



**St John of Jerusalem  
Eye Hospital Group**



## **Knights Templar Newsletter**

Christmas 2022 | Issue #3 | St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group Newsletter– Knights Templar

### ***Merry Christmas!***

**Hello! This is Naomi, your Fundraising Officer here. I'd like to wish you a very merry Christmas for all of us here at the St John Eye Hospital Group!**



**We are so grateful for the support you have shown to us this year – particularly those of you who have undertaken fundraising initiatives and supported us with donations.**

**I'm always keen to know what you are up to with your fundraising and answer any questions you may have, you can contact me on [naomi.booth@sjeh.org](mailto:naomi.booth@sjeh.org).**

### ***Inside This Newsletter***

- Hospital Update
- Fundraising Corner
- Events
- Ways to Support Us
- Merchandise

## Hospital Update

### Japanese Government Funds Medical Equipment in Gaza

In August this year, Mr. Hattori Takashi, Representative of Japan to Palestine, visited St. John Eye Hospital in Gaza, to celebrate the installation of medical equipment funded by the Japanese government, through the Grassroots Grant Assistance and Humanitarian Security Program (GGP).

In his speech, Mr. Takashi emphasized Japan's commitment to enhancing human security in the region and to implementing economic and social development projects. This project will significantly contribute to the ophthalmic services we can provide for our patients in Gaza, by funding equipment needed for corneal topography as well as two silt lamps and a defibrillator.



The project will majorly reduce the suffering of patients living in the Gaza Strip, who need advanced surgical intervention and will reduce waiting lists for eye surgeries at St. John Eye Hospital in Gaza.

### Grand Opening of the NEW Kufor Aqab Clinic

We are proud to announce that St John Eye Hospital Group has founded a new clinic in the town of Kufor Aqab, near Jerusalem, which opened its doors in September 2022! Our Kufor Aqab Clinic will treat around 15,000 patients per year from the town of Kufor Aqab as well as Ramallah City and the surrounding areas.

The new clinic was opened by Sir Andrew Cash, who is the Chairman of the St John Eye Hospital Board of Trustees. Sir Andrew was joined by Nigel Heath, Prior of the USA and Prof. Mark Compton, Lord Prior of the Order of St John. The official opening was followed by a small reception with Palestinian Knafeh (a traditional middle eastern dessert) and coffees.

Our CEO of St John Eye Hospital Group, Dr Ahmad Ma'ali, has said that the Kufor Aqab clinic will alleviate the local people from travelling to Jerusalem and waiting for entry permits to be issued before they receive the ophthalmology services they require. This project has been funded by the US Priory and took two months to set up. The clinic has two permanent members of staff who are supported by other staff from our Jerusalem and West Bank services.



## Fundraising Corner

### Pilgrimage for SJEHG

Earlier this year, in the lead up to the Great Priory Family Cathedral Service, the Knights of the Vision Beautiful Team completed a Relay Pilgrimage of more than three hundred miles from St Augustine's Cross in the Province of Kent to Wells Cathedral, Somerset.

They passed a new 'Preceptor's Baton' (supplied by Humber Regalia) from Knight to Dame to Knight as runners and cyclists took it through the boundaries of the Provincial Priories of Kent, London, Surrey, Middlesex, Oxfordshire, Berks & Bucks, Dorset & Wiltshire, Gloucestershire & Herefordshire and, finally, to Somerset. The pilgrimage was a grueling task yet undertaken with enthusiasm, with several members having recently overcome health issues.

On completion of the Relay Pilgrimage, the Team Members joined with their Chaplain, E.Kt. Rev. Niall Johnston, Deputy Great Almoner and Provincial Prelate for London, and were granted the use of the Lady Chapel for a special Pilgrim Prayer Service followed by the blessing of the Baton, which is planned to be shared with a new Preceptory in due course. The Team Captain, Angus, and his wife, Seema, also took the opportunity to renew their marriage vows by the kind assistance of Rev. Niall and in the presence of their teammates.

A further Team Challenge is in the works for the near future, to provide an opportunity for anyone not able to participate in the Relay Pilgrimage to take part in another challenge.

If you would be interested in taking part in the Team Challenges, please feel free to contact the Captain via: [Knights.of.the.Vision@gmail.com](mailto:Knights.of.the.Vision@gmail.com)



### £5,000 donation from New Lodge

At the end of November, a new masonic lodge named St John of Jerusalem Lodge was formed in Wales and the members made a very kind donation of £5,000 towards the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. The Provincial Grand Master of South Wales, Gerald Rowbottom, presented this cheque.





## Lincolnshire Knights take on White Peak Challenge

On a baking hot day on Saturday 9 July 2022, Lincolnshire Knights, Em Kt Keith Appleton and Em Kt David Bird, of the St Paul's Preceptory 466 and Sutcliffe Preceptory 190 respectively, completed the White Peak Challenge Walk in the Derbyshire Peak District, which is a 26-mile circular walk that has to be completed in less than twelve hours.

Their aim was to raise as much as possible through sponsorship for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. The two Knights successfully completed the walk in 10 hours 7 minutes and raised a total of £1,100. On the right, is a photo of the presentation of a cheque, taken in the Chapter House at Lincoln Cathedral at the Lincolnshire Provincial Priory on 1 October 2022, left to right: Em KT Keith Appleton, Rt Em Kt Malcolm Bilton KCT (Provincial Prior of Lincolnshire) and Em Kt David Bird.



## St John Eye Hospital Autumn Brass Concert

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> November, St John Eye Hospital hosted a fundraising concert in London with London City Brass. London City Brass is a progressive, enthusiastic band, made up from various backgrounds and a wide age range. The band performed two great sets and guests enjoyed tea and coffee in the interval – it was a delightful evening and we're so grateful to everyone who supported this event!



## Events and Fundraising Calendar

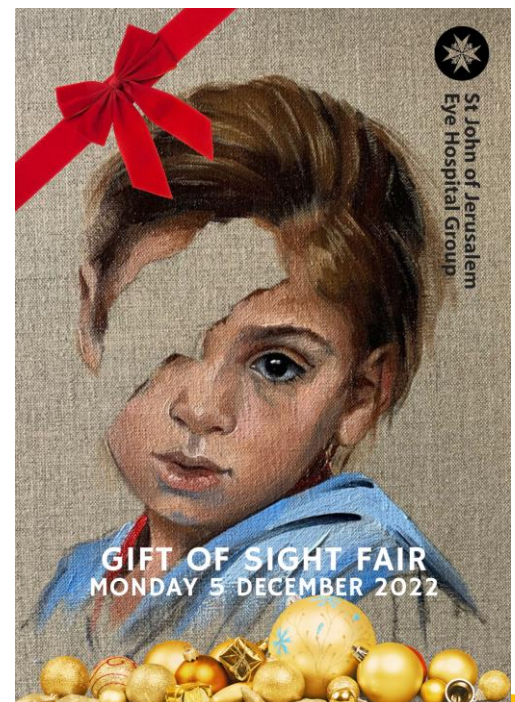
### 5<sup>th</sup> December: The Guild Gift of Sight Fair, Chelsea Old Town Hall

The annual Gift of Sight Fair, in aid of St John Eye Hospital, hosted by the Guild will take place at Chelsea Old Town Hall, London.

Expect a variety of stalls and festive cheer – the event is sure to be a great success! 11am – 8:30pm, £5 standard entry or £30 VIP ticket available (including lounge access, tote bag and refreshments).

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>



## 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023: Guild Bridge Event

Dr Johnson's House 17 Gough Square, EC4A 3DE

12.30pm - 5pm

Tickets are £30pp or £120 per table and include tea.

To reserve a space, please pay via bank transfer to the St John Eye Hospital Group:

Sort Code: 60-05-37 Account Number: 24097683 (REF: Bridge +Surname)

For more information, please contact Sarah-Jane, chair of the Guild committee at: [SJ@tingariarts.eu](mailto:SJ@tingariarts.eu)



## 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](http://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.

How to support us every time you shop with AmazonSmile

£14.3 million donated to UK charities to date

You shop, Amazon donates

smile.amazon.co.uk

smile.amazon.co.uk

Sign up

Select us as your charity at [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk) or in the main menu (☰) of the Amazon app

Shop

Same products, same prices

Amazon donates

0.5% of every eligible purchase, at no extra cost to you

amazon smile





## 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:

4 Charterhouse Mews, London, EC1M 6BB.

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



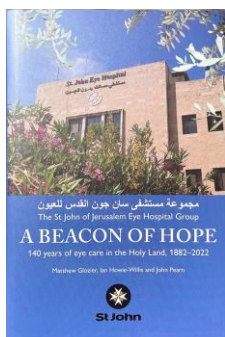
**St John Eye Hospital Silk Tie**  
£25



**'Santa's Helpers'**  
Inside message:  
'Wishing you a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year'



**'Festive Robins'**  
Inside message:  
'Season's Greetings'



**'A Beacon of Hope: 140  
years of eye care in the Holy  
Land: 1882 -2022'**  
Paperback £36



**'Winter Village'**  
Inside message:  
'Season's  
Greetings'



**'Bethlehem Evening'**  
Inside message:  
'Wishing you a Merry  
Christmas'

