



**St John of Jerusalem
Eye Hospital Group**



Knights Templar Newsletter

Autumn 2022 | Issue #2 | St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group Newsletter – Knights Templar



Autumn Update



We would like to thank you all for your ongoing support for our work – we have received many kind donations from the Knights' Templar which go a long way to supporting our services.

As we settle into autumn, we have another hospital update in this edition as well as some exciting events!

Inside This Newsletter

- Hospital Update
- Events
- Ways to Support Us
- Christmas Card Sales

A Minute's Silence for HM Queen Elizabeth II

St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group is deeply saddened to hear of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and we extend our deepest condolences to the Royal Family. Throughout her reign, the Queen demonstrated extraordinary dedication and steadfast commitment to duty - Her Majesty was Sovereign of the Most Venerable Order of St John for more than 70 years. Many will mourn her, despite not knowing her personally, and pay their respects to the Sovereign of the Most Venerable Order, who has been constant throughout our lives.

Dr. Ahmad Maali, CEO of St John Eye Hospital, represented the Group at the funeral of Her Majesty, alongside the Lord Prior, Prof. Mark Compton, and Nakkita Charag, a St John Ambulance volunteer.

Dr. Maali's story with St John began in 1990, when he joined St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital as a student nurse, before being admitted to the Order of St John in 2000 and later promoted to Commander in 2016. Dr Maali said it was 'a great honor' to be part of the congregation for Her Majesty's funeral service at Westminster Abbey.



The Staff at St John Eye Hospital held a minute's silence followed by a short service of prayer in the Hospital Chapel to pay their respects.



Picture credit: PRESS ASSOCIATION / Danny Lawson.

Hospital Update

A visit from President Biden

During his recent visit to Jerusalem, President Biden visited the East Jerusalem Hospital Network (EJHN) and was greeted by the CEO of each hospital including our own CEO, Ahmad Ma'ali. The President was exceedingly impressed to hear that the St. John Eye Hospital was the first ophthalmic Hospital established in the Middle East in 1882 and was celebrating 140th years of service this year.

In his speech, President Biden emphasized the role played by the East Jerusalem Hospital Network in meeting the healthcare needs of its patients. He spoke fondly about the impact of great healthcare - both in meeting patients' medical needs as well as giving them the drive to recover.

Medical Training

We would like to congratulate the following doctors for completing fellowships:

- Dr. Shweiki has completed a two-year internal fellowship in medical and surgical retina.
- Dr. Junaidi started a one-year pediatric fellowship in Canada which is due to finish in summer 2023
- Dr. Masri completed a 7-month fellowship at Asaf ha rofa Hospital in Tel Aviv

Gaza Update

The most recent war on Gaza lasted 3 days and resulted in 49 fatalities and 300 injuries. On the 10th May, we increased the number of surgical sessions performed at the hospital from 8 to 12 per week, including 2 weekend sessions. Due to increased demand, the number of cataract surgeries performed has almost doubled.

Currently, there are 550 patients waiting for surgery, most of whom are refugees. Our staff are continuing to work hard and do the very best for their patients.

We are pleased to announce that an Ophthalmic Nurse Assistant Course has commenced in Gaza for 15 students.



Events and Fundraising Calendar

2nd November: St John Eye Hospital Autumn Concert

We welcome you to join us for an autumn concert with London City Brass, in aid of St John Eye Hospital. Tickets are £12 and include tea and coffee in the interval. This will be an evening to remember with two epic sets from London City Brass! London City Brass is a progressive, enthusiastic band who rehearse in the City of London. The band is made up of players from various backgrounds and a wide age range.

Tickets can be bought at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/london-city-brass-autumn-concert-tickets-415841672637>



5th December: The Guild Gift of Sight Fair, Chelsea Old Town Hall - Save the date!

The annual Gift of Sight Fair, hosted by the Guild will take place at Chelsea Old Town Hall.

Expect a variety of stalls and festive cheer – the event is sure to be a great success!

Tickets are £5 and can be purchased on the door or online at:

<https://billetto.co.uk/e/gift-of-sight-fair-guild-of-st-john-eye-hospital-tickets-586172>



July – December 2022: St John iYouth iWalk

In 2022, St John iYouth are running 'iWalk', in which they are encouraging groups 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 as individuals to cover 60 miles (100km) as a 'solo iWalker'.

Visit the iYouth website for more information and to register a group:

<https://www.soa.global/news-events/reports/iwalk/> or contact iyouth@soa.global



Ways to Support Us

If you would like to make a one off donation or set up a direct debit, you can do so by visiting our website at:

www.stjohneyehospital.org.

On our website, you can also read articles about hospital updates and visit our online shop.

To stay in touch and keep up to date, you can subscribe to our Jerusalem Scene newsletter via our website or by calling the office on 0207 553 6963.

If you would like to fundraise for us, please get in touch! We have many fundraising resources on our website, including how-to guides and printable posters.

For an idea of how your support can help:

- £7.00 can fund an initial eye consultation
- £25.00 can buy eye drops (which are typically the main treatment for conditions such as glaucoma)
- £70.00 can treat diabetes-related eye problems
- £250.00 funds cataract treatment for one person or one operation to correct a child's squint
- £500.00 pays for urgent eye surgery.



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Merchandise

We have a variety of merchandise available to buy through our website here:

[St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group Shop \(stjohnseyehospital.org\)](http://stjohnseyehospital.org)

Or send a cheque with a note of the items you'd like to purchase to our office address.

All Christmas cards are £5 for packs of 10! See below for our newest cards!



'A Child is Born'

Inside message:
'Merry Christmas'



'Santa's Helpers'

Inside message:
'Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year'



'Festive Robins'

Inside message:
'Season's Greetings'



'Stained Glass Window'

Inside message:
'Christmas Blessings'



'Winter Village'

Inside message:
'Season's
Greetings'



'Bethlehem Evening'

Inside message:
'Wishing you a Merry
Christmas'

