



# The Link



**St John**  
International

*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](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.

## Grand Council Meeting 2017 in South Africa



The Grand Council of the Order met for their annual meeting in Cape Town, South Africa on 23 and 24 May 2017.

Delegates of the Council had a chance to visit Table Mountain to enjoy the spectacular view over the Cape, the indigenous Cape flora and the Dassies (Cape Hyrax) on the day before the meeting started.

Shortly after the start of Grand Council, Prior Elect of St John South Africa, Archbishop of Cape Town, Thabo Makgoba, made a brief visit to welcome delegates to South Africa. The main theme of the Council focussed on the charitable activities in Africa.

After the meeting, the delegates attended Evening Prayer at St George's Cathedral. Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his wife, Mrs Nomalizo Leah Tutu joined the service, as well as members of the Cape Town Volunteer Brigade who formed a guard of honour for the delegates and guests.

The service went extremely well with both the Cathedral Choir and the Kensington Chorale Girls Choir taking it in turns to lead the singing.

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## New St John around the world video



Check out the new featured video which gives an insight into the incredible, life saving work that St John staff and volunteers do every single day worldwide.

Working in more than 30 countries around the world, St John organisations not only provide community-based first aid and training, but also promote health and well-being, and deliver community-based healthcare and support services.

Find the video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3YAMen9gYnk>

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The first scripture reading was read by Mr Patrick Burgess and the second scripture reading was then read by the Lord Prior, Sir Malcolm Ross, followed by the Rt Rev Tim Stevens delivering the sermon.

Members from the Volunteer Brigade of Cape Town read the prayers for peace of the world in Xhosa and Afrikaans, while the English version was read by a staff member of the St John Cape Town office.



Mr Craig Troeberg, CEO – St John South Africa with Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his wife, Mrs Nomalizo Leah Tutu.

On Thursday 25 May, the delegates visited Nyanga (an impoverished township) to learn first hand about the work of St John in the community.

Various Community Health Workers and their clients met with the delegates to talk about the impact of the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) project and community health care which is currently running on a daily basis.



The Kensington Chorale Girls Choir with some of the delegates from Grand Council and St John South Africa staff.

## St John Scotland visits Malawi



Prior of St John Scotland, Major General Mark Strudwick with St John Malawi volunteers.

Following their attendance at Grand Council in South Africa, the Lord Prior and his wife (Sir Malcolm and Lady Ross) the Sub Prior (Mr John Mah) and the Prior of Scotland and his wife (Major General Mark and Sue Strudwick), accompanied by the St John Scotland Executive Director (Angus Loudon), paid a short visit to St John Malawi on 27 and 28 May 2017.

The visit was an opportunity to meet the St John Malawi team, and to see the projects currently being funded by St John Scotland.

On Saturday 27 May, the visitors went to see two projects in Blantyre. The first was the Primary Health Care programme, at Mbayani, which focuses on primary prevention of illness in poor households, and monitoring the development of children.

Secondly, the group went to see the Mother and Baby programme at Ndirande and met representatives of the St John Malawi Committee, including its President, Mr James Naphambo, and those delivering the programme.

Both programmes have resulted in a decrease in infant mortality, and women in childbirth, along with a greater recognition of the benefits of a healthy diet, hygiene, and emotional support. The engagement of fathers has also improved significantly.

In thanking St John Malawi for the visit, the Prior said, *"I am immensely impressed with all that I have seen, and how life-changing even a modest contribution such as that from St John Scotland can be. St John Malawi are to be congratulated for all that they do, while the warmth of their welcome was outstanding."*

## Helping communities in Sri Lanka after devastating floods



*Ratnapura district in Sri Lanka is prone to annual floods, but this year's were much worse than usual.*

On 27 May, incessant heavy rainfall brought by the southwest monsoon triggered flooding and landslides in 15 of the 25 districts of Sri Lanka.

The flooding, which is believed to be the worst in over a decade has killed more than 200 people and displaced 600,000 from their homes.

Given the widespread devastation, the Government of Sri Lanka made an initial request for international



*St John Sri Lanka volunteers preparing basic supplies for the communities.*

support in search and rescue operations. St John Sri Lanka immediately responded to the request and mobilised several teams consisting of staff and volunteers to provide first aid and relief aid to areas affected by the floods.

Already the volunteers have helped a number of people with first aid, first aid supplies and basic supplies including food, water, medicine and clothes.

## Caring for the communities in New Zealand



*Cadets with care packs ready to hand out to women and children.*

To mark 90 years of their continuous community involvement, the Tauranga division of St John New Zealand Youth have supported women and children at the Women's Refuge.

The cadets aged 6-15 years old made care packs using their own supplies from home.

Some of the packs are made up of locally made soaps, plant-based healing creams

and balms. The items were made by families whose children go to the division and it was inspired by an article printed last year about children arriving at the refuge with visible bruising.

Tauranga Division Manager Lisa Sarsfield said, "People come in with cuts and bruises. So it's something to help them heal and feel special."

The project was chosen to reflect the core values of 'side by side' and 'we make it better' and will be one of four such projects to be run this year.

Watch the interview clip with Lisa Sarsfield at:

<https://www.sunlive.co.nz/news/152107-ninety-years-of-st-john-caring.html>

## HRH The Countess of Wessex honoured with a Service Medal



On Tuesday 21 March, HRH The Countess of Wessex, Grand President of St John Ambulance in England and the Islands, attended the National President's Conference at St John's Gate.

During the conference the Prior of England, Surgeon Rear Admiral Lionel Jarvis, took the opportunity to present Her Royal Highness with the Service Medal of the Order in recognition of her service to the charity since 2004.

The Prior said, "It was an honour to be able to present our Service Medal to Her Royal Highness and a great opportunity to thank her for her service and support to St John Ambulance."

## New video on St John Malawi community projects



St John Malawi have the most incredible projects saving lives within their communities with their dedicated team of staff and volunteers.

Watch the 5 minutes video below to see what they do:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UtgPOYmnF7U>

## St John Papua New Guinea appoints Governor-General Sir Robert Dadae as Council President



Last month, St John Papua New Guinea (PNG) announced the appointment of Governor-General Sir Robert Dadae as president.

The announcement took place at a quiet and private ceremony at Government House with St John PNG Chairperson Jean Kekedo, Chief Commissioner Mollen Molki and Chief Officer Matthew Cannon present to congratulate Mr Dadae.

Mr Dadae accepted the appointment, extending his gratitude and respect for the incredible work performed by St John Ambulance personnel every day.

He said, *“Over the years, I have observed the vital importance of the work performed by St John Ambulance in PNG. As President, I will actively represent the interests of the Council, especially the progression of emergency health services across Papua New Guinea.”*

## President Granger accepts role as patron of St John Association of Guyana



From l - r: Mr Clive Bowman, Ms Manjula Bridgemohan, President David Granger, Mr Vibert Parvatan and Dr Jose DaSilva at the Ministry of the Presidency.

Recently, His Excellency, President David Granger accepted an invitation to become patron of the St John Association of Guyana, during a meeting with its members at the Ministry of the Presidency.

The visiting delegation was led by Chairman of the Association, Mr Vibert Parvatan and included Dr Jose DaSilva, Mr Clive Bowman and Ms Manjula Bridgemohan.

President Granger vowed to provide support to the charity with their life saving activities across Guyana such as ambulance service in the community.

## Upcoming Event Dates

17 June - Installation of new Prior of Priory of Wales, Sir Paul Williams OBE DL (Cardiff)

24 June - St John's Day

10 - 11 July - Steering 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)

