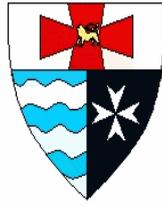


KNIGHTLY TOPICS



PROVINCIAL PRIORY OF LONDON

Issue 30

Autumn 2015

CHRISTMAS DAY OBSERVANCE

All Knights Templar are reminded to join in good wishes to their Brethren throughout the world on
25 December at 5pm GMT.

Preserve, O Lord, our Brother Knights, By land sea or air,
And as we hold them in our thoughts, So keep them in Thy care.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to this Autumn issue.

The Province of London continues in good heart. The ME and S Grand Master reminded us all at the November Priory of Malta about the Christmas Observance on 25 December at 5pm - see above.

Above all, let us remember and be proud of our precepts.

Love, honour and fear God; walk after His commandments, Maintain and defend the Christian Faith and the honour dignity and interests of our Order.

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PROVINCIAL PRIOR'S ADDRESS

at the Annual Meeting in September 2015

Brother Knights of the Province of London. I speak to you from the heart when I say that it is both an honour and a privilege to address you all. You and the members of your respective Preceptories are the life-blood of the Province and, with our colleagues in the other Provinces - some of which are represented here today - the life-blood of our Order. It is particularly gratifying, therefore, to enjoy the company of so many Knights here this afternoon.

Many of you are here today to receive the just rewards for your services to your Preceptories and to the Province, but there are others who are here to observe and participate in the routine business of the Province and, as well, to meet with colleagues from other Preceptories and Provinces. Whatever your reasons, I bid you a warm welcome and thank you for your support.

I would like once again to thank all the Knights who have served the Province actively during the past year - especially the Provincial Sub-Prior, Provincial Vice Chancellor, Marshal's team, my Bodyguard and all those who have participated both in Official Visits to our various Preceptories and as visitors to other Provinces.

I have, over the year, encouraged all active Officers of the Province to participate in Official Visits to our Preceptories as members of the Provincial team. The take-up so far has been rather limited, but I am hopeful that more of the Active Officers will take part in the future. I believe it is important that Officers should have - and should take - opportunities to familiarise themselves with the workings of

our Preceptories and to interact formally and socially with their members. It is from the members of our Preceptories, particularly the younger ones, that the future generations of Provincial and Great Officers will come.

To that end, too, over the last three years active Officers - accompanied by their wives and companions - have had the opportunity to join my wife and me at an annual mid-year luncheon. This is an entirely social occasion that seems to have become a popular event in our calendar; I have every intention that it should continue.



I would also like take this opportunity to congratulate all the Knights appointed

to and invested with Provincial ranks and Offices today. These appointments not only reflect past services but are encouragements for future service. You should need no reminding that Provincial Offices and Ranks are also the gateway to possible future appointments in Great Priory and in pretty well every year a privileged few of our Knights are appointed to active Office in Great Priory while others are admitted to Past Great Ranks. But there are other London Knights, who were appointed or invested for services to other Provinces and for services to Great Priory.

To them all I offer warmest congratulations.

The Provincial Treasurer has reported and briefly explained that the Province recorded a small financial loss of £195 during the last year. This is a matter of concern and attention, but it is by no means a disaster, and I can assure you that consultations are in hand to ensure that our Provincial finances are properly balanced.

Economies from electronic communications and the availability of the Provincial web site have now pretty well worked through the system and I have to say that it is unlikely that we will be able to continue the dining subsidies that have been made possible over the last two years by those economies. Nevertheless, no increase in members' annual subscriptions is yet contemplated.

On the plus side, I am happy to report that our Provincial Warden of Regalia - E Kt Eric Garner - is now back in action after suffering head injuries last year and it is to him that you should look for future regalia supplies. No doubt he will today have a few Provincial ties to sell to those currently without, but his stocks of pre-used regalia are, I know, currently in short supply and more would be welcomed.

Attendance at meetings of the King Edward VII Preceptory of Improvement (P of I), led by E Kt Dennis Fountain (Sancta Maria Preceptory No 183), continues to run at a good level. Attendance is open to members of Preceptories in other Provinces, but participation by members of our own Preceptories is strengthening although there is certainly room for more. The P of I meets regularly only six times each year and the annual programme is available on cards available in the Reception area at MMH. I attend as often as I can and I recommend it to all knights in the Province - especially to those who have not yet been installed into the chairs of their respective Preceptories and Priories. I find that there is rarely a meeting during which I fail to learn something.

The Provincial Golf Society, organised by E Kt Roger Charter and E Kt John Bond continues to attract a modest number of Knights but, here again, there is room for improvement. I am assured that waggling golf clubs on a golf course is perfectly good exercise for those of us who waggle swords during our meetings!

It is an immense disappointment to me that it will not prove practicable to hold a Carol Service this Christmas at the Order of St John's Chapel. Options have been explored and we have arranged to go to St. Columba's Church of Scotland in Pont Street, Knightsbridge, on 21 December 2015.

Well, Bro Knights, I am sure that I have already kept you here and away from the bar and from your dinner for far too long. So I will conclude by wishing you all a happy and successful year in your various endeavours, both Knightly and otherwise

...and may God bless you and your families.

ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME

On 10 July 2010 E.Kt. Capt. Martin Beven and his wife Elizabeth, a GP, set sail from Harwich in Essex in their motor yacht, Caduceus, on a voyage of a lifetime to sail around the world. Martin is a member of the Army and Navy, Connaught and Galilee Preceptories.

On Wednesday 27 October they arrived in the Canary Islands. On Monday 22 November as part of a regatta to the Caribbean organised by the ARC they set sail for the West Indies. On Day 22 of the rally they saw the lights of St Lucia - it was 12 December 2010.



On May 20 2011 after sailing around the Caribbean for 5 months Caduceus had arrived in Norfolk, Virginia in the United States. By 21 July 2013 they had arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada- the most northern part of their trip.

On 12 February 2014 they set sail through the Panama Canal en route for the Pacific Ocean.

On 24 February 2014 they made their first stop a visit to the Galapagos Islands. By 6

April they had sailed to French Polynesia.

They arrived in Tonga on 21 September. The next port of call was Vanuatu [6 October 2014] and 4 November a course was set for New Zealand where they arrived on 11 November.

Whilst exploring both the North and South Islands of New Zealand a hurricane devastated The Islands of Vanuatu. Martin and Elizabeth volunteered themselves and their boat for relief work in the islands, with the boat packed with supplies such as cloths, books, and medical supplies. They arrived back in Nanuata on 25 May.

The next three months were spent distributing aid and medicine throughout the islands. On Monday 24 August they left the Islands to continue the voyage around the world and are currently in Java, Indonesia.

Type Blog.mailasail.com/caduceus into your browser and you will be into their adventure from 2010. The blog is full of pictures of places they visited and a lot more.



From Bill King
Registrar
Galilee Preceptory No 185

CHANGES AT MMH

There are some important and exciting changes at Mark Masons' Hall affecting the support services.

Martin Budds has been promoted from Assistant Grand Secretary, Masonic Support Services to a new and challenging role as Sales and Marketing Manager responsible for online services, the shop and publications. The creation of this new post signals the increasing importance the General Board places on new technology and the desire to support our members with up to date news and information and to provide competitively priced regalia and rituals through the shop.



Shane Whelan has been appointed to manage Masonic Support Services. Shane will take up his post as from this week, joining us from UGLE



where he undertook a similar role in Support Services. I am sure you will join me in welcoming him.

Ryan Williams will become Deputy Grand Secretary. With immediate effect, Ryan will be the lead contact for all matters relating to the Mark, Royal Ark Mariner, Order of the Secret Monitor and Royal & Select Masters.

Jonathan Roberts, Assistant Grand Secretary, will be the lead for all other Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall.

PROVINCIAL WEBSITE

The *new* - I call it new because there was a site previously that for some reason fell into disuse. The Provincial Prior thought we ought to have one so here we are, new site, new approach, new style.

There is a lot of new 'stuff' on the site including an event calendar showing the dates of Great, Provincial, Preceptory of Improvement dates (yes we do have a Pol!) and other events in which you may be interested.

It also lists all the Provinces and Preceptories, including the newest addition to our Order - Secretum Templi Londinium No. 695. Sounds Italian?

Well it is, all the members are Italian and meet in London for Knights Templar and other Masonic meetings.

I hope we can grow the site and make it a repository for all the information you might need, although this will take time to do. In the meantime I would like to hear from you.

This is your site so if you have any information which may be of use to others or ideas for items then please let me know.

Also if you see something which isn't correct or has changed PLEASE let me know so I can put it right!!

I would particularly like anything on the history and origins of our Preceptories and their names.

Keep watching.

Keith Towner Webmaster
ktowner@gmx.com



PROVINCIAL GOLF

The forecast was not looking good for Friday 14 August and was threatening rain. Nevertheless sixteen Knights and their visitors arrived at Westerham Golf Course in time to enjoy a bacon butty, coffee and a chat before dusting off their clubs and teeing off at noon.

The winner of the Provincial Prior's Cup for the Best Individual Stapleford score was E. Kt. Kevin Jones of Oxford & Cambridge United Preceptory No. 128 with a score of 34 points playing off a handicap of 12. The winner for the Best Individual Guest Stapleford score was Bro. Brian McClean scoring 33 points with a handicap of 21.

The fairways looked to be in good shape, very green and nicely sculpted, but most golfers were disappointed with the greens, which had just been sanded a few days before and were much slower than any of the players had previously experienced on this particular course.



Although there were scattered showers for the first few holes, the rain soon passed us by and the golf clubs after 18 holes went home dry. Always the best indication of a good day outdoors.

Our Provincial Prior joined us at the 19th hole for drinks and stories about putts that just stopped short of the holes before a

convivial 3 course dinner in the Faldo Suit at the club. After the Loyal Toast, the prizes were presented by the Provincial Prior and cheered along with a couple of extra prizes for *best endeavours* on the day.

This year E. Kt. V. King of Golden Square Preceptory No. 219 won a bottle of whisky for the highest total score on the par 3s, which was hotly contested by all the golfers. *Best endeavours* were awarded to E. Kt. Gerry Gangadeen, who we think bakes better cakes than Rory McIlroy!

With fond memories of a day well spent the Knights made ready for their last drive of the day and a safe ride home.

John Bond

THE MEDITATION AND PREPARATION

By E Kt Angus Rhodes

First Captain of The Camp of Antiquity TI Preceptory
in the Province of Somerset.

Towards the end of the first part of our Ceremony of Installation of a Knight Templar we were all told that we: *“...are about to retire in order to meditate on the ceremony through which you have just passed and to prepare yourself for the honour of Knighthood.”* What does this meditation and preparation mean?

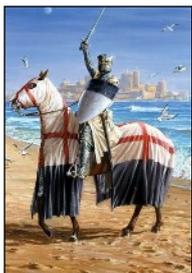
In a strict interpretation of the Great Priory ritual, the Candidate simply retires and, after a short pause to allow the Marshal and his Deputy to restore the Sepulchre, returns. However, older Knights Templar units, known as Encampments rather than Preceptories, take the Knight to a separate room or Chapel at this stage. A few words are said to the Candidate and he is left to meditate for a while. Some Preceptories have adopted this and a long version with an address or Charge is even used in several locations. If not part of the Standard Ritual, where does this come from?



I feel compelled to observe that our modern Order differs from the historical one because, generally speaking, we are not Knights when we enter the Order. The original Order would never make someone a Knight. If a man wished to enter the Order he would be accepted at the rank he held. If he was a Knight he would enter at that level. If a servant or squire he would be given a similar rank known as Sergeant and wear a black or brown mantle bearing the cross patée. Our modern Order has retained an element of this in that, in extremis, Rule 113 allows a Preceptory to apply for a dispensation to elect a Guard who is a Royal Arch Mason, but not a Knight Templar. Rule 179 on the Clothing and Insignia indicates that such a Brother must be clothed in Russet Brown with the red cross patée, similarly to a historical Sergeant.

Our Ritual therefore is amended from the historical admission Ceremony to allow us to be figuratively made Knights during the course of our admission to the Order. The Meditation was one stage of the original preparation for Knighthood. When preparing for Knighthood these were the common stages:

The Knight would take a bath (the Order of the Bath is derived from this tradition), a practice not often done in those days outside of this. More devout Knights would make a good confession before a Priest (perhaps to combine the cleansing of body and soul). They would then rest in a bed dressed with clean white linen. After the period of rest he would be entrusted with the care of the arms and armour he was to be invested with and required to undertake an all-night Vigil in a Church or Chapel praying and meditating.



In the morning a Service (Mass) would take place if a Priest was available and then the aspirant would receive the collée or blow, which would make him a Knight. Finally he would receive his equipment and spurs. Over time, what appears to have begun as a simple buffet to the cheek became the touching with a sword we now recognise. As the late, great Rev. Neville Barker Cryer observed, another term for the dubbing was the *“ad collum”* or *“ad collare”*, which eventually became *“accolade”*. I will add to his point that this in itself appears to have derived from the blow that used to be delivered in the traditional Christian Ceremony of Confirmation to mark the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

There is also a final element, still contained in old Encampment Ritual as well at least one Royal Chivalric Order, which I will explain on a future occasion...

The next edition will include a meditation guide. Editor

DIARY DATES 2015 & 2016

Provincial Carol Service	21 December 2015 at St. Columba's Church, Pont Street.
Great Priory [Malta]	Tuesday 15 November 2016.
<i>Great Priory [Temple]</i>	Wednesday 18 May 2016.
Londinium Preceptory	Malta - 1 July 2016.
Provincial Priory [Temple]	Friday 30 September 2016.
Provincial Priory [Malta]	Friday 29 January 2016.

PROVINCIAL REGALIA SHOP

Please send your unwanted regalia, such as mantles, swords, and mantle badges to the shop. When successfully sold, part of the sale price passed on to you.

Mindful of the costs of regalia, the Provincial Regalia Service [PRS] also offers a Pre-Owned buy / sell and alteration service. Alternatively, the PRS can alter the centre of an existing badge.

For your first Provincial and Great Priory appointments you will need to purchase a Provincial or Great Officer's Sash and a Mantle Badge denoting your rank in the Temple and a Mantle badge in Malta. The PRS will also advertise your pre-owned regalia for sale. Email:- p.e.garner@gmail.com

At the Great Priory of Malta meeting on Tuesday 17 November 2015 Eddie Goodwin asked to retire from the office of Great Prior of Malta.

V.E. Kt. Jonathan Charles Whitaker was duly installed as Great Prior of Malta.

Annual Family Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

at St Columba's (Church of Scotland), Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD

Monday 21 December 2015 at 6.00 pm

Carols to be sung: ** Once in Royal David's City ** O Little Town of Bethlehem ** Silent Night ** It Came Upon the Midnight Clear ** On Christmas Night ** While Shepherds Watched ** We Three Kings of Orient Are ** Or Jordan's Bank ** The Holly and The Ivy ** O Come All Ye Faithful ** Hark the Herald Angels Sing **

CONTACT LIST

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Provincial Ceremonial	Keith Florence <i>Provincial Marshal</i>	0208 678 886
Provincial Regalia Shop	Eric Garner <i>Regalia Officer</i>	01647 440 673
Knightly Topics	Stuart Henderson <i>Editor Knightly Topics</i>	01844 344 960