
KNIGHTLY TOPICS



PROVINCIAL PRIORY OF LONDON

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Winter 2017-2018

SIR WALTER RALEIGH

The Passionate Man's Pilgrimage, a 16th century poem, usually attributed to Sir Walter Raleigh, outlines your mode of dress as a Royal Arch Mason, on your entry to the Order.



My scallop-shell of quiet,
My staff of faith to walk upon,
My scrip of joy, immortal diet,
My bottle of salvation,
My gown of glory, hope's true gage;

As E Kt Angus Rhodes writes, the scallop shell became the badge for pilgrims when many Christians were flocking to Santiago de Compostella in Spain.

Wealthy pilgrims could afford to purchase expensive mementos of their visit.

The less well-heeled and the poor could not afford to do so. Instead the tradition arose of visiting the beach and obtaining a scallop shell, which was then stitched to one's robe or hat as a sign of completing the pilgrimage.

EDITORIAL

So we have a new Grand Master and a new Great Vice-Chancellor. We wish them every success in their new appointments. The details are in the Great Priory section on page 5.

I have articles about the visit to France of a Knight from our Galilee Preceptory [page 4], and the Installation of a Knight [pages 6-9] and Common Misconceptions [pages 11-12] from E Kt Angus Rhodes.

There is a report on the Provincial Golf, as well as a piece about Caravaggio [page 14], the Diary, Regalia Exchange and Contact addresses and numbers on page 15.

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PROVINCIAL PRIOR

PROVINCIAL PRIORY MEETING: 29 SEPTEMBER 2017

Brother Knights of the Province of London, I now have both the opportunity and the honour to address you all.

We celebrate today - early by a single day - the 25th Anniversary - the 25th birthday - of the Province. 25 years is not a long time in the great scheme of things; far less than many of the Provinces in England and Wales that date their origins to around the middle years of the 19th century. Even Middlesex, before London, the baby among the Provinces, predates us by 22 years - but, in 1992, we then assumed that mantle.

Those 25 years have certainly seen some changes as the original 24 largely independent London Preceptories, already re-arranged into the Duke



and James Groups since 1990, settled down under a new Provincial régime in 1992. Doubtless, in the earlier years there were a few teething problems, but under the first Provincial Prior, R E Kt Jack Dribbell (later GCT), an orderly transition was completed.

Within the first two months, Jack consecrated the first new Preceptory of the Province of London - St John at Ealing No 576 on 11 November 1992. I mention that particular Preceptory for a special reason: like the Province, they celebrated their own 25th Anniversary on 4 November this year. I hope that many of the Officers whom I have appointed today will join me in forming a Provincial delegation to attend that meeting - which I have declared as an Official Visit.

Successive Provincial Priors have followed Jack Dribbell in working to establish a coherent body of Preceptories efficiently and sensibly managed without undue formality and in a spirit of friendly co-operation: R E Kt Alf Day (1997-2006), through R E Kt Eddie Goodwin (2006-2012), to the present incumbent.

I must also mention the contribution that R E Kt David Williams KCT has made as Provincial

Sub-Prior alongside both Jack and Alf during the ten years from 1992 to 2002.

Of those four key figures - Jack, Alf, Eddie and David - only David is here with us today; sadly, Jack passed to the Holy City some years ago. Nevertheless, on your behalf, Brother Knights, I thank them all for their immeasurable services to this Province and our great Order.

It is an unfortunate fact that there has never been any sort of published history of the Province, in spite of attempts during Alf's reign to collect relevant information as the basis for an historical record. However, an attempt is now being made - with the help of David and Eddie - to rectify the situation and such a record, albeit inevitably brief, is being finalised that I hope will be published as perhaps a special edition of *Knightly Topics* in the near future.

Our Province is not a static entity and evolves from year to year as Provincial Officers change in a process of natural succession to bring in new faces and new abilities as a result of the merits they have displayed.

I therefore thank all those Knights, who have served the Province during the past year and welcome those who are either continuing in office or are new to their respective offices.

The marked boost to our membership in 2015/16 resulting from the Consecration of our newest - and Italian - Preceptory, Secretum Templi Londinium No 695, has now worked through the system. But our membership has remained at about 960 since then, with new members still pretty well balancing an unusually large number of losses during the past year.

Our Provincial accounts show that the Province is in a healthy financial position that will enable us, with contributions from our Preceptories, to make a very generous donation to the St John's Eye Hospital in Jerusalem to mark our 25th Anniversary.

PROVINCIAL PRIOR [continued]

The fact remains, however, that we cannot stand still. Over the last five years, I have laid continued emphasis upon social interactions between our members and in particular our Provincial Officers. We still have our traditional annual Mess for Registrars; and our traditional Family Carol Service at Christmas promises a possible re-birth (appropriately, perhaps) since we moved to the Church of St Botolph without Bishopsgate last year. More recently, we have instituted an annual lunch for active Provincial Officers and their companions (wives and partners); our Provincial newsletter *Knightly Topics* goes from strength to strength under the clever editing of E Kt Stuart Henderson; and our relatively new web site is advancing in leaps and bounds thanks to the outstanding work of its original designer, E Kt Keith Towner, who has more recently been ably assisted by Kt Vernon King - both are enthusiastic members of my Bodyguard.

But communications among our members, while helpful, are not enough and we must make every effort to promote our Order and our Province. During the past few months we have initiated a leaflet campaign as a first step towards publicising the Province to members of Lodges and especially Royal Arch Chapters. If it encourages Lodge members to join Chapters, as the route into our Order, so much the better. The campaign is spearheaded by E Kt Brian Francois, Commander of my Bodyguard.

A further initiative, being worked up by E Kt Antony Legge, one of our Provincial Deputy Marshals, is the formation of a group of Knights of the Province who will be prepared to offer their services to Preceptories that struggle, for one reason or another, to perform their ceremonies; the emphasis is particularly on enriching the experiences of candidates for installation. The group of Knights, reminiscent of the strolling players or troubadours of the 11th-13th centuries, we have chosen to call 'Knights-Errant' - more particularly reminiscent of the original nine Knights of our historic Order. More of this anon.

Bro Kts, it has always been important to give proper recognition to Knights of the Province honoured by Great Priory.

This year, promotions were awarded to V E Kt Howard Beber (Sancta Maria, No 183) and to E Kt John Stewart (Golden Square, No 291); first appointments were awarded to E Kts Alexander Maclean Bather (Public Schools, No 209), David Thompson (Public Schools, No 209), Jim Fletcher (Empress, No 178), Michael Griffith (Mount Calvary D), Chris Smith (Galilee, No 185) and Michael Porter (Studholme, No 140). They have all earned their honours through services to their Preceptories and to the Province. Other Knights of the Province who received Great Honours through services either to other Provinces or to Great Priory were E Kts Richard Cooper (King Edward VII/Empress, No 173/178) and Simon Lincoln (Mount Calvary D). I congratulate them all.

I have also mentioned on previous occasions our Golf Society, which is always ready to welcome new members. The Knight to speak to is E Kt John Bond, our new Provincial Registrar,

Referring back to the meeting in November of St John at Ealing Preceptory reminds me that for several years I have tried to encourage Provincial Officers to participate in our Official Visits to Preceptories and visits to other Provinces during each year. You will see, from some of our distinguished visitors from the Provinces of Sussex, Surrey and especially Kent, that their Provincial Officers do visit other Provinces and I urge all the active Officers that I have appointed today to take advantage of these opportunities whenever practicable. The annual programme of Official Visits within the Province has been posted on the Provincial web site and details of the annual meetings of other Provinces will in future be posted there too. Those wishing to take part in Official Visits to our Preceptories should contact E Kt John Bond. Those interested in visiting other Provinces should contact E Kt Ian Brooks.

Brother Knights, I have said enough, perhaps more than enough. There will always be challenges ahead, but challenges are also opportunities and we must strive to make the most of them.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement - and may God bless both you and your families.

GALILEE GOES TO PARIS

by E Kt Joseph Le Roi-Smith, *Prov A-de-C [London]*

It is frequently said that visiting is the lifeblood of masonry. So, Brother Knights, how many of you have visited overseas?

On Saturday 22 April, the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master of France, ME Knight Christian Alain Pajolec, Past Great 2nd Constable here in England, installed his successor as Grand Master of the Great Priory of France (GPF).

Sadly, there was no official delegation from the Great Priory of England or the Provincial Priory of London, although there was an official delegation from the Grand College of Knight Templar Priests. On the bright side, that made it even more special for a lowly knight from the Preceptory of Galilee No 185.

Yes, I was that lowly visitor, who left home at 04:15 to catch a train from Milton Keynes to London, then the 0618 Eurostar to Paris, just two days after the attack in Paris in which a policeman was killed.

ME Kt Christian, a member and Past Preceptor, seldom, if ever misses a Galilee meeting. It was a pleasure and, as it turned out, a great honour and privilege, to be in Paris for this bitter-sweet occasion.

Three years ago, in April 2014, E Kt Chris Smith and I visited GPF when ME Kt Christian, who, until then, had been for some years the Very High and Right Eminent Great Seneschal of France, was installed in a colourful ceremony as the ME & S GM. This time, it was he performing the installation ceremony.

I remember Christian telling me at the time of his installation that he had promised his wife that he would remain ME & S GM for only 3 years and, yes, he has been true to his word. It's an exhausting office, as I'm sure you're all aware.

The installation on Saturday morning is normally preceded on the Friday evening by a sumptuous white table event. This year, due to a Royal Arch convocation in Milton Keynes, I was unable

to be present, but I understand it was no less wonderful than on previous occasions.



L to R:
E Kt Joseph Le Roi-Smith, RE Kt Dominique Madej, ME Kt Christian Pajolec

If the installation this year was less well attended than on previous occasions, that did not detract from the quality of the ceremony. Christian did a superb job.

A light lunch of paté, followed by crayfish on a bed of rice, and it was time for France's Great Malta meeting, at which a candidate was admitted. And that's where the great honour was experienced by this lowly knight.

The Great Prior of Malta, RE Kt Dominique Madej, and the Deputy Great Mareschal, acting that afternoon as Great Mareschal, E Kt Bernard Wakim (both also members of Galilee) invited me to assist by acting as Bearer for the Banner of Candia during the ceremony. So I not only paid for my supper (well, lunch anyway): I sang for it as well.

A good day was soon over and it was time to return to England.

Of course I had no idea that, whilst the ceremonies were taking place in northern Paris, there were further incidents and demonstrations taking place in the centre of Paris. It was not until I had returned to England that I learnt of them. So near, yet so far

If you get the opportunity, I would recommend a foreign visit.

Wonderful.

GREAT PRIORY

PAUL CLEMENTS IS NEW GRAND MASTER

At Great Priory on 17 May 2017, Tim Lewis *GCT* was succeeded, after six years in office, by Paul Clements *GCT*, who was duly installed as Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master. He was proclaimed by E Kt Stuart Henderson, Great Herald, of Mount Calvary Preceptory D *TI* in the Province of London.

GREAT VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Great Vice-Chancellor is now VE Kt Ryan Williams. He is based at MMH. He says he feels “confident that we are well placed to face the challenges of 2018 and with your support I am sure we will have another successful year.”

GREAT RANK

Appointments & Promotions

These Knights were invested by the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master on 17 May 2017 at the Great Priory meeting. They were also invested with the equivalent Malta rank at the Great Priory of Malta meeting on 21 November 2017. Both meetings were held at FMH in Great Queen Street.



ACTIVE RANKS

Grand Master's Banner Bearer	Alexander Maclean Bather	209
Great Aide-de-Camp	Richard Tanner Cooper	173,178
Great Captain of Guards	David James Thompson	209

PAST RANKS

Past Great Registrar	Howard Andre Beber	73,183,219,632
Past Great Herald	John Stewart	219
Past Great Aide-de-Camp	Robert William Bull	131
Past Great Aide-de-Camp	James Norman Fletcher	173,178,632
Past Great Aide-de-Camp	Michael Edward Griffith	D
Past Great Aide-de-Camp	Simon Lincoln	D
Past Great Warden of Regalia	Christopher Anthony Smith	185
Past Great Chamberlain	Michael Henry Porter	140



INSTALLATION AS A KNIGHT

E Kt Angus Rhodes PPrStdB(B) (Somerset).

Your preparation, as in the Craft, was both internal and external. Internally, you were prepared by your experience as both a Craft and Royal Arch Mason as well as by being a Christian professing a belief in the Holy Trinity. The symbolism of these Degrees may now mean more to you as a Christian Freemason.

The First degree, your initiation, represented Birth, the Birth of man, and the Christmas story of God made man: The Son sent by The Father out of love for all mankind. This degree introduced you to the basic duties of a good man and Freemason, especially espousing the virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity;

The Second further explores our life on earth, the beauties of God's creation and the duties of man, which may allude to, and are guided by, our Lord's period of life on earth and ministry;

In the Third degree, via the allegory of our Grand Master, Hiram Abif, is representative to Christian Masons of the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is He from whom we derive *"... a Holy confidence that the Lord of Life will enable us to trample the King of Terrors beneath our feet and lift our eyes to that bright morning star whose rising bought peace and salvation to the faithful and obedient of the human race."* Through this shining example, we are further reminded of our duties to one another.

The Sublime Degree of the Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Jerusalem expands upon the previous instruction in relation to man's relationship with man, to more fully explain man's relationship with God. It is therefore, a fitting preparation for your entry to this Christian and Knightly Order. A further allusion may become apparent after your Malta ceremony.

The Knights of the Preceptory warmly accepted you as a candidate for installation as a Knight Templar in the confidence that your general benevolence to date demonstrates that you have the potential to truly exemplify the virtues of Christian Knighthood.

Externally, you were prepared as a Christian pilgrim on his way to Jerusalem, the Holy City. The *Passionate Man's Pilgrimage*, a sixteenth Century poem, outlines your mode of dress.



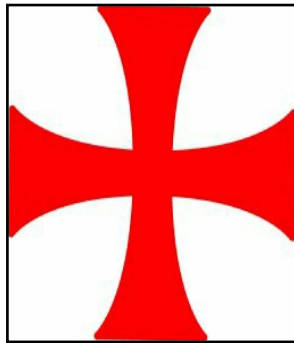
Please note that the explanations of the Ceremony and Symbolism herein contained are the opinion of the author based on research and contemplation. They may not represent the opinion of the Province or Great Priory: the only official representations in relation to the meaning of our Ceremonies are provided in the Ritual itself.

INSTALLATION [continued]

Your physical admission into the Preceptory, was a result of you proving yourself a Holy Royal Arch Companion to the Captain of Guards, Constables and Eminent Preceptor.

You were then invited to partake of bread, the staff of life, and water, which were the only refreshments we could then offer you. You then professed your faith in God and our Blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ, and offered to undertake any task, however perilous, which would entitle you to admission under the Preceptory's Banner as a Soldier of the Cross.

The Eminent Preceptor therefore enjoined you to undertake a Seven Years' Pilgrimage. This was a symbolic pilgrimage undertaken by proceeding seven times around the Preceptory. Your obvious zeal persuaded the Eminent Preceptor, at the request of the Second Constable, to shorten the pilgrimage to three years.



Pilgrimages are traditionally undertaken for several reasons, but perhaps the principal two are as an act of faith and an act of penance. In this case it symbolised the former, you were proving your faith in God and our Blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ. The obligation was taken on the Holy Gospels.

Your investiture as a Novice and Crusader was described by the reading from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians (Chapter 6, verses 10 to 17).

You then made the traditional professions confirming that your intent to defend the Holy Christian faith, all Knights Templar and all relatives and connections of Knights Templar.

A Seven Years' warfare was then demanded of you. Obviously Knights were expected to go to war. However, the Knights Templar fulfilled two roles as warriors and monks. By far the harder task, which monks and priests are expected to undertake, is spiritual warfare.

This is the warfare you symbolically undertook, *"the constant warfare with the lying vanities and deceits of this world in which it is necessary for us constantly to be engaged."*

At this stage, you assisted the Marshal to unveil the Cross and were instructed to notice the scroll thereon. The Eminent Preceptor observed to you that this scroll bears the initials of the inscription placed above our Blessed Saviour at His Crucifixion, namely "I.N.R.I." symbolising "*Jesus Nazarenus Rex Iudæorum*" or Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.

The Charge was then delivered explaining to you your progress to date and informing you of the year of penance to come.

Penance and Mortification - twice a year Christians are traditionally expected to be penitential. There is the lesser period of penitence during Advent, the first season of the Church year, where we are preparing for the Christmas-tide and, paradoxically, both the birth of our Lord and His coming again.

Then there is the great penitence at Lent in preparation for the Sacred Triduum and Easter, representing Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection.

Traditional methods of penance and mortification have included through fasting, the wearing of uncomfortable garments, such as hairshirts, acts of charity and penitential pilgrimages such as you symbolically undertook.

Perhaps the most famous example of a penitential pilgrimage, was that of King Henry II following the murder of St. Thomas Becket in 1170, by four of the King's Knights.

The King sought forgiveness from the Pope and then walked barefoot to Canterbury Cathedral to pray on his knees. He appointed monks to whip him, whilst he prayed, as a further act of public penitence.

Taking up the skull and lighted taper, the emblems of life and mortality, to assist your meditation, you then performed a year of penance by proceeding slowly around the Preceptory.

INSTALLATION [continued]

On arriving back at the west of the Preceptory, you symbolically called upon the spirit, which once inhabited the skull, to rise up and testify against you if you ever willfully violated your obligation. You then extinguished the light, which was a symbolical reminder of fate of Judas after his betrayal of Christ. Having been entrusted with the means to gain re-admission to the Preceptory, you retired.

The traditional method of preparing for Knighthood was by the Knight making a good confession to a priest in order to cleanse himself spiritually. He would then take a bath to cleanse himself physically (something not often undertaken in medieval times) followed by a period of rest in a bed covered with clean white sheets.

Having risen from the period of rest, the prospective Knight would spend the night undertaking a vigil of prayer and meditation in a chapel, in the presence of God and his own thoughts alone.

Perhaps the best literary description of this may be found in *Sir Knight of the Splendid Way* by W.E. Cule, which is also highly instructive in the symbolic journey, virtues and duties of a good Christian, including the warfare mentioned above.



It is this vigil that you symbolically undertook. On completion of the same you were readmitted.

The reading from the first letter of St Peter, Chapter 2 [verses 11 to 17] was then presented to you and I strongly exhort you to study and contemplate the instructive words of the same.

The Cup of Memory was then presented to you and you drank seven times to the memory of:

the three sets of three Grand Masters who presided over the original three Grand Lodges you are familiar with by now from Craft and Chapter and need no further explanation.

St John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ who prepared the way: *"I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord."* John 1:23.

St John the Evangelist, the Apostle and Gospel writer, who completed by his learning the task commenced by St John the Baptist's zeal.

"the pious memory of all those valiant knights, who sealed their faith with their blood, under the banner of the Cross."

All Knights Templar wheresoever dispersed... This is the equivalent to the Tyler's or Janitor's Toast.



INSTALLATION [continued]

The white stone, as referred to in the passage from the Book of the Apocalypse [Revelation of St John] which was read to you, was then presented to you together with



a pen and you were asked to enter into the ancient ceremony of signing your name in your blood. This was purely a test of your commitment, and the ceremony was dispensed with other than you signing your initials on the stone, at which point

the new name referred to in the reading was revealed to you.

The Marshal then presented you with a smaller White Stone, as a memorial of your entry to the Order and to enable you to present the same, and to describe how you received it, in order to gain admission to other Preceptories.

A procession was formed with the Standards and Constables of the Order, and the Marshal led you to the East, where you were made a Knight of the Order and instructed to be loyal, brave and true.

You were then clothed with the sash, jewel, star and mantle of the Order, which were explained to you, and your sword was presented with the charge: *"never draw it without cause nor sheath it without honour."*

Having been instructed in the modes of recognition restricted to the members of the Order, you returned in procession to the West, where the Heralds proclaimed your Knighthood... and you were saluted in the traditional manner of the Order.



KING EDWARD VII PRECEPTORY

We have in London a Preceptory of Improvement, held under the auspices of the King Edward VII Preceptory. It is open to Knights of all Provinces. Newer Knights in our Preceptories are urged to make the effort to attend at least some of the sessions. Details can be found on cards available in the Reception area on the GF at MMH. The Preceptory meets five times each year, in MMH. The next meeting is Tuesday 9 January 2018. No regalia is required, as swords and belts are provided.

The Registrar is Dennis Fountain, Gay-Reel, Allhallows Road, Lower Stoke, Rochester, Kent. ME3 9SL. 01634 270587. dennisfountain1941@talktalk.net

PROVINCIAL GOLF

Chobham Golf Club has been the home of the London Knights Templar Golf Society's Annual Provincial Prior's Cup, which this year saw V E Kt David Ashbolt snatch the trophy from the winner of the two previous years, E Kt Kevin Jones, in a hotly contested match ... well the sun was shining, although Kevin didn't actually make the cut!

Asked what his favourite shots of the day were David replied, "That's easy. My favourite shots were the practice swing and the conceded putt!"

The London KT Golf Society *Open* is a friendly social fun day that also raises money for charity. With grateful thanks to E Kt Jerry Gangadeen, who despite a pending foot operation, managed to play the course and provide us with two fantastic cakes - one for eating and one for auction. This year we raised money for the Mark Benevolent fund and the Eye Hospital.

We'll be returning to Chobham Golf Club on Thursday 23 August 2018. Put the date in your diary now. The KT Golf Society is open to all Knights Templar, their masonic friends and neighbouring KT provinces.

We meet at 1000 hrs. for a bacon butty & coffee and tee off from 1100 hrs. After play we gather for drinks and a two course meal and prize giving by our Provincial ow and high handicap players alike. It is laid out on naturally undulating parkland set amongst mature oak woodland and has six strategically placed lakes which come into play on nine of the eighteen holes. So put golf balls on your Christmas list.

We look forward to seeing you on the fairways next year.

John Bond



COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

INSTALLATION OF E PRIOR

By E.Kt. Angus Rhodes, PPrStdB(B) (Somerset)

In Malta, the majority arise in the shortened form of the Installation of the Eminent Prior.

Firstly, do not forget to confirm the minutes of the last regular meeting of the Priory! How often this is overlooked.

Based on the ritual book, the Captain-General and Lieutenant-General (*the Generals*) **do not** need to be replaced or even go back to the seats they were sitting in for KT if they have moved.

The Prior and Chaplain need to move to the table in the SE with a Bible thereon, plus the Mareschal and Deputy Mareschal need to continue to sit in the W.

The Chaplain, Mareschal and Captain of Outposts all need to be PPs for the Installation of EP. The only real issue is to swap the Captain of Outposts for a PP, as in the KT Installation, so that a PP is in place for the Inner Working.

An alternative, for speed, would simply be for a PP to occupy the position from the start.

The most recent misconception is that the officers need to all be brought up to the Prior to be individually invested.

That is certainly the case if the Priory is opened in the longer form, but is **not** the case where the shortened Opening and Closing is used directly after the KT meeting.

Following a period of uncertainty and Chinese whispers, the Great Vice Chancellor, issued the following clarification

on 22 September 2016 in relation to the procedure for the investiture of Officers after the Installation of a new Eminent Prior:-

When a Preceptory has a combined meeting of Installation of the Eminent Prior and then, follows the abbreviated form of Installation of the Eminent Prior in the associated Priory, it is quite permissible to announce that the officers of the Preceptory take the corresponding offices in the Priory, once the Prior is Installed.

The Registrar/Chancellor will read the list and the officers rise and acknowledge their appointment with the sign of the Order.

When a Preceptory has a separate full meeting of the Priory to Install the Prior and, maybe work the ceremony of the Installation of a new Knight, then officers that are appointed should be presented for appointment in the normal manner.

I thought this made the situation clear, but still found a good deal of ongoing discussion on this issue.

I therefore contacted the Great Vice Chancellor's office on 21 February 2017, which provided me with a swift and most helpful response on the same day.

I can confirm that where the shortened form is used either of these methods has been confirmed as being permissible.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

[Continued]

Option 1: the above method whereby the Registrar will read the list of officers with each officer rising and saluting the Eminent Prior with the Sign of the Order. and then being seated once more. The Sign of the Order should not to be confused with the P Sign of a Knight Templar and should be executed properly to the *chine* not chin.



Option 2: the following short formula may be utilised instead:-

Mareschal - Eminent Prior, is it your wish that the officers of the Preceptory take the corresponding offices in the Priory?

Eminent Prior - It is.

Mareschal - Eminent Prior, that concludes the appointment and investiture of your officers.

As you can see, it is *not* necessary for the Generals to be individually invested if they have already been invested as Constables that day. Either by the reading of the list or by simply being appointed by the short formula above, they count as having been appointed and invested just by being present. If it is your wish to return the Captain of Outposts to his place for closing then you may do so, but otherwise the Malta can simply be closed as is.

You may take the view that you need the KT layout of officers in order to follow the usual KT manner of retirement processions. The Malta retirement procession takes a different form, although the book does only specify a methodology for the longer form of closing. Because Provincial Priorities differ as to how they teach the proces-



sions even the splendid King Edward VII Preceptory of Improvement does not teach a specific format.

If you *do* agree to use the KT form of procession after the shortened Malta Installation, but wish to use one of the above short methods of investiture, you could always agree beforehand that the Generals will simply return to their places after they are re-admitted.

You will then be ready to retire as quickly as possible and enjoy a convivial evening together (via the Bar).

FROM THE RITUAL BOOK

OPENING A PRECEPTORY

The salutes at the end of the opening are to be given slowly.

“Exhorting you, my Brethren, to bear always in mind the solemn and sacred ties by which we are bound to the Order and to one another, I now, in the Name of the Holy, Blessed and Glorious Trinity

[All Knights come to recover]

and in the name of

[the Eminent Preceptor pronounces these words slowly]

Christ our Prophet, Christ our Priest, Christ our King, declare this Preceptory to be open.”

CAROL SERVICE

words by John Bond : picture by Niall Johnston

The Family Carol Service was held on 14 December 2017 at St Botolph, off Bishopsgate, and was well attended. Knights and their families afterwards enjoyed each other's company in the Parish Hall for refreshments and a finger buffet.



The article *Which Order* in the last issue was wrongly ascribed to E Kt Angus Rhodes, PPrStdB(B) (Somerset). It was the work of E Kt Roger Farley Past Prov V-C.

CARAVAGGIO

By E Kt Louis Cattan (Mount Calvary D)

Born in 1571 in Milano, Michelangelo Merisi was from a family of traditional craftsmen which originated from Caravaggio, in the vicinity of Bergamo.

At the age of 13, he became an apprentice in the workshop of Simone Peterzano, a disciple of Titian. He learned and mastered the technique of *clair obscur*. His talent was recognized by Cardinal Borromeo, the Archbishop of Milan, who became his protector.



In 1596, he travelled to Rome, a city in which the Church invested considerable amounts in sumptuous pieces of art (baroque style) as a reaction to the Reformation. He became a member of the famous Academia de San Luca.

In 1597, he entered in the service of Cardinal del Monte, who obtained important and prestigious commands for him.

In this booming city, night entertainment was mainly concentrated in taverns. Caravaggio was reputed to be a tough and violent man.

He killed Ranuccio Tomassoni in a brawl and had to flee. He was condemned to death in his absence and he stayed in Naples, Sicily and Malta.

In Malta, in 1608, his talent was highly appreciated by the Knights ruling the country and he was consequently elevated to the rank of Knight of Malta. Amongst his various contributions to the decoration of the cathedral in Valetta is the impressive and monumental "Decollation of St John the Baptist".

His paintings combine a realistic observation of the human state, both physical and emotional, with a dramatic use of lighting and they had a formative influence on Baroque painting.

Unfortunately, Caravaggio continued his drinking and brawling activities and he was dismissed from the Order one month after being elevated as a Knight. He had to leave Malta, went to Sicily and then went to Rome to beg the Pope for forgiveness. Before reaching Rome, he died in 1610 in Porto Ercole, not knowing that the Pope had already granted him forgiveness. Reports stated that he died of a fever, but suggestions have been made that he was murdered or that he died of lead poisoning.



DIARY DATES 2018

Great Priory [Temple]

Great Priory [Malta]

Provincial Priory [Temple]

Provincial Priory [Malta]

Registrars' Mess

Wednesday 16 May 2018

Tuesday 20 November 2018

Saturday 29 September 2018

Monday 29 January 2018

Wednesday 18 July 2018

REGALIA EXCHANGE

Please send your unwanted regalia, such as mantles, swords, and mantle badges to Roy at the Provincial Regalia Exchange. When successfully sold, part of the sale price will be passed on to you.

Mindful of the costs of regalia, the Provincial Regalia Exchange [PRE] also offers a pre-owned buy / sell and alteration service. The PRE will also advertise your pre-owned regalia for sale.

Alternatively, the PRE can alter the centre of an existing badge. The PRE currently has Great Priory mantle badges, in good to excellent condition, for Herald, Almoner, ADC [2], Standard Bearer [B], Chamberlain and Guard; and a London Provincial ADC's mantle badge.

For your first Provincial and Great Priory appointments, you will need to purchase a Provincial or a Great Officer's Sash and a Mantle badge denoting your rank in the Temple; and a Mantle badge in Malta.

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