



A BEAUCEANT!!

NO 2

A little Knight Templar news does you good

In future issues

- A fresh look at the Hospitallers and the Templars
- A Knightly Quiz
- The Troubled history of the Freemasons' Oath

Staying in touch

Dear Brother Knight

I hope that all is well with you and that you relish an occasional reminder of the sort of things that we enjoy as Knights Templar.

Writing to you about Jerusalem is especially appropriate today, on Palm Sunday, when The Holy City is at the forefront of Christian thoughts.

More than 900 years ago, the Knights Hospitaller established a hospital in Jerusalem and it is commemorated in the Eye Hospital that is at the centre of our charitable efforts as Knights Templar today.

It is sad therefore to see the fine work which the hospital undertakes being threatened by financial woes.

These woes preceded the current pandemic and they have been made much worse as a result of it. On the next two pages you will be able to read how the hospital is struggling at this troubled time.

If you feel that you are in a position to help it by taking part in the £20 for 2020 Appeal that was launched by our Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master then please do so. It was never more sorely needed.

I wish you a peaceful and healthy Easter and I look forward to being in touch with you again in two weeks time.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order

RE Kt Dr Paul Calderwood



Hospital Donations can be made online to the Provincial Bank Account
The details are as follows:

Name of Account – Order of the Temple – Prov Priory S. Wales & Mons
Account Number – 00107254
Sort Code – 30-96-52

Please use all the above identifications Stating – “20/4/2020 Appeal”
Could you please email me when you do the transfer, so I can track it at my end.....and therefore maintain an accurate list of who has contributed.

Kind regards & YITBOTO

Richard Phillips, Provincial Treasurer, rich1phil@aol.com



**St. John Of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group
Coronavirus Update – March 2020**

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I wanted to let you know that under the current global situation with COVID-19, we are facing unprecedented challenges at St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group.

The city of Bethlehem remains under quarantine with more case confirmed in recent days. Our work in Bethlehem has therefore come to a halt as our staff cannot enter. There are now 450 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Israel, 44 confirmed cases in the West Bank, and zero in Gaza.

Safety Measures

St John Eye Hospital has been implementing all local and national guidelines to ensure the safety of our patients and staff. We have strict guidelines in place to manage staff sickness as well as any signs or symptoms presented by patients or their visitors. We are doing our utmost to ensure these measures are keeping our patients and staff safe.

The Jerusalem Hospital

Due to the nationally implemented guidelines to limit the spread of COVID-19, the Eye Hospital in Jerusalem has seen a 40% reduction in clinical activities and hospital income.

The Eye Hospital is in a unique situation where we receive directives from two governments. The Israeli Authorities imposed a complete closure of the West Bank from March 18th, 2020 which meant our staff residing in the area cannot enter Jerusalem for work. This also means that only patients with scheduled major operations are allowed to enter Jerusalem.

We have also suspended all outreach activities as instructed by the Palestinian Authorities and now only conduct outreach services for the Jerusalemites residing outside the wall.

As a reliable and top employer in the community we are adhering to our emergency plan and ensuring all our staff are cared for. Our key clinical staff and senior managers continue to work through the restrictions, while others have been granted annual leave.

West Bank and Gaza Hospitals/Centers

The work in both Anabta and Hebron remain until now uninterrupted but with a 20-30% reduction in the overall clinical activities. As the number of outpatients in Jerusalem is expected to fall, we have planned for our senior doctors to conduct more subspecialty clinics in Anabta and Hebron.

Our work in Gaza continues as usual with a very slight reduction in Outpatient numbers.



London Fundraising Team

As most major cities, London too has been under government advice to limit activity. Our London team are fully operational while mostly working remotely. We have ensured that a member of the team will be at the London Offices each day of the week to respond to any queries to the office. The loss of income due to a decrease in our services and cancelled fundraising events is of grave concern. It creates a real possibility of a funding gap for our charitable work when we resume our services later in the year.

Supplies

We are facing a shortage of supplies due to the enhanced restrictions in the movement of people and goods. In particular there is a shortage of protective gear such as surgical masks, gloves, gowns and disinfectants in Israel and PA areas. Whilst we have tried our utmost to prepare for this situation, we only have enough supplies to last us for another two to three months. We are sourcing more supplies, however, as is the case globally, the prices for these items has increased significantly, some more than 400%.

Upcoming weeks

It is expected that the Israeli Authority will further restrict movements for both Israelis and Palestinians in the next few weeks. We expect the Eye Hospital to provide mainly emergency eye care following that instruction. In order to reduce unnecessary risk of exposure to COVID-19, only essential staff will remain on duty and all other staff will be given annual leave.

As this is a global pandemic, we can understand that many of our loyal grant-making bodies have had to delay their internal processes. Similarly, our donors are having to review their own positions. To any of you affected, we wish you a speedy recovery and hope this period of huge difficulty and uncertainty will be short-lived. The team at St John Eye Hospital has been overwhelmed with the good wishes of our supporters around the world and want to thank you for thinking of us during this challenging time. This is a dynamic situation and we will continue to review our approach in line with any new guidance for the benefit of our patients, staff and our supporters.

My best wishes to you and your family as we navigate the days ahead together.



Dr Ahmad Ma'ali
CEO
St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group

ST JOHN OF JERUSALEM
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Saving Sight
Changing Lives

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