

ODE TO OUR ORTHOPTIC ASSISTANTS

Read about the first trip to
Jerusalem post pandemic

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CEO Update 140 Years of Charitable Eye Care in the Holy Land
Staff profile Celebrating Excellence in Clinical & Genetic Research



St John of Jerusalem
Eye Hospital Group

JERUSALEM SCENE

Summer 2022

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





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

140 YEARS OF CHARITY CHARITABLE EYE CARE IN THE HOLY LAND

DR AHMAD MA'ALI CStJ, PhD, MPH, BSN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Reflections from our Chief Executive Officer

This year, St. John Eye Hospital is celebrating 140 years of charitable eye care in the Holy Land. The Hospital was established in 1882 on orders from HM Queen Victoria. At that time, the main challenge was

to treat a prevalent and blinding corneal eye disease called trachoma which many pilgrims and local inhabitants contracted. The disease itself was eradicated in the 1960s, thanks to the dedication of the Hospital and its clinical staff.

The Hospital moved to the Old City of Jerusalem during the 1948 war and moved again in 1961 to its current purpose-built Hospital in Shaikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem. To meet the demand for charitable eye care in the region we expanded our facilities, and today we operate across six different sites. The Jerusalem Eye Hospital is the flagship hospital specializing in surgeries, treatment, research and our nursing post graduate education programme. In 1992 we opened the Gaza Day Hospital, which provides a range of eye surgeries and medical interventions for the people of Gaza. The Hebron Day Hospital, which caters for people living in the southern parts of the West Bank, opened in 2016 and provides medical care to almost 15,000 patients each year. The Anabta Clinic caters for the northern parts of the West Bank and provides medical eye care including diabetic retinopathy screening as well as eye care for children.

Our mobile outreach services were established in 1980 and aim to provide free of charge eye care to the most marginalized and impoverished communities in the West Bank and Gaza. We are very excited to say that even during the

challenges of the Covid lockdown we expanded our outreach work by launching the Kufor Aqab clinic which was established in 2020 to provide eye care to those patients residing behind the separation wall and those who require comprehensive eye care and treatment but are unable to travel to Jerusalem.

Despite the fact that 140 years has passed, the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group remains the only provider of charitable quality eye care in this part of the world. Last year, we provided charitable care to more than 134,000 patients and performed 6,500 sight saving eye operations – which was a new record for us. The Jerusalem Hospital was the first to receive the Joint Commission International Accreditation for Quality Care in 2013, and don't forget that the Hospital's charitable work extends beyond direct patient care to include training and education for clinical staff in the country. It is safe to say that we have trained more than 200 eye nurses (making almost 100% of all eye specialist nurses trained in the country) and some 50 eye doctors (making some 40%) of all trained eye doctors in the country.

Despite the ongoing political background experienced in the country as well as other security challenges, St. John Eye Hospital continues to respond to the humanitarian needs of the population it serves. After 140 years of service in the Holy Land, the St. John Eye Hospital Group remains patients' first choice for eye care in the country, and the relevance of the Hospital in 2022 is as powerful as when it was first established in 1882. ○

**The
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STAFF CASE STUDY

Dr. Salam Iriqat, MD



Celebrating Excellence in Clinical & Genetic Research

Dr Salam Iriqat, MD, graduated from the University of Jordan in 2006 with a medical degree, after which she joined the St. John Eye Hospital Four Year Ophthalmic Residency Training Programme; obtaining accreditation from the Palestinian Board of Ophthalmology. Following

this, Dr Salam completed two Fellowships: one in Uveitis at the Hadassah University Hospital; and one in Medical Retina, Uveitis and Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) Imaging at Ichilov Hospital.

Dr Salam is a highly qualified and esteemed member of staff here at the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital (SJEHG); she currently holds the post of Uveitis, Medical Retina & Ocular Imaging Consultant. Furthermore, Dr Salam is Head of department for Ocular inflammatory disease (Uveitis); an ophthalmic surgeon and also a clinical researcher.

Despite the many adversities we have faced over the past few years (not least from the Covid pandemic and on-going conflict in the area); clinical research, development and education at SJEHG has thrived. With the input of more than 10 doctors and other hospital staff members in peer reviewing, SJEHG has published a record-breaking 12 articles – a great triumph in such testing times. Thanks to the dedicated staff like Dr Salam and her team of clinical researchers, SJEHG have achieved world-wide recognition by experts in many journals.

In February of this year, Dr Salam chaired the first Research Symposium of the newly formed SJEHG Research Group at the St. John Ophthalmic Association (SOA) Middle East; which brought together the Hospital's healthcare professionals. This event included talks on: why research matters, SJEHG research updates and

achievements as well as case reports and was well-received by attendees.

In terms of research partnerships, the team are working on a variety of projects with Al-QUDS University; AL-NAJAH University; Tel- Aviv University and Radboud University. Our team are working on a range of research papers on subjects such as: glaucoma, paediatric arthritis and Behget vascular events.

What does the future hold? Well, this year Dr Salam is looking to break the record for the number of proposals carried out. SJEHG would like to compete with the largest centres supporting the development of science and eye health - not only in Palestine, but in the Middle East.

Your generosity supports this team of researchers to advance knowledge on ophthalmology, which in turn improves patient treatment and care. This would not be possible without the donations we receive - the total annual cost to maintain all 273 of our staff across SJEHG is £8.8 million per year and this is paid for solely by charitable giving (£5 million of this pays for our medical staff, while the remainder pays for support staff). We are always grateful for your support. ☺





By Judith Musallam, Head Orthoptist. OStJ, DBO (D), SRO

I am delighted to announce that two members of the St John Eye Hospital Group (SJEHG), Ruba Sayej and Huda Abu Aleis, have gained a licence to practice orthoptics in Israel in August 2021. Younes Abdel Jawwad also passed the examination in November 2021, set by the Israeli Ministry of Health and awaits official notice of his license to Practice Orthoptics. As Rima Zaben holds a West Bank identity document she faced with an administrative barrier but is hopeful that an examination date will soon be set. This is a major achievement and it follows eleven years of communication with the Ministry and it means that the high standard of education provided by the Orthoptic Department is being recognised and approved.

Orthoptics is the diagnosing and treatment of defects in eye movement and problems with how the eyes work together, and when I arrived at the SJEHG in 1985, only a handful of ophthalmologists were working in the West Bank and Gaza. There were no orthoptists in Gaza or the West Bank who specialised in treating eye movement disorders or visual impairments relating to the way the eyes interact with the brain. In stark contrast, about forty orthoptists were registered in Israel. Those who had trained at Hadassah College in Israel held a permanent license to practice in Israel, but unfortunately the course no longer ran. Those who studied in Europe (mostly France, Italy and UK) gained a license to practice in Israel on the strength of their certificate being recognised by the Israeli Ministry of Health.

I returned to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group in 1987, to open the first, part-time, single-handed permanent Orthoptic clinic

which treated about 3,500 patients per year. Locum Orthoptists sometimes came from the UK and Australia to assist with the growing numbers, and a nurse supported us to help with translation and subjective vision tests of young children. By 1999, we were managing 10,000 patients a year.

The aftermath of the 9/11 attack had a sudden and devastating effect on our workload. Attendance dropped by more than 50%, due to closure of the West Bank and Gaza. Our concern was for new cases seeking treatment, as well as for follow-up cases because there was no alternative orthoptic service for them. The SJEHG's response was to open static clinics in Anabta, Hebron and Gaza. The Outreach Programme also needed support in order to provide an accessible service for our patients. Siv Westman, a Swedish St John's Ophthalmic Nursing Sister responded by completing the one-year course and returned to work as an orthoptist. As a new graduate, she was supported by Jane Tapley, Orthoptist, teacher and examiner of the Orthoptic undergraduate programmes in the UK. Together, they managed an impressive number of patients in Gaza which clearly emphasised the need for sustainable Orthoptic service across the whole region and emphasised the necessity to train Palestinian staff. As a result, a two-year full-time course was designed for Ophthalmic Nurses at the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. Ruba joined Younes Abdel Jawwad in completing the two-year course in 2007. Huda joined Rima Zaben in completing the updated course in 2012. They all worked as orthoptic assistants (OA) under their Palestinian Ophthalmic

Nursing license under my supervision. The following year Israel created a part-time two-year diploma for Optometrists at Tel Aviv University (TAU). It had the approval of the Israeli Ministry of Education and successful graduates were invited to apply for Professional Registration as Orthoptists. Some of the students spent their three-month internship at the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. We had a reputation for managing a wealth of text book cases because we were essentially serving the entire population of Gaza. Last year our OAs were invited to sit the final oral examination at Tel Aviv University and I am pleased to confirm that all of them passed and were considered fit to practice orthoptics.

Lina Al Alawi, a graduate of the four year optometry course of the Islamic University in Gaza, completed practical internships with me in Jerusalem (2012, 2016) and in Gaza (2017) and now runs the SJEH Orthoptic department in Gaza. Furthermore, over the past three years, Staff Nurse Amro in Hebron and Staff Nurse Mohammad Wahdan in Anabta, have been trained by Younes and Ruba, to do objective vision tests of young children and babies. These nurses can now fully support SJEHG Paediatric services.

The capability and effectiveness of the orthoptic assistants cannot be under-estimated. Without them the total out-put of near 16,000 patients per annum would not be achieved. It was due to our continued collaboration with the present Chairman of the Israeli Orthoptic Society, Guy Barnett-Itzhaki, and our continued support of Israeli interns that facilitated approval by the Israeli Ministry of Health of the standard of Orthoptics practised at the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. ◯



PATIENT CASE STUDY

OMAR

Like most four-year-old boys, Omar likes playing with his friends in kindergarten and drawing animals. Living in the deprived Khan-Younis area of southern Gaza, Omar and his family often rely on

on humanitarian support from the UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) due to the challenging living conditions and a lack of employment.

Omar suffered from divergent strabismus or squint - a condition where the eyes point in different directions. When Omar's mother noted that his eyes moved abnormally, she took him to several ophthalmic clinics in Gaza, but the assessments were unsuccessful. Omar's vision was impaired and as a result he was unable to see clearly. It significantly diminished his ability to read, and the abnormal appearance of his eyes caused him considerable embarrassment at kindergarten.

Fortunately, a relative recommended Omar's family to visit Dr. Ahmad Al-Halimi at the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital, where the divergent strabismus was diagnosed. This type of strabismus is known as exotropia, or divergent squint, and refers to an eye that turns or diverges outwards. Exotropia may occur from time to time (intermittent exotropia) or as on Omar's case, constant. This type of exotropia usually

begins in early childhood.

Dr Al-Halimi knew how critical it was to treat Omar as soon as possible and proceeded quickly and operated on both Omar's eyes in early September 2021. He told us, "If there is a delay to Omar's surgery, he may be subjected to more visual complications and he will face great difficulty in the future." The surgery went extremely well Omar's mother was overjoyed that her son's vision had improved and was thankful to our staff. She recently told us: Omar is improving, he can see his brothers easily and has no abnormal eye movements. We are proud to be able to tell you that all of Omar's pre and post-operative consultations, prescriptions and medications were completely free – thanks to the charitable nature of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. 

When Omar's mother noted that his eyes moved abnormally, she took him to several ophthalmic clinics in Gaza



JERUSALEM VISIT

JOHN HELMSLEY, OBE, GCStJ.



Right to left: The Intrepid Few who made it to the top of the 'Horns of Hattin' and The Group at the Jerusalem Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery

Finally, and at the fifth attempt, the much-delayed Fellowship tour actually managed to get to the Holy Land in May this year. Originally scheduled to visit in 2020, the Covid pandemic had resulted in no less than five postponements; consequently, a number of intending participants had signed up, fallen out or re-enlisted over the two years of delays and changes of date. Nevertheless, in the event, it was unanimously voted a highly successful and thoroughly enjoyable trip.

It was a busy programme in which we covered Jesus's birthplace at Bethlehem, His childhood at Nazareth, scenes of the early ministry in Galilee and tracked His time in Jerusalem. We also made full use of the time to look at Roman sites at Caesarea Maritima; Masada on the Dead Sea; the mountain-top fortress of Belvoir (the largest of the St John castles in the Holy Land); as well as many other locations relating to the early history of the Order and the Knights Hospitaller, such as the Crusader fortifications at Acre with its Great Hall of St John and memorials to past Grand Priors. None will forget the magnificent acoustics of the church of St Ann built by the Hospitallers by the Pools of Bethesda or the superb singing of the Benedictine monks and nuns at vespers in the lovely St John Crusader church at Emmaus. This year we actually managed a somewhat rushed visit to the site of the Battle of Hattin which was greatly appreciated by all the St John members.

The highlight of our tour was, as usual, our visit to the Eye Hospital where we were most warmly welcomed by Dr Ahmad Ma'ali and his wonderful staff. Having been briefed on the work of the Hospital, we were conducted around the building to see this in action, before sitting down with members of the staff for an al fresco lunch in the beautiful Hospital gardens. In the afternoon we were greeted once again by Marlene Katansho to the Muristan

clinic in the old city with the splendid bronze olive tree and the wonderful Tree of Hope.¹

On the Sunday our group visited the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Jerusalem where the Rev. John Davis, MBE, KStJ National Fellowship Chairman, held a brief Act of Remembrance and a wreath was laid on behalf of the Fellowship. After this, everyone went to St George's Cathedral in Jerusalem where I offered a prayer paying tribute to the work of the Hospital:

Heavenly Father, we pray for the peace of Jerusalem and ask your blessing on our St John pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and for all members of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem who follow in the footsteps of the blessed Gerrard and their forebears, the Hospitalers of St John.

Bless too our most gracious lady, Queen Elizabeth, our Sovereign Head; Richard, our Grand Prior; and all the Great Officers of our Most Venerable Order. Bless the work of the Order of St John Eye Hospital here in Jerusalem, and most especially all the dedicated staff who work so tirelessly to relieve suffering.

*Finally, we remember the souls of our dear Confrères, recently departed Great Officers and Bailiffs Grand Cross of the Order: Lord Vestey, Lord Remnant, John Spencer, The Right Reverend Bishop John Waive and Sir Malcolm Ross; and would ask your blessing for all those Confrères and Consœurs of our Most Venerable Order who have died since our last pilgrimage to Jerusalem. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, **pro fide, pro utilitate hominum.** Amen. ○*

¹British sculptor Mark Coreth has created Tree of Hope. Commissioned by the St John Eye Hospital. It is a bronze olive tree with a canopy, not of leaves, but swirling swifts, and stands in a courtyard in the centre of Muristan, a Crusader hospital complex near to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

STOP PRESS

By popular request and because a number of people were disappointed at being unable to come on the 2022 trip to the Holy Land, we have taken the decision to run another tour next year. This will include a full visit to the battlefield site of HATTIN. The dates will be 10 – 18 May 2023 (inclusive). As planning progresses, details can be found on the website: www.maranatha.co.uk/StJohn-HolyLand2023/



PATIENT CASE STUDY

AHMAD

Overcoming Adversity: Ahmad's Story

Ahmad is a 19-year-old student, studying IT at Al-Israa University in the north of Gaza, and enjoys playing computer games and reading in his spare time. Although Ahmad's father works, his family also receive humanitarian assistance from Social Welfare and UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) due to the poor economic climate in Gaza.

Ahmad suffers from a congenital ophthalmic disease, which has caused severe eye pain since his early teens. At school he faced learning difficulties due to his poor vision, including trouble with reading as he needed to focus so intensely in order to focus his sight. Ahmad told us that despite all this effort he still struggled to see. He visited many ophthalmic clinics in Gaza for further examinations but to little avail before relatives advised him to visit the St. John Eye Hospital. There he met Dr. Hisham Al-Faliet, who diagnosed Ahmad with Keratoconus Disease.

Keratoconus is a non-inflammatory eye condition that affects the structure of the cornea; causing it to progressively thin, causing a cone-like bulge to develop. Up to 1 in 450 individuals (depending on ethnicity) are affected by keratoconus, which typically begins in puberty. In its early stages, keratoconus can be treated with glasses, but in most advanced stages, surgery is required to correct vision.

Following a Coneal Topography (a diagnostic procedure for the cornea), it was clear that Ahmad had fifth-degree keratoconus in both of his eyes, with pain in his left eye more severe. As a result surgery was required

and in October last year he underwent corneal cross linking (CXL) surgery in his left eye, with a second CXLXL operation on his right eye a week later. Corneal collagen cross-linking (CXL) is a relatively new procedure, designed to stop or slow down the progression of keratoconus.

As it turns out, Ahmad received this surgery just in time. The ophthalmologist remarked: If Ahmad had delayed the surgery, he might have been subject to further complications and a potential complete loss of vision. Palestinians are ten times more likely to go blind than those of us in Western countries, and so like many areas of our clinical specialties, the work continues.

Recently Ahmad said, "I am very pleased because my vision has improved again in both of my eyes - especially my left eye which I couldn't see anything through before. With thanks to God, I can see my brothers easily, and today I can read my lessons and favorite topics. Also, I can play my beloved play station games." Ahmad's post-operative consultations, medications and prescriptions were provided entirely free of charge - thanks to the financial donors who kindly support the hospital staff to carry out their life-changing work. ○

References:

Moorfields Eye Hospital: <https://www.moorfields.nhs.uk/condition/keratoconus>

Today I can read my lessons and favorite topics. Also, I can play my beloved play station games



Photo of Ahmed undergoes ophthalmic diagnosis at SJEHG before corneal surgery.



Right : Dr Denise Magauran with Dr Ahmad Ma'ali
Below: Carole Lawrence-Parr, MStJ, Sarah Jane Holden and Ahlam Akram



CELEBRATING 140 YEARS OF SAVING SIGHT

On the 24th June 2022 we celebrated the 140th anniversary of the Order of St John founding an Eye clinic in Jerusalem, an Eye Clinic that would later become a hospital. To mark this monumental anniversary, we celebrated with a garden party and a book launch.

We held the event in the historic building The Charterhouse, a beautiful building that was once a Carthusian monastery. The book launch and speeches were held in the historic Great Chamber, our Chairman of the Board Sir Andrew Cash, OBE, KStJ introduced the event thanking staff both in Jerusalem and in London and introducing the book commissioned by the Board of SJEHG about the hospital's rich 140 year history. Dr Matthew Glozier, OStJ, one of the co-authors of 'A Beacon of Hope: 140 years of eye care in the Holy Land, 1882-2022', spoke on the process of writing the book and how it book came together with his two other co-authors. Sadly both Dr Ian Howie-Willis OAM KStJ and Professor John Pearn AO, GCStJ, RFD, the other two co-authors of 'A Beacon of Hope', could not make the event to speak. Thankfully, Paul Gwillian, OStJ stepped in and read Dr Howie-Willis' OAM KStJ speech.

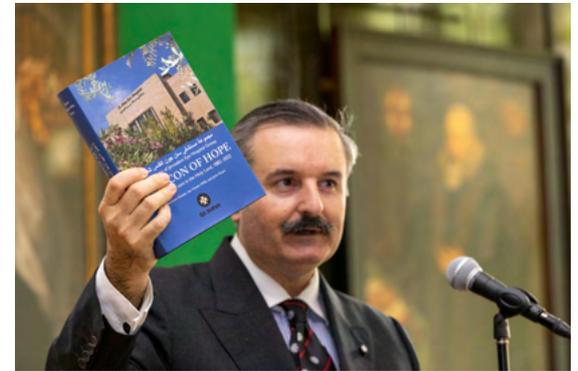
Dr Ahmad Ma'ali, CStJ PhD MPH BSN PGCE ENB, CEO of SJEHG, spoke about the current workings of the Eye Hospital and their operations. He praised the staff of

the Eye Hospital for their diligent work during the pandemic and their continued positive impact on those they help. They even increased surgeries and outreach by 25% during the COVID-19. Dr Ma'ali continued to explain the daily running of the hospital and their outreach goals.

Dr David H Verity, KStJ MD MA FRCOphth, the Hospitalier for the Order of St John took to the podium and spoke on the innovation, research and the future of the Eye Hospital as well as about the history of the first hospitaliers. The Lord Prior concluded the presentations by thanking staff, authors and various supporters before ushering guests to enjoy a traditional Afternoon Tea.

The afternoon garden party was held in beautiful 14th century The Norfolk Cloister where guests enjoyed sandwiches, cakes, tea and prosecco. Guests also had an opportunity to view an array of fantastic historical items and displays relating to the Hospital with a stunning architect's model of the Jerusalem Hospital taking centre stage. As the guest departed, they were gifted the book 'A Beacon of Hope' to take home.

The Garden Party was a wonderful day celebrating the Eye Hospital's history, its achievements and toasting to its future with the many steadfast and passionate supporters and staff. ☺

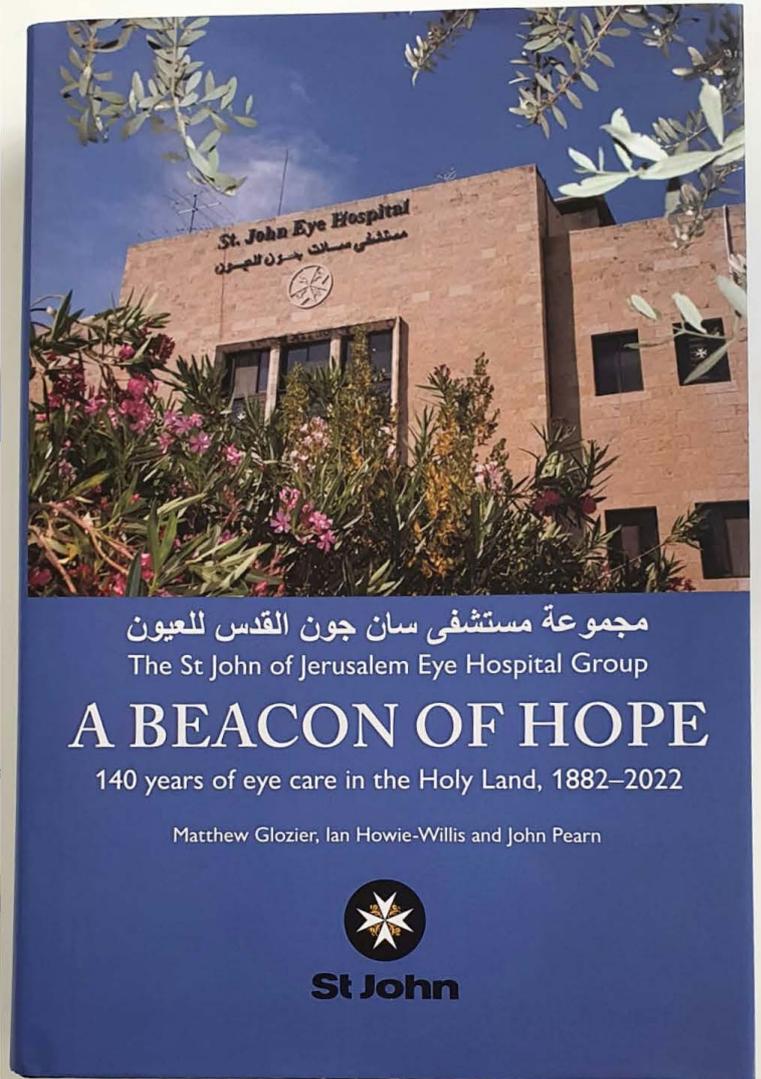
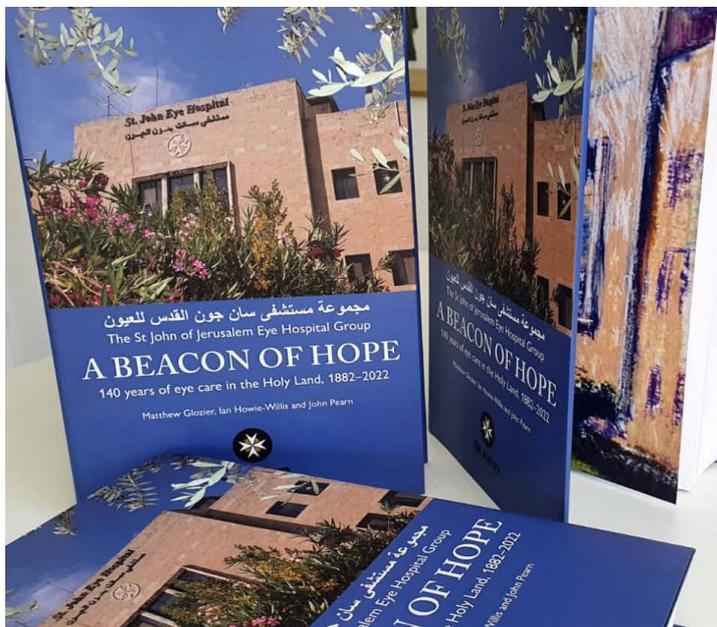


Above : Dr Matthew Glozier, OStJ talking about the book
Below: Dr Ahmad Ma'ali giving his speech about the Eye Hospital



25%

**INCREASED SURGERIES
AND OUTREACH DURING
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**



A Beacon of Hope
140 years of eye care in the Holy Land, 1882-2022

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that we have 20 signed hardcopy editions of this very special book for sale on a strictly first-come-first-served basis.

This edition is the last of its kind before we proceed with a soft cover edition, which we hope will be available in the Autumn.

The cost of this truly unique edition is £75.00 (inclusive of postage and packing), and is being limited to shipping addresses in the UK only on this occasion.

**To order your copy please contact Naomi Booth,
 Naomi.Booth@stjohneyehospital.org.**

SUMMER UPDATE FROM THE GUILD



By Sarah-Jane Holden

The 140th anniversary of the Eye Hospital has been celebrated by the launch of 'A Beacon of Hope'. It is a tome indeed – the print is small too! Written by it has been by three historians, one of whom is also a paediatrician, it has been described as 'a story of hope and survival' by the Hospitaller, Mr David Verity and 'a story crying out to be told' by Sir Andrew Cash, Chairman of Trustees. Here you will find the story of the Eye Hospital, the place, the people and the things. But where does The Guild fit in? ?

Formed in 1928 with HM The Queen as President, The Guild's original remit was to provide linen and other simple items deemed essential to support the staff and patients. Fundraising gradually increased and between 1981 - 1993 The Guild supported the bed endowment scheme, whereby the Guild endowed x4 beds at £85,000 each, and with help, x2 more. The Guild then shifted to fundraise to pay the Matron's salary and more recently to raise funds to support staff salaries in Gaza and the Mobile Outreach programme which operates around the West Bank.

Like so many in St John, I was 'born' into St John. My great aunt, Matron Sullivan of Burwood Hospital, Sydney NSW, would sponsor nurses to the Hospital, on return, their experience was invaluable to their work in

Australia. My mother, Pam Hyles, a Dame of Order & Trustee, ran the equivalent of the Guild in the Australian Capital Territory and was a very effective fund raiser. Being invited to join the Ladies Guild, by the then Chairman, Marie, Countess Cathcart, was a great honour and one I have been privileged to serve for over 30 years. Helping with music evenings, The Gift of Sight Fair, bridge afternoons, art exhibition previews, dinners, visits to unique locations, talks, receptions; some small and some of historical proportions, and more recently our 'online' events. Events have been held in venues from the Banqueting Hall & other London Livery Hall's to Embassy's and private homes. It has been fascinating and fun. It is now my turn to chair our meetings and to continue the ethos of what was originally The Linen Guild of the Ophthalmic Hospital, Jerusalem, then, The Ladies' Guild of the Order of St John, and now, 'The Guild of St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital'.

The Guild today comprises a committee with around 20 members. Every single member contributes and adds to our activities in some way. Our backgrounds are many and varied. We meet in London quarterly and enthusiastically support any event agreed upon. We are not mutually exclusive and so if you have a fun idea that we can support to raise funds or increase awareness of the Hospital in the wider

community we will be delighted to hear from you. Don't be shy we may be able to help.

Next year, in 2023, and following from the 140th anniversary of the Hospital, The Guild will celebrate 75 years of volunteering to support the operations of the Hospital. Please follow us on Facebook, Instagram and visit the Guild website at www.guildstjohn.com to be in touch.

We would also like to mention the development of St John Gateway. Directed at a younger generation it says aims to operate as a 'gateway' for those who do not know of and are new to St John would like to support St John but are unsure of which avenue they would like to follow and support; the First Aid & Ambulance, the Eye Hospital or the Mother & Baby project in Zambia? Please visit their website to find out about their events and or to join a terrific new addition to the St John family.

www.stjohngateway.org.uk

The Guild asks you to **SAVE THE DATE** for the following events:

- **Wednesday 21st September : 6 – 8.30pm**
St Katherine's Dock & Gloriana Reception
- **Monday 5th December : 10.30am – 8.00pm**
Gift of Sight Fair, Chelsea Old Town Hall, London

FUNDRAISING SPOTLIGHT



Fundraising Officer

Hello! I'm Naomi and I'd like to introduce myself as the new Fundraising Officer for SJEHG, based in London. My role is to monitor the fundraising in the UK, plan events, assist our dedicated fundraising groups and edit the Jerusalem Scene. If you need any assistance from me or have any suggestions for future Jerusalem Scene content, please feel free to drop me an email at naomi.booth@stjohnseyehospital.org and I look forward to working alongside you all in the future!

Knights Templar Pilgrimage to Wells Cathedral.

From the 21st to the 23rd September 2022, members of the 'Knights of the Vision Beautiful Team' (who are a sub-section of the Knights Templar Group) will be embarking on a relay pilgrimage all the way from St Augustine's Cross in Kent to Wells Cathedral in Somerset - in order to raise money for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. This pilgrimage will cover over 300 miles, taking in sites around London, Gloucestershire and Somerset. The Knights Templar group are a charitable, Christian 'order' and are long-time supporters of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital, raising approximately £150,00 per year. If you would like to sponsor, support or take part in the Knights Templar fundraising challenge, please contact their Captain, Angus Rhodes, on Knights.of.the.Vision@gmail.com.

To follow or sponsor the team, please visit:

www.justgiving.com/team/Vision-Beautiful

Twitter: [@KnightsVision](https://twitter.com/KnightsVision)



iYouth

St John iYouth is a brilliant network of young professionals who kindly support St John Eye Hospital Group through their fundraising activities. In 2022, iYouth are running 'iWalk', in which they are encouraging groups from across the Pories to raise money for the SJEHG's vital sight-saving work.

The iWalk invites participants to walk 6 miles (10km) in an 'iGroup' of 10 walkers, or individuals to cover 60 miles (100km) as a 'solo iWalker'.

If you would like to sponsor, support or take part in the iYouth fundraising challenge, please contact the iYouth on iyouth@soa.global. You can also visit their website for more information and to register: www.soa.global/news-events/reports/iwalk/

Join the Big Walk - Be an iLeader

Lead an 'iGroup' of ten iWalkers on a 10km hike between July and December 2022. Each iGroup raises sponsorship of £1000 for St John's sight-saving work in Gaza (students can opt for half that level). Choose your favourite walk with a group of friends, at your favourite time of year!

More details can be found on iYouth's webpage - www.soa.global/news-events/reports/iwalk/. Only one 'iLeader' needs to register, and organises their own group of 10 walkers. There is also a 'Solo' walker or cyclist option!!

iYouth encourages you to join this international initiative and organise a day out with a group of friends, raising funds for our sight-saving work in Gaza.

EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

GIFT OF SIGHT FAIR

The Guild's annual Gift of Sight Fair is scheduled to take place in Chelsea Town Hall on Monday 5th December 2022. Please put this date in your diary. There will be a panoply of fantastic stalls offering everything from jewellery to homewares, clothing to organic food and a wonderful selection of Palestinian olive oils, homewares and Christmas decorations. You will be able to do all your Christmas shopping in one fell swoop and support the Eye Hospital as well. If you are a small business owner, we have a limited number of stalls left so please do apply on line at guildstjohn.com/for-stallholders.

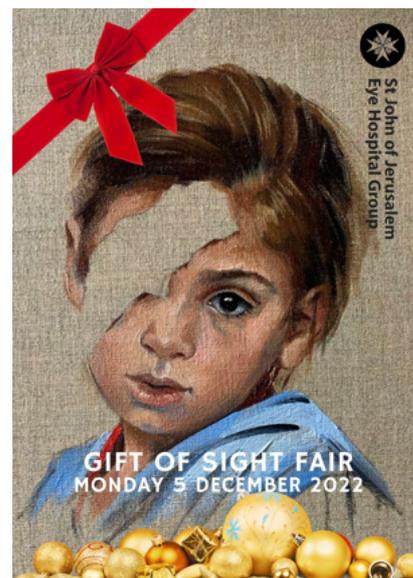
For more information on Guild events please go to:

Website: guildstjohn.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/guildstjohn

Instagram: www.instagram.com/guildstjohn

Contact: guildstjohn.com/contact-us



ST KATHARINE'S DOCK & GLORIANA INVITATION

The Guild of St John Eye Hospital invites you to join them for a drinks reception on a pontoon in St Katharine's Dock, the only marina in central London. We will be positioned with a view of the The Royal Rowbarge, The Gloriana, and will receive a short talk by the Harbour Master.

The Royal Rowbarge, Gloriana, is a legacy marking HM Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Her Majesty approved the principle that Gloriana is used to promote better use of the Thames and to enable charities to play their part in occasions and celebrations upon the Thames.

Date: Wednesday 21st September

Time: 6:00pm-8:30pm Tickets

price: ££50

Book: guildstjohn.com/upcoming-events

Obituaries

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

Elizabeth Mary Tait QSO OStJ

Mary passed away in the Hawkes Bay, on the 18th July 2020, she was in her 91st year. Her service was all in Napier commencing as a cadet, she went on to earn her Grand Prior Award. After her service as a cadet she became acting Superintendent of the Napier Nursing Cadet Division. The acting role was required as she was then too young to become the actual Superintendent. When she did become the Superintendent, she served a remarkable 38 years.

After retiring from Youth, she was instrumental in starting a local Fellowship group. Her service to St John was recognised when in 1970 she was admitted into the Order as a Serving Sister (Member). She was further honoured when in 1981 she was promoted to Officer. Mary was also a recipient of a QSO (Queens Service Order) for service to the community. Mary travelled to Jerusalem in 2007 on a St John New Zealand Holy Land tour, we can only but think that her unforgettable visit to the Eye Hospital during the 125th celebrations in 2007 was the catalyst for her amazing generosity.

Mary's generous legacy was used to purchase a Biometer and Large Autoclave both for the Hebron Clinic. A Biometer is used to perform the Pre-op Intra Ocular Lens (a method of cataract surgery in which the eye's internal lens is emulsified using ultrasonic energy and replaced with an intraocular lens implant). The Hebron Clinic's surgical capacity has been steadily increasing over the past few years but does not have a Biometer of their own. A Large Autoclave is a sterilization unit, and the Hebron Clinic urgently needs its replaced.



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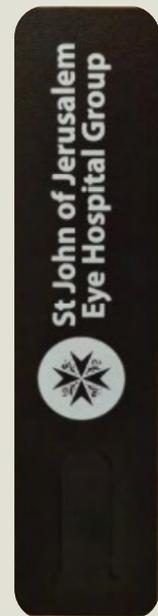
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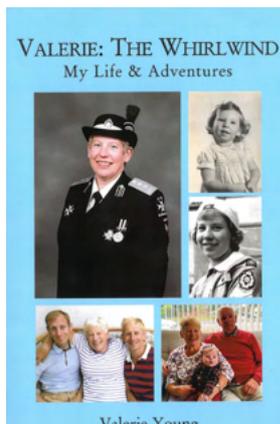
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Valerie Young OStJ has worked in the NHS for 38 years and has done voluntary work abroad, including hosting CPR and health and safety training sessions at St John Eye Hospital Jerusalem. In her autobiography, Valerie discusses the six months she volunteered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

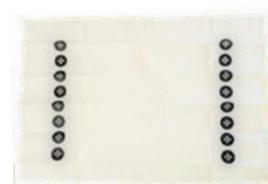
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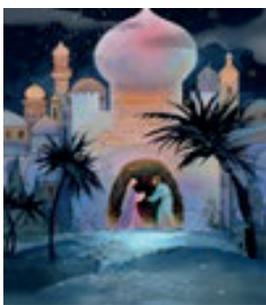
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Season's Greetings



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

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