

SJEHG's special edition for our Brother Knights of K.T.



**TOGETHER,
WE'RE
SAVING
SIGHT,
CHANGING
LIVES.**



**St John of Jerusalem
Eye Hospital Group**

A Special Thanks from SJEHG



Jamie Ingham Clark, SJEHG Trustee; Harriet Wheeler, Executive Head of UK Office; Charlie O'Doherty, Trusts & Philanthropy Officer, pictured at Freemason's Hall in November 2023.

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself as the newly appointed Executive Head of the UK Office. It has been my privilege to connect with many of you over the past few weeks, and I hope to meet many more of you over the coming weeks and months. I'd like to start by thanking each one of you for your continued engagement with our organisation, and particularly to those who have undertaken fundraising initiatives and supported us with donations. To name but one, the members of the Knights of the Vision Beautiful, whose Challenge Events have so far raised over £33,000 for the hospital.

Your support allows us to carry on doing what we do best, what we have been doing for over 140 years: saving sight, changing lives.



Take a peek into our Paediatric ward. Click on the image to view the video.

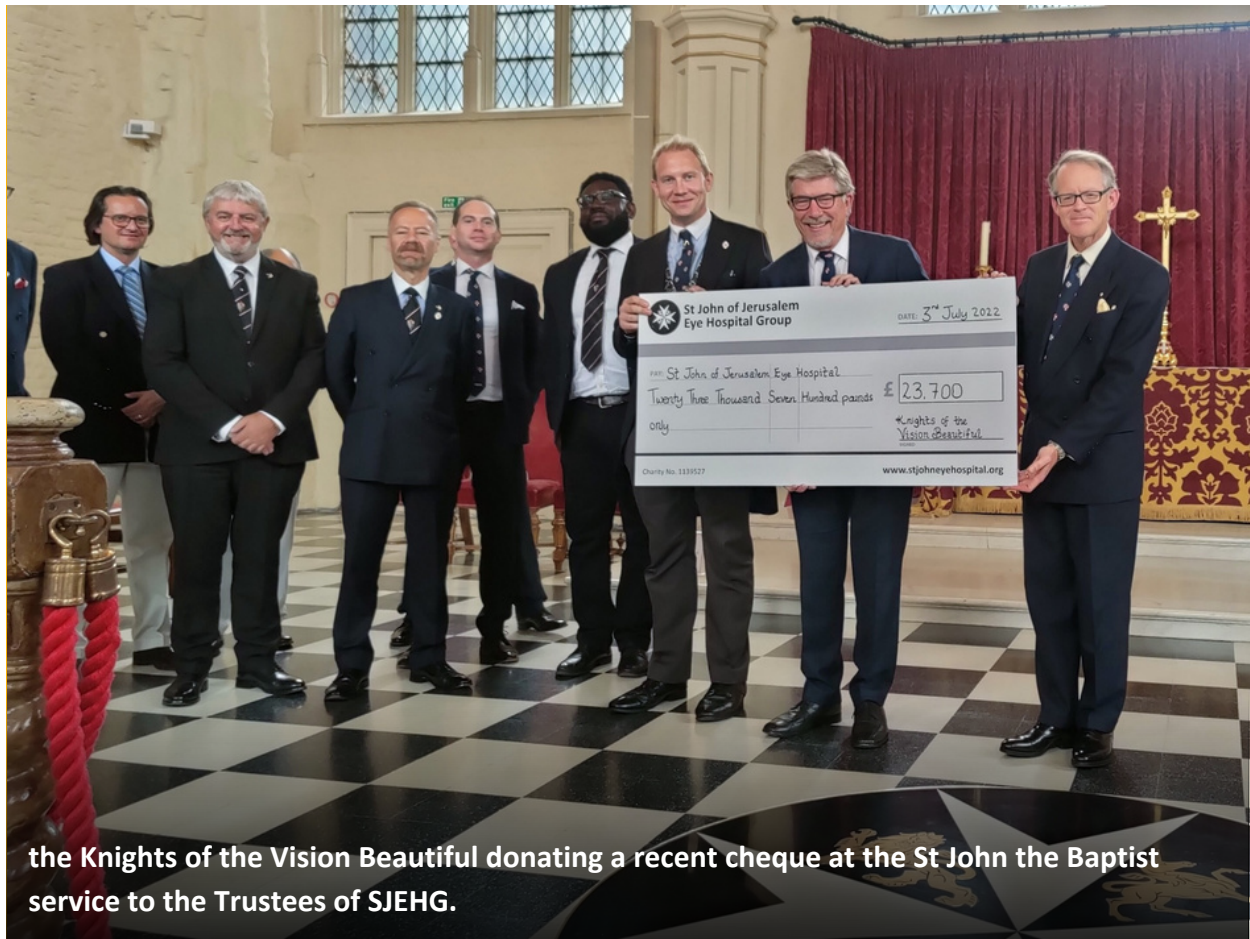




Opening of our Paediatric Unit



The Most Eminent and Supreme Knight Paul Clement, Grand Master opening the Paediatric Unit with R.W.Bro. Ryan A. Williams, Linda Read, Dr Ahmad Ma'ali SJEHG's CEO and Jamie Ingham Clark, one of our trustees.



the Knights of the Vision Beautiful donating a recent cheque at the St John the Baptist service to the Trustees of SJEHG.

New Funding Announcement

**I am delighted to announce £100K
funding from the Great Priory to St John
of Jerusalem Eye Hospital.**



This further pledge from the Great Priory of England & Wales will make a significant contribution to staffing costs for the Paediatric ward in Jerusalem. The refurbishment of the ward in March 2020 was made possible through earlier funding from the Great Priory. The team there is made up of two paediatricians, a paediatric anaesthetist, five nurses covering the clinic and operating theatres, five (part time) orthotists, and an optometrist.

Certainly, there's no need for me to emphasise the profound impact of saving a child's sight. For many eye conditions, it is vital to treat children before they reach the age of 7 years. If left untreated, many conditions can cause permanent blindness. For children, this can mean a lifetime of social isolation and dependency with no access to education.

The support of the Knights' Templar enables us to treat 40,000 children a year, ranging from the ages of two days up to 12 years. Children, like eleven-year-old Bahaa Abu Taimah (pictured), who was accidentally stabbed in his right eye with a pen while drawing pictures with his younger brother. His mother rushed him to the European Hospital in Gaza but the doctors were unable to treat him. Bahaa was subsequently referred onto our hospital in Jerusalem where he underwent a vitrectomy – a surgical method used in cataract operations. This success story, and so many others like it, is only made possible through your donations.



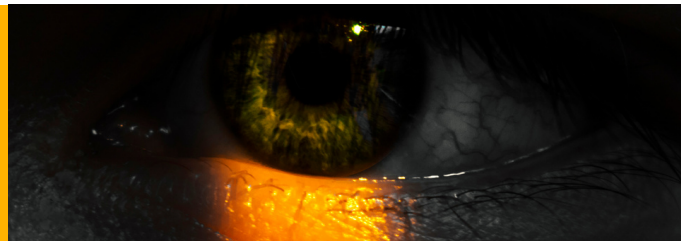
 You can download the full story [here](#)



Of course, overshadowing all of this are the terrible events currently taking place in Israel and Gaza. We are now grappling with an unprecedented humanitarian crisis that echoes far beyond its border. Since the outset of hostilities, all clinical activities at our hospital in Gaza have stopped. The hospital itself has sustained heavy collateral damage due to fighting in the vicinity. Our Gazan staff are all currently residing in the south of the enclave, where a number of them are undertaking voluntary work at local hospitals providing both ophthalmic and general emergency services to casualties of this war. It isn't only our hospital in Gaza which has been impacted by these troubling events. Freedom of movement has been severely curtailed across the West Bank making travel to our hospital in Jerusalem, which is operating at about 65% capacity, increasingly difficult. We remain united in our hope and prayers for the speedy resolution to this conflict and for the safety and wellbeing of our friends and colleagues in the region.



Thank you for your support



As a charity that has worked in the region for over 140 years, we know only too well how much our expert eye care services will be needed once this war is over. As the only referral provider of care to UNRWA and the main referral provider to the Palestinian Ministry for Health, our response is vital. We are already drawing up plans to mobilise resources as soon as it is safe to do so.

In Gaza our response is likely to include:

- Delivering mobile outreach
- Setting up temporary safe, sterilised spaces to deliver our services
- Cooperating with local hospitals with surgical facilities
- Undertaking necessary repairs at our own hospital
- Employing more nurses and surgeons to cope with increased demand



In the West Bank, our response is likely to include:

- Setting up a new day-care centre in Nablus
- Establishing a dedicated mobile Nablus-based outreach service to carry out primary eye care services
- Investing in new staff and more specialist equipment at our Kufor Aqab site
- Expand the services available at the Hebron clinic which serves a population of 690,000.

**BUT OF
COURSE,
WE CAN'T
DO IT
ALONE.**



All of this can only be achieved through your continued support for our shared vision to provide expert ophthalmic care in this region.

Donate to our emergency appeal today.



To donate: Open the camera on your smartphone and point it at the QR code below. It'll take you directly to our appeal page.

Or visit

www.stjohneyehospital.org/donate-now/emergency-appeal/



Province of Hertfordshire

Rt.E.Kt. Alastair White, the Provincial Prior, launched a new initiative in the Knights Templar Province of Hertfordshire – to raise £100,000 for the SJEHG over the next ten years to coincide with the Centenary of the Province. It has got off to a fabulous start and is being well supported. Last February, Alastair accompanied London Support to Jerusalem to meet the CEO and staff to discuss how the support and efforts of the Knights can be put to the best use. The picture shows the Provincial Prior in discussion with Marlene, Muristan's in-charge nurse, and with Dr Ahmad Ma'ali, the CEO. It was decided to sponsor a nurse in Gaza, Maysoun who can be seen in the picture with one of the Hertfordshire Festival mugs. Knights can pledge to donate £500 over the ten years either on a regular basis or in lump sums. Once pledged, they receive a full certificate and the thanks of a grateful Provincial Prior.

Province of Durham

The Province of Durham has been a wonderful contributor to the SJEHG for many years, and in January 2020 launched a 5 year appeal to raise £50,000. This appeal has been so successful that the Provincial Prior is now aiming for £1000,000 by 2025. Yet, it wasn't until September earlier this year, that Rt.E.Kt. Richard Scott, the Provincial Prior accompanied London Support to visit not only the main Hospital in Jerusalem itself, but Hebron Hospital and the Kufor Aqab Clinic. As well as viewing the facilities at each, there was also time spent with the CEO to discuss the effect of their fundraising and visits into the operating theatre to speak with staff there and to see the operations taking place first hand and to Muristan and to see the Tree of Hope.

Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight

During a conversation with London Support at their Provincial Meeting, Rt.E.Kt. Charles Aspinall, the Provincial Prior, expressed his desire to focus their fundraising and donations towards the Outreach facilities that SJEHG operate. Consequently, this has been passed on to SJEHG, who along with the Province are able to maximise these efforts at the newly opened Kufor Aqab Outreach Clinic. The pictures show Malek Bretem, the Nurse-in-Charge at Kufor Aqab Outreach Clinic explaining the new equipment made possible by these donations.

[Click here to read some of The St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group London Support Repository.](#)





Other Ways To Get Involved



If you would like to fundraise for us, please get in touch. We have many fundraising resources available to [download from our website](#), including how-to guides, posters, and leaflets.

[Click here](#)

We also have a number of resources available for loan in our office:

- Pop up banners
- Collection boxes
- Collection buckets
- Tabards



[0207 553 6963](tel:02075536963)



[Subscribe our Jerusalem Scene newsletter](#)



info@stjohnehospital.org

Thank you for your continued support.

WE ARE HIRING



We are looking for a new Fundraising Officer to join our team here at Charterhouse Mews in Clerkenwell, London. If you, or anyone you know, is skilled in mid-level fundraising, donor stewardship, event and admin support then, do get in touch. The full job description, person specification and application form can be found on our website:

[Click here](#)





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**St John of Jerusalem
Eye Hospital Group**

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