Tear off the donation form at the back of this newsletter or online at stjohnyehospital.org/covidrecovery

Your support has never been more vital

COVID-19 RECOVERY APPEAL ON PAGE 4

Donor in focus: The Knights Templar
Our 6 funding priorities

Jerusalem Scene
Winter 2020
Treatment for all regardless of ethnicity, religion, or ability to pay
FROM OUR CEO
DR AHMAD MA’ALI

I

DR AHMAD MA’ALI
FROM OUR CEO

2 Jerusalem Scene

COVID-19 can afford to pay. Any monies generated by raising funds ourselves by increasing vulnerable and disadvantaged patients.

We have also worked tirelessly to lessen surgeries and treatments to the most region we rely heavily on our supporters who enable us to provide sight saving

And 20% respectively. Our Gaza hospital was unable to receive patients, with the exception of emergency cases. As a result, our East Jerusalem hospital and West Bank clinics worked at a capacity of 50% and 20% respectively. Our Gaza hospital had been reduced to function at 50%. In June we were delighted to resume working at a 100% capacity once the lockdown had ended, however, sadly this did not last long. As the second surge in infections began, we were unable to treat all those who needed us, and once again we had to reduce our capacity. Of most concern is Gaza, which as of August has seen a spike in COVID-19 cases, resulting in a lockdown. Despite only three hours of electricity a day and the lack of fuel transported to Gaza, the hospital was still treating patients and working at nearly 100% capacity. Unfortunately, the local lockdown has meant we can no longer see patients except for emergency cases. Our primary concern is the well-being and health of the people of Gaza who live in unique circumstances. We hope the lockdown will be effective and cease the spread within Gaza, as the alternative will be devastating.

In recent months the political situation has added to the uncertainty bringing additional challenges to our finances and the communities we serve as the relationship with Israel and the Palestinian Authority becomes more strained. We hope that next year will bring some calm to the region and ultimately local people who need our help can access it with relative ease.

The pandemic has also meant we have a significant backlog of patients who need our help, and for many a delay or missed opportunity for our intervention will result in permanent damage to their vision. Thank you to all our supporters who have helped us during this most challenging year in the Eye Hospital’s recent history. With your support and good wishes we can continue to save sight and continue to bring hope to the people in the Holy Land.

T he COVID-19 pandemic – caused by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) – presents an unprecedented public health challenge. The profound effects of this variant of Coronavirus have been acutely felt in all countries, including Israel where a second ‘lock-down’ has been imposed at the time of writing. Whilst the immediate risks of delayed treatment of eye conditions can include irreversible sight loss, the delayed effects of a six-month bottleneck on services are more profound. Social distancing within hospitals and staggered outpatient and surgical times reduce the patient ‘footprint’ in hospital, but also delay the delivery of care, this often compounded by pre-surgical antigen testing. Less appreciated is the longer-term ability of the medical and nursing professions to train their staff in this unprecedented period. Whether this situation will change is cause for concern, and there has been a concerted effort by IMET 2000 and other NGOs to get ventilators into Gaza and train local authorities in the management of COVID 2.

Our staff have responded to this unprecedented threat with remarkable courage and efficiency, but they need our financial and moral support now more than ever before. Necessary restrictions in working patterns, and, in some cases, salaries, inevitably affect their training and morale, and it is only due to their constant dedication that the Group has continued to provide sight-saving care. To the extent that each of us are able, and recognizing the immense pressures facing all of our Priories in maintaining their humanitarian services, please continue to support the Eye Hospital Group. As generously as you can. As a doctor and a surgical trainer myself, I appreciate first-hand these pressures, and I also appreciate the value of your support, as we strive against the odds to care for Palestinian men, women and children across East Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank.

We finish with a note of thanks to our nurses, doctors, allied health professionals and administrators across SJEHG for the exemplary service they provide in such difficult times. Thank you to you all.

Dr David H Verity, MD MA FRCOphth

COVID-19

ORDER HOSPITALLER DR DAVID VERITY

Saving sight in the Holy Land

I hope this issue of Jerusalem Scene finds you and your loved ones safe and well. In less than a year the entire world has changed. We are all experiencing a new normal on a personal and global level, but despite all the challenges this pandemic has created it has also reminded us of how the Eye Hospital is most beloved in the St John family. The COVID-19 pandemic has primarily affected the Eye Hospital’s finances. As the only charitable Eye Hospital in the region we rely heavily on our supporters who enable us to provide sight saving surgeries and treatments to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged patients.

We have also worked tirelessly to lessen the burden placed upon our supporters by raising funds ourselves by increasing the financial and moral support now more than ever before. Necessary restrictions in working patterns, and, in some cases, salaries, inevitably affect their training and morale, and it is only due to their constant dedication that the Group has continued to provide sight-saving care. To the extent that each of us are able, and recognizing the immense pressures facing all of our Priories in maintaining their humanitarian services, please continue to support the Eye Hospital Group. As generously as you can. As a doctor and a surgical trainer myself, I appreciate first-hand these pressures, and I also appreciate the value of your support, as we strive against the odds to care for Palestinian men, women and children across East Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank.

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COVID-19

ORDER HOSPITALLER DR DAVID VERITY

On the way to our Gaza Hospital with Professor Lyndon da Cruz (far left), a specialist vitreoretinal surgeon from Moorfields, London.

Our talented young trainee Dr Hisham (far left).

Dr Niall Davey, Consultant Anaesthetist and Trustee, SJEHG, are preparing a young child to undergo surgery to raise a droopy eyelid.

Winter 2020

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19
The situation here is extremely challenging. Can you imagine needing treatment for degenerative sight, but unable to access it? This has been the reality facing our patients in the Palestinian territories since March 2020. Many suffer from eye conditions that require urgent treatment or risk the prospect of permanent sight loss. Due to the first lockdown, 18,000 patients have missed out on appointments and 1,200 major sight-saving surgeries have been cancelled. These people need your help like never before.

“As restrictions are lifted, we are facing a race against time to deliver the eye care the Palestinian population relies on us for,” says Dr. Bashar Jaber, Consultant Oculoplasty Specialist at the Eye Hospital in East Jerusalem. “We put ourselves at risk of COVID-19 infection every day. We are the only thing standing between the Palestinian people and permanent sight loss. Due to the first lockdown, 18,000 patients have missed out on appointments and 1,200 major sight-saving surgeries have been cancelled. These people need your help like never before. “

The potential second national lockdown in the region will increase our deficit for 2020. Additionally, accessing patient insurance contributions from the Palestinian Ministry of Health has not been possible due to the twin factors of COVID-19 and the heightened political situation. With no immediate sign of change in sight, the Eye Hospital needs urgent funding to enable us to reach vulnerable patients like never before. Your support has never been more vital.

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"We reduced our deficit significantly by having our workforce take unpaid leave in May of this year as well as implementing significant reductions in expenditure," says Finance Director Peter Khoury. "We were still facing a deficit of at least another £1.5 million. "This is not a sustainable long-term scenario - particularly as we prioritise our high-risk patients." The access to eye care in the region has been drastically affected by COVID-19.

Help us raise £500,000.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our supporters around the world who have already sent their good wishes and donations towards our life-changing work. We hope that reaching out to you today will help cover the funding gap and reach more patients in the coming months. We desperately don’t want to turn any patient away in those challenging times. We also want to protect our staff and keep them employed during a time of both political change and uncertainty. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for being so generous and sharing kindness at a time when it is needed more than ever.

Any support, big or small, will make a massive difference to everyone benefiting from our life-saving work. Thank you.

£100
Would fund laser treatment for diabetic retinopathy or 1 box of Tephines & Punches, ophtalmic surgical instruments needed to perform corneal graphs, corneal transplants and glaucoma surgery.

£200
Would buy 4 phaco packs, which are necessary in cataract operations.

£15,000
Or greater would contribute towards a nurse salary for a year or buy essential medical equipment.

£50
Could buy 9 bottles of post operative drops.

£15
Could buy 4 medical equipment year or buy essential drops.

£2000
Would pay for a set of lenses to examine children in the Pediatric Clinic or a Specialist Patient Examination Stretcher in our Diabetic Retinopathy Treatment Room.

£20
Could buy 4 bottles of eye drops.

£1.5m Deficit in 2020
And a growing funding gap

There is another facet to this reduction in treatment. The funds received from patients and their insurers directly subsidise vulnerable patients who cannot afford our life-changing treatments. We have lost over £1.5m worth of much needed patient-income. “We reduced our deficit significantly by having our workforce take unpaid leave in May of this year as well as implementing significant reductions in expenditure,” says Finance Director Peter Khoury. "We were still facing a deficit of at least another £1.5 million. "This is not a sustainable long-term scenario - particularly as we prioritise our high-risk patients."
THE HOSPITAL IS MY SECOND HOME

Staff case study

Marlene I.B. Katanasho, Muristan’s In-Charge Nurse

Ophthalmic Nurse Practitioner

"The hospital is my second home"

Born and raised in Jerusalem, Marlene joined St. John Eye Hospital Group back in 1992 right after high school. Her interest and commitment to helping those visually impaired started in her childhood when she often helped her blind neighbour. She completed her studies in 1994 and is now the charge nurse at the Muristan Clinic in the Old City. Marlene is responsible for the admission and pre-assessment area, where she receives patients who will undergo surgery. She liaises with the admissions doctor, surgeon, and anaesthetist regarding any issues concerning the patients’ health checks.

Marlene cares deeply for St. John Eye Hospital and thinks of it as her second home, so she always worries about its future, especially during these difficult times. She was worried by the support it received from the St. John family and supporters, as well as how much staff helped each other in that time.

From that trying period Marlene will remember one patient in particular, a woman from Jordan, who was unable to go home due to lockdown and needed urgent treatment for diabetic retinopathy, but since she wasn’t local she wasn’t covered by health insurance. The staff managed to bring her into treatment, and fees covered by a special fund made available by generous donations. Seeing her happily recovering was one of the highlights of the last few trying months for Marlene.

I'M ALWAYS WARMED BY THE SUPPORT WE RECEIVE FROM OUR SUPPORTERS.

Marlene I.B. Katanasho

SAVING SIGHT DURING THE PANDEMIC

Patient case study

Najah Abed AL Fattah Muhisin

Najah is a 63-year-old widow who lives alone, as her 11 children are all married and living in their marital homes. Najah is a brave woman who continues to endure numerous health problems, such as diabetes, hypertension, and has undergone a mastectomy due to breast cancer. Despite these challenges she stays independent and supports herself by working as a dressmaker.

She was referred for phacoemulsification surgery for her cataracts, but the Covid-19 lockdown meant there were significant delays in her receiving the treatment, which meant she would’ve lost her sight if she needed to get around. Her loneliness, together with a precarious financial situation as well as worsening health problems made her feel depressed. She was on the verge of losing her sight as the lockdown made travelling from the countryside to the city impossible. Luckily, once the lockdown eased the Eye Hospital was able and eager to treat Najah before any permanent loss of vision occurred. Najah is now enjoying improved vision again. She said she is grateful to St. John Eye Hospital for saving her eyesight and thus saving her independence and livelihood as a dressmaker.

It was thanks to the team at the hospital that Najah was made aware of the possible treatment for her cataracts, which she didn’t know existed prior to her consultation. Furthermore, without the charitable subsidy towards Najah’s treatment she would be unable to afford this costly surgery on her humble income.

Without SJEH and the funds it has available I would’ve lost my sight and I wouldn’t be able to take care of myself and live independently.

Najah, Cataracts Patient

DURING THE PANDEMIC

PATIENT CASE STUDY

NAJAH, CATARACTS PATIENT

"I'm always warmed by the support we receive from our supporters."

Marlene I.B. Katanasho

"The hospital is my second home"
Dr Bashar Jaber initially joined St John Eye Hospital Group in 2006 where he did his four-year residency programme, during which he developed a special interest in oculoplasty—a branch of ophthalmology that focuses on the structures around the eye, particularly the eyelids, the tear drainage, secretion system and the orbit. As there weren’t any local specialists in the field, he did his fellowship in Hyderabad, India. He returned to St John Eye Hospital Group in 2011 and is now the only fully-trained specialist in oculoplasty in West Bank and Gaza.

What Dr Jaber enjoys the most about his job is that the effects are immediately visible to both the patient and the doctor. Many of his surgeries are cosmetic, but some are life-saving when they deal with diagnosing and treating cancer.

He would normally spend his days consulting and operating on patients suffering from various problems from droopy eyelids or sticky eyes to those with tumours or needing surgeries to fit an artificial eye. The COVID-19 lockdown made this impossible, as like many of his colleagues he had to take one month of unpaid leave during the first stage of the lockdown. His wife, an IT manager, worked from home and they both home-school their three children while their schools were closed.

After that first month, he gradually returned to work. He would often take alternative routes to the hospital due to local closures. Even though he took full precautions, he worried about exposing his family or his patients to the virus. This, together with the financial pressures caused by the lockdown made it a very stressful period for him and his family, although he tried to stay in good spirits. Ramadan fell very different in the lockdown and the family tradition of having iftar with their extended family had to be foregone, as travelling bans made visiting his and his wife’s parents impossible.

He recalls one particular case which had an impact on him during the COVID-19 lockdown. It was a seven-year-old boy who was referred to the hospital due to protrusion of his left eye. After looking at pictures and CT scans Dr Jaber suspected a malignant tumour, but it took a week before he was able to see the little patient, as his family had trouble getting to the hospital from Hebron. Luckily, there is a happy ending to this story. The boy had the surgery, followed by two courses of chemotherapy and his condition has improved drastically. The treatment was possible as the lockdown made visiting his and his wife’s parents impossible.

His main worry now is the second wave of the disease, the rapidly increasing number of infected people and what it might mean for the hospital, its staff and its patients. He is happy that the hospital has introduced a variety of tools and procedures to limit the risk of transmission, which made the staff feel safer in the knowledge that they can protect themselves, their colleagues and their patients as much as possible.

Syria was born in Jerusalem but moved to the United States where she met her husband and got married. Whilst in the United States, Syria worked in a bank, where she gained valuable administrative experience. Syria and her family returned to Jerusalem in 1985, and she joined the team in St John Eye Hospital and has been working there ever since.

Syria is an all-round administrative hero, dealing with patient entry and exit transactions, following all types of health insurance (Palestinian, Israeli and international) to establish the cover limit, and helping patients who have been denied entry to Jerusalem. She is also the first contact with the Palestinian Ministry of Health, who update her on all matters concerning referrals. Syria offers support to the Gaza, Anabta and Hebron branches of the Eye Hospital. She does it all and more with an admirable efficiency and accuracy.

Sylvia is a very social person, who loves visiting her siblings and their families, the lockdown felt like being put on house arrest. Sylvia felt anxious about her future and worried about her elderly sister whom she lives with who has a heart condition. She was also worried about her friends back in the States, some of whom became infected with Coronavirus.

Like other members of staff, Sylvia had to take two months unpaid leave. Luckily as a Jerusalemite, her Israeli national insurance covered 65% of her lost income. Despite this support the unpaid leave still made for a difficult situation as Sylvia is the main breadwinner in the household.

As a long-standing member of staff, Sylvia felt sorry for all the people that missed their treatments or had them delayed. While she is worried about what the second wave of Covid-19 might bring, she has the full confidence in the management and the team to see the hospital through this difficult situation. She believes it’s an institution that has built resilience over the decades and will withstand this crisis.

During the lockdown, Sylvia felt her most memorable achievement was securing treatment for an emergency trauma patient in the West Bank whom she arranged to pick up in a Red Crescent ambulance from the Ziyam check post. Successful events like this is what makes working for St John Eye Hospital so rewarding.
HOW WE FUND OUR WORK

OUR SIX PRIORITIES

CHILDREN
For many eye conditions it is critical that we treat children before they reach the age of 18. We screen children throughout the region and our two paediatric specialists, and their teams provide a critical service to a population of over 2 million children.

In 2019 St John Eye Hospital treated over 16,000 children and conducted over 500 major surgeries. We need to raise £700,000 to fund our work with Children for 2020.

Funding our Children’s services means we can expand our provision of screening, treatments and paediatric surgeries.

PATIENT RELIEF
Palestinians are 10 times more likely to go blind than in the west. Access to eye care, poverty, and genetics all play factors in increasing the likelihood of preventable blindness in this group. Sadly 80% of blindness in this region is curable but most will not have access to eye care. We provide subsidies for refugees, marginalised people and those who cannot afford to pay the full cost of treatment.

In 2019 we treated over 130,000 people. There is continual high demand for all our services and donations help us increase access to care for those who need it most. In 2019 we reached almost 136,658 patients and performed over 5734 major surgeries.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES
The continuous supply of medicine and disposables is essential to our work. From eye drops to surgical equipment, our disposables and equipment continuously need replenishing and repairing.

Without these essential resources our work would come to a halt. Our medical supplies are one of our highest priorities and we continuously need funding to purchase necessary supplies and equipment. It would cost £1.4 million to replace and purchase all our medical equipment needs.

STAFF SPONSORSHIP
Staff with specialist skill in Ophthalmology are in short supply in the Palestinian territories. Our outreach work provides essential sight-saving treatments and paediatric surgeries.

WE NEED TO RAISE £700,000 TO FUND OUR WORK WITH CHILDREN THIS YEAR

APPROXIMATELY 30% OF OUR PATIENTS ARE CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS

WE NEED TO RAISE £500,000 PER YEAR TO OPERATE.

TWO VANS COST OVER £500,000 PER YEAR TO OPERATE.

£5 MILLION PAYS FOR OUR MEDICAL STAFF

OUR WORK

MEDICAL STAFF
With specialist skill in Ophthalmology are in short supply in the Palestinian territories. Our work closely with several hospitals and institutions in Israel and the UK and benefit from a cross-cultural exchange of skills and ideas which enhances our learning and teaching. We are proud to have 273 total staff across the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group.

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For over a century, members of the masonic Order of Knights Templar, or “KT” as the organisation is affectionately known in England and Wales, as well as some overseas branches, have chosen to make the Eye Hospital Group their chosen charity. The full title of the Order is ‘The Great Priory of The United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of The Temple and of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta of England and Wales and its Provinces Overseas’. Based on the Knights Templar and Knights Hospitaller, mod-
ern masonic, as social organizations, with those medieval defenders of Jerusalem, the Knights Templar’s Masonic Pledge is given on the occasion of Installation in which the candidate takes the part of a Pilgrim who, by symbolically embarking on a Crusade, is elevated to Knights Templar. Subsequently, the Malta Degree is conferred on candidates who have already been installed as Knights Templar and the ceremony is based on the movement of the Knights Hospitaller from their hospitation in Jerusalem, to their settling on the island of Malta in 1522 (having travelled via Palestine and Rhodes). Generations of Knights have provided support to the Eye Hospital Group and its staff and are proud of their contribution to the Group’s work. With exception to the Order of St John, the Knights Templar are our longest continuous donor. This remarkable relationship began during the first World War, when the original Eye Hospital was closed by the Turkish Army. The Eye Hospital was severely damaged and needed a considerable amount of money to reopen its doors. The Knights Templar were already committed supporters to the hospital and chose to generously become major donors to re-establish our much beloved Eye Hospital. We, in no small part, owe our continued existence to donors such as the Knights Templar who support us through various fundraising initiatives. Thank you on behalf of all of those you have helped through your care and support. We would also like to make special mention of Dr Anne Coleman, Janet’s mother, who has been a Trustee and advocate to the St John Eye Hospital Group since June 2014.

Donor in Focus: The Knights Templar in England and Wales

Thank you on behalf of all of those you have helped through your care and support. We would also like to make special mention of Dr Anne Coleman, Janet’s mother, who has been a Trustee and advocate to the St John Eye Hospital Group since June 2014.
The Guild has organised a wonderful array of events and occasions to support the Eye Hospital.

Many Guild Members and Associates began 2019 with a chance to brush up on their First Aid skills with St. John Ambulance’s Chief Medical Officer, Dr Margaret Austin. This was followed by a sparkling Summer Soirée held in the beautiful offices of Sarasin and Partners overlooking St Paul’s Cathedral, kindly hosted by Sarasin for which the Guild is most grateful.

The Guild and Eye Hospital supporters enjoyed a conducted tour of Colesbourne Park, to see Britain’s largest Snowdrop Garden, by kind permission of Sir Henry and Lady Elwes in February of 2019. The tour was organised by Lady Corinna Hamilton of Dalzell DL, Guild Member.

In October, the Guild was honoured that The Right Reverend Richard Chartres, former Bishop of London, gave an enthralling address at our annual Brompton Oratory Lecture. A highlight of 2019 was a tour of Crosby Hall by kind permission of Dr Christopher Moran. A tour of the Hall, which is not normally open to the public, was a fascinating experience for all attendees. This was followed by afternoon tea at the home of our longest-standing Guild Member, Lady Ursula Westbury.

To top off the year, the Gift of Sight Fair 2019 was another roaring success. We are grateful to all involved for making these events possible and to our attendees. Together we raised £73,000 in 2019 to support the St John Eye Hospital Mobile Outreach Programme. Thank you to all hosts, sponsors and supporters.

NOT EVEN A PANDEMIC HAS STOPPED THE GUILD TEAM FUNDRAISING IN 2020

Although quite a transition, the Guild went fully digital with events this year, with a series of online talks from some incredible guest speakers. We hosted celebrated film-makers Carlo Nero and Vanessa Redgrave, who produced an award-winning documentary of the Eye Hospital’s work, Eyes of St John, in 2015. This was followed by a fascinating talk from broadcaster Jon Snow, who had visited the Eye Hospital in Gaza in 2014. Guild supporters also heard from two Eye Hospital stalwarts – Ahmad Ma’ali, the first Palestinian to take on the role of CEO and Denise Magauran, former Chief Medical Officer of the Eye Hospital in Jerusalem. These talks can be viewed on the St John Eye Hospital YouTube channel and on the Eye Hospital website www.stjohneyehospital/guild/events.

A consequence of these ‘virtual’ events has been that the Guild guestlist, which is generally limited to London and surrounding areas, has gone truly global! We would like to express our gratitude to all who have kindly adapted and joined us online from the US to Jerusalem, from Sao Paulo to Australia and beyond.

Finally in September, award winning artist Arabella Dorman hosted an online talk about her journey as a war artist across the Middle East. All proceeds went towards the Mobile Outreach work of the hospital.

Below is a Guild event to which you are warmly invited. Please also note the Gift of Sight 2020 Online Silent Auction and Fair invitation and raffle tickets which are enclosed within this issue of Jerusalem Scene.

GIFT OF SIGHT 2020 - ONLINE FAIR, AUCTION AND RAFFLE
2ND-15TH NOVEMBER 2020

The Guild is bringing its very popular annual Gift Fair on-line! Please do ‘pop-in’ to the Fair at www.brilliantlittlebrands.com/giftofsight, at any time between 2nd and 15th November. Your favourite stalls plus many more will be on-line and a percentage of all sales will go directly to the Eye Hospital.

The Guild is holding an online Auction alongside our Fair, 2nd to 15th November. Please join us at www.givergy.uk/stjohnauction where you will find a fabulous selection of donated auction lots as well as the opportunity to sponsor projects for the Eye Hospital including the Mobile Outreach Programme.

You can enjoy Christmas shopping and support the Hospital from the comfort of your armchair.

For more information on Guild events go to www.stjohneyehospital.org/guild/events

THANK YOU FROM THE GUILD

14 Jerusalem Scene Winter 2020

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14 Jerusalem Scene Winter 2020
JAMES NASH

OBITUARY

Confrères will be sad to hear of the death of James Nash KStJ who died suddenly on 24 August.

Many will remember him from the time he was a member of the Order Ceremonial Staff where, for many years, he was the Order Cross Bearer. He was also a keen supporter of both the Eye Hospital in Jerusalem and the St. John Fellowship, for a while helping to edit the International Fellowship magazine. On retiring to Somerset he was elected as a member of the St. John Council in the County to which he was appointed the County Hospitaller, a post he held until 2008.

After National Service, James joined the Colonial Service, finally moving to the Foreign Office. He held the post of Political Officer in Aden during the troubled final period before it was handed over, following which he spent some time in Cairo. He returned to London to train and take up a career in Commercial Property. He was extremely well-travelled and spoke both Arabic and Turkish.

He was devoted to the Eye Hospital for which he helped to raise large sums of money, especially when he rode a horse from Canterbury to Jerusalem, also driving a horse and cart from his home in Somerset to Santiago de Compostela. He wrote books about both journeys donating a horse and cart from his home in Somerset to Santiago de Compostela. He wrote books about both journeys donating a horse and cart from his home in Somerset to Santiago de Compostela. He wrote books about both journeys donating a horse and cart from his home in Somerset to Santiago de Compostela. He wrote books about both journeys donating a horse and cart from his home in Somerset to Santiago de Compostela.

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30 years mainly in hospitals around West London. After early retirement he became fully involved in the Crucial work of the City of London and has a successful second career as Clerk (CEO) to one of its Livery Companies. Commenting upon his appointment, Paul said: “This is an exciting opportunity for me, although quite a challenging time to be taking up the role. Covid-19 has, of course, had a huge impact on the financial position of many Priories and their ability to continue to provide their traditional level of support to the SJHGE will be put under very great strain for the foreseeable future. There is much to be done, however, just promoting the wonderful story of the good work undertaken by staff in Jerusalem and the Palestinian Territories. Even within the family of St. John there are many who still only think of there being a single hospital in Jerusalem rather than a group comprising 7 hospitals, 4 Clinics, and an Outreach Service supported by a first class postgraduate programme through the St. John Ophthalmic Association.

With the hospital due to celebrate its 140th anniversary in 2022 there is much to be done informing people of its history. It was pleasing to note that all the articles in the 2020 issue of One St John Historical Journal published by St. John International are about the Hospital’s rich history. The principal focus for the next few months will be about re-energising the network of local Hospital Representatives across England’s 43 Counties, recruiting new ones where vacancies exist, and ensuring all have access to the most up to date information about the SJHGE so they can go about their vital ambassadorial and fundraising work.”

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English priory appoints new hospitaller

S

t John’s Day saw the appointment of a successor to Surgeon Captain James Walsh KStJ RN upon completion of his term as Priory Hospitaller for England & The Islands.

Paul Herbage MBE KStJ, a lifelong St John’s Day saw the appointment of a successor to Surgeon Captain James Walsh KStJ RN upon completion of his term as Priory Hospitaller for England & The Islands.

Paul Herbage MBE KStJ, a lifelong member of the Order, has served on the Greater London County Commissioner for London (Prince of Wales’s) District until December 2012, from 2013 he has served on the Greater London County Priory Group, and since 2016 as its Chairman. On retiring he was elected as Clerk (CEO) to one of its Livery Companies. Commenting upon his appointment, Paul said: “This is an exciting opportunity for me, although quite a challenging time to be taking up the role. Covid-19 has, of course, had a huge impact on the financial position of many Priories and their ability to continue to provide their traditional level of support to the SJHGE will be put under very great strain for the foreseeable future. There is much to be done, however, just promoting the wonderful story of the good work undertaken by staff in Jerusalem and the Palestinian Territories. Even within the family of St. John there are many who still only think of there being a single hospital in Jerusalem rather than a group comprising 7 hospitals, 4 Clinics, and an Outreach Service supported by a first class postgraduate programme through the St. John Ophthalmic Association.

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A BRAND NEW WEBSITE!

Earlier this year we launched our brand new website! This had given us a chance to present a more user-friendly format where users can clearly explore the work that we do as well as read some of our inspirational case studies. Visit us at https://stjohneyehospital.org/

YOUTUBE

Our YouTube channel is packed with case studies and real-life accounts of patients and staff experiences at the Eye Hospital. Also look out for a Q & A session with ‘Eyes of St John’ producer Vanessa Redgrave as well as a fascinating account by Jon Snow of his experience as a journalist and advice on how to promote our humanitarian mission in the media. Find us at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0A5XX2SU_ztXAmehvgIAA

SOCIAL MEDIA

Finally, please like our Facebook page or follow our LinkedIn and Twitter accounts for more great content that includes updates and inspirational stories about the life changing work that your support enables in the holy land.

https://www.facebook.com/stjohneyehospital/
https://twitter.com/stjohnyehospital
**TOGETHER WE'RE SAVING SIGHT AND CHANGING LIVES**

Make a donation today to help thousands of people regain their sight.

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You can change your mind at any time by contacting us on 0207 253 2582.

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Please be assured we will never share, swap or sell your details with another organisation. We may research individuals and organisations on occasion on our database, but this is to better tailor our communications and funding requests. Again, this information will not be shared externally. Consent for all or some forms of communication can be withdrawn at any point. For our full Privacy Policy please contact the office, or view it on our website. stjohnyehospital.org

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