



**St John of Jerusalem  
Eye Hospital Group**

# **Knights Templar Newsletter**

Summer 2022 | Issue #1 | St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group Newsletter – Knights Templar

## *We want to thank YOU!*

We would like to thank all members of the Knights' Templar for your ongoing support for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. Without your funding, we would be unable to continue our vital work, saving sight across Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza.

The demand for our sight-saving services is ever increasing - in 2021, we treated almost 134,600 patients and performed more than 6,500 eye surgeries. The funds you have donated will go a long way to securing the livelihoods of our staff and the mission we have set out to achieve.

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## Hello!

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](mailto:naomi.booth@stjohnseyehospital.org)

I look forward to working alongside you all in the future!



## Children's Services Update

The support we receive from the Knights' Templar is invaluable to us as the Knights' Templar funding goes towards the children's services at our hospitals. Of all the patients we treat, 30% (around 44,000) of these are children, most of whom are treated at our main hospital in Jerusalem. Every year, 6,000 children are admitted to our Jerusalem hospital for treatment and 550 of these undergo complex, sight-saving surgical operations.

Sadly, our young patients were being admitted to the Jerusalem Hospital adult ward due to a lack of specialized children's facilities which met Ministry of Health standards.

As a result, our team identified a special wing at the main Jerusalem Hospital that could be converted into a dedicated children's ward, enabling us to help save the sight of even more children, due to our increased capacity. Our new children's ward allows us to maintain the highest level of care for children in accordance with the Ministry of Health and JCI (Joint Commission International) accreditation standards.

The ward is a child-friendly environment for our young patients with a strong focus on gold standards of care.

In other news, our Jerusalem Hospital has gained two neonatal screening cameras, which will help identify children at risk of retinopathy of prematurity. Retinopathy of prematurity affects the eyes of up to 50% of infants born prematurely, causing sight loss and even blindness. This new equipment will significantly reduce the burden of sight loss affecting children and their families in this region.

## Children's Ward Photos



Between **January and July 2022**, we've seen a total of **22,459** children across the Group and performed **538** surgeries.



## Hospital Update

This year, we are pleased to announce that the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group is celebrating 140 years of being the only charitable provider of expert eye-care in the region. Today, the Hospital operates across 6 different sites, treating more than 134,000 patients and performing over 6,500 surgeries per year. The below paragraphs outline the updates to our hospital activities.

Covid-related restrictions have been lifted in the region and since March, we thankfully have had no positive cases of COVID19 amongst our hospital staff.

So far in 2022, the number of outpatients at the Hospital has risen and in comparison to last year, we have had a 10% increase of patients seen at the Group.

At our Jerusalem Hospital, preparations to commence nurse training are well underway and we are aiming to begin training eight nurses in September 2022. This is a hugely positive feat and we are proud to be involved in the training of eye-care professionals in the region. The average cost of a full-time nurse is £23,000 and we are always looking for assistance in funding these amazing professionals.

Out of the 2.1 million people who live in Gaza, a staggering 78% are refugees who are dependent on food handouts from the United Nations, thus having access to our free care is imperative. Between January and May 2022, we saw a 23% increase in the number of cataract surgeries performed in our Gaza hospital.

Due to the high demand in Gaza, it is likely the number of cataract surgeries we perform this year will continue to rise and may even reach 50% more than 2021. We have also seen a 15% increase in outpatient numbers in Gaza, compared to 2021 and we are proud to be making a difference to even more people's lives. Although travel into and out of Gaza remains difficult; we luckily have been able to receive medical supplies without major disruption to our services.

In the first 5 months of 2022, we performed refractive surgery (vision correction) on 187 eyes, which is almost double the amount performed in 2021! This is a huge achievement for us, especially as there were no reported complications related to corneal haze and scarring.



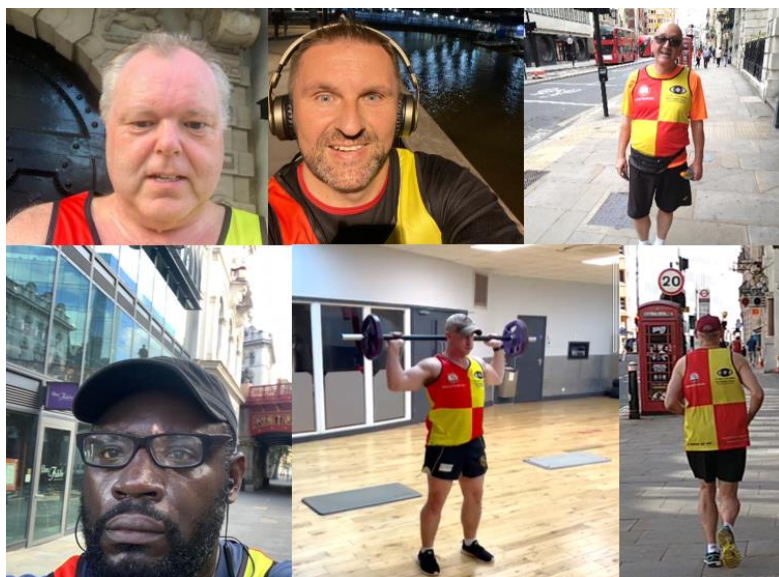
## Events and Fundraising Calendar

### 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](mailto:iyouth@soa.global).

### 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> September: Knights of the Vision Beautiful Pilgrimage

Members of the Knights of the Vision Beautiful Team will be embarking on a relay pilgrimage from St Augustine's Cross in Kent to Wells Cathedral, Somerset, in order to raise vital funds for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. They have previously raised more than £24,000 (including Gift Aid) for the Eye Hospital via the efforts of their Captain followed by 24 and 48 hour continuous relays in 2020 and 2021. This time they will cover in excess of three hundred miles. Should you wish to get involved, please contact their Captain, Angus Rhodes, via [Knights.of.the.Vision@gmail.com](mailto:Knights.of.the.Vision@gmail.com).



To sponsor the team, please see: <https://www.justgiving.com/team/Vision-Beautiful>

### 22<sup>nd</sup> September: St Katharine's Dock Drinks:

The Guild fundraising group are hosting an evening of drinks on a pontoon at St Katharine's Dock, with a view of the Royal Rowbarge, the Gloriana (pictured right). The evening will run between 18:00 and 20:30, to grab your ticket, please visit:

[www.guildstjohn.com/upcoming-events](http://www.guildstjohn.com/upcoming-events)

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



## 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.stjohneeyehospital.org](http://www.stjohneeyehospital.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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