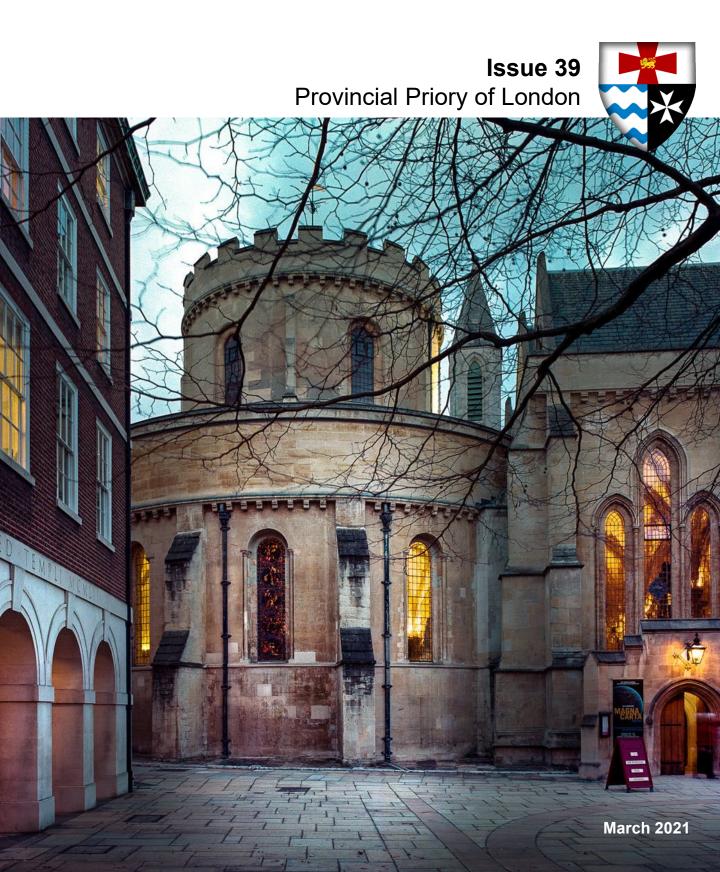
Enightly Topics



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Your newsletter needs you: it has always thrived on content from you, its readers. Any items of Preceptory news, history of the Orders, Ritual, Symbolism or other relevant subjects should be submitted to the Editor at:

media@londonprovincekt.org

We look forward to hearing from you and remember the more we have of your material, the less you will have to read contributions from the Editor.





Issue 39 March 2021

www.londonknightstemplar.com

A message from the **Editorial Team**

Dear Brother Knights,

Please forgive the brevity of this edition, lacking as it does the erudite input of our Editor in Chief, who is currently at the family home in Scotland following the death of his father, Eminent Knight Terence James Rhodes, Past Provincial First Constable for Somerset. [Although he has penned a letter in this edition with his thoughts]. Please remember him and his family, and all those who have lost loved ones in recent times, in your thoughts and prayers.

As we start the journey through Lent towards Easter, we pray that all those who sleep in the peace of Christ will be with him at the Resurrection.

For those who are left behind, the inability to gather and mourn the passing of loved ones has been one of the most difficult aspects of the lockdown and reminds us of the importance of companionship. Whilst we long to rejoin our friends with drink in hand, laughing and joyful; it is in the hour of need that we most value their presence and support. Seeing and hearing friends on video and phone calls cannot fully replace the comfort of a firm handshake or hug that silently conveys the message; "I am here for you."

Until we meet again, Brother Knights, stay safe and stay sane.

The Editorial Team media@londonprovincekt.org

From the **Provincial Prior**



Dear Brother Knights,

Brother Knights I hope you are keeping well in these strange and uncertain times. Rather than focus on our recent difficulties I believe we can now anticipate returning to our meetings which I am hopeful can begin again before the end of this Masonic season.

I therefore urge you figuratively to dig out your dandy brushes and currycombs to ensure that we are ready to mount up when the call comes. As we have plenty of candidates to join we should not keep them waiting too long. I look forward to welcoming them into our Order and to see you all again in the flesh and not just virtually.

Rt. E. Kt. David Thompson Provincial Prior for the

Province of London

Emails to you from the Province

The new Mailchimp email system has proved very effective in sending out the communications for your attention from the Province including the details of the Service for the Feast of St John the Baptist, updates on the annual Provincial Meeting, the recent guiz and virtual tours as well as the Provincial Prior's address.

If you are not receiving these, please check your junk mail first and then let me know and I can ensure that we are using your correct email address.

We are still using the address that we hold in your Preceptory records in Keystone at MMH, unless you have told us otherwise, so it is also the address all KT emails will use.



Kt. Vernon King

Registrar to the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard vernonking@hotmail.com 07540 666090

A Letter from the Editor

E. Kt. Angus Rhodes - Editor in Chief

Brother Knights,

The promotion of E.Kt. Dad to the Great Priory above on 22nd January 2021 has given me a new perspective on how those who have lost family, Brethren and friends in the recent times may be coping; particularly when we remain separated by circumstances beyond our control. For such, Lent may seem like a very bleak Season indeed. However, the period of Lent leads us to the culmination of our whole belief system, and in fact of our Knights Templar Ceremony.

On Good Friday, we will remember the Passion of our Lord; which is represented by the Crucifix on the Sepulchre and the Cross on the Altar in our Preceptories. Even as the darkness of death comes, so we are reminded of our Lord's Resurrection and the eternal life promised to us if we continue

steadfast in the constant warfare with the lying vanities and deceits of this world. In one of the oldest forms of our Ceremony, the Novice would have been entrusted with a black candle, representing Judas, at the start of his year of Penance and Mortification. It was extinguished as in the present form, but when he took it up once more, he would have been instructed that it must never be lit again except for a few moments at the time of his death, before being placed in his coffin. He was to keep this as a reminder of his duty to God and the Order. The new Knight would then have been entrusted with a fresh, unlit white candle, which represented St Matthias, the new Apostle, chosen by lot to replace the traitor Judas. He would then light that candle and replace the Judas candle marking that, as Matthias, he represented the new light and new hope amongst us.

There is in this ancient form, and in the modern, a parallel with the new life at Easter. This hope of the new life in the love of God must give hope to us all.

On a lighter note, we can take comfort (even to possibly feeling some pangs of jealousy) from knowing whose august company our departed Brethren are now sharing, with the recent additions of many splendid Knights to that Great Priory above.

I will end by wishing you a blessed Lent and, I trust, a Happy Easter.

Warmest fraternal regards & Yours in the Bonds of the Order,

From the Darkest Highlands, The Editor

Update on fundraising by the Knights of the Vision Beautiful

As reported in the last issue of Knightly Topics, last September, a number of the Knights of the Provincial Priory of London joined together with Knights of other Provinces, under the name 'the Knights of the Vision Beautiful',

completed a twenty-four hour relay in aid of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital.

The great news is that by the end of 2020 the total raised by 'the Knights of the Vision Beautiful' stood at £12,707.81 taking into account offline donations (not via JustGiving) and Gift Aid. A YouTube video of the 2020 Relay is presently being prepared by the Eye Hospital Guild.

Our Editor in Chief, being of dubious sanity, decided to supplement this fund raising effort

by completing a solo Skydive on Wednesday 4th November, just before lockdown came into effect. For those interested, a copy of the video can be found here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52Hv0oh7sAc

With the postponement to 2022 of the Great Priory Cathedral Service at Wells Cathedral, the Knights of the Vision Beautiful are planning a FORTY-EIGHT Virtual Relay starting on Friday 20th August 2021, with people committing simply to complete a one-hour slot of the exercise in whatever location most convenient to them.

The team is looking for more members willing to join in; if you are interested please email: knights.of.the.vision@gmail.com.













The Temple Church: London's Jerusalem

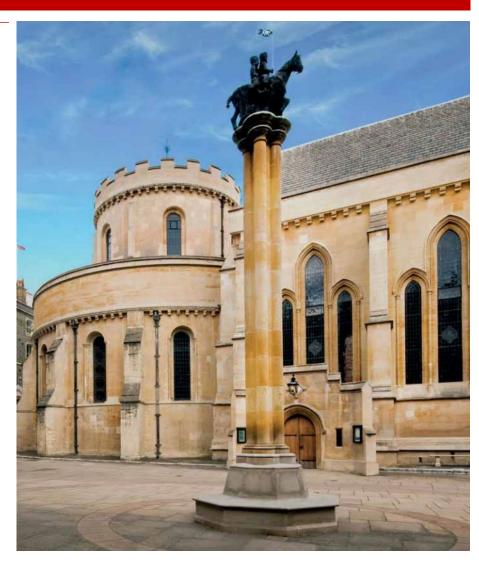
The Revd Robin Griffith-Jones (Master of the Temple)

The early years

Right in the centre of London, between St Paul's Cathedral and Trafalgar Square and just off Fleet Street, is a lovely enclave of courtyards, fountains, gardens and ancient buildings. This is the Temple: the area once owned by the Knights Templar; as prestigious a venue 800 years ago as it is today. Along the north side is the beautiful Temple Church. One half is a classic Gothic chancel, a graceful oblong with tall, pointed, tripartite windows. The other half is far more unexpected: a battlemented rotunda with narrow, sturdy windows and for its entrance, a majestic Norman doorway elaborately carved in seven orders of decoration over its top and down each side.

The Templars were founded in Jerusalem in 1119-20 and by the 1140s they were in London, at their first 'Temple', on Holborn. There too they built a round church. By 1162 they moved south to the present 'New Temple' between Fleet Street and the river Thames. Their new compound had its inner consecrated courtyard with the church; and just to the west, an outer consecrated courtyard with a second hall, brewery, granaries, stables and the like. Their smithy was across Fleet Street, keeping the danger from its fires well away from the main buildings. Their jousting ground, Fittes Field, was also on the north side of Fleet Street, now occupied by the Royal Courts of Justice. When the Templars built their round churches, they were recreating the shape and thereby the sanctity of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. To be in the Temple's rotunda was, to the medieval mind, to be in Jerusalem, at the site of Jesus's death, burial and rising. On his long visit to England in 1185, the Patriarch Heraclius of Jerusalem consecrated the Temple Church and dedicated it to the Virgin Mary at Candlemas, the feast of the infant Jesus's presentation in Jerusalem Temple.

The rotunda of the Temple Church was then, an evocative, numinous place. It was also the heart of a major political, financial and diplomatic centre in England's polity.





The Revd Robin Griffith-Jones

Written and reproduced

Master of the Temple at the Temple Church. Reader at King's College London and co-author and co-editor of The Temple Church (2010) and Tomb & Temple: Re-imagining The Sacred Buildings of Jerusalem (2018)

For most of the 13th Century the king's treasure was at the Temple, along with that of various barons and merchants. However, their valuables were not quite as safe as they might have hoped. In 1263, when royal finances were at a low ebb, Prince Edward broke into a number of strong boxes kept in the Temple and took nearly £10,000 belonging to others away to Windsor Castle. And in 1307, his son was back for more and the new Edward II took jewels and money worth some £50,000. Magnates and ambassadors visiting London would naturally have business to do with the Templars, who would have wanted to impress their guests. It was a place of worship yes, but also of power.

The Temple Church contd.



It is awash with air and light. The Templars' re-creation of Jerusalem had become a shrine to the Marshals. On Friday 13th October 1307, the king of France had every Templar in the kingdom arrested. King Edward II did not credit the charges against them and for nearly two years dragged his heels over their investigation. In 1308, nonetheless, an inventory was made of the movables in the Temple and the church itself. Here, on the point of its disappearance, the splendour of the church's furnishings is brought to life. There were six pairs of vestments, with tunics and dalmatics, and 11 chasubles for Mass; two organs each with a double rank of pipes, probably with a range of three octaves and perhaps mounted on the rood screen; 28 choir copes and four little copes for the choristers; a good collection of music books including nine processionals, each for use by one singer on the move; and five carpets that lay before the high altar. Among the relics was one of the swords that killed Becket across the courtyard from the church.

It also became, within decades, a place of very particular patronage. By 1212 there was a rising danger of rebellion against King John. By 1214 he was nearly bankrupt but the Templars remained loyal and the Temple became John's headquarters in the west of London. On 7-15th January 1215, the rebel barons came to a conference in the Temple 'fully armed and ready for war'. According to the rebel's account, they asked the king to confirm their ancient and accustomed liberties. He refused, and in turn, asked them to undertake in writing on behalf of themselves and their successors that they would never in future demand such liberties. Now the barons refused. The king's position was clearly fragile and on 17th May 1215, the rebels captured London and the balance of power moved suddenly and irrevocably against John. So Magna Carta, 'the Great Charter' came into being at Runnymede on 15th June 1215.

Throughout the crisis, the balance of power lay with the great William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke. William was admitted to the

Templars and within days of his death, was buried in the rotunda of the Temple. His effigy still lies there. His eldest son. William Marshal, the 2nd Farl of Pembroke married the sister of King Henry III and was also buried in the rotunda, where his effigy lies beside his father's. With them lies the effigy of the great William's third son, Gilbert. In 1236, the king declared that he would himself be buried in the Temple Church and in turn, so did the queen. As a consequence of his wish, the choir of the church was pulled down and a far larger one built in its place. This was consecrated on Ascension Day 1240 in the presence of the king. However, after Henry died, it was discovered that he had altered his will and would be buried in Westminster Abbey, the queen in Amesbury.

The Templars knocked down the small chancel appended to the eastern side of their Round, and built the early English Gothic chancel that survives today: a hall church with three aisles of equal height, thin walls, vast windows, narrow columns and wide spans

...the rebel barons came to the Temple, "fully armed and ready for war"

Seven hundred years after the Templars sang their last office here, we might still hope, when our present organ plays and our choirmen and choristers sing, to catch a faint echo of our forebears' music in this lovely place.



The United Orders and wine!

Rt. E. Kt. David Thompson – Provincial Prior for the Province of London

The Provincial Sub-Prior has risen to the challenge by providing several articles on bread making, but are we not told that "Man shall not live by bread alone"? Should we not consider the connections between the United Orders and wine?

Within the Holy Land, the loss of the Crusader States and reimposition of Muslim rule resulted in the widespread extinction of viticulture which was tolerated only amongst the Jewish and Christian minorities and for mainly religious purposes. In both presentday Lebanon and Israel, wine-making was reintroduced in the mid nineteenth century by the French.

In Lebanon, production is found particularly in the southern Begaa valley where notable wineries include Château Ksara, Château Kefraya and the renowned Château Musar, famous for transporting the grapes across the front line during the civil war.

The Israeli wine industry has developed and improved significantly over the last thirty years. It should be noted that several of the major wine-growing regions are in the occupied territories, although occupation may have been for more than oenological purposes.



When the Templars purchased Cyprus from Richard the Lionheart, it came with what was then a world-famous wine. When they came to sell the island on, they maintained a feudal estate making the wine which they called "la Grande Commanderie" which gave the name of "Commandaria" to the region and the wine.

The grapes are partially sun-dried before fermentation and pressing. This concentrates the sugars, giving the wine its sweet character. Following fermentation, the wine is aged a minimum of two years in oak

barrels. The result is a sweet red dessert wine with honey, fruit, and toffee flavours. St John at Ealing have partially cornered the market in this interesting wine.

The second largest producer on the island of Rhodes, Emery, is named after Emery d' Amboise, Grand Master of the Knights of St John from 1503 to 1512. Their vineyards, cultivated on the northwesterly slopes of Mount Attavyros, are renowned for the quality of their Athiri and Amorgiano grapes. While Pope Clement V was one part of the duo who suppressed the Templars, his decision to move the Papacy to Avignon resulted in the promotion of Burgundy and also the local wines. His successor, John XXII, not only constructed a new castle north of Avignon but also drank the local wine which became known as "Vin de Pape" or "Châteauneuf-du-Pape".

Although Clement suppressed the Order that should not stop us drinking the wine!



Rt. E. Kt. David Thompson Provincial Prior for the Province of London

Our first Provincial Virtual Business Meeting

Friday 29th January 2021



registered

downloaded the Order of Business (94%)

attended (70%) higher than Jan 2020! (average webinar is 46%)



stayed until the end of the meeting

(a further 14 were posted)

opened the emails

76%

Yeast and Sin

E. Kt. Antony Legge - Food Correspondent (Baking)

Yeast comes off rather badly with Bible Scholars who deem it to be analogous to sin. The argument runs that since Christ, the Sinless One, lifted a piece of unleavened bread at Passover with the words "This is my Body", so the leavening, or yeast, is like sin. Which only goes to show that Bible Scholars are not bakers.

Yeast is naturally present in flour, so even unleavened bread will have contained a tiny amount of yeast. Not enough to leaven the bread, but given time to grow.... In fact, to create a sourdough culture, one merely starts with a mixture equal weights of flour and water and leave for a few days, refreshing regularly.

After about seven days you have an active bubbling starter, full of happy yeast. Seven days is also the time period for the Feast of the Unleavened Bread, which starts with Passover, when Jews are taught to throw away the old leavening, sin, and begin afresh. But perhaps it was an analogy for the coming of Christ himself, he was the new yeast (Matthew 16: 5 "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees"), whose word was to spread through the world. Luke 13:20-21 "What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."

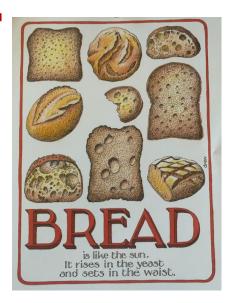
"Which only goes to show that Bible Scholars are not bakers."

Just as yeast changes what would otherwise be a somewhat solid and very chewy piece of bread into a far more light and tasty treat, so the teachings of Our Lord will spread quietly throughout the world, changing us as individuals into something better.

As a last thought, yeast occurs naturally on the skin of grapes – without which we would not have wine. As our Right Eminent Provincial Prior writes so eloquently in these pages, wine is an important part of Christian religious practices. So yeast cannot be that bad. Afterall, if yeast is sin then what does that make alcohol? (Perhaps that topic is best avoided).

(Returning briefly to the practicalities of the Passover, unleavened bread is easier and quicker to make than leavened bread and, very importantly, makes great wraps. Especially useful if you are eating your meal quickly, with your feet shod and staff in your hand – your other can now hold a simple wrap that can be eaten on the move. Thus proving that kebabs are a gift from God).

Meanwhile, as a nod to St Patrick's Day on 17th March, here's a recipe for Irish Soda bread with Guinness. Completely sin free as it contains no yeast and since Guinness is like wine to the Irish it is also recalls the new and everlasting covenant.



Breade



Ingredients

- 450g whole wheat flour
- · 2 tsp baking soda
- 50g cup rolled oats
- 62.5g demerara
- 50g unsalted butter,
- 100g treacle
- 440ml Guinness stout beer

Instructions

- 1. Preheat the oven to 180 C.
- 2. Butter or oil the loaf tin.
- Whisk the dry ingredients (whole wheat flour, baking soda, rolled oats, and sugar) together.
- 4. In a bowl, mix the butter and treacle and then add the Guinness.
- Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and fold them gently together until well combined.
- 6. Spoon the batter into the loaf tin and smooth out the top
- Bake for approximately 50 minutes, until a toothpick comes out of the bread clean.
- 8. Let the bread cool in the tin.



E. Kt. Antony Legge P.Gt.Her. Provincial Sub-Prior

Lent

E.Kt. Rev'd Niall Johnston P.Prov.A.-de-C.

Our journey to Easter has begun and, no matter how much I have travelled, I always need an orientation session for each new trip. So, as this Lenten journey begins, I need to stop, look around and understand where I am, what it is I will be doing and how best to tackle this opportunity, which is also a challenge. Why not join me in this orientation session?

Easter may conjure up certain images in our minds: palm leaves; a donkey; washing feet; breaking bread; denial; falling asleep while praying; injustice and miscarriage of justice; barbaric punishment, torture and execution; an empty tomb. We will get to all of these aspects of the Easter story in due course but first we to get our bearings.

There is one thing I try to do when I find myself in a new place, especially a city. I look for the highest point or tallest building and I make that my first port of call. From such a vantage point I can take in the whole panorama of the city. I can see the bigger picture. I do this for two reasons.

I get to see the beauty, the wonder, the shape and the scale of my location. I also get to see how the city fits together. I can see the key landmarks that serve as markers for the wide variety of districts that make up a city. By grasping how they fit together I am gaining valuable knowledge. When I return to street level and begin to navigate my way around, I draw on the vista I have seen and the landmarks I have noted. The map or guidebook in my hand aids my journey through the wonders of the city but grasping the bigger picture is key to understanding where I am and where I am going.

What is true of travel to new places, and all manner of new beginnings, is also true when it comes to faith, the Bible and God. Just as it is easy to get lost or disorientated in a new place, unable to know which way to turn, so it can be with the Bible, with faith and with God. We can find ourselves struggling to make sense of the here and now. We have lost our bearings. Nothing seems to make sense. We are confused, frightened and despondent. What we need is a big picture

moment. We need help to stand back, look at the whole vista and recognise the big story. What we need is Genesis.

It might seem strange to begin a Lenten journey with Genesis but I encourage you to read Genesis 1. As you do so, imagine you are standing at a vantage point in a city you have never visited before. You are trying to make sense of what lies before you. You are trying to get to your bearings.

Genesis 1:1. In the beginning God... Genesis 1: 3,6,9,11,14,20,24,26. God said... Genesis 1: 10,12,19,21,25,31. God looked...

Notice the pattern and focus of this passage. As much as we might think of it as a creation narrative, it is in fact a Creator's narrative. There are most certainly vivid descriptions of the emerging new world but these details actually serve as the backdrop for a much more stunning subject in this dramatic picture. Centre stage is God: He is without beginning; He speaks and all life appears; and He looks at all before Him and sees that it is good.

Re-read Genesis 1 today. Place yourself in the story. Hear God speak. See God's actions and receive God's blessing. The God we are presented with in Genesis 1 is the God who loves, cares and desires to have relationship with us. Our adventure, our journey, our encounter over these 40 days will be with the God who creates, the God who gives life and the God who enjoys life.

Take time each day to stand or sit and enjoy the wonder and beauty of this amazing world and then simply say 'Thank you God, you are amazing!'



A view from around and about Sir Eel

"Well 2021 is upon us, and it seems quite a while ago now that my DiD (Damsel in Distress) wanted a Knight in shining armour to whisk her away from all this. Looking back on it and being inspired by those returning from the Bodyguard Pilgrimage, taking her on a trip to The Holy Land through Covid ridden Turkey may not have been the most sensible idea I've ever had. Happily, once the tubing is out, the nurse said she can head back and start her quarantine.

Still, staying at home hasn't been that great either, but you can always rely on our KT ancestors for advice when it comes to protection. Keeping on a full set armour when outside and not washing for months on end, meant, surprisingly, that people had no problem in keeping their distance.

So I have had to keep up to date through social media. Here, you can marvel at how technology can bring the people of the world together, just so you can watch them tear each other apart. Even our own Province has been getting in on the act with MeTube recordings allowing many of our Knights to show young children first-hand, just how tricky modern technology can be made to look. I stagger at the number of times I have lost at virtual bingo because someone else had "Hello, can you hear me now?" or "Sorry, I was on mute!".

It has had its benefits though. It would appear that my fellow Knights place no truck with current fashion trends nor any idea that has, at any point in history, shown any relevance to interior design. Zoomy meetings have allowed us to gasp in awe at just a sample of the spectacular collection of "brave" choices of curtains and soft furnishings that reside in properties across the Province.

Remember that what you say is not as important as the bookcase behind you. The hashtag #showusyourshelves has been trending on Twitter where others will soon be disseminating their opinions on your choices with all the fervour of sugar crazed toddlers throwing confetti at a wedding. However, it did make me rush to remove 'Surrounded by Idiots' from its usual pride of place.

It was then a quick trip to my local charity shop where I picked up a well thumbed copy of Anna Karenina, 2 books by Dickens, what I thought was a biography of Steve Jobs only to find it was about one of the members of Girls Aloud, and Fifty Shades of Grey (after all, you never know who might also be watching). Why I then went and placed it between my copy of Where's Wally and A History of the Watermarks of Madagascan Postage Stamps – 1945 to 1978, I have yet to fully understand.

On virtual calls with my Preceptory, Covid remains a big subject of discussion and I learnt that we must all politely endure the words of wisdom from those who have gained a PhD on coronavirus from the WhatsUp university and who also believe that others who have spent a lifetime in medicine studying epidemiology, have of course, got it all wrong.

The Tinterweb has allowed us to keep in touch both spiritually and culturally. There was a Service for the Feast of St. John the Baptist, a Tour behind the scenes of the Western Wall, new editions of Knightly Toothpicks, an Act of Remembrance and a Carol Service where we sounded much better than I remembered from last year.

It can also provide a useful distraction. Last night, after I had repaired the table lamp following my practice of the Reverse Swords part of the drill, I was led down a MeTube rabbit-hole where I ended up watching a video of an Australian cheese-maker making parmesan. He starts his videos by saying "g'day curd nerds" and all the comments are in Italian and contain a large number of expletive symbols and emojis. I'll have to ask Sectretum Templi Londinium for a translation, then again, perhaps not.

I am also trying to read the ritual to further my position within the Preceptory and I soon realised that by doing just a little every day, you can gradually let the Ceremony of Installation completely overwhelm you. Fortunately, new paths have now opened up before me. Unfortunately it happened as soon as I lowered my expectations.



I do miss our meetings though, the time I would have spent waiting at the bar in MMH to be served, has been spent at home schooling the Knightlets. I have always believed that children are our future but having seen them learn close up, that now terrifies the life out of me. They are being taught at home so much, that their teachers have said that if things don't improve soon, they will ask me to stop helping them.

"What you say is not as important as the bookcase behind you."

Off for another Zoomy meeting shortly. So I will quickly check the shelves to make sure no-one has put up the picture with me and the inflatable flamingo, I'll turn on all the lights, shout to the Knightlets to keep quiet and hope that the puppy doesn't hear an Amazon delivery van.

Hopefully, DiD will be released soon and when she gets back she said she wants me to spice up her life! - I think I'll buy a basil plant.

Stay safe and play your part. In these troubled times, what you do as an individual really matters. After all, no single raindrop believes it is to blame for the flood.

Till next time my fellow crusaders...

Sir Eel - Wishing he was in Outremer

What and where

Can you identify these Templar landmarks?















Answers will be in the next issue.

Whose shield?

In answer to the question posed in the last edition:



Robert de Craon

Lived: 1109 – 1147 Nationality: French

Papal recognition brought an extension of powers to the Knights Templar

Born in the French province of Anjou, he was the youngest of three sons and known as 'the Burgundian'. He served as Seneschal of the Order, he rose to become the second Grand Master in 1136 succeeding Hugues de Payens.

He was a brilliant organiser and legislator as well as a member of nobility and was once engaged to the heiress of Chabannes and Confolens in Aquitane. However, he renounced his betrothal and travelled to the Holy Land and joined the Knights Templar in 1125. He participated in several campaigns in the Holy Land and returned to the West in 1138. He served until his death in 1147.

The shield has later been adopted by **Golden Square Preceptory (No. 219)** who celebrate their centenary later this year.

A final thought

Brother Knights

As the path out of lockdown becomes clearer, how we will emerge once again into the light? Will we be Kenneth Graeme's Mole, blinking in the new sunlight? Or will we stride forth, confident from being clad in the whole armour of God. Or will we be somewhere in between; keen to return to our Knightly duties and our friends whilst also hesitant, recognising the world has changed in ways that we don't yet know and that some friends will be with us no more. However we approach the future, let us remember what we are taught as Knights Templar; "God is with Us".