

# KnighlyTopics

**Issue 40**  
Provincial Priory of London



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## The Team

**Angus Rhodes**

**Antony Legge**

**Vernon King**

**Rev'd Niall Johnston**

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The cover image shows the badge from the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group.

**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 Editorial Team at: [media@londonprovincekt.org](mailto: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 us.

## A message from the Provincial Prior

**Rt. E. Kt. David Thompson**

It was a great pleasure for me to see the Province returning to Masonic duties last September and both I and the Sub-Prior have been thrilled to experience the enthusiasm of our fellow Brother Knights in all the Preceptories that we have visited so far this season.

It is my intention to ensure that every Preceptory is visited this year and I am grateful for the support of my Provincial Team in achieving this and also in assisting me in spreading the message that London is once more open for Knights Templar activities, for those who wish to. With c140 attendees at our Provincial Meeting in September and c110 turning up to the Malta Meeting in January to see the Sub-Prior install 12 new Knights, it is clear that many Knights have similarly missed our ceremonies and our meetings and are delighted to once again be donning their tunics and mantles.

And this is the message that I would ask you all to broadcast: how much enjoyment and satisfaction we have gained by returning to our Meetings; let us gently encourage those who may have lost interest and let us step up our search for suitable new candidates.

At the same time we should remember those Knights, particularly the more



vulnerable, for whom the disease still causes concern, and try to include them as much as possible until they too feel confident to return to our temples.

In a world that continues to suffer disruption, it is clear that our chivalric virtues and our shared faith in our Risen Lord provide beacons of light in difficult times. May I thank you all for the support that you have provided to our Order in general and to our Province in particular and I look forward to sharing a drink with many more of you in the coming months.

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

## Editorial

Outside the window the daffodils are blooming in the spring sunshine, bringing to mind Wordsworth's famous poem. It's a great poem for this time of year as we emerge from the long dark days of winter, focusing on the happiness of simple pleasures and of hope.

Hope is the Christian message of Easter, to which we are now journeying through Lent; and a message that is much needed in a world now faced with a terrible conflict in Ukraine whilst still reeling from the effects of the pandemic that has dominated the last two years. Hope is also found in the following pages; in the message from

Ahmad Ma'ali, the CEO of the St John's Eye Hospital Group, in the fund raising activities of the Knights of the Vision Beautiful, and in the recent wonderful ceremony at Secretum Templi Londinium that saw 12 new knights installed into our illustrious Order.

Brother Knights, as we travel to our meetings and festive boards, let us remember again Wordsworth's words – not as some academic lesson, but as a reminder of the fun to be found “in such jocund company” and may our hearts once again with pleasure fill and dance with daffodils.

We wish you a glorious and joyful Easter.

KnighlyTopics



Issue 40  
March 2022

[www.londonknightstemplar.com](http://www.londonknightstemplar.com)

# The London Provincial Priory of Malta Meeting

E. Kt. Vernon King – Provincial Vice-Chancellor

Brother Knights,

**It'll be alright on the night!** Throughout January, there were changing levels of uncertainty for many individual Knights relating to their own prevailing Covid condition. It certainly added a new level of spontaneity to the usual 'forecasting fun' associated with the preparation of a Provincial Meeting. In addition, just to make life a little more difficult for ourselves, we brought in a couple of new factors to the booking and dining arrangements to see how effective they would be. In the end, it all worked out well. It was a marvelous day all round and we saw a dozen Knights receive the Mediterranean Pass, become Knights of St. Paul and then take their Malta Degree in a fitting ceremony filled with spectacular ritual, fascinating history, colour, banners, exuberant challenges and moments of quiet reflection.

In addition, a further 25 Knights received Past Provincial Ranks either as a First Appointment or on Promotion.

Proceedings in the Temple were underway at 4.15pm with a number of delegations entering, adding to the colour, pomp and spectacle of the occasion. With the Provincial Prior overseeing the first part, V. E. Kt Richard Fogwill invested the candidates as Knights of St. Paul. During their absence, Officers of the Provincial Priory were invested along with those receiving appointments or promotions.

On the return of the candidates, the Provincial Sub-Prior, as the Eminent Prior oif the Chapter of Provincial Priory of Knights of Malta, commanded the whole investing ceremony and presented the history of the Order for all 12 candidates. This involved banners, the Bodyguard, challenges and ritual. With the accolade being presented by the Great Sub-Prior of Malta to each Knight in turn, and jewels presented by the Provincial Prior, the result was a very impressive ceremony.

The day concluded with a joyous Festive Board where the camaraderie among those attending was well in evidence.

**...there were banners and parades all over the place, it was a visual spectacle."**

## Knights invested in the Malta Degree

Representative Candidate

Kt. Ron Wainer. (Sancta Maria 183)

Kt. Mark Skelton (Mount Calvary D)

Kt Robert Sutherland. (Kemeys Tynte and Temple Cressing 45)

Kt Geoffrey Morrison. (New Temple 117)

Kt Steven Henderson. (Studholme 140)

Kt Jimmy James. (Ascalon 163)

Kt Damian Kennaby. (Sancta Maria 183)

Kt Michael Osborne. (Baluchistan 188)

Kt Richard Higginson. (Public Schools 209)

Kt Roy Cullen. (Golden Square 219)

Kt Terry Green. (Sydenham 251)

Kt Felix Matthew-Brown. (Sydenham 251)

Kt Kris Blamires. (Military Lodges 300)

## Officers of the Priory 2022

Provincial Prior	David Thompson
Provincial Sub-Prior	Antony Legge
Prelate	Rev'd. Niall Johnston
Chancellor of the Temple	Chris Radmore
Captain General	Laurence George
Lieutenant General	Peter Cahill
Treasurer	Matthew Hampson
First Lieutenant	Brian Francois
Vice-Chancellor	Vernon King
Mareschal	Keith Florence
Deputy Mareschal	Tony Bown
Deputy Mareschal	Antony Sidoli
Hospitaller	Andrew Bodnar
Second Lieutenant	Luis Hui
Admiral	Richard McAllister
Conservator	Douglas Abbott
Banner Bearer	Neil Pinner
Sword Bearer	Mark Johnson
Ballie	Robin van Geene
Baillie	Huw Shooter
Turcopolier	Terry Hall
Captain of Outposts	Babatunde Lawal
Organist	Rev'd Chris Damp
Guard	Derek Weobley

## Past Provincial Ranks on Promotion

Past Captain General	Michael Timson
Past First Lieutenant	Malcolm Gates; James Roscoe Peter Sanders; Jason Warr
Past Second Lieutenant	Nicholas Coletta; Hosseini-Aria Hossein Darrel Palmer; Anthony (David) Thomas
Past Standard Bearer	John Evans; Kenneth Howling

## Past Provincial Ranks – First Appointment

Past First Lieutenant	Ian Drury; Vernon King
Past Sword Bearer	Wayne Krause
Past Baillie	Adam Armsby; David Elkins Roy Hill; Ian Pamplin
Past Turcopolier	Phillip Grubb; Robet Hillman Archibald Mackay; James McCormack
Past Captain of Outposts	Davide Bernardini; David Burton Charles Ridley



# A Reflection from the Chief Executive Officer SJEHG

Ahmad Ma'ali PhD, MPH, BSN

It is a pleasure to be able to contribute to this edition of Knightly Topics. All of us at the Saint John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group welcome our special relationship with the Great Priory of Knights Templar of England and Wales and, especially, the commitment of Knights of the Province of London to supporting our work. Great Priory, as you will know, is the longest and most significant regular partner to the Eye Hospital Group after the Order of St John and those who visit us can see tangible reminders of this valued relationship.

Just before the pandemic struck, we were delighted to receive a visit from 40 Knights and spouses led by your now Provincial Prelate and we look forward to welcoming the next group of pilgrims in November this year.



We began 2021 with many uncertainties, not least those related to the global Covid pandemic. Based on our experience in 2020, we anticipated that our clinical work would be severely disrupted and that our overall output might only be at 70% of the hospital's capacity. However, following an immensely successful vaccination campaign in Israel a fourth wave of the virus was managed without the need for a severe lockdown or movement restrictions. The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group has continued to challenge itself on how best to support its patients – whether that be enhancing access to charitable eye care or freeing the backlog of surgical cases that we were unable to see during lockdown. I am delighted to report that we have managed to

operate on all those who were on our waiting lists and carried out more eye surgeries than ever before (**135,000 patients in total**).

We have resumed our outreach work both in the West Bank and Gaza. We have also established a regular outreach clinic at **Kofor Aqab village** which has enhanced access to eye care for Jerusalemites living outside the wall.



Last May, the war in Gaza was devastating for Gazans and many health facilities and houses were destroyed. Our hospital in Gaza has risen to the challenge to meet the increasing demand of so many people, and like our hospital in Jerusalem, in Gaza we supported more ophthalmic patients than ever before (**40,000 patients in total**).

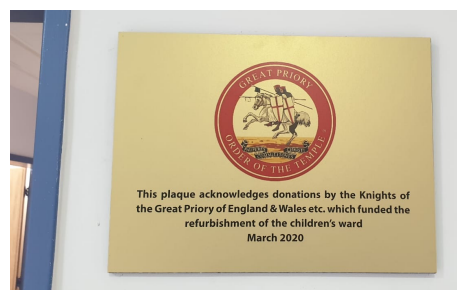
This year we published ten clinical research papers in various ophthalmic and medical journals.

**Contd...**



“As always, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all those who support our work. Work which simply would not be possible without the magnificent generosity from friends like you, the Knights Templar of London.

*Ahmad Ma'ali  
Chief Executive Officer SJEHG*



One of three plaques within the St. John Eye Hospital thanking Knights Templar for their support

## A Reflection contd...

The work of the research team has been fully supported by the newly established Ophthalmic Research Advisory Committee, which is an integral part of the St. John Ophthalmic Association.

As for the coming year, we plan to strengthen our service provisions in Gaza to reduce the need for patients for travel to Jerusalem. The work with both the Israeli and Palestinian Ministries of Health will also be enhanced to increase service provisions to all needy patients both in Jerusalem and West Bank.

Since the global pandemic struck, the Province of London, both collectively and through individual Preceptories and Knights, has raised in excess of **£20,000**. When the contribution of another **£20,000** from the Knights of the Vision Beautiful,

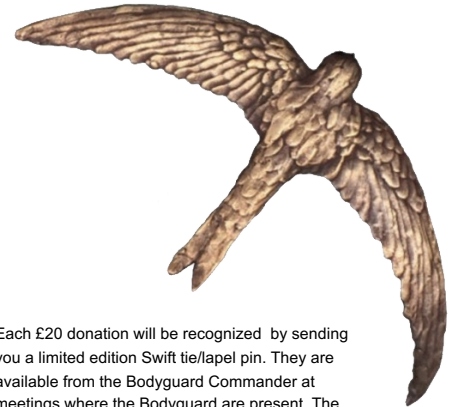
many of whom are London Knights is added, you can see why we value your support so much.

It is also wonderful to see so many of you wearing the Swift lapel pin and, if you do not already have one, there are details elsewhere in this edition of how to acquire one.

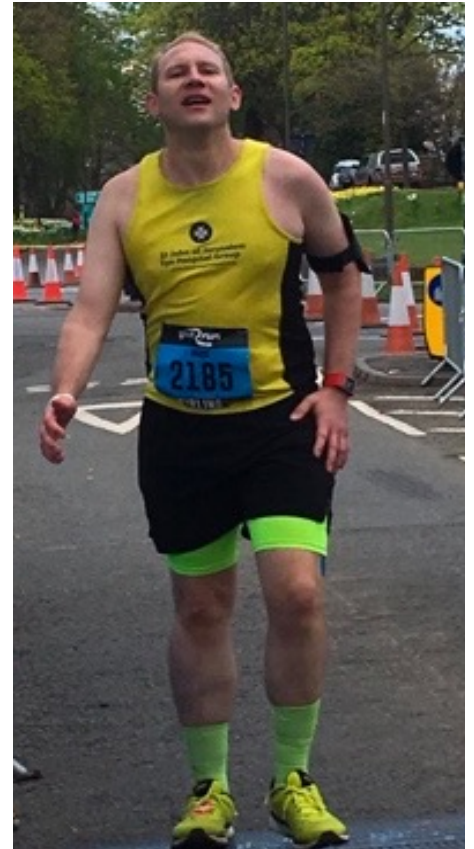
As always, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all those who support our work. Work which simply would not be possible without the magnificent generosity from friends like you, the Knights Templar of London.

With warmest regards

**Ahmad Ma'ali** PhD MPH BSN  
Chief Executive Officer SJEHG



Each £20 donation will be recognized by sending you a limited edition Swift tie/lapel pin. They are available from the Bodyguard Commander at meetings where the Bodyguard are present. The Provincial Prelate is happy to take email requests and will post (free of charge) a pin and Gift Aid envelope in advance of payment.



## Answers to Templar landmarks in Issue 39

1. Al Aqsa Mosque – Jerusalem
2. St. John's Gate, The Priory of England – Clerkenwell, London
3. Temple Church – Temple, London
4. Castelo de Almourol – Portugal
5. Montfort Castle – Palestine
6. Templar tunnels – Acre, Israel
7. Krak des Chevaliers - Syria

## Great Ranks

Many congratulations to those brother Knights of the Province of London, who the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master has seen fit to honour with Great Rank.

The **Rev'd Niall Johnston** continues as Deputy Great Almoner and, this year, three other London Knights have been offered active rank; **E Kt Jamie Ingham Clark CStJ (Public Schools)** will be Deputy Great Sword Bearer and **E Kt Angus Rhodes (Golden Square)** will be Great Captain of Guards (a role previous held by both the Right Eminent Provincial Prior and the Sub Prior, so what could this mean for the future?). In addition, **Guy Elgood (Faith & Fidelity)** is honoured with First Great Constable.

The wonderful contributions of two long standing supporters of the Province has been 'verified' with **Keith Florence (St John at Ealing)** and **Les Fox (Annus Mirabilis)** both being made Past Great Registrar. In Hertfordshire, **Gavin O'Sullivan (Holy Sanctuary)** has been similarly recognised. All will become **Very Eminent Knights** (Brother Knights, with five...).

**Anthony Sidoli (King Edward VII)** has been made Past Great Aide de Camp and **Dr Luciano D'Alessandro (Secretum Templi Londinium)** has been made Past Great Warden of Regalia. In addition, from Waller Rodwell Wright Preceptory in Malta, **John Campbell (Holy Sanctuary)** has also been made Past Great Warden of Regalia.

Congratulations to each of them and best wishes for the coming year for those in

## Official visits from the Province

Following the hiatus in visiting due to the pandemic, the Right Eminent Provincial Prior decreed that, this Masonic season, every preceptory would be visited. There are four preceptories that are never visited – the REPP's mother preceptory (Public Schools), Coromandel (as it is the personal preceptory of the Provincial Prior), Londinium (being an installed preceptors' preceptory) and London Bodyguard Preceptory (ask a bodyguard member to explain this one); leaving 25 Official Visits to be made, one of which, the Centenary for Golden Square, was handled by Great Priory, which has been keeping the Provincial Team quite busy. Twelve visits (highlighted in red below) have occurred to date, with each occasion proving why this Order is so enjoyable.

Preceptory Name	No.	Meeting Place	Official Visitor	Date
Mount Calvary	D	Duke St	PP	04-Mar
Faith & Fidelity	26	Duke St	PSP	28-Jun
Kemeys Tynte	45	Duke St	PSP	25-Feb
Coromandel	73	Duke St	NV	
New Temple	117	Duke St	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cons	07-Mar
Bard of Avon	127	MMH	PP	21-Apr
United Oxford & Cambridge	128	Duke St	PSP	16-May
Holy Sanctuary	131	MMH	PSP	27-Apr
Studholme	140	MMH	PP	01-Nov
Shadwell Clerke	154	MMH	PSP	13-Dec
Ascalon	163	MMH	PSP	07-Feb
Connaught Army & Navy	172	MMH	PSP	17-May
King Edward VII	173	Duke St	PP	14-Apr
Empress	178	Duke St	PSP	12-May
Sancta Maria	183	MMH	PSP	25-Oct
Galilee	185	MMH	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cons	23-Sep
Baluchistan	188	MMH	Chancellor	13-May
Annus Mirabilis	206	MMH	PP	03-Dec
Public Schools	209	Duke St	NV	
Golden Square	219	MMH	Gt. Priory	10-Nov
Sydenham	251	Duke St	PP	21-Jan
Britannic of Madeira	282	MMH	PSP	08-Feb
Military Lodges	300	MMH	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cons	11-Jun
Royal Colonial Institute	321	MMH	PP	23-Mar
Guild of Freeman	512	MMH	PP	17-Jan
St John at Ealing	576	WLMC	1 <sup>st</sup> Cons	02-Apr
London Bodyguard	614	MMH	NV	
Londinium	632	Duke St	NV	
Sec Templi	695	MMH	PP	05-Mar





# Golden Square Centenary

## E. Kt. Brian Francois

**Wednesday, 10 November 2021** saw the Centenary Celebration of Golden Square Preceptory No. 219 held at Mark Masons' Hall. The celebration had been delayed due to Covid pandemic as the Preceptory was actually consecrated on 25th April 1921.

**Why Golden Square?** Originally the site of a plague pit, you are probably aware the actual Golden Square is located behind the east side of Regent Street London W1 and the north side of Piccadilly Circus, London W1 and was the location of a former Headquarters of the Ancient and Accepted Rite. What we don't know for sure, but perhaps it was that association which influenced the given name of the Preceptory.

The Centenary commenced at 4.00pm and was presided over by the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master Paul Raymond Clement, G.C.T., assisted by the Great Marshal, R.E.Kt. Timothy Wheeler, K.C.T., the Great Vice Chancellor, and other Officers of Great Priory. Also present were members of our own London Provincial Team including the R.E. Provincial Prior David James Thompson who worked alongside the Golden Square Knights and the Eminent Preceptor Vernon King in presenting a marvelous ceremony for all that were able to attend.

The Provincial Prelate E.Kt. the Reverend Niall Johnston Dep.Gt.Alm. gave a highly relevant oration which was very much appreciated by all. The ceremony, under the direction of the Great Marshal, ran like clockwork. The Warrant and Centenary Warrant were impressively read by the Great Vice Chancellor R.E.Kt. Ryan Williams, K.C.T., prior to the Centenary Warrant being presented by the Grand Master to the Eminent Preceptor. Centenary Jewels were then presented to the Knights of Golden Square by the R.E. Provincial Prior which we will all wear with pride.

Sixty members were present all of whom greatly enjoyed the prestigious occasion which concluded most appropriately with the singing of the National Anthem. Following appropriate refreshment at the bar the members and guests dined together where much discussion of the events of the day took place during which the Eminent Preceptor expressed his gratitude to the Registrar of the Preceptory E.Kt Brian Francois, P.Gt.A.-de-C., for his organisational ability and dedication to the Preceptory in organising such a memorable day.

The occasion was a great credit to the Preceptory, the Province of London and the Order in general.



Eminent Preceptor Vernon King accompanied by E. Kt. Brian Francois, receives the Centenary Warrant from Supreme Grand Master Paul Raymond Clement;

Knights at Golden Square Centenary Meeting



# Knights of the Vision Beautiful – Ride Again!

E. Kt. Angus Rhodes

Whilst many people were still eating Christmas leftovers or nursing a hangover, on 27th December (St John the Evangelist's Day), the **Knights of the Vision Beautiful** were starting a Forty-Eight Hour Relay raising vital funds for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group.

Their Captain kicked it off tackling the night-time hours from Midnight and then a number of Knights took over with their choice of exercise, including rowing, running, cycling and even serious circuit training. One member, recovering from heart surgery in the summer of 2021, even arranged his physiotherapy recovery session to fill his slot.

Participants from our Province included (shown with their JustGiving.com pages should you wish to support their efforts):

**The Provincial Sub-Prior** who joined in by completing two hour slots on his rowing machine (and looking rather flustered in the picture on the right, but – not bad for someone that had the full blown form of covid 19 in 2020);

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Sub-Prior-London>

**E.Kt. Paul Asante** (looking rather superhuman in his circuits);

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/paulsage3>

**Bro.Kt. Chris Griggs** (you will have to ask him what he is doing with the mop!);

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ChrisGriggs>

Deputy Commander of the REPP's Bodyguard, **E.Kt. Wayne Krause** (looking rather more serious than usual...);

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/WBK>

Our Provincial Treasurer, **E.Kt. Matt Hampson**, (who did something to do with skiing in the Alps...poor chap);

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Matthampsonpage>



**Bro.Kt. Ian Williamson**, Preceptor-Elect of Golden Square (who apparently volunteered to demolish a house or something!) His cousin & our brother, **John**, in Canada also took part;

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lanfortheEyes>

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Lohnny>

a Knight that must remain anonymous for security reasons (they seek him here, they seek him there);

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/UknownKnight>

the **Provincial Deputy Marshal** (who has a similar social media issue);

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ItalianKnight>

& **Angus** the Captain (his only real distinction being he did the most hours this year);

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Angus-Rhodes>

The date, current limitations, plus the fact members of the Team are spread from Somerset to Yorkshire, Scotland and even one in Canada... meant it was planned as a remote relay. Each Team Member took over at their appointed time, wherever they were. The challenge was to have at least one Team Member in motion at any one time for the whole Forty-Eight Hour period, including both nights. We are delighted to announce that they succeeded.

The Knights have been completing challenges for the Eye Hospital for the past few years, initially via their Captain's efforts with Marathons, Skydives, Firewalks and other things. He was set, and achieved a Swift Fundraising Target, before this was rolled out to the KT Provincial Priors (if you do not know what this means why not ask a friendly Knight). The Knights' collective efforts began in 2020 with a 24-Hour Relay. They exceeded the 2020 target of £11,670 which enabled the funding of a Surgical Stall to enable very sensitive operations to be conducted safely.

According to JustGiving.com (including Gift Aid and at time of writing) they have now reached a total of £23,830.16, exceeding their highest target set in 2021 (an additional £12,000), which was to fund a Portable Auto-Refractometer to help establish the vision needs of patients unable to sit in the clinics.



# Christ our Prophet, Christ our Priest, Christ our King

Rev'd. Niall Johnston - Provincial Prelate

We know what we say, and the manual actions that accompany our words during the opening and closing of a Preceptory, but do we know what those words mean? As I write, I can visualise your eyes glazing but humour me and stay with me on this journey of discovery!

Prophet, Priest and King refer to the threefold office of Christ, the **munus triplex** if you want to be clever and use Latin. But what does it mean to talk about the 'offices of Christ'? Put simply, they are the particular roles of authority that Christ fulfils.

Jesus' title 'Christ' itself points towards this, it means "the Anointed One," and in the Hebrew Bible, prophets were anointed with oil; priests were anointed with oil; and kings were anointed with oil. So, the Christ, the



Anointed One, was the One anointed for this unique threefold office of Prophet, Priest and King. No one in the Hebrew Bible held these three offices together but Christ does.

The idea of the threefold office is that these three offices – Prophet, Priest, and King – link the history of Israel in the Hebrew Bible with the work of Christ in the New Testament.

Just as God's people in the Hebrew Bible had their prophets, priests, and kings, so in the New Testament God's people finally meet their ultimate Prophet, Priest and King, Jesus Christ. He is the summit of a long line of prophets, priests, and kings, even the very best of whom were flawed and fallible, and none of whom were all three at once.

The gifts of the Magi, commemorated a few weeks ago at the Feast of The Epiphany, can also be seen to indicate an early acknowledgement of the threefold office even in the infant Jesus: myrrh (the spice with which Jesus' body was anointed) for the prophet who foresaw his own death and resurrection; frankincense (prayer incense) for a priest; and gold (wealth) for a king.

So, the next time you participate in the opening and closing of your Preceptory, recall the meaning behind the salutation of 'Christ our Prophet, Christ our Priest and Christ our King'.

## Knights of the Vision Beautiful

### Why not participate yourself?

The next target has not yet been set, but the fundraising goes on. In these difficult times the Eye Hospital Group needs help more than ever. Subject to the Knights Templar Cathedral Service taking place in Wells this September, the next Team Challenge is likely to be a distance relay in order to attend that...

Any Knight, or aspiring Knight, wishing to join the Team, and take part in the next event, should contact their Captain via: [Knights.of.the.Vision@gmail.com](mailto:Knights.of.the.Vision@gmail.com)

Or follow their progress via:

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/Vision-Beautiful>

**Twitter:** @KnightsVision Instagram: @KnightsOfTheVision

**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/106854378432083/posts/145231801261007/?sfnsn=scwspmo>



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† E. Kt. Rev'd. Niall Johnston Dep.Gt.Alm.  
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**Twitter:** @KnightsVision Instagram: @KnightsOfTheVision

**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/106854378432083/posts/145231801261007/?sfnsn=scwspmo>

# Bread

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

Food is a subject close to the hearts of many Masons. After all, what is a ceremony without a Festive Board; a time to chat, laugh and raise a glass to a new Knight or Eminent Preceptor. We talk, drink and eat with enthusiasm; and, in respect of the latter, many of us could be described as good 'trenchermen'.

Is this because we carve a track through our food or dig into our meal?

The word 'trencherman' is taken as deriving from the word 'trencher' (from the Old French verb 'trenchier' – to cut, carve or slice), which referred to what the food was served on. Originally, this was a slice of stale bread, usually from the end with a crust, and later it became a flat wooden platter. Hence, a good trencherman was someone who would, literally, eat his plate. (Before they moved on to wooden platters).

For those who didn't, the trencher, now moistened with gravy and fat from the roast meat that the Knight had consumed, was handed to servants and the poor to eat. (Which also gives us an insight into the saying of 'not even the crumbs from the table').

The use of bread as a transporter of food did not end with introduction of wooden platters. The Swedish have their 'smörgås', which means buttered bread with toppings. (A selection is then a smorgasbord, which word goes on to become a 'variety'). A smörgås is not an 'open sandwich', as the concept of a sandwich is much later; coined by John Montagu (1718-1792), the 4th Earl of Sandwich, who ate a slice of meat between two slices of bread (allegedly whilst playing cards, when he was too busy to break for a proper meal), with the bread thus fulfilling a similar function to the trencher, although it was unlikely to have been day-old crusts. Then, of course, there is that ubiquitous take-away; pizza, served to both royalty (pizza Margherita) and the humblest of sailors (pizza marinara).

The following recipe for trencher bread is taken from Paul Hollywood; perhaps something to try this Summer, with slices of meat roasted on the barbecue. (Now you can have your plate and eat it!)

## Trencher Bread



### Ingredients

- 250g wholemeal flour
- 150g strong white bread flour
- 100g rye flour
- 10g salt
- ½ level of fast active dried yeast
- 340ml cool water
- Olive oil



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

### Instructions

1. Combine the flours, salt and yeast together in a large bowl, add around three quarters of the water and mix. Now add the remaining water a little at a time until you have a soft dense dough and all the flour has been incorporated. (You may not need all the water).
2. Place the dough on an oiled surface and knead for 5-10 minutes. (It is a stiff dough and so lots of pressure will be required).
3. Place in a lightly oiled bowl, cover and prove for 3 hours, until at least double in size.
4. Tip the risen dough onto a lightly floured surface, press out the air using your hands and form into a rectangle the same size as a standard backing tray (33cmx25cm).
5. Using your fingers create dimples and then prick with a fork.
6. Line your baking tray with silicone or baking parchment, lift the dough on to it and place in a large plastic bag to prove for 1 hour.
7. Heat the oven to 220 degrees C.
8. Remove the tray from the bag, place in the oven and bake the trencher for about 30 minutes until pale brown and cooked through.



# Secretum Templi Londinium No. 695

An exciting installation!



**Saturday 5 March**, saw an extraordinary occasion as the Right Eminent Provincial Prior and his team, fresh from visiting Mount Calvary the night before, assisted Secretum Templi Londinium with the installation of no less than **twelve** new Knights in the Warwickshire Temple at Mark Masons' Hall. With advice from the Great Marshal, there was one representative candidate with the remainder watching on – although the challenge of simultaneously clothing 12 knights proved interesting.

Particular congratulations go to the Preceptory Marshal, Kt Francesco Trevisan, for whom this was his first time at running an installation meeting (he has now installed more knights in one go than most Marshals manage in their lifetime); Simone Sodini, the Registrar, who had to battle with pandemic affected travel restrictions in order to co-ordinate everyone's attendance; and E. Kt Marco Badiali who produced such a wonderful ceremony as the Eminent Preceptor. Hearing the ceremony performed with the romance of the Italian language certainly brought an extra sparkle to the proceedings.

## Picture Puzzles

A few for you to solve...

They may be a play on words with something connected with our Orders, ritual or something of a generally chivalric nature. Answers in the next issue!



Now you don't see that at many clinics and surgeries in the Home Counties!

# Secretum Templi Londinium No. 695

## The explanation of the badge!

### Approval granted

In case you weren't aware, all badges, shields, emblems or crests that are used by your Preceptory, have to be approved by Great Priory!

In the case of our most recent Preceptory in the Province, Secretum Templi Londinium No. 695, the central image that is used on their Summons and will be part of their new banner, has recently been through the same process.

The explanation provided by the Preceptory as to the reasons why, and the background behind the image makes interesting reading.

“ It derives from one of the few Templar seals that came down to us, bearing the engraved shape of Abraxas, thus taking the name of "Gemma Gnostica".

Historically it is traced back to the Preceptors of France: André de Colours and Aimard between 1215 and 1235, and reports the

motto: "SECRETUM TEMPLI". This image is also documented on seals that belonged to Louis VII, Margaret of Flanders, the Bishops of Canterbury and Chichester, and other prelates; but above all it has been used by various Templar communities in central Italy, in particular it is found in the documents of the Church of San Bevignate in Perugia (built between 1256 and 1262), the only Church in Italy that preserves an iterated cycle of frescoes on History of the Order in the Holy Land.

Abraxas appears as a figure with the head of a rooster, the trunk of a man, and two serpents as legs; he is armed with a whip and a shield. On his right are the Greek letters iota, alpha and omega (acronym of "Jesus est Alpha et Omega") and on the left there are seven stars. It is certainly interesting to discuss, the interpretation of these symbols and their origin from Basilides' Gnostic doctrine. What interests us now is the relationship with the Order of the Temple in Italy, and this is the main reason why it was chosen as the emblem of the Preceptory."

**Who knew!** [Ed]



## Calling all Marshals and Deputy Marshals, Great and Provincial, Present and Past

With the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master's blessing there is a proposal to set up a Preceptory solely for Great and Provincial Marshals and Deputy Marshals, Present and Past.

The object of the Preceptory is to bring together Knights from across our Great Priory who hold, or have held, the Office of a Marshal. 'Good practice' and procedures can be exchanged which will, in particular, assist those recently taking the Office. There is much out there to benefit the most experienced of Marshals.

The final say on the exact composition of the meetings will be decided by the Knights forming the Preceptory. It will be open to

Knights from all Provinces but will be based in Warwickshire at either Warwick or Knowle (Solihull); This would be the location of the Annual Installation Meeting whilst the other two would be peripatetic and be held alternately at rooms to the 'North' and 'South.' The Great Marshal, R.E.Kt. Tim Wheeler KCT, has agreed to be the first Eminent Preceptor. September 2022 is the target date.

As the meetings would take place at locations where a Preceptory already meets where we can borrow the Chapter House furniture, set up costs would not be great. The current steering committee consists of members of the Warwickshire Management Team, the Provincial Prior of Staffordshire &

Shropshire, The Great Marshal and The Provincial Marshal of Worcestershire. To ensure as wide a participation as possible all steering committee meetings will also be accessible via Zoom to all Knights who have expressed an interest.

### INTERESTED? WANT TO JOIN?

If so, email your details to E.Kt. David Handley, PGtAdeC, Provincial Vice-Chancellor for Warwickshire. [ktvc.warksprovpriory@yahoo.com](mailto:ktvc.warksprovpriory@yahoo.com)

The whole venture relies on there being sufficient interest across the Great Priory, so don't delay if this whets your appetite.



## Snippets

### Sir Eel



There is a positivity and buzz starting to show itself around the Province, lockdown appears to be coming to an end and a resemblance of normality is starting to show itself. However, some of our Knights have taken this time for reflection and have realised that perhaps when Alice Cooper said 'School's Out Forever!' he should have been taken for a prophet. Others mentioned that their best defence against Covid was to mix Tabasco with their hand sanitiser so as to stop them touching their face and eyes.

In addition, there are a few opportunities that have now been lost. For example, it won't be long before we start to draw suspicion again when showing up at the bank wearing a mask and gloves!

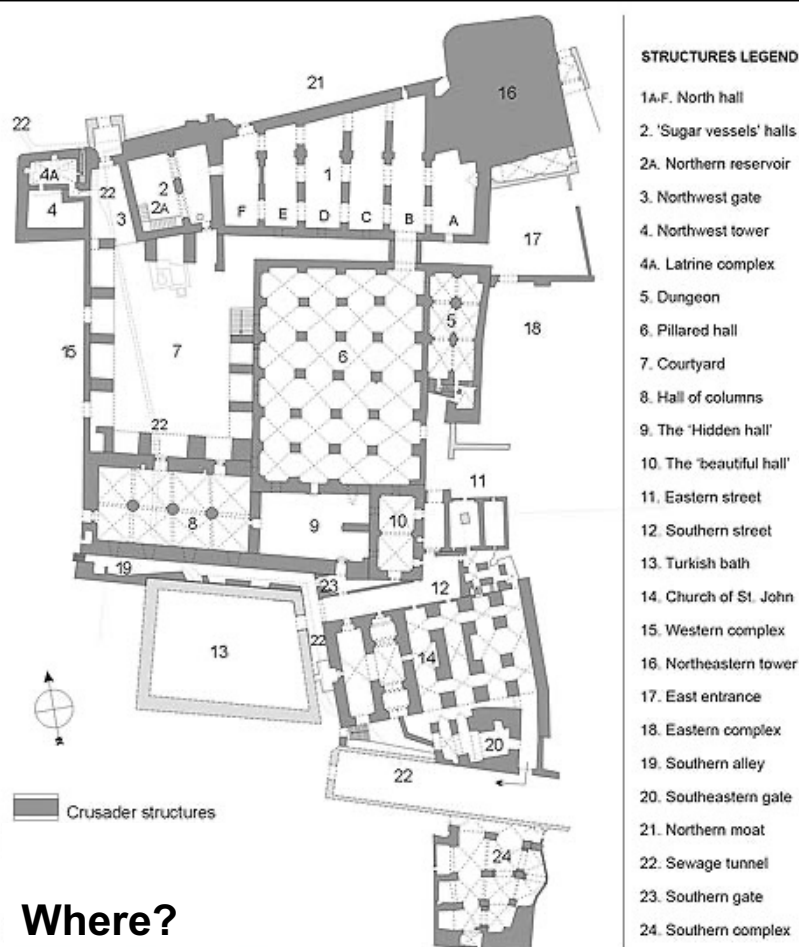
I did have some success with home schooling of my Knightlets, after 3 days in the kitchen last year, I managed to get one of them transferred out of my class! He has since come home this week with a little basket that he made at nursery filled with chocolate eggs and a small chicken stitched with yellow felt and a painted egg. It was poorly stitched, so that went in the bin. I ate the chocolate though. I've now realised that teachers weren't actually the problem. You also find that friends who said they wished they could spend more time with their children, when the Covid-19 quarantine hit, soon proved that was a lie.

I now have to decide whether Weight Watchers or AA take priority!

## Do you know where?

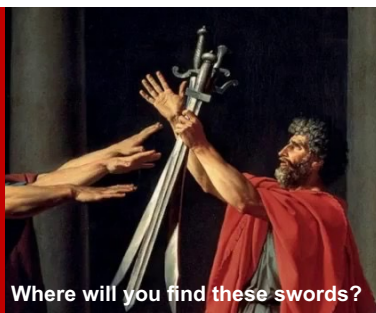
### Answers next issue

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Where?

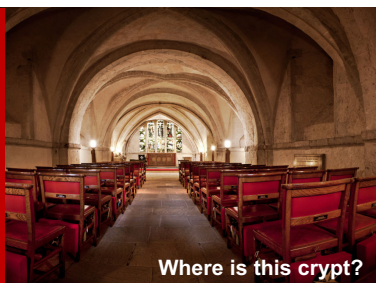
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