New and refurbished operating theatres in Jerusalem
Helping us to meet the high demand for eye care

We are delighted to announce that the new theatre wing is fully operational. The Jerusalem hospital now has three fully-functioning theatre rooms to cope with the ever-increasing numbers of surgeries.

Thanks to our dedicated donors, we were able to refurbish the two existing operating theatres, which have served for almost 60 years without a break. We also created a day-care theatre in response to the need for more operations. The demand for extra surgical capacity is due to the high prevalence of eye diseases in Palestine. We plan to dedicate the two recently refurbished operating theatres to complex procedures, such as vitreo-retinal surgeries and others which require general anesthesia. The newly established day-care theatre will be used for operations such as cataract which do not require an overnight stay.

This project was financially supported by the Islamic Development Bank (Saudi Arabia), who donated $400,000, Johanniter International Assistance (Germany), who donated €100,000, the Representative Office of Japan, who donated $120,620, and an anonymous donor who donated €36,000.

We would also like to thank The St Lazarus Charitable Trust and His Excellency Mahfouz Marei Mubarak bin Mahfouz for their support.

The Eye Hospital Group is so grateful to all of our donors who have helped us to improve and expand our services. These theatres will help us change the lives of Palestinians who require serious intervention to prevent their sight being lost or damaged.

David A. Dahdal
Head of Development & Grants (Jerusalem)

Archbishop Desmond Tutu on our work

“I heartily support the work of St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. Many Palestinians find it hard to move around and reach expert medical attention, due to the effects of the occupation, wall, checkpoints and settler-only roads. St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group helps suffering Palestinian people gain access to healthcare no matter what their circumstances or location. Without this vital institution, many would go without eye care. In treating patients from all backgrounds regardless of their ethnicity, religion or ability to pay, this organisation is a bastion of hope for peace and health across the Middle East.”

Archbishop Desmond Tutu with the London fundraising team
A Word from our Chief Executive

As I write this, the second of our two new microscopes has just been fitted. This is significant as our two newly refurbished operating theatres in Jerusalem, along with our new day-case theatre, are now fully functional. The whole process has taken over 6 months – longer than first thought as we had to carry out major roof repairs and replace all the air conditioning along the way – but we should now be able to do so much more for our patients.

Outside of Jerusalem, our staff in Gaza have continued to work flat out despite all the difficulties there, including severe flooding (fortunately, not directly affecting the clinic) and heavy snow. We have been held back yet again in starting to build our new clinic in Gaza as a new ban on importing building materials has been imposed, but we are currently actively petitioning the Israeli Defence Forces. In the West Bank, Anabta goes from strength to strength but Hebron’s rented premises are now becoming increasingly expensive to maintain and its situation on the outside of town is inconvenient. The Board has decided we should consider a purpose-built facility in the centre of Hebron that would provide more effective care to greater numbers. Firstly, however, we have to find the funding to support such a move.

Sadly, we have had to reduce from two mobile outreach units to one (still sponsored by USAID) until we can raise more funding for this, but we have at least retained one nurse practitioner from the second team and will be able to attach this individual to the Sovereign Military Order of Malta’s outreach team from Bethlehem. They look after mothers and small children and we have been giving support to them with specialist ophthalmic care for many years.

We continue to partner up with other hospitals, especially teaching hospitals, wherever possible. Four of our staff have just received diplomas in Orthoptics from Tel Aviv University and, funding permitting, we are now well-placed to undertake important research in conjunction with Moorfields Eye Hospital in London and Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. The new Hospital Management Information System (also funded by USAID), which will provide electronic patient records, should be installed later this year and will help enormously with any research efforts.

There are many challenges for 2014 but also many exciting prospects and I would like to wish all our many supporters and friends a belated Happy New Year!

CEO Brigadier Tom Ogilvie-Graham

Rod Bull receives New Year Honour

It was announced in 2014’s New Year Honours List that Rod Bull had been awarded an OBE for ‘services to healthcare in the Occupied Palestinian Territories’ as CEO of St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group, a role Rod held for six years. He stepped down in March 2013.

Rod was the longest serving Chief Executive of the Eye Hospital Group. The number of patient visits almost doubled during Rod’s six year tenure and he also oversaw the establishment of satellite units in Anabta and Hebron.

Everyone at the Eye Hospital Group extends their heartfelt congratulations to Rod, whose efforts truly deserve this recognition.
St John Ambulance Cadets visit the Eye Hospital in Jerusalem sponsored by the Knights Templar

Our Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt D Gary Read, set the Province of Staffordshire and Shropshire a Challenge: to sponsor two Cadets of the North District of the Midlands Area of St John Ambulance to visit the Eye Hospital in Jerusalem.

James Manley and Charlotte Crook were selected to be sent out to Jerusalem. The visit aimed to provide them with a life-changing experience.

Upon the Cadets’ return they gave a presentation about their trip at the Staffordshire and Shropshire Preceptory No.545. James and Charlotte recounted the shock of the everyday conditions under which local inhabitants were living. They had nothing but admiration for the staff of the Eye Hospital and marvelled at the amazing results that they manage to achieve.

They toured the facilities in Jerusalem, Anabta and Hebron, and also went out with the mobile outreach team. They also squeezed in CPR training for hospital staff at the School of Nursing. They were extremely grateful to the Knights Templar for giving them the opportunity to go on such an amazing visit, and to the English Priory Hospitaller of the Order of St John, Col (Retd) Sheenah Davies, who had very kindly agreed to act as their guide for the trip.

Whilst there, the Cadets presented the hospital with a cheque for just under £2,200 on behalf of the Province.

St John Eye Hospital parade their work at the Lord Mayor’s Show

Only the second woman in 800 years to do so, Saturday 9th November 2013 saw Alderman Fiona Woolf CBE DStJ take the office of Lord Mayor of the City of London. The Lord Mayor is the wife of our Chairman, Nicholas Woolf. St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group was fortunate to have an entry in the parade, thanks to the kind support of St John Ambulance, Quattro Plant and Hermes Fund Managers. Their support contributed to our float being the largest entry in the entire parade!

Eye Hospital Group staff and supporters took to the streets to march with our float to over half a million spectators while millions more watched at home.
A tribute to Alison Smith

We are sorry to announce that Alison died in January, a year after being diagnosed with leukaemia.

She had visited the Jerusalem Hospital in the summer of 2013 and had done some extremely valuable customer service training with staff. She loved her time in the hospital and in Jerusalem; it was one of the highlights of her last year. Alison’s family very kindly asked for donations from her funeral to be sent to the Eye Hospital Group.
Thursday 5th December 2013 marked the passing of the remarkable Nelson Mandela - a member of St John, a supporter of Palestinian rights and a truly unique and irreplaceable human being.

In response to the news of Nelson Mandela’s passing, an official statement from St John read;

“It is with deep sadness that we have learnt of the death of the truly unique and irreplaceable Nelson Mandela - a man who taught so many of us the power of love, compassion and forgiveness and who will be dearly missed by the world.

“We are truly honoured that Mandela used some of his boundless spirit to help St John’s global charity work, as he was a dedicated and treasured senior member appointed as a Knight of Grace and Bailiff Grand Cross of The Order of St John many years ago and we will be forever grateful to him for the selfless commitment and wisdom he gave us throughout the years. We send our heartfelt condolences and prayers to his family and friends at this sad time. May he rest in peace.”

In our Winter issue of Jerusalem Scene, in the photo caption on page 4, we mistakenly identified Dr Husam Rahal as Dr Riad Bannayot. Dr Bannayot was unable to receive his award and Dr Rahal received it on his behalf.
Case Study: The struggle for vision

Habsa is a 60 year old housewife from Hebron. She manages her home and takes care of her children and grandchildren. Habsa noticed that her vision was becoming increasingly blurry, which was making her life very difficult. She could not carry out her ordinary daily activities without assistance. Her world was being turned upside down.

Habsa was diagnosed with diabetes two years ago and this encouraged her to visit the St John Eye Hospital in Hebron. Last year the hospital started running a screening programme for diabetic patients to catch cases of diabetic retinopathy early and stop preventable sight loss. Diabetic retinopathy takes the form of retinal damage to the eye, which can lead to blindness. It affects up to 80% of those who have had diabetes for more than 10 years but 90% of these new cases can be reduced if the eye is properly treated and monitored.

While patients are screened for instances of diabetic retinopathy, medical staff also look for other eye diseases. In her case, Habsa was identified as having a cataract. Surgery was quickly scheduled, and Habsa experienced rapid vision improvement which has allowed her to return to her normal life.

One person losing their vision can have a shattering effect on their entire family unit, throwing routines and work demands into disarray. This makes it even more important for eye problems to be diagnosed and treated as quickly as possible. In the West Bank in 2012, one in five patients, companions and visitors who applied through the Palestinian Authority for Israeli permits to enter Jerusalem to access hospitals were denied. This makes maintaining our satellite clinics around the West Bank one of our top priorities.

Employee of The Month

October

- **Taghreed Fer'oun** (Cleaner)
  Active and responsible, always keen and works with a smile on her face

November

- **Manal Obedieyh** (Nurse–sponsored by St John Nottinghamshire)
  Strives for improvement and higher qualifications, always covers late shifts or emergencies

December

- **Hamzeh Abu Sneineh** (Cleaner)
  A hard-worker and very cooperative, always willing to help others

“I could hardly identify my grandchildren except by touching them or hearing them talk,” Habsa said.

“Now I’m independent. My children are back to work as I can look after their children.”

Habsa was having her eye examined by Murad Amro using a fundud camera

“I could hardly identify my grandchildren except by touching them or hearing them talk,” Habsa said.

“Now I’m independent. My children are back to work as I can look after their children.”
All St John Orthoptic Assistants Pass Accreditation Examination

We are pleased to announce that all our Orthoptic assistants have successfully passed an examination of Tel Aviv University (TAU) with excellence, allowing them to apply for professional registration in Israel.

Ruba Sayej, Younes Abdel Jawwad, Rima Zaben and Huda Abu Aleis were examined in November 2013. They were questioned on orthoptic theory and practice, and asked to justify their responses.

Our course curriculum was created by Jane Tapley, a British Orthoptist and external examiner for the Orthoptic degree at Sheffield University, England, who was working with us at the time.

In 2008, the late Professor Saul Merin, an Israeli Medical Retina Specialist who was then helping at the Eye Hospital, was consulted by the Israeli Minister of Health. They realised that they needed to create a course in orthoptics urgently. In 2010, a two-year diploma created by TAU was accepted as the standard for orthoptic education in Israel.

The International Orthoptic Association encouraged collaboration between our two courses in order to unify and standardise orthoptic education in the region. Therefore three TAU students have come to us for their three month internship in orthoptic practice; Ruti Weisrose, Vered Brucker and Ahuva Ravid-Saffir. It was very successful and we were glad to hear that all three students have since qualified as orthoptists.

The acceptance of TAU to examine our students was a pleasing response of good will and respect for the education of our students and our professional practice. Our students look forward to receiving their certificates and will then formally apply for professional registration to the Ministry of Health. We wish them every success for the future.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Knights Templar, who sponsor our Orthoptics Department.

Judith Musallam, D.B.O.(D)
Head Orthoptist
The History of the Guild

Originally founded in 1927 as The Ladies’ Linen Guild, this group was composed of ten ladies who took a close personal interest in the work of the St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem.

The Guild was responsible for collecting funds from the ladies of the Order of St John for the supply of all the linen to the hospital.

Over the years the Guild began to raise funds for other areas of their work. In 1965 it was restyled as The Ladies’ Guild, and more recently as The Guild, to embrace gentleman members too.

The membership of the Guild has evolved too, to include those with a special interest in the health and welfare of the Palestinian people. We are united in our commitment to supporting the amazing work of the Eye Hospital Group in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza. Many of our members over the years have been able to visit the Hospital, returning with renewed enthusiasm to raise funds for such a unique institution.

As ever, the Guild is very grateful to all the friends of the Eye Hospital Group who support our events so regularly, including our sponsors.

Sarah Shilson is the new Chairman of the Guild. Please contact Sarah at stjohngiftofsight@gmail.com if you have a fundraising idea or might like to sponsor one of our events.

Guild Update

Since the last update, Guild members have been particularly busy organising the annual Gift of Sight Fair in aid of the Eye Hospital Group.

This was held at Chelsea Old Town Hall over two days in November 2013, with the help of generous sponsorship from the Tamari Foundation.

A record number of guests attended the evening reception and the next day many visitors came and left with bagfuls of goodies for Christmas.

The Guild would like to thank everyone who supported the Fair, including those who kindly sent donations. It was a huge success, raising an amazing £30,000.

Plans are in hand for a bridge afternoon in April, a summer drinks party and a visit to Jerusalem in September. This year’s Gift of Sight Fair will be held on 1st and 2nd December.
In 2013, the Priories raised £1,491,600.75 ($2,334,056.85)

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None of our work would be possible without our kind donors, whose generosity allows us to continue saving sight and changing lives. We would like to thank everyone who gave to us in 2013.

**With special thanks to:**
- Heather Baker and family
- Bank of Palestine
- The British Humane Association
- CBM
- CHK Charities Limited
- The Clothworkers’ Foundation
- Dr Michael Dan
- Lesley F Dring and family
- The Edwina Mountbatten and Leonora Children’s Foundation
- The Eranda Foundation
- Flagship Project- USAID
- Fred Hollows Foundation
- The George Cadbury Fund
- The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- Islamic Development Bank
- Johanniter International
- The John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust
- The Karl Kahane Foundation
- The Kennedy Leigh Charitable Trust
- Margaret Lewis and family
- The MBC Heritage of Islam Trust
- Olayan Europe Ltd
- PalTel Foundation
- The Park House Charitable Trust
- Porticus
- The Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority
- Ian G Sims
- St. John Order in Sweden
- The Ulverscroft Foundation
- The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
- The Valentine Charitable Trust
- The Vitol Foundation
- Welfare Association
- World Diabetes Foundation
- World Health Organization (WHO)

We would like to thank the Knights Templar who raised £143,000 in 2013, an increase of 25% on 2012!

**Thank you**

We extend our warm thanks to the whole St John family for their much appreciated support.

We would also like to thank the Guild for their generous support and the great effort they put in to helping our cause. We say goodbye to two trustees, Rod Bull and Sir Vincent Fean, who stepped down in December 2013. We are grateful for their hard work and valued contributions.
We are happy to announce that we have secured five places for this year’s Virgin London Marathon on Sunday 13th April 2014 through Mr David Lewis MBE JP, Area President of the Royal Borough of Greenwich for St John Ambulance. We would like to thank him for this generous donation.

Please see below to read more about our runners. We have included links to their fundraising pages if you would like to support their efforts. To make an offline donation, please contact the London office.

Lisa Smith, who works in the London office, was meant to run the Marathon this year. Unfortunately she has had to pull out due to an injury. If you had been planning on sponsoring her, Lisa asks that you consider sponsoring one of our other hardworking runners.

James Denselow
“I currently work for Crisis Action. I used to work for Medical Aid for Palestinians and have lived in the West Bank, working with Unipal and UNRWA. I’ve been lucky enough to visit the Eye Hospital and I saw for myself the vital work they do to protect sight. I look forward to being able to promote their work, and do the hard miles for the marathon in their name.”
[uk.virginmoneygiving.com /JamesDenselow]

Tom Ablett
“Having worked at a desk for over ten years, I decided to get out from under it and take up running. I’d just got to a fitness level I was happy with, competing (or rather, taking part) in a couple of half marathons, when the opportunity to run my first London Marathon for the Eye Hospital Group popped up.

I’ve learnt so much about the charity and all the outstanding work being done. I am very grateful to raise funds for this important cause.”
[uk.virginmoneygiving.com /TomAblett]

Natalie Zarifa
“Since I was a little girl I always watched the London Marathon and imagined myself being cheered on by the supporters. The opportunity knocked on my door when I read in Jerusalem Scene that the Eye Hospital Group was looking for people to run the London Marathon.

St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group is a cause very close to my heart as not only is my heritage Palestinian, but I also have family and friends that have been treated there. This is my opportunity to help a noble cause and raise awareness of the health needs of the Palestinian people.”
[uk.virginmoneygiving.com /NatalieZarifa]

Giles Richard Falcon
“When I looked up the London Marathon sign-up procedures I was overwhelmed at how late and little prepared I was. I was giving in to being better prepared for 2015. Then the serendipitous moment! My Uncle, now a retired ophthalmic surgeon who has dedicated some of his professional time for St John’s in Jerusalem in the past, suggested laconically that I should try to email or ring someone at St John because he had read in Jerusalem Scene something about future events, and perhaps – yes – the Hospital was looking for runners in the London Marathon.

It was simply marvellous – my best Christmas present: knowing I could actually run for a hospital in which my Uncle had operated and which wholly represents my idea of selfless and professional help, with no barriers of faith, race or economic means.”
[uk.virginmoneygiving.com /GilesRichardFalcon]

Jawad Akhtar
“I ran my first marathon in 2012, it was such an amazing experience that I thought I’d do it all over again! This time I have been very fortunate to run for the Eye Hospital Group.

The work done by them is amazing. By protecting sight they are changing lives every day. Thank you for allowing me to run for this charitable cause.”
[uk.virginmoneygiving.com /jawadakhtar]
Dr. Peter Doherty has been a regular donor to St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group for many years. He chose to give to us for reasons that were very close to his heart.

In the 1950s, he and his brother, Dr. Kevin Doherty, worked in a refugee camp in the Jordan Valley which took in Palestinian refugees after the first Israeli War. The brothers had just returned from National Service (Dr. Kevin Doherty from the Navy in Hong Kong and Dr. Peter Doherty from Egypt). He says, ‘It was an enormous camp originally founded by the British Red Cross and later handed over to UNRWA, as it had become so expensive to run. We used to send eye patients to the St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem.’

Dr. Peter Doherty’s donations to the Eye Hospital Group were prompted by the death of his brother, after which a Trust was formed from his estate. The Trust funds development projects in various parts of Africa and the Middle East.

Dr. Peter Doherty has chosen to support the School of Nursing as we are the main provider of specialist ophthalmic nursing training in the Middle East and the only one focused on training Palestinians. The School of Nursing trains local Palestinians (which invests in the shattered local infrastructure) and allows them to utilise their expertise across the region and the Middle East.

Having supported the Eye Hospital Group for years, Dr. Peter Doherty has seen the Eye Hospital Group grow and change. He describes its development as ‘stupendous’, particularly mentioning that it is, ‘capable of the highest ophthalmological practice.’

Dr. Peter Doherty and his wife regularly visit the Hospital on their travels in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Becoming a regular supporter allows us to plan our resources for the future and reduce our administration costs. Receiving regular donations every month, quarter or annually means we can confidently plan and fund even more initiatives to help our patients. Please see the back page of Jerusalem Scene for details of how to set up a regular donation.
How You Can Help

**Appeal for Regular Giving**

If you already support our work regularly, we ask that you consider setting up an annual, quarterly or monthly Direct Debit for these generous donations.

This helps us reduce administration costs. Knowing how much and how often you will donate means that we can plan ahead more effectively and use your support to fund further initiatives to help our patients.

All regular givers will receive a copy of our Annual Review.

### Over a year...
- **£5** a month could pay for bed sheets for baby cots
- **£10** a month could pay for a much needed digital camera for our Anabta Clinic
- **£25** a month could pay for a diagnostic corneal topography procedure
- **£50** a month could pay for outreach education sessions in the rural West Bank
- **£100** a month could pay for laser treatment for diabetic retinopathy
- **£200** a month could pay for an indirect ophthalmoscope for our Gaza Clinic

To become a regular giver please fill out the form below, or to give online follow the instructions on the Support Us page on our website. You can also contact the office to receive a Regular Giving form.

### Other ways to get involved:

There are other ways you can contribute to our work. You can sign up for our e-newsletter to receive more regular updates on our news and events. You can consider leaving us a Legacy. You can join our sponsored events team and compete in a walk, run, swim, or you can Like our Facebook page or Follow our Linkedin account.

For more information, please visit our website www.stjohnyehospital.org or contact Diana Safieh on 020 7553 6969 or diana.safieh@stjohnyehospital.org

**Your support is vital to the continuation of our work.**

www.stjohnyehospital.org

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**Donation Form, Spring 2014**

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

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**Regular Giving**

I would like to make a regular donation to St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group per:  
- **Month**
- **Quarter**
- **Year**  

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**One-off Donation**

I would like to support the work of St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group

I would like to support (specify area)

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

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Issue Number (Switch/Maestro only) Date

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"Gift Aid Notes: I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for the current tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for the current tax year. 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 tick if you are a UK taxpayer and would like St John Eye Hospital Group to treat all donations you make from this date forward as Gift Aid donations, until you notify us otherwise."

Please tick if you are not a UK Tax payer.

Please tick if you would like to receive information about Legacy or In Memory Giving.

Thank You very much for your support.

St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England, no. 7355619. Registered by the Charity Commission for England and Wales, Charity no. 1139527.

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