

KNIGHTLY TOPICS



PROVINCIAL PRIORY OF LONDON

Issue 29

Spring 2015

LONDON

There are 28 Preceptories in the Province, many of the original 24 tracing their origins back to the 19th century and one recognised as “Time Immemorial”, referring back to a time before the union of the two English Grand Lodges, the “Moderns” and the “Ancients” in 1813. The Preceptories meet almost exclusively in Central London, either at Mark Masons Hall or at No 10 Duke Street, with the sole exception of one Preceptory that meets at the West London Masonic Centre in Ealing.



So London is, in principle at least, a Province for London Masons - “those who live and/or work in London”, or those who at least have London Masonic connections. But among the 900 or so member Knights, who make up our Preceptories there are many who live farther afield: in the Home Counties; in Counties to the North, South, East and West of the country; indeed, even in various of the countries of mainland Europe and the wider world.

Consequently, we are very much a cosmopolitan Province, which nevertheless reflects, as it should, the central role that London plays in the heart of our national community.



GRAND MASTER'S REMINDERS

The Grand Master has reminded us of the following two points about our Preceptory meetings.

a. When the Provincial Prior or Sub-Prior visits a Preceptory, the Eminent Preceptor should open the Preceptory and then be saluted. This is part of the ritual. The Provincial Prior or Sub-Prior may then be admitted and saluted.

b. Alms must be collected during the Preceptory meeting. This is an integral part of the ceremony and is to be accompanied by the singing of the Templars' Hymn, as stated in the Preliminary Directions in the ritual book.

Alms should not be collected at the Festive Board.

In This Issue

London	1
Grand Master	1
Great Priory Deputy VC	2
Great Priory Recognition	2
Great Honours for London	2
KT Gift to Order of St. John	3
Provincial Regalia Shop	4
Switzerland	4
Keystone	5
Golf	5
Diary dates & Contacts	6
Provincial Priory of Malta	6



GREAT PRIORY

NEW DEPUTY VC

Worshipful Brother Ryan Andrew Williams will be taking up the position of Deputy Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, as well as the corresponding offices in the other Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall, by the end of June 2015.

Worshipful Brother Ryan will join the team as soon as he can negotiate his release from his current employer and will relocate his home from South Wales to Greater London.

We all wish him every success in his new role.

AUSTRALIAN GREAT PRIORIES RECOGNITION

Great Priory decided at its meeting on 20 May on to withdraw recognition from those Great Priories in Australia, which had changed their qualifications for those joining the Knights Templar Order to be Royal Arch Masons.

These Great Priories are Queensland, Australia Western Australia and New South Wales & Australian Capital Territories

Great Priory is therefore only in amity with the Great Priory of Victoria, which has remained unchanged with its joining qualifications.

GREAT HONOURS

Members of the Province of London who have received Great Honours

Martin Bradford Budds. Assistant Great Vice-Chancellor (Coromandel 73)

Martin Bradford Budds. Past Deputy Great Registrar (Coromandel 73)

Boon Sin Tan. Great Herald (King Edward VII 173 and Empress 178)



David Thomas Pythian Deputy Great Sword Bearer (New Temple 117, Coromandel 73, London Bodyguard 614)

Revd. William Desmond Payne-Jeremiah. Past Great Prelate (Coromandel 73)

David Benjamin Morris. Past Great Registrar (Mount Calvary D, Coromandel 73, Londinium 632)

Robert Harry Upton. Past Great Registrar (St John at Ealing 576)

Revd. Michael D'Israeli Seymour-Jones. Past Great Almoner (Holy Sanctuary 131, Londinium 632)

Peter Robert Dack. Past Great Aide de Camp (United Kemeys Tynte & Temple Crossing 45, London Bodyguard 614)

Patrick Alan Johnson. Past Great Aide de Camp (Studholme 140)

Simon Andrew White. Past Great Aide de Camp (Bard of Avon 127, Coromandel 73)

Daniel Joseph Foley. Past Great Warden of Regalia - (Sydenham 251)

Congratulations to all receiving Great Honours.

KNIGHTS TEMPLARS' GIFT TO THE WEST BANK

The Knights Templar have made a major donation to the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group for the purchase of a floor of a new building in the West Bank to provide a new home for the Hebron Hospital. The VH and RE Great Seneschal presented the cheque to the Group Chairman, Nicholas Woolf *CStJ* at the annual meeting of The Great Priory of Malta at Freemason's Hall.

The gift of £200,000 covers the remaining cost required to build, design and fit out the third floor of the Almajd Building, which is currently under construction.



Isla Richards, the Group's Director of Fundraising, said "Since it is a newly built shell not yet ready for occupancy, it provided us with a cheaper buying price than most other suitable options."

The current Hebron Hospital has been invaluable in ensuring eye treatment services are available for an increasing number of patients in the West Bank. In 2013 some 11,600 patients were treated, over 430 of them provided with sight-saving surgery.

Isla continued, "Our current facility is rented and is becomingly increasingly expensive to run. The lift has recently broken down, there is no working

sprinkler system, and there is water leakage in the roof. The hospital is also some distance from our own, and for many it is too expensive to travel by taxi."

Investment can be made in the refurbishment and appropriate design of a small hospital with the very best equipment.



The new facility will allow treatment for an estimated 20% more outpatients and increase major operations by around 10%.

Diana Safieh, responsible for the relationship between KT and St John, said "Here at St John we are all incredibly grateful to the Knights Templar for this donation, which allows us to continue to achieve fantastic results in the area, and even to better our services."

PROVINCIAL REGALIA SHOP

Eric Garner is the Provincial Warden of Regalia and has said that he is running very low on stocks. For example, he has only a few Great Priory badges left. 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.

For your first appointment you will need to purchase a Provincial Sash and a Mantle Badge denoting your rank in the Temple and a Mantle badge in Malta. These are available via the Provincial Regalia Service at a cost of £33.00 (sash) and £75.60 (badge) respectively (Temple) and a Malta Mantle Badge is £32.40, all including VAT. Each is subject to a 5% discount.

Ever mindful of the costs of regalia, the Provincial Regalia Service [PRS] also offers a Pre-Owned buy / sell and alteration service. Dependent on stocks, a pre-owned Sash costs from £16 and a pre-owned Mantle Badge costs £60, (Temple) and £21 (Malta). Alternatively, the PRS can alter the centre of an existing badge for only £35 plus p. & p.

The PRS will also advertise *your own* pre-owned regalia for sale if you let Eric know what you have and can arrange to send it to him. £48 is paid for a returned KT badge and £12 for a returned Malta badge.

Pre-owned badges are urgently needed.

Email Eric at
eric.p.e.garner@gmail.com
or phone him on
01647 440 673

DID THE TEMPLARS FOUND SWITZERLAND?

Within a few years of setting up the Order, the Knights had so impressed King Baldwin II of Jerusalem (himself a Crusader) that he granted them quarters within his own palace on the Temple Mount, supposedly the site of the Temple of Solomon and thus one of the holiest places in Christianity. This gave the Knights both their name and their later



association with the great mysteries and myths of Medieval Europe - the location of the Holy Grail, the custody of the Turin Shroud and the existence of a holy bloodline.

But it was the Knights' skill in banking and fighting that prompted one of the more colourful legends : they were present at the founding of Switzerland.

In the early 14th century, when the Swiss cantons rebelled against the Holy Roman Empire, the soldiers sent to suppress them were amazed to find farmers and merchants fighting with the discipline of a first-class army. Swiss folk tales tell of "white clad knights" fleeing persecution in France coming to the cantons' aid.

Switzerland's rise as a centre of international banking and religious tolerance is considered evidence of secret Templar influence.

KEYSTONE

Keystone is a computer based membership system, which went live at the end of August last year.

It is an online system covering all the Units administered from Mark Masons Hall. Its launch was a first for all Freemasonry. For Knights Templar, the system allows all Vice-Chancellors to access information held on file at MMH for all the members of the Province, past and present. Preceptory Registrars can only access the information for their own Preceptory.

Registrars have read only access and are unable to amend data. More recently, the same read only access has been given to the Provincial Prior and Sub-Prior.

Vice-Chancellors are able to amend and update information about members of the Province on line. This facility includes, member details, ranks, and status. Great ranks after the Malta investment, new members of the Temple and Malta, and Joining Members and are added only by MMH.

The major financial saving to MMH and to Province has been in postage, as it gave the ability for Registrars to see the information which would appear on their annual return and to print the return and the invoice. This should simplify the completion of the annual return as long as the Registrar has notified changes during the year to the Vice-Chancellor. Indeed, if all the information has been notified, the return should be correct and require no amendment, thereby enabling immediate completion and the payment of the fees.

Keystone is still under development and further enhancements are in the pipeline.

Roger Farley *Provincial Vice-Chancellor*

PROVINCIAL GOLF

The next golf day will be held on 14 August starting at 1100 at the Westerham Golf Club, Valence Park, Brasted Road, Westerham, Kent, TN16 1QN. The course is just off the M25 and best accessed from the west at Junction 6 and from the east at junction 5. See Google Maps or the Club's website at www.westerhamgc.co.uk.

Players will be competing for the Provincial Prior's Cup. The Society members are hopeful that Mike Fox will attend and present the prizes at the Festive Board, which will be jacket and tie. Individual Stableford off a player's full club handicap. Best aggregate Stableford score on the par 3's. Usual competition rules to apply.

One event has been already held and another one is likely to be held in Nov.

Participants don't necessarily have to be crack golfers (who is?) but should have the ability to wield a golf club without causing too much damage to themselves or fellow participants. Basically, a good time to be spent in convivial company.



DIARY DATES 2015 - 2016

Provincial Carol Service	tba
Great Priory [Malta]	Tuesday 17 November 2015
Great Priory [Temple]	Wednesday 18 May 2016.
Londinium Preceptory	Temple 16 December. Malta 1 July 2016
Provincial Priory [Temple]	Tuesday 29 September 2015
Provincial Priory [Malta]	Friday 29 January 2016

PROVINCIAL PRIORY OF MALTA

The Provincial Priory of Malta was held in January 2015 under the banner of Ascalon Priory No. 163. The Temple Delegation, under the command of VE Knight David Ashbolt *P Gt Registrar*, entered under an Arch of Steel. Every one of the twenty eight priories in London was represented. By permission of the Right Eminent Provincial Prior, RE Kt Michael Conrad Fox, a Chapter of Provincial Priory of Malta was opened by the Eminent Provincial Sub-Prior, E. Knight Victor Lawrence Parnis *P Gt Admiral*

Some 15 candidates were Installed as Knights of St. Paul and the Mediterranean Pass was communicated to them by VE Knight Major George Hodge, *Past Gt. First Lieutenant*, accompanied by the acting Provincial Almoner E. Kt. Rev. Michael Seymour-Jones.

The Representative candidate, Kt. Vincent John Driver and 14 other Knights of St. Paul entered the Priory and were admitted to the Order of Malta by the Provincial Sub-Prior. The accolade was performed by the RE Great Prior of Malta.

The Alms collection, during which the Malta Hymn was sung, raised £318.51. The Knights assembled agreed to donate £250 to the Order of St John in grateful thanks for the use of that Order's Church for the Provincial Carol Service in December; £250 to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group, and £250 to Blind Veterans U.K.

GRAND MASTER OF FRANCE

Christian Pajolec, Great Seneschal of France was installed in April as the Grand Master of France. Both he and his predecessor Andre Bassou are members of Mount Calvary D TI.



CONTACT LIST

Provincial Matters	Roger Farley. Provincial Vice Chancellor	01953 888 344
Provincial Finance	Mathew Hampson. Provincial Treasurer	01277 823 667
Provincial Ceremonial	Keith Florence. Provincial Marshal	0208 678 886
Provincial Regalia Shop	Eric Garner. Regalia Officer	01647 440 673
Knightly Topics	Stuart Henderson. Editor Knightly Topics	01844 344 960