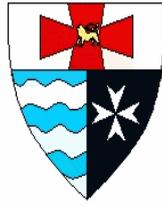


# KNIGHTLY TOPICS



PROVINCIAL PRIORY OF LONDON

Issue 34

WINTER 2018

## 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.

## 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. Be loyal to your Sovereign, dutiful to the Grand Master and obedient to those who rule over you.

Prefer honour to wealth. Be just and true in word and deed. Give no willing cause of offence to any; but, whilst opposing wrong and injustice, deport yourselves courteously and gently.

Assist the distressed, the widow and the fatherless. Eschew all debasing employment, recreation and company. Abhor pride and selfishness and so raise the standard of chivalrous honour, striving for the welfare of your Brethren.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Provincial Prior	2-3
July 4 2018	4
Changes at MMH	5
Great Honours	6
The Tale of the Hanged Man	7
Letters to the Editor	8
The Hospitallers	9
Provincial Golf	10
Contacts	11

# THE PROVINCIAL PRIOR

**E Kt David James Thompson *PGtCaptGds* was installed as Provincial Prior for London by the ME and Supreme Grand Master, RE Kt Paul Clement *GCT*, on 29 September at MMH. After his installation, the new Provincial Prior conducted a Priory and invested his Provincial officers.**

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It was a great honour to be installed as Provincial Prior for London by the M E and S Grand Master at the Annual Meeting on 29 September. I hope all those present and especially those being appointed and promoted enjoyed the occasion. As I take up the Provincial reins, may I take the opportunity of reviewing the past and present and peering into the future.

Whilst I am reasonably well known in the wider masonic world, my involvement within the United Orders has been more focused.

I was Installed as a Knight in the Public Schools Preceptory No 209 in September 1998 and became its Preceptor in April 2002. Since going through the Chair, I have continually been in office, being successively Deputy Marshal, Marshal and Treasurer. I am also a member of Coromandel Preceptory No 73 and Londinium Preceptory No 632.

was appointed to Provincial Honours in 2013 and Great Rank in 2017.

More broadly, I was initiated in April 1993 into my Old Boys' Lodge, the Old Rugbeian Lodge No. 551 and exalted into Chapter of St James No 2 in November 1997. I was Treasurer of both the Metropolitan Grand Lodge and Chapter of London between 2008 and 2017, sat on the national Universities Scheme Committee between 2005 and 2016, and remain heavily involved with Emulation Lodge of Improvement.

Outside of Masonry. I was in the TA for ten years, as a member of the Honourable Artillery Company; spent 13 years as a Common Councilman in the City of London; acted as a member of the ceremonial staff of the Order of St John; am a Liveryman of the Wax Chandlers' Company and am the Treasurer of St Andrew by the Wardrobe. where I was also a Church Warden for 12 years.

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Il spent ten years as the Finance Director of the RMTGB and currently run the finances for Supreme Council.



As a Chartered Accountant, having trained in London, I spent two years in Hong Kong and am still a member of a Lodge there.

## What of the present?

Having been so recently Installed on Michaelmas Day, my first impressions are that the Province is in good heart and has been well tended by my predecessors. I have also been lucky that I have inherited a first-rate Provincial team who were all willing to continue in office; after all "stability" is an important Masonic concept!

My first goal is to spend my first year travelling round the Province meeting as many of you as I can, through both formal and informal visits and I am really looking forward to attending your Preceptories, meeting you and seeing you in action.

# **THE PROVINCIAL PRIOR**

What of the future?

As I have already said it is still early days and I first need to review the insights and understanding of the Province gleaned from my visits, a process which will take at least a year. However, the single most important matter must be that you, the membership, enjoy being Knights Templar and are fulfilled by what the Province has to offer, be it ritually, ceremonially, administratively or just the camaraderie of the Order.

Finally, in the season of Advent, may I wish all Knights a very merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy New Year and hope that when you return to your Knightly duties you do so refreshed and with renewed vigour.

I shall think of you all at 5.00 pm on Christmas day.

## **PROVINCIAL WEBSITE**

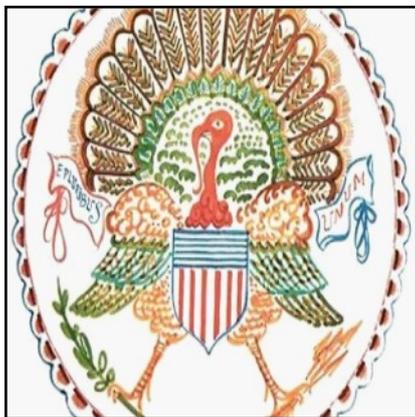
**Find out what's on  
News and information  
Forms for registrars  
AND MUCH MORE: SEE  
[www.londonprovincekt.org](http://www.londonprovincekt.org)  
add it to your favourites bar**

# JULY 4 2018: the 242nd ANNIVERSARY

By E Kt Louis Cattan [Mount Calvary D]

While researching our recent article about the Seal of the President of the United States, I came across a few myths about the National Emblem that required a little more investigation. The notion that Benjamin Franklin, in his infinite wisdom and wit, wanted the National Bird to be the turkey. According to the United States Diplomacy Center, this myth is completely false.

The Center says that Franklin's proposal for the Great Seal was devoid of birds completely and suggest that the idea was propagated, in part, by a 1962 illustration for the cover of the



New Yorker by artist Anatole Kovarsky, who imagined what the Great Seal of the United States might look like if the turkey did become our national emblem,

However, while it is hard to imagine that overstuffed, flightless bird on our currency and on the President's lectern instead of on our dinner table, there is actually a bit of truth to this rumor.

The Franklin Institute excerpts a letter from Franklin to his daughter, in which he does question the choice of the eagle, commenting that the selected design looks more like a turkey. Franklin then expounds on the respectability and morality of each bird, which really seems like such a *Ben Franklin* thing to do.

“For my own part, I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen the representative of our country. He is a bird of bad moral character. He does not get his living honestly.

You may have seen him perched on some dead tree near the river, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the labour of the fishing hawk; and when that diligent bird has at length taken a fish, and is bearing it to his nest for the support of his mate and young ones, the Bald Eagle pursues him and takes it from him.

Besides he is a rank coward: The little king bird not bigger than a sparrow attacks him boldly and drives him out of the district. He is therefore by no means a proper emblem for the brave and honest Cincinnati of America who have driven all the King birds from our country...

I am on this account not displeased that the figure is not known as a bald eagle, but looks more like a turkey. For the truth the turkey is in comparison a much more respectable bird, and withal a true original native of America... He is besides, though a little vain & silly, a bird of courage, and would not hesitate to attack a grenadier of the British guards who should presume to invade his farmyard with a red coat on.”

The second myth is tied to the alterations President Truman made to the Presidential Seal. It is sometimes said that the eagle on the Presidential Seal changes during times of war to face the arrows instead of the olive branch. This one is unquestionably false, although somewhat understandable. From 1916 to 1945 the eagle did indeed face the arrows but this was changed when President Truman issued Executive Order 9646, modifying the seal so that the eagle faced the olive branch - a gesture symbolic of the post-war nation's dedication to peace. While the changes to the seal, which always occurred around times of war, may explain the origin of the myth, its propagation is owed largely to popular culture.

In both an episode of *The West Wing* and the Dan Brown novel *Deception Point*, the myth is incorrectly stated as fact.

The final word should come from Winston Churchill, who suggested that the eagle's head should just be on a swivel.

# CHANGES AT MMH

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A new Assistant Grand Secretary has been appointed, in view of the forthcoming retirement of VW Bro. Jonathan Roberts, PGJO.

He is Paul Merryfellow and we wish him well in his new appointment.

He will join the senior management team at Mark Masons' Hall and play a very active role in the management of the nine Orders.

Primary responsibilities include:

- assisting the Grand Secretary in the daily running of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, having specific responsibility for the administration of several of the Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall
- dealing with a wide range of issues relating to the Constitutions, Ritual and Ceremonial of designated Orders
- assisting the Grand Secretary with the preparation for meetings of various Boards and Committees and acting as Minute Secretary
- Representing GLMMM at national and international events. This aspect of the role will involve significant UK and overseas travel as well as evening and weekend working

Paul joined Freemasonry in 2013 as the result of his own research and enquiries made to Metropolitan Grand Lodge. He greatly enjoyed the Craft, but wanted to explore other Masonic Orders. He joined the Order of the Secret Monitor soon after taking his third in the Craft, followed closely by Chapter.

His passion for Freemasonry was only encouraged by this, and he swiftly expanded his knowledge further by joining the Mark, Royal Ark Mariners and the Order of the Scarlet Cord. He is due to join KT shortly.

He attends meetings as a guest whenever possible, and is very keen to enhance his knowledge of the various Orders, meeting new Brethren, and experiencing new and unusual traditions.

He has always been enthusiastic in supporting his various units and their respective Provinces in whatever way he can. He takes each and every opportunity to further his own knowledge, assist his fellow Brethren, and to support Masonic efforts.



# GREAT HONOURS

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

## FIRST APPOINTMENTS

Past Great Aide-de-Camp	Brian Derek Francois	154, 172, 219 & 614
Past Great Aide-de-Camp	Gerard Joseph Mackenzie	73, 117 & 614
Past Great Aide-de-Camp	David Paul Richards	140 & 614
Past Great Chamberlain	David Grant Hall	173, 178 & 632

## PROMOTIONS

Past Great Registrar	Victor Lawrence Parnis	D, 73, 173, 178 & 632
Past Great Herald	Roger Alfred William Farley	173, 178 & 632
Past Great Herald	Stephen William Yardley	127 & 614
Past Deputy Great Sword Bearer	Ian Douglas Brooks	131, 614 & 632
Great Captain of Guards	Tony Alan Bown	183 & 632

## LONDON KNIGHTS RECEIVING GREAT RANK FROM GREAT PRIORY AND OTHER PROVINCES

Past Great Registrar	Steven John Warwick	D
Past Great Standard Bearer (VB)	Peter Ernst Ribí	Province of Kent, 73
Great Aide-de-Camp	Richard Tanner Cooper	173 & 178
Great Aide-de-Camp	Benjamin William Dykes	D & 666



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# THE TALE OF THE HANGED / UN-HANGED MAN

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Once upon a time, there was a road called the Via Tolosana that crossed the Languedoc all the way from Arles to Toulouse then continued through the mountains of the Pyrenees and on to Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain. In the Middle Ages thousands if not millions, of pilgrims wore out the soles of their shoes over the centuries on this route, heading for Santiago and praying at the relics of the saints.

Pilgrims walked (or rode, since some had horses) during the day, but needed places to stay during the night. In the larger towns and cities there



were inns, but in some of the more desolate spots monks were encouraged by the Church to create monasteries, where travellers could rest and recuperate in relative security.

Generally they were created in places where a miracle, perhaps imaginary, had occurred, and pilgrims were

encouraged to leave a coin or two to make life worthwhile for the friars.

Aimery Picaud wrote a document in the 12th century which has come down to us as the *Pilgrim's Guide* and which is still preserved in Santiago de Compostella. Aimery was a French monk, who travelled extensively and visited all the churches and monasteries along the way. He mapped out four routes through France designed so that all of the pilgrims could reach Santiago safely. He spiced up his text with stories of the miracles that had taken place on the route. The Via Tolosana is the fourth traditional pilgrim way to Santiago de Compostella in France.

If you recall Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, you can get an idea of how the travellers during the long days of walking, told stories to each other, and the tale that follows falls into that category and is taken from Picaud's *Pilgrim's Guide*. There are two versions of this tale: one taking place in Toulouse, France and the other in Spain. This is the Toulouse version.

A German traveller passed through Toulouse in 1090 with his son, heading for Santiago. He stopped over and spent the night at an inn. During the night, the crafty innkeeper managed to slip a silver cup into his baggage and in the morning [surprise, surprise!] the innkeeper was missing a silver cup. The traveller's baggage was checked and, lo and behold, the cup was found.

The man and his son were dragged before a judge who awarded all of their belongings to the innkeeper and decided that one of the two would be hanged. The son was hanged and the father continued on his way to Santiago. When he came back through Toulouse twenty six days later, he stopped in front of the body of his son still hanging on the gallows. As he was weeping, the son suddenly spoke, "Don't cry, Father. I have never felt so good. Saint James (Santiago) has taken good care of me." The father called upon the inhabitants to come and see. They cut his son down and strung up the innkeeper instead.

This story illustrates one of the many miracles attributed to Saint James and seems to have been included in the *Pilgrim's Guide* to warn pilgrims about staying in inns along the way and to be wary of tricky innkeepers. Perhaps Aimery Picaud also wanted to promote monasteries as safer places for pilgrims to spend the night. The curious thing about the Guide was that it was not intended for pilgrims but members of the clergy.

Today we think that perhaps the Guide was written to discourage rivalry between different monasteries which used to beg, borrow, or steal relics to attract pilgrims. Church authorities definitely preferred all the rest stops along the pilgrimage routes to be complementary rather than rivals.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The opinions expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Province of London.

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Dear Editor,

On visiting Preceptories with various Provincial organisations, I can't help but notice, there are still those Preceptories, which through no fault of their own, are woefully undermanned.

When I joined KT, I remember my installation ceremony with great fondness, being dressed as a pilgrim and waiting for the doors to be opened to the Preceptory, revealing a most splendid and marvellous sight, rows of beautifully dressed knights, some indeed Very Eminent, gazing down upon me, but what made the my ceremony so special was the way in which it was performed.

I shall never forget that ceremony. To me it was the best I had witnessed in Freemasonry. It was the best because the knights, who carried it out, knew what they were doing, and it was undertaken with pride and perfection. Truly memorable.

Every new knight ought to have that same feeling, to come away with the same memories I have; alas there are some Preceptories that are unable to perform such ceremonies through lack of willingness and participation by their members, for whatever reason.

This is why I implore those Registrars, Marshals, and Eminent Preceptor, who are to undertake such ceremonies, and who know they will be short of officers, to please ask for assistance. There is nothing to be ashamed of in asking for help from your fellow knights - that's what we are here for.

On Provincial visits I constantly see the same knights, who are not members of those Preceptories, but are there to assist, making what might be a poor ceremony, into something special. I commend those knights for their devotion and commitment. First impressions are important, and it is our duty to allow every new knight to be given the opportunity of a correctly performed ceremony, in fact it is essential for the retention of new members.

It also falls to every member of every Preceptory to do his duty, that is to answer summonses and emails sent to them. The Registrars have a hard enough time as it is organising and keeping everyone informed, but for those knights who don't bother to respond, shame on you. Ultimately leaving the Preceptory not knowing if they will have sufficient officers to fill the posts, or to conduct the ceremonies is NOT ON.

If you cannot be present, then at least have the good manners to say you can't, at least then they have time to ask someone else to fill your place. I think this is the very reason why some ceremonies which I have witnessed, have been so poorly attended. Some knights just can't be bothered, spoiling it for the rest. I have no time for these unreliable and bad mannered knights.

I attended a Preceptory recently, where one of its elder members travelled all the way from Wales, is registered blind, and still manages to attend every meeting, even with his poor health; that is dedication, and if I may say, humbling.

So Brother knights, in essence let us all make an effort to help each other, and to help those Preceptories, which are struggling. If you know a friend from another Preceptory, which may need help, volunteer your help [obviously circumstances permitting].

Our symbol is two knights on one horse. There are many explanations for this, but I like to believe it is one knight helping another Brother knight who has been unhorsed in battle. Let us carry on these traditions.

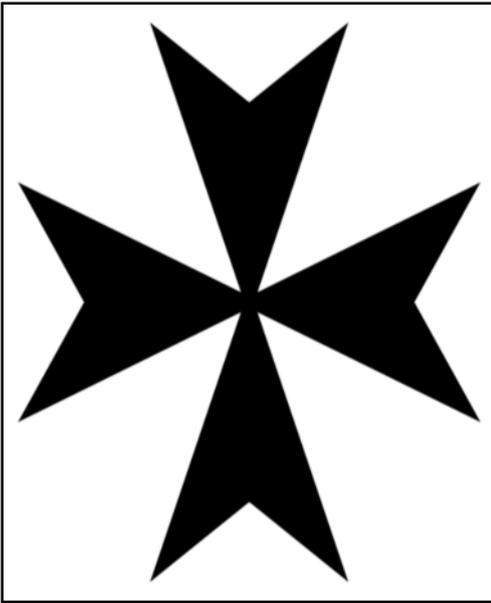
Yours in the Bonds of the Order,

*name and address supplied*

# THE HOSPITALLERS IN RHODES and VILLEFRANCHE

By **E Kt Louis Cattan [Mount Calvary D]**

Philippe de Villiers de l'Isle-Adam, was elected Grand Master of the Hospitallers de St John of Jerusalem in 1521.



On 28 June 1522, Suliman the Magnificent arrived in Rhodes at the head of an army of 200,000 men on four hundred vessels. After five months of unsuccessful assaults, he was on the point of conquering Rhodes, when the treachery of knight d'Aramal allowed him to succeed.

Forced to capitulate, Philippe de Villiers de l'Isle-Adam had all the churches blown up to avoid their desecration and sent knight Petrucci to negotiate with Suliman. Suliman was Impressed by the heroic resistance of the Hospitallers and the locals, and hence Suliman allowed them to leave the island with the honours of the war.

On 1 January 1523, Philippe de Villiers de l'Isle-Adam left Rhodes on thirty vessels with the surviving knights and 4,000 inhabitants, taking with them their archives, relics, treasure and arms. The first stop was Candia.

Then he sailed to Messina and arrived at Civitavecchia on 7 July 1523. There, the Grand Master requested asylum from Pope Clement VII (a former Hospitaller) who provisionally installed the Order in Viterbo on 25 January 1524, whilst the fleet remained in Civitavecchia.

He asked for the right to remain from the Duke of Savoy in Nice and Villefranche. This request was agreed and on 8 October 1527 the fleet arrived in Villefranche. The Hospitallers remained there until 26 October 1530 when they sailed to the island of Malta which was given to them by Holy Roman Emperor Charles the 5th.

During their stay at Villefranche, the Hospitallers were able to build the very major important fleet that allowed them to control the whole Mediterranean, part of the North-African Atlantic coast and they were even called to the rescue of Caribbean islands suffering from invasions of pirates.



# PROVINCIAL GOLF by John Bond

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The knights gathered early on a late August morning at Chobham Golf Club for the *Provincial Prior's Cup*, the 4th annual golf challenge and another enjoyable event. With handicaps ranging from 15 to 28, we wondered if E Kt Roger's Mexican sombrero might be a feature.



Vernon King

There was a warm welcome for both the new golfers and veteran golfers as we tucked into early morning bacon butties and looked down over the sun-drenched course. We received our cards and set out to do battle on this picturesque and superbly designed golf course which proved to be a delightful challenge.

After a few refreshments, recounting their encounters and prowess on and off the greens the knights showered and changed ready for a hearty meal and after dinner prizes when the real results of the day were shared.

*The Provincial Cup* was won by Vernon King of Golden Square Preceptory No 219 with a near perfect Stableford score, with knights Roger Charter and John Bond just losing out by a couple of strokes.

Visiting Knight Peter Cox won *Best Endeavours* and a number of other prizes were won for the *Best Score on the Par Threes*, *Longest Drive* and *Nearest the Pin*. But the overall winners were the Templars, who traded in their swords for clubs and an enjoyable day with friends on the fields of fellowship.



## DIARY DATES 2018-19

Provincial Carol Service	12 December 2018
Great Priory [Malta]	19 November 2019
Great Priory [Temple]	Wednesday 15 May 2019
Londinium Preceptory {Malta}	Friday 5 July 2019
Provincial Priory [Temple]	Monday 30 September 2019
Provincial Priory [Malta]	Tuesday 29 January 2019

Please see website for up to date information and forms. [londonprovincekt.org](http://londonprovincekt.org)

## 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.

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.

roydennett7@gmail.com

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