



# The Link



Sharing news from St John International

## Hello!

Welcome to our winter newsletter. We hope you will enjoy reading the latest updates from St John around the world.

From everyone at the International Office, we wish you all a happy Christmas and New Year!

## FIND US ONLINE

[www.stjohninternational.org](http://www.stjohninternational.org)



You can find all the latest International and Order news, information on St John Establishments and the many ways to support us.

## Christmas message from the Prelate



The Right Reverend Timothy Stevens (Prelate)

*"I have many happy memories from around the world of this past year as the new Prelate of the Order.*

*One of the most memorable experiences was meeting many of the Deans of the Pories in Auckland in April.*

*We shared our stories of the work of St John in 5 continents, speaking of the ways in which the Christian roots of our Order are expressed in the care of the poor and the sick in different cultures and amongst people of different languages and creeds.*

*I am sure we shall all be celebrating Christmas in very different ways too. But the heart of the Christmas message is the same wherever we are in the world.*

*God comes among us and makes His home with us just as he did in the stable in Bethlehem 2000 years ago.*

*A very happy Christmas to you all."*

Tim

## Charity Film Awards - Vote for us online!



Please **VOTE** for our two films which have been nominated in the 2018 Charity Film Awards.

Support us by registering and voting for us online:

<https://www.charityfilmawards.com/videos/st-john-malawi-community-projects>

<https://www.charityfilmawards.com/videos/st-john-around-the-world>

Public voting ends on Friday 15 December.

## Helping St John Guyana to save more lives



Ambassador Roland de Rosiere of the Sovereign Order of Malta, presenting a portable defibrillator gift to Vibert Parvatan, Chairman of St John Guyana.

Last month, St John Guyana received a portable defibrillator when the Ambassador of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM) Viscount Roland de Rosiere visited.

An automatic external defibrillator is regarded as one of the most important tools in saving the lives of sudden cardiac arrest in

casualties as it provides electric shocks to a heart that has stopped beating.

Mr Vibert Parvatan, Chairman of St John Guyana expressed sincere thanks to Ambassador de Rosiere and observed that in its planned expansion programme, St John Guyana will have trained first aiders in all of the ten regions in Guyana in the near future.

Ambassador de Rosiere expressed his pleasure to be able to cooperate with St John as both the SMOM and the Order formed the Alliance with the German, Swedish and Dutch St Johns. Together, the Orders share the same origin with the Hospital founded over 900 years ago by the Blessed Gerard in Jerusalem, and pursue the same ideals to help the sick and the poor.

This is achieved in large part, thanks to the many who volunteer.

## Support a mother and her baby this Christmas!



This Christmas, St John International will give thousands of newborns a healthy start and protect mothers from experiencing the painful loss of their babies.

**We know what to do.  
But we need your help.**

Visit:

<https://www.stjohninternational.org/mother-baby-christmas>  
to support us today.

Thank you!

## Intensive Care Paramedic Programme launched in Papua New Guinea



In October, St John Ambulance launched a Paramedic Programme, the first of its kind in Papua New Guinea. This programme aims to tackle some of the most challenging situations by bringing care to people when it is most needed, wherever it is needed.

The newly formed operations team work alongside specialist police and firefighters in performing their duties. Their first deployment was with the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary during the National Election.

The Paramedic Programme aims to address core areas which include providing effective care to trauma patients, and paramedics to help clinic staff in health centres to manage patients presenting with serious medical emergencies.

Matthew Cannon, the Chief Officer of St John Ambulance PNG, said: "Paramedics are highly educated and skilled emergency health practitioners who bring advanced techniques to the scene of an emergency, be it roadside or a rural or remote clinic. These health professionals undertake a university degree followed by further specialist training with St John Ambulance."

## New maternity waiting centre in Zimbabwe



The long wait is finally over! St John Zimbabwe is happy to announce that their new maternity waiting centre in Mount Hampden is completed and has officially opened.

With this new centre, pregnant women are able to arrive early for safe delivery of their baby and then stay for observation after giving birth before heading back home.

This is one of the many activities St John is undertaking to tackle high mortality rates of new mothers and babies in Zimbabwe.

## Funds raised in Hong Kong to support St John Associations



*L-R: The Prior of the Priory of Hong Kong, Dr Chung Chin-Hung; Lord Prior, Sir Malcolm Ross; Mr Alfred Poon, Commissioner of Hong Kong St John Ambulance Brigade, and Dr Donald Li, Director of Hong Kong St John Ambulance Association.*

The St John Ambulance Brigade in Hong Kong held a gala dinner on 15 October at Hong Kong InterContinental Hotel. Over 110 St John staff, members and volunteers attended, with the Lord Prior Sir Malcolm Ross and his wife Lady Suzie Ross as honoured guests.

A cheque for £10,000 was presented during the dinner which will go towards supporting the First Aid Social Enterprise projects run by St John Associations worldwide.

The funds raised will help St John Associations in countries like Sri Lanka, Zambia and Jamaica, to strengthen their first aid training within their communities.

## St John pilgrimage to Ypres



*L-R: Deputy Mayor of Ypres, Jeff Verschoore; Mrs Zena Latham CStJ; Mr Andrew Latham KStJ; Mrs Sarah Clothier OStJ, and Brigadier John Hemsley OBE GCStJ.*

In order to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of Passendaele, several senior members from The Order of St John, including four Knights and three Dames, recently carried out a five day pilgrimage to Ypres, Belgium in September.

This concluded with the presentation of a memorial scroll to the Mayor and citizens of Ypres on behalf of His Royal Highness the Grand Prior. After the presentation of the scroll on Saturday evening 2 September, members of St John played a major role in front of over a thousand spectators at the impressive 'Last Post' ceremony at the Menin Gate.

Lady Hamilton, The Hon. Virginia Lovell, Andrew Latham, Sarah Clothier and Zena Latham laid wreaths, whilst Philippa Hemsley (Order Ceremonial Staff) gave the eulogy. To conclude and in memory of the visit, the Town Mayor Jan Durnez presented the Grand Prior with a ceramic plate which depicted the symbols of Ypres, in recognition of the close links between Britain and Belgium.

The tour organiser, Brigadier John Hemsley, said: *"This visit was an important tribute on the part our Order to honour the 1,077 members of St John who lost their lives in their role of supporting the Armed Forces, both at home and abroad."*

## Alliance meeting in London



*The Museum of the Order of St John Chapter Hall*

On Friday 3 November the Venerable Order hosted a meeting of Johanniter (St John) organisations from 7 countries across Europe (known as the Alliance).

They were welcomed by HRH Prince Richard, Duke of

Gloucester, the Grand Prior, who looked forward to the members of the Alliance working closer together.

The Order in Germany (Johanniterorden) was led by their Herrenmeister ("Master of the Knights" or Grand Master), HRH Prince Oskar of Prussia who explained the work that The Johanniterorden had done with refugees.

During the day, discussions centred around youth, working in support of refugees and faith. At the end of the meeting Sir Malcolm Ross, the Lord Prior became the President of the Alliance for the next two years.

The following day, The Right Reverend Timothy Stevens, the Prelate of the Order, led a group of Prelates from the Alliance in discussions on faith within their Orders.

## City of Vienna supports maternal and child health in Zambia



St John International recently secured funding from the City of Vienna with strong support from its sister organisation Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe in Austria.

The grant from the City of Vienna will enable St John in Zambia to expand its activities into the township of Kayosha - a poor rural area. Volunteers will be trained and will make home visits to pregnant women and help them to plan for safe deliveries. The local health centre which serves the local population of 15,000 people will also receive a basic package of support consisting of equipment and furniture to be used for health services for pregnant women and new mothers.

## Welcoming our new Programme Officer

While Sylvia Chopamba is on maternity leave, Katie Luxton will be covering for her.

Having worked in the international development sector in Tanzania, Thailand and India, and in the UK, Katie brings a broad range of knowledge to St John International.

Her experience in supporting maternal and newborn health projects in Pakistan, and on projects against female genital cutting (FGC) in Kenya, provide a solid foundation through which to support the St John Mother and Baby Programme.

She is most looking forward to building relationships with St John Associations across the world, and expanding her knowledge of scalable approaches to reduce maternal and infant mortality.

## Upcoming Event Dates

**22 December - 1 January** - International Office closed for Christmas and New Year

**27 - 28 February** - Trustees Executive Committee Meeting (London)

If you have any stories you would like to be covered in the Link newsletter, or you would like information on any of the news featured in this edition, please email Chiao at: [chiao.kwan@orderofstjohn.org](mailto:chiao.kwan@orderofstjohn.org)

