

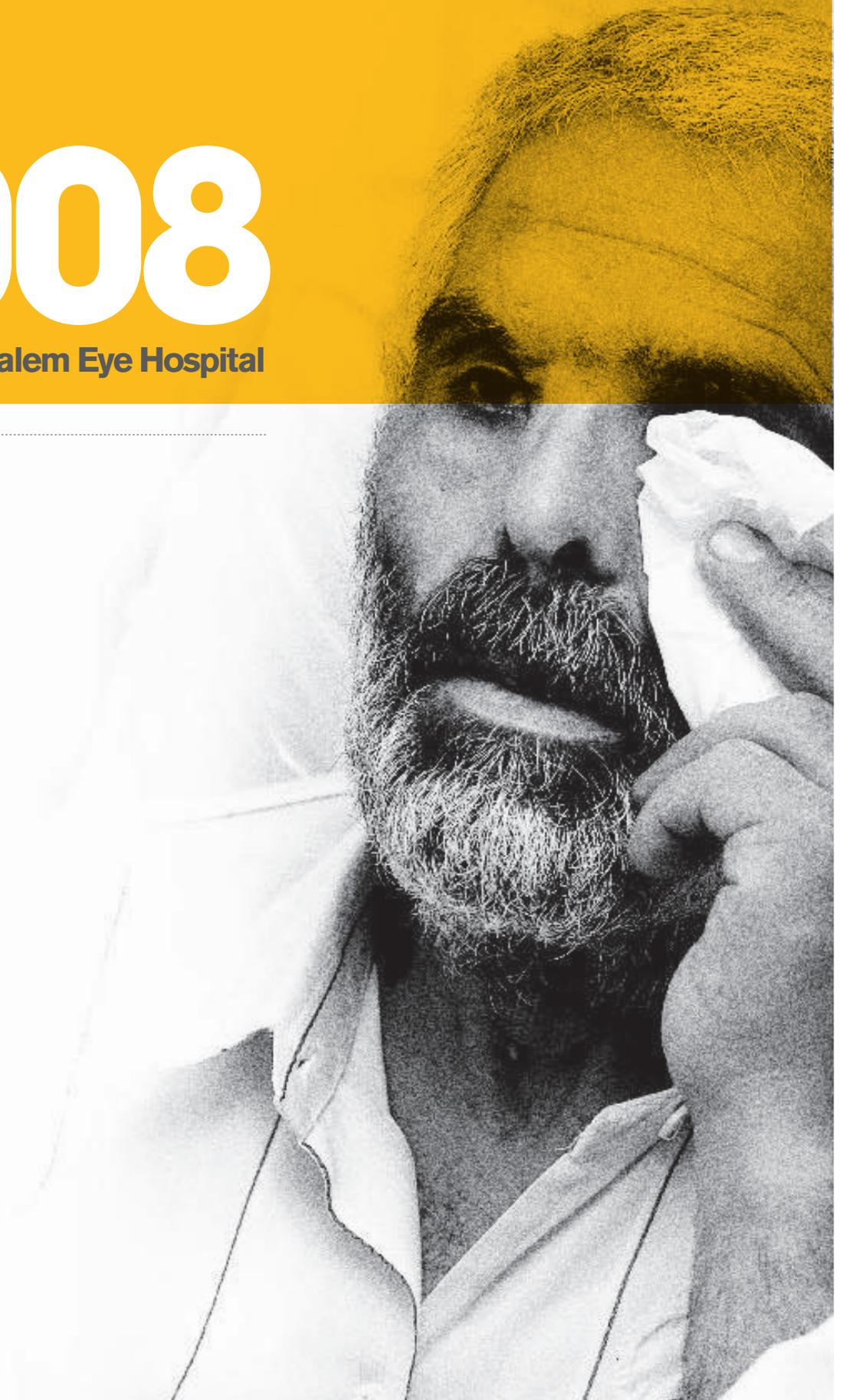


St John

2008

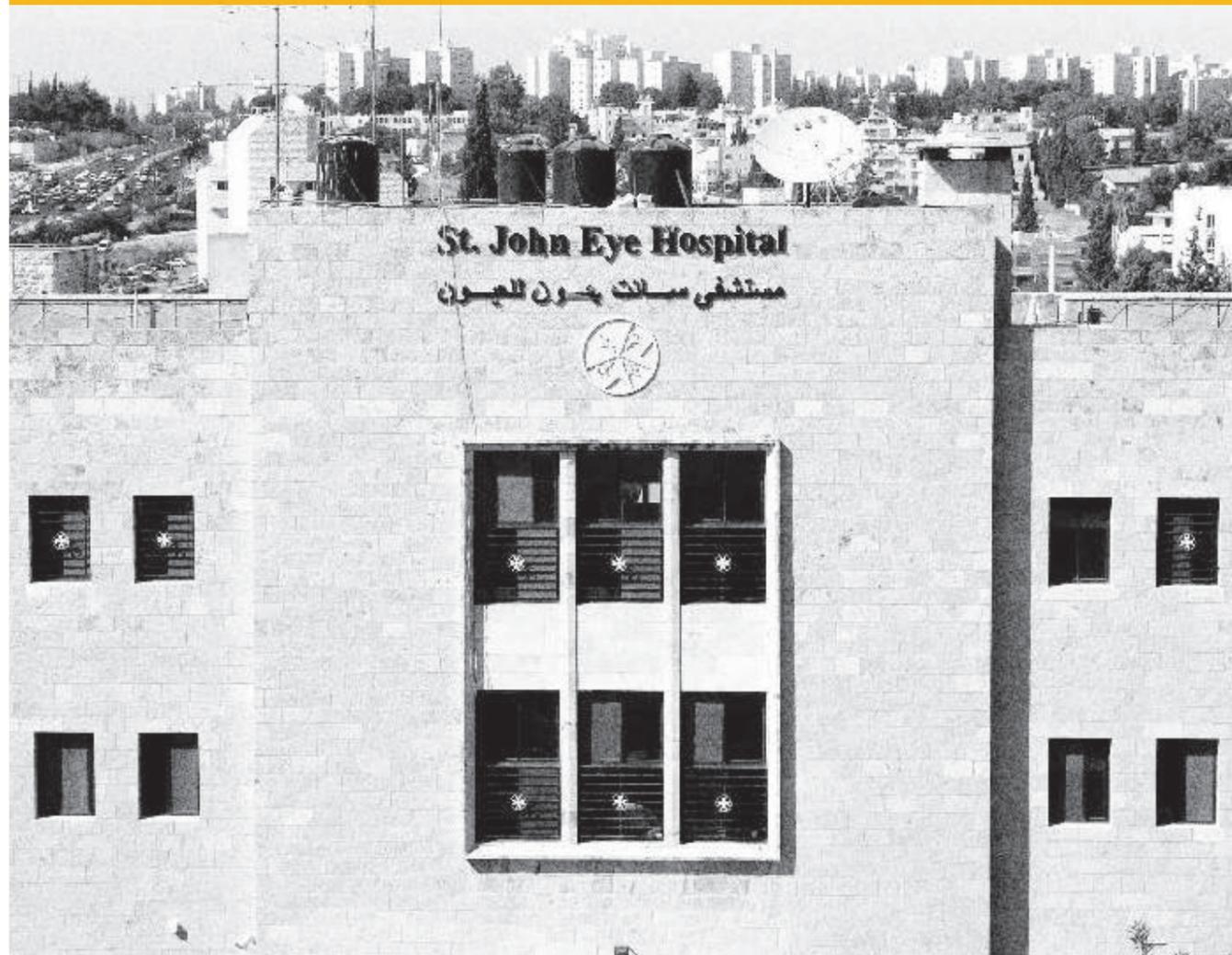
St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital

Annual Review





The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group is the only charitable provider of eye care in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. A peace orientated and Christian based organization, we advocate strong interfaith relationships and our supporters include both Jewish and Muslim institutions. We treat patients regardless of ethnicity, religion or ability to pay.



Introduction

**Improving Sight,
Changing Lives**



Young patient receiving treatment at Hebron Hospital' photo by Steve Sabella



J. Talbot *Rod Bull*

John Talbot
Chairman

Mr Rod Bull
Chief Executive

2008 was a roller coaster year for The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. Despite the economic crisis that affected all charities, more patients were seen than ever before.

Careful cost control and the extraordinary generosity of our donors meant that we ended the year with our finances in good order. In addition, devastating conflict began in Gaza in December. Fortunately our Clinic and staff remained safe throughout the turmoil.

The Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) study was undertaken this year and will drive much of our forthcoming clinical strategy. It highlighted the impact of cataract on the patients we serve and demonstrated that glaucoma and diabetes are serious and under-treated conditions in Palestine. We must develop new ways of delivering care for these diseases. Surprisingly common in the list of blinding diseases is corneal scarring. We had been unable to obtain donor material for corneal grafting in recent years but now have access to a reliable source and our waiting list for surgery is diminishing.

The global financial crisis and political environment we work within continue to challenge us but, thanks to our supporters, 2009 already promises to be a good year for our charity.



Summary of Achievements



Reception, Main Hospital, East Jerusalem' photo by Steve Sabella



From left to right – Her Majesty, The Queen, Rod Bull, Meg Dibs, Judith Musallam

We are delighted to report that 2008 has been a year marked by considerable achievements for The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. The number of patients seen in the year was a staggering 94,426, an increase of over 11,000 from the previous year.

In line with the World Health Organization's global initiative Vision2020: the Right to Sight, St John Eye Hospital undertook a new major study, an Epidemiology Project, to determine the prevalence of total and preventable blindness in the Palestinian Territories. Responding to demand in the locality, our Hebron Clinic doubled in size and gained the status of Hospital. In addition to our original first floor accommodation and in order to house our increase in services, we recently took over the ground floor of the Hamdan Hospital. In June we were delighted to receive an independent operating licence from the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MOH) liberating us from reliance on the Hamdan Hospital. We were the first institution to receive this licence.

We were also proud to announce a significant partnership with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in Anabta. By joining forces we have strengthened our commitment to treat Diabetic patients in the West Bank. To further ensure a strong infrastructure for the continuing development of our charity a professional Fundraising & Marketing team, led by Nicky Wynne, has been established in our London office.

A most notable highlight of 2008 was The Chairman's Reception.

Prior to stepping down as Chairman and becoming Patron of our charity, in March 2008, The Lord Vestey DL hosted a delightful occasion where those fortunate to attend were presented to Her Majesty The Queen, HRH Prince Philip and Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester.

Satellite and Mobile Outreach Clinics:

Gaza and the West Bank



Mobile Outreach Clinic, the West Bank, photo by Steve Sabella

In line with the WHO "Vision 2020: The Right to Sight" initiative – to abolish preventable blindness by 2020, our aim is to reach and help those who need it most.

Poverty, check points and the development of the security wall that separates Palestine from Israel has made it more difficult for the majority of our patients to reach us. In 2008, our Satellite Clinics, in Anabta and Gaza, and our Mobile Outreach Clinics became increasingly important.

Throughout the year our two Mobile Outreach Clinics continued to venture deeper into the West Bank – enabling isolated communities to have access to our medical eye care, ensuring that we are there to treat those most in need. The Alliance Orders of St John, in partnership with Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe, secured EU funding through ECHO (European Commission for Humanitarian Aid), who have sponsored "Outreach 2" since 2004.

Thanks to the hard work of its staff, the Anabta Clinic in the north of the West Bank, has almost doubled the amount of patients treated, going from 4,531 patients seen in 2007 to 8,860 seen in 2008. Responding to the needs of the locality, the Clinic addressed the ever increasing problem of Diabetic Eye Disease and Paediatric eye care was also a high priority.

Gaza's 1.5m population is cut off almost entirely from the outside world and a major humanitarian crisis escalates daily. Moving medicines and vital medical equipment in and out of Gaza is increasingly difficult and fuel shortages add to the daily challenges faced by our Satellite Clinic there. Despite these difficulties our small team of four doctors and five nurses saw and treated 17,188 patients, an increase of 200 patients from the previous year.





Major Research Project Undertaken

In the fight against avoidable blindness



Teaching, Training and Research

Investing in local expertise.



Top: Lecturer Practitioner Ahmad Ma'ali in discussion with students

Above: Eye undergoing operation, Main Hospital, East Jerusalem photos on this page -by Steve Sabella

Everyone who visits Jerusalem eventually asks, 'How common is eye disease in Palestine?' Vaguely we would respond, 'Very common.....' Finding solutions to fighting avoidable blindness must begin with understanding the extent of the problem.

For over 25 years there has been no similar ophthalmic research project undertaken in the region. Many demographic changes have occurred during this period including a substantial increase in the Palestinian population. No national blind register exists in the Palestinian Territories.

Thanks to a generous grant from The Linbury Trust, the Eye Hospital successfully completed the first epidemiology study in the Middle East. In Spring 2008, using a new research method, exploiting the fact that most blindness occurs in those aged over fifty years, a 'Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness' (RAAB) study, led by the Eye Hospital's Director of Medical Education, Nick Sargent,

was undertaken. Two teams covered the West Bank, one team focussed on Gaza and 3,800 people were screened.

From the study done we were able to conclude that blindness remains ten times higher in Palestine than in the UK, and that it affects 3% of the population aged over fifty years. The amount of blind people in Gaza is almost twice that of the West Bank. Avoidable blindness in Palestine accounts for 80% of all blindness. Just over half of blind people could probably have their sight restored by routine cataract surgery.

Using this vital information, The Eye Hospital worked with other local health service providers on reducing avoidable blindness in the region, particularly in Gaza.

The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group continued to develop its vital charitable eye care service in response to the needs of the locality.

2008 was another successful year for our Teaching & Training Programme, recognised by both the Jordanian and Palestinian Councils of Ophthalmology.

During the year we were able to boost our Hospital funded Resident Junior Doctors from 4 to 5, and financial assistance from the Peres Centre for Peace enabled an increase to 6 residents. In addition, the Hospital continued to fund 2 Medical Trainees who are attached to the Israeli Hadassah Hospital in West Jerusalem.

Our 8 Post Graduate Nursing students who enrolled on the Specialist Ophthalmic Nursing Course (SONC) in 2008 successfully completed their studies. External moderation reports were extremely positive and highly praised the quality of work submitted by each student. Five of the students are now employed at the Hospital and Satellite Clinics. The remaining 3 graduates work in community clinics in the West Bank. In 2009 a further 8 students will be selected for training.

Research continues to be of great importance. In addition to The Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) study, the Hospital has been active in other essential areas of research and we will build on this work during 2009 and beyond.

Through the generosity of the Ridley Foundation, our study of Behçets Disease has gained momentum. Research is conducted in collaboration with the Rheumatology Department at Hadassah Medical Centre, Israel, and St. Thomas' & Kings College Hospitals, London. The management of this disease is problematic due to incomplete knowledge of the mechanisms determining its course in individual patients.

During the year our excellent collaboration with the Hadassah Centre continued to flourish through research conducted by Dr. Kathrin Greiner (SJEH) and Dr. Radgonde Amer of Hadassah University Hospital. Their joint article – "Unilateral Optic Atrophy Preceding Coats' Disease" was accepted for publication in the European Journal of Ophthalmology. In addition, an article by Ben-Chetrit (Hadassah) and Dr. Greiner was published in the International Journal of Rheumatic Disease on the topic of, "Behçets Disease in Israel".

Next year, we will again link with Hadassah to conduct research into the genetic background of age related macular degeneration (AMD), correlating clinical findings with genetic makeup.

In 2009, we hope for a positive response to a research grant application for a tri-lateral programme involving Germany, Israel and Palestine. The proposed study will look into Neutrophil and T cell functions in patients with Behçets Disease.

We remain proud of the efforts of our teaching staff and those engaged in research, and would like to acknowledge the cooperation and assistance provided by Hadassah University Hospital, Israel.



The Future



Dr Nick Sargent, Director of Medical Education, operating at the Main Hospital in East Jerusalem, photo by Steve Sabella

“The ongoing volatile nature of our environment reinforces our charitable aim – to help those who need us most.”

John Talbot FRCS, FRCOphth, Chairman, St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital

Thousands of people in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) are blind from cataract. It is very rare in western society for someone to lose their sight completely from cataract as everyone has access to quick and safe surgery. However, patients in The Holy Land have great difficulty in receiving the surgery they require. St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital's goal is to help as many as possible. We plan to increase the amount that we do and we will offer advanced surgical training to practicing Ophthalmologists in the locality, aiming to raise the standard and availability of modern cataract surgery throughout the region.

Diabetes is a very common chronic disease in the OPT. Access to comprehensive care is poor, resulting in patients having more complications than should be expected, including very severe eye disease. The best strategy for coping with this is to screen all patients with diabetes every year for eye complications. We are determined to expand our work in this field.

The above two critical sight saving initiatives will cost a large amount of money and we are actively seeking a substantial increase in our funding for these purposes.

In addition, we must carry on sourcing the funds for all of our excellent projects and so that we can continue to provide a high standard of service for the people of Palestine.

Thanks

**Fundraising
£3.66m**

Our supporters helped us raise £3,662,000 in 2008 to enable us to continue our vital work. We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped us make a difference to the lives of people in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem.

The continuous development of our charitable endeavours would not be achievable without the generosity and commitment provided by the St John Family and from donations received from all of our other supporters including individuals, companies and charitable trusts.

We are extremely fortunate to count amongst our hard working supporters our Priors throughout the world. Our friends at The Guild continued their fundraising on our behalf throughout 2008. The Alliance Orders of St John, linked Associations and the St John Fellowship also worked extremely hard in their fundraising endeavours.

We would also like to thank The Friends of East Jerusalem Hospitals and the Knights Templar for their ongoing and invaluable support.

Funding from Trusts & Foundations continued to be a vital source of support. Major donors in 2008 included, amongst others, The Linbury Trust, The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation, The Italian Cooperation, Fondation Pro Victimis, Valentine Charitable Trust, The Presidential Office of the Palestinian Authority, Porticus, The New Zealand Embassy in Ankara, The Faisal Hussein Foundation, Christoffel Blinden Mission (CBM), Bible Lands, The Clothworkers Foundation, Pontifical Mission, Belgian Technical Co-operation, The Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust, The Eranda Foundation, Care International, The Peres Centre for Peace, The GNC Trust, The Japanese Embassy, The Karl Kahane Foundation, The Kennedy Leigh Charitable Trust, The Rayne Trust, St John The Baptist Foundation, The European Commission through ECHO/Johanitter, The Said Foundation, The Sobell Foundation, The Swire Charitable Trust, The Edwina Mountbatten Trust and The British Humane Association.



What we did with your money

Sources of Funds (£6.288m)

Uses of Funds (£6.178m)



During year 2008, the company's sources of funds amounted to £6.288m and the resources expended amounted to £6.178m. This resulted in a net operating surplus of £110k.

The Hospital still relies on voluntary income as the major source of funding. During 2008, voluntary income of £3.662m constituted 58% of incoming resources; while £2.375m constituting 38% of total incoming resources came from the Hospital charitable activities. The remaining 4% of incoming resources were related to income from investments. £1.466m of the voluntary income was donated by the Priors of the Order of St John.

The uses of funds were mainly related to cost of activities in furtherance of the charity's objects. During 2008 expenditure on charitable activities amounted to £5.566m, representing 90% of total resources expended. These costs include running the Hospital in Jerusalem, running two mobile outreach clinics, running three static clinics in Gaza and the West Bank, cost of teaching and training for Doctors and Nurses, and providing patient care. Cost of generating funds constituted 6% of total resources expended, while governance costs constituted 4% of resources expended.

Board & Chief Executive information



John Talbot FRCS, FRCOphth
In June 2008 Mr John Talbot became the Chairman of the Hospital Board and the Order Hospitaller. He is a Consultant Ophthalmologist, based in Sheffield.



Antoine Mattar FCA, CTA
Mr Antoine Mattar is the Deputy Chairman of the Board and assists the Chairman with Fundraising. He is currently Non-Executive Director of Consolidated Contractors (CCC), prior to this he was a Partner with Arthur Andersen.



Robert Ehinger Krehl
Mr Robert Ehinger Krehl is Secretary General of the Alliance Orders of St John. He is partner of Ehinger & Cie in Basel, Switzerland.



Harold Climenhaga M.D., F.R.C.S.C
Dr Harold Climenhaga is a Canadian Ophthalmologist, an Associate Clinical Professor at the University of Alberta and spent over a year working at St John Eye Hospital, following his ophthalmic training. He is former Priory Hospitaller for the Priory of Canada.



Nicholas Ridley
Mr Nicholas Ridley has special responsibility for Property, Insurance and Audit matters on the Board. He is a former Chairman of St John Council for Lincolnshire. He is Chairman of a commercial property investment company and Chairman of the Ridley Foundation.



E. Laird Mortimer III
Mr E. Laird Mortimer, III is founder and former President of the Periodical Corporation. He currently serves as President of the Barnabus Foundation, and Hospitaller for the Priory in the United States.



The Lord Vestey
The Lord Vestey is the Patron of the Hospital and prior to that was Chairman of the Hospital Board until June 2008. He is former Lord Prior of the Order of St John. He is Chairman of The Vestey Group and Master of the Horse.



Rod Bull
Mr Rod Bull is Chief Executive Officer. He has 30 years healthcare managerial experience, many years of which have been in the charitable sector in the UK, Singapore and Pakistan. He took up post in Jerusalem in September 2006.



Michael Stewart
Mr Michael Stewart is Legal Advisor to the Board. He is a Solicitor and Arbitrator and is practising in a London firm.



Philip Hardaker FCA
Mr Philip Hardaker joined the Board in Spring 2006 with special responsibility for Finance. A Chartered Accountant, he is a former partner with KPMG in the UK who for a period acted as Regional Executive for KPMG International in the Middle east and South Asia.



Richard Makepeace
Mr Richard Makepeace is the British Consul General in Jerusalem, running the diplomatic mission responsible for UK relations with the Palestinians, and a former Ambassador in the Sudan and the United Arab Emirates.



Alistair Wood MBE
Mr Alistair Wood MBE is Private Secretary to TRH The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. Prior to this appointment he was a governance and rule of law advisor for the United Kingdom Government, and has advised on several development programmes in Africa, as well as in South Asia.



Lynne Gibbon OBE ARRC
Miss Lynne Gibbon is the Nursing Advisor to the Board. She is a retired Matron-in-Chief of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service and is an Associate of the Florence Nightingale Foundation.



Anthony Chignell FRCS, FRCOphth
Mr Anthony Chignell was Order Hospitaller from 2002 until he retired in June 2008. He is a former Consultant Ophthalmologist at St Thomas's Hospital London.



St John

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