiment was trialled by fellow visually-impaired student Weam who found the cane to be extremely useful:

'It has given me optimism for the future, that there will be a lot of tools or devices to help [people like me].'



Dr Salam Erakat, St John's Uveitis specialist (a condition which causes severe swelling of the eye), was the resident ophthalmologist on the project. She helped to design the project to fit the needs of those it was designed to aid, as well as ensure its safety by testing the device and identifying any challenges it may cause the user. She is proud to have been part of the project:

"It was such an amazing experience to work with the girls

and their teacher, Rola Attieh, on this invention which is paving the way for a better future for the visually impaired."

The smart cane was such a success that it was chosen to be showcased at the Annual Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, in Phoenix, Arizona, where it won the prestigious Qatar Foundation Award. Congratulations to all involved.

We remain forever grateful for the support of Her Majesty and all the Royal Family. It is partly due to this connection that we have such a great reputation in the area, which allows us to navigate what can often be a tricky political climate, and continue to deliver vital sight-saving care across the region. Best wishes to Her Majesty from all at St John Eye Hospital!

If you would like to mark this momentous occasion you can sign

the official Queen's 90th Birthday Book or buy a commemorative medal, the profits of which can be donated to our sight-saving work.

For more information go to www.thequeensbirthdaybook.com



Her Majesty the Queen signing the guest book at our Patron's Reception 2009

Case Study: Layla

Layla is 9 years old, and the daughter of an almond farmer and housewife from a city in the North West Bank, near our Anabta Clinic. She loves running around and playing with her friends.



Her parents noticed that she was displaying signs of a squint when she was around 7 and hurried her to the local doctor who referred them to St John.

When she arrived to the St John Clinic in Anabta, and was examined, and it was revealed that her squinting was due to a mature bilateral cataract. In fact, she was almost blind. She was urgently referred to our hospital in Jerusalem for surgery and received an operation

on her first eye one week later, and a second surgery on her other eye two weeks after that.

Had the Anabta clinic not existed her parents feel they would have struggled to access healthcare as there are few other options in the area and most are private so are well out of their financial capability. Having the clinic nearby also allowed the whole family to come together to support Layla. This was different when she

had to make the arduous (but worthwhile) trip to Jerusalem, as only her father could accompany her.

Thankfully the surgery was a great success and Layla can now see again! She continues to come to the Anabta clinic for regular 6 month checkups, and has made great progress. She is now looking to the future, and she would love to become a teacher.

Her father is extremely

thankful for all at St John, and had this to say:

'Thank you so much to all at St John, from Anabta, to London to Jerusalem, from myself, my family, and all the city of Jenin - we are so grateful to have your services'

He was so grateful he also gifted the hospital with a bag of his locally grown almonds, which were greatly enjoyed by the St John staff.

Employees of the month

If you would like to sponsor any of these individuals please get in touch.

March

● **Mahmoud Zayed**
(Kitchen Worker)

Mahmoud was nominated as he is very loyal to his job and hard working. He very helpful and always adheres to the health and safety standards required in the kitchen.

April

● **Mohammad Zaid**
(Staff Nurse)

Mohammad was nominated as he is an excellent theatre nurse. This was especially evident during our JCI examinations as he proved himself to be a great help during the stress of inspections.

May

● **Adel Muhsen**
(Licensed Practical Nurse)

Adel was nominated employee of the month as he is an excellent member of the team. He always works to consistently high standards and is well liked by the whole team.



Upcoming Events

HE Mr Afif Safieh Tuesday 13th September

6.30pm – 9.00pm
Brompton Oratory
tickets £30.00

The Palestinian Roving Ambassador will speak on being a Christian from the Holy Land. To book tickets, please contact Mrs Christopher Bailey, 01508 499 245, or via email at shirley.bailey@virgin.net

Opera Soiree Tuesday 20th September

Evening
The Priory Church of the Order of St John

International soprano Lisa Mostin will perform arias from Puccini, Verdi and Bernstein as well as many other classics. Contact our office for more details.

Guild Bridge Event Thursday 20th October

Afternoon
Merchant Taylor's Hall
tickets £35 (£140 for table), or 'tea only' £20.

Bridge followed by prizes, raffle and traditional afternoon tea. Please contact, Mrs Alan Elliot (Tara), 01488 682423 or via email tara.elliott@btconnect.com

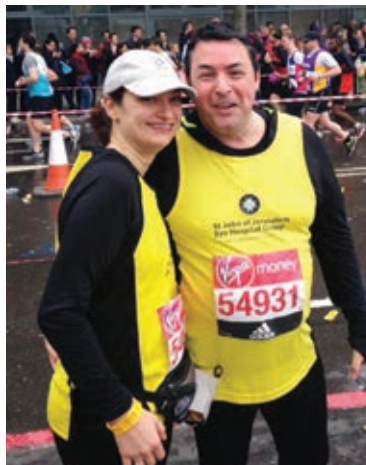
Please contact Diana Safieh (diana.safieh@stjohnseyehospital.org 0207 553 6969) to register your interest in any of our upcoming events.

St John Of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Marathon Runners Raise £9,000



We would like to say a big thank you to all of our fantastic Virgin Money London Marathon runners.

This year our CEO and son along with St John supporters Virginia Villar-Arribas and Martin and Ilinka Budds took on the momentous challenge. Altogether the teams raised £9,000 towards our sight-saving work – an outstanding accomplishment. Thank you again and congratulations to all. If you have been inspired to run the next London Marathon on our behalf, please get in touch.



Gift of Sight Fair Wednesday 29th November *Preview evening* **Wednesday 30th November**

Day event
Chelsea Old Town Hall
More information in the next Jerusalem Scene

Friends of St John Dinner Saturday 8th October

Ambassador Hotel, Jerusalem
Contact David Dahdal, on email at david@sjeh.org or via mobile on 0549400729 for more information.

St John's Diabetic Retinopathy Programme leaves remarkable legacy to the oPt

Without early diagnosis and consistent control, the probability of complications arising from diabetes greatly increases.

Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) is a common complication, as well as a main cause of blindness across the globe.

This is a particular problem in the oPt. The incidence of diabetes amongst the Palestinian community is very high, at 12-15% of the population. This is exacerbated by the lack of access to medical care, especially as patients have to navigate numerous movement restrictions to seek treatment.

Therefore in 2012, and in partnership with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA- the UN branch that deals with Palestinian refugees) and other local partners, St John established the first dedicated DR screening programme in Palestine.

Over 47,000 patients were screened over

3.5 years. Patients were screened in our Jerusalem and West Bank centres, Palestinian Ministry of Health clinics, UNRWA clinics as well as refugee patients in the UNRWA Shams Center. This cooperation has helped to centralise the diabetic registers across the region, which will make similar projects much easier in the future.

The project proved itself to be a much-needed endeavour. Of those screened, over a quarter of the patients were detected as suffering from DR. Those diagnosed were referred to our facilities for further treatment, which included over 3,100 laser therapy sessions, 1,300 Avastin injections, and over 500 VR and Phaco surgeries – changing thousands of lives in the process.

Over 26,000 people were educated on diabetes, eye care, and more general topics such as nutrition thanks to our education workshops. Thirty UNRWA health care providers were also fully trained by St John on how to screen and refer patients to the correct facilities.

There is no doubt this will encourage communities to live healthier and seek treatment faster – resulting in less instances of advanced DR in the region.

Finally a World Health Organisation (WHO) sponsored researcher has produced a comprehensive report on the project, the outcomes of which are set to become the national benchmark for treating DR in the Palestine. St John doctors will also be publishing their own research papers in

international scientific journals. This research will provide vital solutions on how to tackle the disease more effectively.

It is evident that our first dedicated DR screening programme has left a lasting impact upon the region. As it draws to its close, St John looks to the future, where we are planning to continue the project in the oPt and bring the programme to the refugee camps of Northern Jordan – the first time our services will be projected on to another country.

A summary of the recommendations from the WHO-sponsored report are as follows:

1. Establishing a national health policy for screening and management of DR
2. Advocating the use of Digital Fundus Camera for detecting retinopathy, as an alternative to the more expensive Slit Lamps, as they have proven to be just as effective
3. Training of new retinopathy screeners
4. Researching to find out the causes of lower rates of follow up treatment
5. Working towards better diabetes management and hypertension control

Hope on Wheels



**Saving
sight
across
barriers**

1/5

patients from the West Bank were denied permits to enter Jerusalem



1/3

patients from Gaza were denied access to the West Bank in December 2015, the highest in 7 years

WHO study on refractive errors estimated that globally **\$202b** in GDP is lost each year due to these conditions going untreated (compared to **\$28b** needed to treat them)



Mobile Outreach

Brings eye care to isolated communities in the West Bank; serving a growing population of **2.5 million people**

Screens and educates the local population

SJEHG recently relaunched a second outreach team

Number of patients treated has risen from **10,500** in 2014 to over **16,700** in 2015



**St John of Jerusalem
Eye Hospital Group**



Diabetic Retinopathy Programme

40% of our programme is mobile. The teams:

Travel to remote villages to screen patients

Refer patients for further treatment in our centres

Educate on ways to prevent diabetes from developing

**Since
2012**

21,236

have benefited from our education workshops

44,572

have been screened for diabetes

13,607

have been diagnosed with diabetic retinopathy and referred to our medical centres

We are expanding this service to refugee camps in Northern Jordan, the first time our services will be projected into a neighbouring country



Supporter's Corner: Kath Thomas

**A cross in my pocket and St John in my heart
- loyal St John supporter, Katherine Thomas turns 100!**

It's safe to say that Kath Thomas is one of the St John family's longest devotees.

From her beginnings as a St John Ambulance volunteer during the difficult years of the Second World War all the way to the present day, her support has been unwavering. As Kath is due to turn 100 on July 22nd we have decided to revisit some of the highlights of her time with St John.

Kath remembers her time serving with St John Ambulance on the homefront during the Second World War very well. She tried to stay detached from the terrible scenes of the dead and injured, especially when she knew the people being brought in – which was often the case as she was serving so close to home. Keeping emotion out of the workplace was not easy; she recalls an evening where she worked during the chaos of the Liverpool bombings, whilst also finding out her own home had just been hit:



Kath Thomas talking about her experiences on GMTV

"The first night I started work at Broadgreen Hospital, another hospital where I'd trained was bombed, and they brought casualties to us. They told me during my shift that the street where I lived with my mother and grandmother had also been bombed, including the air raid shelter. I remember walking home and meeting my aunt who let me know that they were okay. She said 'you look dreadful! Have a little drop of whiskey.' But I couldn't as I was still in uniform!"

We cannot help but draw comparisons between this experience and those of our St John Eye

Hospital Group workers who continue operating through all times of conflict in the oPt.

Kath has continued to volunteer for St John since these incredible beginnings. She spent her working life volunteering with the cadets and in her retirement Kath joined St John Liverpool Fellowship. It is here that she began making beautifully handcrafted and intricate crosses, which are sold in aid of St John Eye Hospital Group. They prove to be very popular amongst our supporters and sold out at one of our most recent events! The sales from these crosses earned over £600 in 2015, which equated to around 450 crosses



painstakingly sewn by Katherine – a remarkable feat for someone whose eyes have seen so much. The crosses come with a prayer entitled 'The Cross in my Pocket' an excerpt from which reads:

"It reminds me, too, to be thankful

For my blessings day by day

And to strive to serve Him better

In all that I do and say."

There is no person that embodies this verse better, serving for over seven decades for the faith and in the service of humanity under St John.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish the warmest Happy 100th Birthday to Kath, who definitely deserves a celebration after so many years of hard work.

Happy Birthday Kath!

New



◀ **The First Mobile Outreach Van**
(160mm x 116mm)
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

▼ **Tote Bag - £3.50**



Tea Towel - £5.00



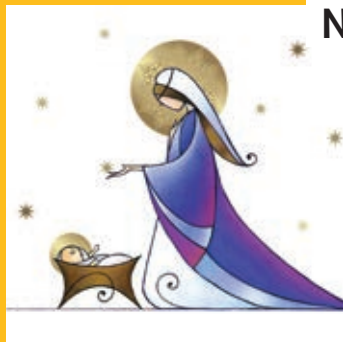
4GB USB Memory Stick - £8.00



Flashlight Pen - £5.00

Christmas Cards & Gifts from St John Shop

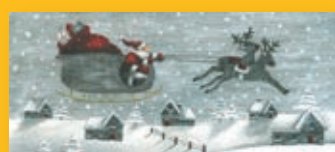
New



▲ **Mary and Boy Child**
(140mm x 140mm)
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



▲ **Doves of Peace**
(160mm x 116mm)
Seasons Greetings



Santa's on his way
(195mm x 90mm)
Season's Greetings



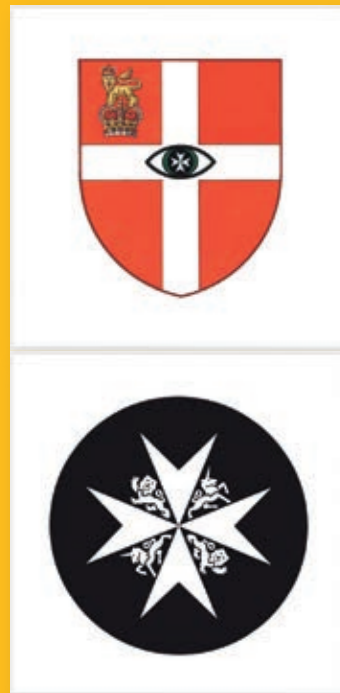
Christmas Shopping
(165mm x 120mm)
Season's Greetings



Kings from the Orient
(165mm x 120mm)
Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Robin on Post box
(120mm x 120mm)
Season's Greetings



St John Blank cards:
SJEHG Coat of Arms or
St John Logo - £4.40
(107mm x 107mm)

**All Christmas Cards
£4.50 per pack of 10**



Doves over Bethlehem
(120mm x 160mm)
Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Mary and Jesus
(165mm x 120mm)
Greeting: Happy Christmas



Adoration of the Magi (140mm x 140mm)
With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Shopping list

£10 could buy 3 bed sheets for baby cots

£25 could buy a diagnostic Corneal Topography procedure

£50 could fund Outreach education sessions in the rural West Bank

£100 could fund laser treatment for diabetic retinopathy

£200 could buy 4 phaco

packs, which are used in cataract operations

£500 could cover the cost of 50 children's gowns

£1,000 could cover the costs for two children's cataract surgery

£2,000 could pay for a laser lens to be used in major operations

£15,000 could sponsor a nurse for a year

Funding Today

In 2016 to end of May, St John Pories and Associations have raised £228,000

Australia £16,700

England - £90,000

Canada - £41,000

Scotland - £55,000

United States of America - £24,500

Our work would not be possible without our kind donors, whose generosity allows us to continue saving sight and changing lives. We would like to thank everyone who has given in 2016 so far, and everyone else who has taken part or organised any fundraising activities on our behalf.

Major Donors 2016:

The Legacy of Sheila Bell

The Cadogan Charity

Christian Blind Mission

Christian Foundation of the West

The Clothworker's Foundation

Mr Oliver Ehinger

The Eranda Foundation

The Evan Cornish Foundation

Fred Hollows Foundation

Mrs Caroline Gavin

Jersey Overseas Aid Commission

The Kadoorie Charitable Trust

The MBC Heritage of Islam Trust

Medical Aid for Palestinians

New Zealand Embassy in Ankara

Dame Mary Perkins

Legacy of Olivia Marie Wilson Scott

Salam Ya Seghar

St John Ambulance

St John Fellowship

The Thriplow Charitable Trust

The Legacy of Pauline Tullett

World Diabetes Foundation

United Nations Development Programme USAID

Welfare Association

Continued from page 1:

Speaking on the day of the hospital's opening Walid Shaqura, the hospital manager, had this to say:

"The opening of the new Gaza Hospital is a quantum leap in the field of ophthalmology services to residents of the Gaza Strip. We extend our deep thanks and gratitude to everyone who contributed and participated in this achievement."

This new chapter for Gaza could not have been made possible without the support of our donors. Now, more than ever, that support is needed in order for it to succeed. As

our capacity has greatly grown, the running costs for Gaza are expected to increase too.

There is an estimated deficit to be funded of £337,000. Any

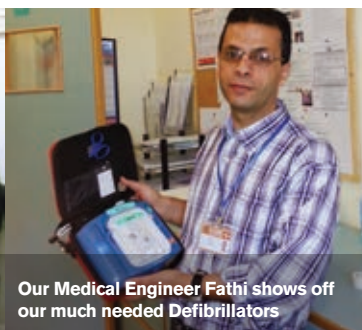
contribution towards this amount will be greatly appreciated by our team – and by the residents of Gaza to whom we are committed to serve.



Caption: St John Senior Management Team, our Chairman and supporters at the opening of the new hospital



Our Anabta team diagnose little Rema using a Slit Lamp



Our Medical Engineer Fathi shows off our much needed Defibrillators

Equipment Appeal & Thankyou

At St John we pride ourselves on maintaining the highest level of care for our patients.

Thankyou

We would like to thank the many people who came forwards to sponsor our Direct Ophthalmoscopes, many of which have now been funded. A special mention should be made to the family of **Olivia Marie Wilson Scott**.



Olivia Marie Wilson Scott, who has left a lasting impact through our Direct Ophthalmoscope appeal

Olivia passed away in 2015, aged just 41, survived by her husband Paul and two small children. Until her illness,

Olivia was an eye doctor at the Royal United Hospital in Bath. She had also worked briefly in Jordan and visited Northern Israel when she was a medical student, both experiences making a lasting impression on her. Olivia's connection with the region, as well as her family's strong interest in the rights of the Palestinians living there, were the reasons behind their decision to contribute to the funding of the Direct Ophthalmoscopes in her memory. We are extremely grateful for your donation— know that many lives will be changed for the better in Olivia's name.

We would also like to thank **Caroline Gavin** for a tremendous donation towards the much needed Autoclave for our Hebron Hospital. This will be purchased and installed in the new facility in the coming weeks, allowing for more efficient hygiene practices throughout the hospital.

Slit Lamp & Defibrillator Appeal

Currently we need to purchase **three** new **Defibrillator Pads** for our Jerusalem Hospital. Defibrillation is an electric shock which helps to re-establish normal behaviour in a heart undergoing cardiac arrest.

Thankfully, our Defibrillators are not used very often in the Hospital – but this does not negate their necessity. Cardiac arrests can happen at any moment, especially among the elderly, which many of our patients are. Without defibrillation the chances of survival for someone suffering a cardiac arrest falls by 10% every minute. However use of a defibrillator within three minutes can give up to a 70% chance of survival.

The replacement sets cost **£800**, which includes both an adult and child sized unit –with the purchase of one set, you will therefore potentially save the life of two of our patients.

We also need to replace our **Slit Lamps**, the main diagnostic unit used by our doctors. They are used to

diagnose diseases and for minor surgical procedures, such as the removal of sutures. Our Medical Engineer described this equipment appeal as:

“the most effective and productive single project ever.”

Two are needed in total, once these Slit Lamps are replaced, they should last for at least twenty years. A new Slit Lamp costs **£20,000**.

This is a fantastic opportunity to be a part of a project which will comprehensively benefit the Palestinian population we serve.

Any donations towards the purchase of our Defibrillator Pads and Slit Lamps will be very greatly received. If you would like to make a donation, please fill in the form at the back of this newsletter or contact the office on 020 7253 2582.

Thank you.

Order Form

Item	Cost per unit	Number of units	Total (£)
NEW Christmas Card - Doves of Peace	£4.50 pack of 10		
NEW Christmas Card - Mary and Boy Child	£4.50 pack of 10		
NEW Christmas Card - Homage to the Newborn King	£4.50 pack of 10		
NEW Christmas Card - Mobile Outreach Van	£4.50 pack of 10		
NEW Blank Card - Mobile Outreach Van	£4.50 pack of 10		
Blank Card - SJEHG Group Coat of Arms	£4.50 pack of 10		
Blank Card - St John Logo	£4.50 pack of 10		
Christmas Card - Mary and Jesus	£4.50 pack of 10		
Christmas Card - Kings from the Orient	£4.50 pack of 10		
Christmas Card - Christmas Doves	£4.50 pack of 10		
Christmas Card - Christmas Shopping	£4.50 pack of 10		
Christmas Card - Santa's on his Way	£4.50 pack of 10		
Christmas Card - Robin on Postbox	£4.50 pack of 10		
Flashlight Pen	£5.50		
4GB USB Memory Stick	£8.00		
100% Cotton Tea Towel	£5.00		
Tote Bag	£3.50		

Merchandise total	
Donation (optional)	
Total to be paid	

Donation Form

- ☐ I would like to support the work of St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group
- ☐ I would like to support the Defibrillator Appeal
- ☐ I would like to support the Slit Lamp Appeal
- ☐ I would like to support other:

I would like to donate:

£25 ☐ £50 ☐ £100 ☐ £1000 ☐ Other

Please return to: The Editor, Jerusalem Scene, St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group, 4 Charterhouse Mews, London EC1M 6BB

I will pay by Cheque/Card (delete as applicable) Cheques to be made payable to 'St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group'

Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/>	Visa <input type="checkbox"/>	Switch/Maestro <input type="checkbox"/>	Security Code <input type="text"/>	Valid From <input type="text"/>	Expiry <input type="text"/>
Card No. <input type="text"/>	Issue Number (Switch/Maestro only) <input type="text"/>		Date <input type="text"/>		

Please fill out your details and sign here

Signed <input type="text"/>	Title	Name
	Email	
	Address	
	Postcode	Phone

<input type="checkbox"/> Please tick if you are a UK taxpayer and would like St John Eye Hospital to treat all donations you make from this date forward as Gift Aid donations, until you notify us otherwise. (WE CAN ONLY CLAIM GIFT AID ON DONATIONS)	<input type="checkbox"/> Please tick if you would like to receive information about Legacy or In Memory Giving
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*Gift Aid Notes: I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand that other taxes, such as VAT and Council Tax, do not qualify. I understand that the charity will reclaim 25p on every £1 that I give after 6 April, 2008. I understand that the charity will reclaim 28p on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April, 2008. **Please notify the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group if you:** Want to cancel this Declaration; Change your name or home address; No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group, 4 Charterhouse Mews, London EC1M 6BB Tel +44 (0) 20 7553 6969 info@stjohnneyehospital.org Thank You very much for your support

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