



St John
International

The Link

Sharing news from St John International

Hello!

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

Happy St John's Day!

FIND US ONLINE

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.

Grand Council Meeting 2018 in USA



The annual meeting of Grand Council of the Order of St John met this year in Williamsburg, Virginia, USA.

Delegates from all 11 Priories and St John Eye Hospital Group met, together with the Grand Prior, HRH The Duke of Gloucester, the Great Officers and representatives from the International Office to discuss the major challenges facing the Order.

The Council members considered how new members are educated about the unique nature of the Order. They also agreed to the final changes needed for the Order to adopt its new Statutes.

The Lord Prior, Sir Malcolm Ross, described the new Statutes as *"fit for the 21st century the Statutes will act as the foundation on which our great organisation can grow"*.

Outside the conference room the members were treated to a guided tour of Colonial Williamsburg followed by an evening welcome reception at elegant Evelynton Plantation with the Chickahominy Indians.

After the meetings, HRH The Duke of Gloucester visited the Richmond McGuire Hospital Sitter Barfoot and Fisher House facilities. There he met with veterans and their families, and over a barbecue lunch discussed St John USA Volunteer Corps initiatives with John Brandecker, the Richmond McGuire Medical Center Director, Dave Coker, President of the National Fisher House Foundation and Richmond Fisher House Foundation President, Leo O'Donnell, amongst others.

Grand Prior visits Malawi



HRH Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester helping St John Malawi volunteers to weigh babies.

As part of the Commonwealth Day celebration in March, The Order of St John Grand Prior, HRH Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester visited St John in Malawi to see their projects which aim to improve health of the communities, including the Mother and Baby Programme.

The Secretary General of The Order of St John, Sir Paul Lambert and St John Malawi staff and volunteers welcomed the Duke of Gloucester, as well as the British High Commissioner to Malawi, Holly Tett.

As part of the welcoming ceremony, St John Malawi held an inspection parade with a volunteer carrying a flag banner of Malawi and another one carrying the banner of The Order of St John.

Commenting on the visit, the Duke of Gloucester said: *"It is wonderful to see dedicated volunteers from St John Malawi who are working very hard to save lives within the communities, in particular of new mothers and their newborn babies. The Mother and Baby programme, which was initially developed by St John in South Africa, has proved very effective in providing relevant care given by volunteers who have no resources to pay for modern medical advances.*

"As the Grand Prior of The Order, I hope to see further positive developments within these projects."

Saving injured people onsite after building collapses in Kenya



On Sunday 3 June, a five-storey building collapsed in Nairobi's Huruma Ngei neighbourhood, killing three people and injuring several others.

Paramedics, staff and volunteers from St John Ambulance Kenya were onsite throughout the day to treat injured people.

The collapse of buildings has become common in Nairobi, where four million people live in low-income areas or slums. Housing is in high demand and unscrupulous developers often bypass building regulations.

Help us reach more people in need this St John's Day



Each year on 24 June, we celebrate St John's Day to recognise the endless hours of time and effort that volunteers have given to provide first aid and care to communities over the centuries.

Working in more than 30 countries, we reach more than 2 million individuals with our services every year.

But we cannot do all of this without your support.

Please visit our website www.stjohninternational.org for more details.

Canada's Therapy Dogs offers comfort after horrific van attack



On Monday 23 April, a van plowed into innocent victims walking along the public streets in Toronto, Canada, killing 10 people and injuring another 14 people.

Volunteers with the St John Ambulance Canada Therapy Dogs Programme provided comfort to the

people around Mel Lastman Square on the following Thursday.

Many people said the dogs helped them with the grieving process. The 20 therapy dogs in the square helped heal the shock of what happened by offering a distraction.

Jason Colterman, community service manager for St John Ambulance in Toronto, said:

"(We hope to) put some smiles on some people's faces, relieve some stress and give them something nice to do on their lunch hour to end this week.

"The dogs give unconditional love. They don't care if you're male, female, big, small, wearing designer clothes or not ... If you're willing to give them attention, they'll give you all the love in the world and do everything they can to make you feel better."

Prelate visits Eye Hospital in Jerusalem



From L-R: Mr Ahmad Ma'ali, Eye Hospital CEO, The Right Reverend Timothy Stevens, Surgeon Captain James Walsh, and Mr Peter Khoury, Eye Hospital CEO.

In May, the Eye Hospital Group welcomed the Prelate, The Right Reverend Timothy Stevens CBE GCStJ, and the Priory of England's Hospitaller, Surgeon Captain James Walsh KStJ BD during their visit in Jerusalem.

The Prelate visited the Jerusalem Hospital, Muristan Clinic and Gaza Hospital during his trip.

He has shared the thoughts below on his visit:

"I was extremely impressed by what I saw and by the dedication and commitment of all the staff I spoke to in the three sites I visited.

"It was really good to have some time to talk with the St John Eye Hospital CEOs about the challenges and opportunities which face the hospital. It has left me with much to think about.

"In particular, my experience in Aylesbury Gaza is one I shall never forget and I shall remember the staff and patients there particularly in my prayers. Thank you to all the senior team for making me so welcome and for giving their time so generously."

Saving lives in Sri Lanka after devastating floods



Once again, monsoon rains in May have caused flooding across much of Sri Lanka, leading to the deaths of at least 13 people and the displacement of more than 400,000 others.

After the devastating floods last year where over 200 people died, officials hoped for a major difference with improved disaster management planning this year.

St John Sri Lanka has mobilised several teams consisting of staff and volunteers to provide first aid and relief aid to areas affected by the floods.

The Most Reverend Dr Thabo Makgoba Installed as Prior of St John South Africa



The Most Reverend Dr Thabo Makgoba with the Grand Prior, HRH Prince Richard Duke of Gloucester

On Friday 16 March 2018, The Most Reverend Dr Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Cape Town was installed as Prior of The Order of St John in South Africa by His Royal Highness, Prince Richard Duke of Gloucester at a ceremony held at Christ Church, Constantia in Cape Town.

At the same ceremony, Archbishop Makgoba was invested as a Knight of Justice of the Order.

The ceremony incorporated hundreds of years of tradition, displaying the processional symbols of the Cross of the Order, the Sword and numerous colourful banners.

In addition, the ceremony had a distinctly South African flavour with volunteer St John Community Health Workers (typically known for taking health care services to young and old in communities such as Nyanga and Gugulethu) singing in praise of the new Prior.

The Archbishop takes over the reins of the South African Priory from Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu who served as the head of the non-profit organisation from 2012 to 2017.

Governor General of Barbados, Dame Sandra Mason becomes patron of St John Barbados



The Order of St John Lord Prior, Sir Malcolm Ross congratulating Dame Sandra Mason at Government House, Bridgetown, Barbados.

On 29 May, the newly appointed Governor General, Dame Sandra Mason became the patron of St John Barbados in a short ceremony at Government House.

The Order of St John Lord Prior, Sir Malcolm Ross GCMG OBE GCStJ, presented Dame Sandra with the insignia associated with the organisation and said:

"It is a privilege to be in Barbados to present the honour on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and I found your Governor-General very gracious and very kind."

The Lord Prior added that the St John Ambulance Brigade had just concluded a two-day conference for the Americas region in Barbados, which included representatives from the other St John Associations from the Caribbean, along with the USA and Canada.

Upcoming Event Dates

23 June - St John Cymru Wales Centenary Celebration Service (Cardiff)

24 June - St John's Day

19 - 20 September - The 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

