

***Knightly*Topics**

Issue 41
Provincial Priory of London



September 2022

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The cover image shows

Marlene I. B. Katanasho

Muristan's In-Charge Nurse, Ophthalmic Practitioner in her clinic (June 2022).

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

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

My dear Brother Knights,

The long lazy days of summer are now waning and it is time to dust off our regalia and enthusiastically embrace a return to Templar business this September, with the welcome accompanying opportunity to quench our parched throats. This season promises to be a very enjoyable one; with New Temple starting a series of sesquicentenary celebrations over the next couple of years and Guild of Freemen recommencing their once (in)famous Burns Supper in January, to which all knights have been invited. These two events neatly capture London today. Whilst we are a young Province, just 30 years old, we have some very old Preceptories who are rich with tradition. 20 of our 29 preceptories are over 100 years old and by the time the Province celebrates its quinquagenary, we will have seen one bicentenary, a further six sesquicentenaries and two more centenaries.

However, we will only experience these wonderful events if we continue to maintain and grow our numbers. It is not surprising that post-pandemic we have a couple of preceptories who are struggling and the Province has a number of initiatives to assist them.



Events such as Guild of Freemen's Burns Supper provide additional platforms for knights across our Province to meet and can spur recruitment. The good news is that last year saw many new initiates across the Province as everyone made up for time lost during COVID and candidate forms continue to flow in. Let us repeat widely and clearly those few simple words of our Provincial Prelate to one of our newest knights; "You should join. You would enjoy it".

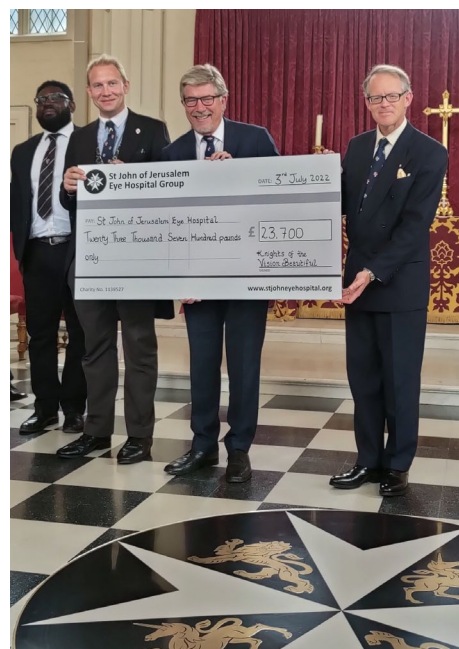
Yours, in the Bonds of the Order,

Rt. E. Kt. David Thompson

Provincial Prior for the Province of London

Editorial

The purpose of a periodical is to appear on a regular basis, duly informing and entertaining its readers. Hopefully the following content will cover the latter; with the personal reminiscences of a new knight alongside a conversation with a Charge Nurse of the Eye Hospital to historical and archaeological stories from the past and the importance of pilgrimages. There is food for the mind, the heart and the spirit, plus food for the body in recipes for hummus and bread. The conversation is the first of a series of interviews undertaken during the visit to the Eye Hospital by the Provincial Vice-Chancellor and Prelate in May 2022. We can add to that a continuance of charitable efforts as can be seen alongside. *(Now we just need to work on producing future content on a more regular basis.)*



KnightlyTopics



Issue 41
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www.londonknightstemplar.com

The Candidate's View

Kt. Ron Wainer – 183 Sancta Maria Preceptory

I just heard a tune on the radio which was a hit in the year I was born, 1957. **'Magic Moments'** by Perry Como. I imagined that my late mum and dad must have sung along to it when I was born as I was familiar with the tune and some of the lyrics.

Looking in an online dictionary I note that 'magic moments' are described as: **'experiences that so wildly exceed your expectations you feel surprised and delighted by them.'**

As I am writing this article, my mind wandered into the joys of Easter Day when the resurrected Christ appeared to the women and to the Apostles. In modern-day parlance, they must have initially thought this was a magic moment.

I would like to think that we all have our own magic moments. For me, the magic moments that **'exceeded my expectations'** and **'were feeling delighted by'**, are my marriage and the birth of my daughter.

In my life, by the Grace of God, magic moments have been plentiful. Being Installed as a Knight Templar is also up there amongst my magic moments. Very early on in my masonic career, I had been warned by an old timer in the Craft, to avoid the Knights Templar Order. He explained to me that some of the rituals involved in the Knights Templar ceremonies were anti-christ and against my religious teachings as a Roman Catholic. Most regrettably to me now, I completely took on board what I was told and closed my mind to joining the Order.

Years passed and my happy masonic journey in the Craft and the Holy Royal Arch continued. In 2019, whilst holding the office of Metropolitan Senior Grand Deacon, I found myself sitting next to the Rev'd. Niall Johnston at the Annual General Meeting of Metropolitan Grand Lodge. We struck up a conversation during which Rev'd. Niall casually asked me, "Are you in KT?" Of

course, I denied it. In any event, I thought, who would admit to being a member of KT to a member of the Clergy, with all of its anti-christ rituals? Rev'd. Niall's response confused me,

"You should join. You would enjoy it."

My mind was racing overtime. Half jokingly and half serious I replied **"Why? Are you a member?"** I was flabbergasted at his response. "Yes," followed by, **"It is a most beautiful Order."** Forgetting all about the MetGL AGM proceedings before me, I told Niall of my concerns and what I had been told. I was assured there and then that everything I had previously been told was nonsense and in fact, the Knights Templar Order would complement my faith.

Rev'd. Niall arranged for me to meet two senior members of the Knights Templar who also were Roman Catholics. My mind was not only put at ease but they too gave me a burning desire to join.

I was installed as a Knight in the Sancta Maria Preceptory No.183 in a ceremony that can only be described as a magic moment.

Without doubt, it was an **experience that so wildly exceeded my expectations. I felt surprised and delighted by it.** Nothing I thought, could top that. I was wrong. Earlier this year, I was honoured to be selected as the Representative Candidate and installed in the Malta Degree with twelve other Knights in the Grand Temple of Mark Masons Hall.

Together with the other twelve Knights to be installed we were ushered into an ante-room to wait, while the Malta Degree opened and

***Magic moments, memories we've been sharin'
Magic moments, when hearts are carin'
Time can't erase the memory of
These magic moments filled with love***

commenced its general business. We could hear strange noises coming from the direction of the Grand Temple which filled us with some trepidation. Our anxious wait in the anteroom continued and I noticed that some of the twelve had quietly nodded off into a sleep. Where have I heard a similar story before?

After a while the very colourful ceremony commenced. The Malta Degree can only be described as fascinating and impressive and without doubt, another **magic moment**. It's true. **Time can't erase the memory of These magic moments filled with love.**

Kt. Ron Wainer
With thanks to Perry Como!



In conversation with: Marlene I.B. Katanasho

Muristan's In-Charge Nurse, Ophthalmic Nurse Practitioner



Marlene joined St. John Eye Hospital Group back in 1992 and is now the Charge Nurse at the Muristan Clinic in the Old City of Jerusalem.

"I was born and raised here in the Old City of Jerusalem and I was trained as a licensed practical nurse here with St. John back in 1992, I had a conversational course and then achieved a degree in General Nursing at the University. Since then I have been the Nurse Practitioner [Charge Nurse] here for St. John at the Muristan Clinic since 2016"

The clinic sits right in the middle of the Armenian, Christian, Jewish and Muslim Quarters and Marlene thinks of it as her second home, so she always worries about it's future.

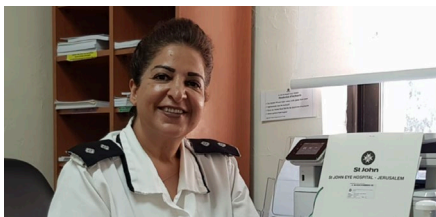
"The clinic is like a walk-in clinic, so anyone can knock on the door and is offered help or treatment. Before I joined I had a relative who had problems with her eyes and it wasn't easy to get any treatment. It was a bad experience for her and if I had known about St. John and the treatment and the people, then I could have helped her at that time. A simple person but she was really ill and we couldn't help her. When I heard about St. John running a course, I thought that this is my chance, there were a great many people who applied and 20 were chosen and I was so glad one of them was me. 30 years later, it is like my family now."

The role:

"It varies a lot as I do everything, I have to see and welcome them and do all the Registrations, I triage them, get them appointments for assessment at the hospital if they need any specialized tests or if it is minor cases, they come back here."

"As the Nurse Practitioner, I have to assess the patient, look after them if it is an emergency, and in Israel I am not allowed to prescribe some treatments so I have get them to understand and to come back to see the Doctor."

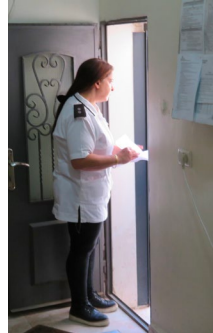
"It can get very busy, sometimes we see 3,4 or 5 new patients every hour because we don't see by appointment, anybody can come anytime and be seen."



And as if on cue, that was exactly what happened!

A walk-in new patient arrived with their mother to see if they could get help.

When we resumed, we were talking about the clinic itself.



"From the roof, you can see all the communities, and there are many, especially old people who have been treated here, have had surgery here, that come back, and sometimes bring their family, and ask if they can see the place and look out across the city. I say of course and these people really appreciate St. John and this clinic being open for them and so close to them."

Marlene's work extends right into these communities.

"In the mornings, before coming to the clinic, I often do school screenings. I go to the schools and I check the vision for the children. If I suspect there is a child that can't see well or has a problem then I send them to St. John to be assessed over there."

"Yesterday I saw 63 children and there were 20 or 25 that needed more assessment and these were not minor things, some have a real problem and they knew they had a problem but didn't admit it".

"I also go to centres where there are workers and I do lecturing in health promotion and prevention and what to do in an emergency, so I keep myself very busy!"

"I have to close the clinic when I go out for the screenings because there are no other staff here. If I am on annual leave, then somebody comes for the afternoons for a few hours, but generally, I do this thing myself, luckily I live just a few minutes away. My phone at home is always ringing with people, friends and neighbours wanting to know about the clinic and when it is open."



What do you like about the clinic here:

"We see everyone, not just Palestinians, last week we had a tourist, she was American and she had a problem with her eyes. She had gone to the pharmacy and they had sent her here. I spend time going to all the places, shops, restaurants so that they know there is a clinic here. Sometimes we have people stop here because they are interested in the history of St. John, they see the badge and come in to ask. It is a very special place."

"I love working here, we get everything from St. John; a future, a salary, all the help they can give, especially when we went to University, they were really flexible, giving us the time to study, to work in the hospital, to do our training, to help me get the certificates, they were really helpful. I really like it. I am not married and I feel that this has given me my life now. When we had to close the clinic in lockdown, I went to work in the main hospital."

Marlene was sponsored by St. John:

"I love travelling. I have been offered hospitality by my sponsors in Norfolk. They are part of St. John and have sponsored me from the beginning since I was a student. He has retired now but is still in contact. They helped me from the start and have invited me even to his house, some special occasions, they are very kind people. It has meant that I can keep working here and helping the people who come to the door, and also those out in the community."

And on Dr. Ahmed Ma'ali...

"He was on the course before me, 1990 to 1992 and I always have this picture of him in the children's ward where he was working and we were coming as students and he was trying to make it easy for us, he was really helpful. He was like our first tutor. He understands, he used to be like us. He knows everybody's job and if I have any issues, I can go to him because he understands. We are very proud to have a Palestinian in charge of the hospital, it also helps us all to think we can be more advanced in our career."

"This has given me my life now."

A Knights Templar Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

18th to 27th November 2022 – Rev'd. Niall Johnston Dep.Gt.Alm. - Provincial Prelate

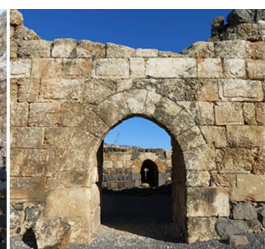
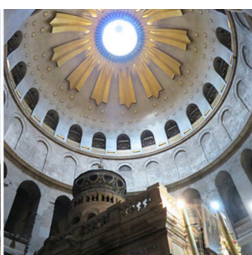
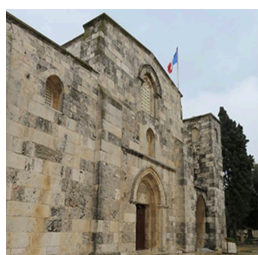
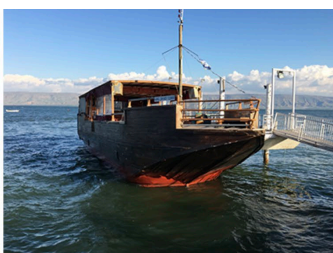
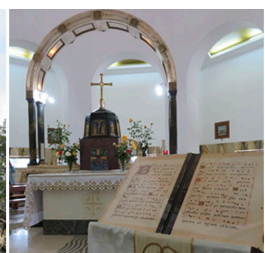
Following the success of the 2020 KT Pilgrimage, I am delighted that we have sufficient interest to be able to offer another opportunity for Knights and their partners to visit the Holy Land.

Whether you are new to the Holy Land or have been many times before; there are always new sights and sounds to reflect upon. Our pilgrimage will include the traditional sites where the most important events in Our Lord's life and ministry took place, both in Jerusalem and its surrounding area and further north in Galilee, as well as sites associated with the Knights Templar and Knights Hospitaller.

The original Knights set out to protect and assist pilgrims who were visiting the very same sites associated with Jesus that are on our itinerary. In addition, we shall visit some places specifically connected with the Templars, including castles and churches. I am equally sure that treading in the footsteps of those first knights will help you to better appreciate the extraordinary lives which they led.

A highlight of the pilgrimage will be a guided tour of the main campus of the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. The tour will follow a celebration of Holy Communion in the hospital's chapel and we will also have the opportunity to talk with staff and the Chief Executive over a lunch prepared by the kitchen team and which will be far better than any hospital meal you may have previously experienced! Additionally, we shall pay a visit to the Bethlehem Rehabilitation Centre, some of whose staff are trained by the Eye Hospital.

Not only will you come home fully 'certified' as a Jerusalem Pilgrim and having experienced a service of Holy Communion on a boat in the middle of the Sea of Galilee, you will have had the opportunity to sample the nightlife of Nazareth, purchase olive wood souvenirs made by Palestinian Christians and, for those who make the mistake of following me on a shopping foray, antique Orthodox icons!.



All pictures taken on the KT Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 2020
E.Kt. Vernon King

You are invited to..... A Burns' Night Event!

Monday 16th January 2023
at Mark Masons Hall

**Guild of Freeman
Preceptory No. 512**



There are many reasons to celebrate Robert Burns, but does one really need to search for a reason to celebrate when there is haggis, whisky and bagpipes on offer?

Historically, the Guild of Freeman Preceptory 512 used to hold a Burns Supper after its January meeting. Now, on **16 January 2023**, the (in)famous event is set to make a return to Mark Masons Hall. The evening will include a full traditional Burns' Night multi course dinner and feature a professional Piper in attendance throughout, the "Address to the Haggis," and readings from Burns' work and songs.

The Guild of Freeman Preceptory has extended a kind invitation to all knights of the Order to join with them on this great evening and there will be a Provincial Delegation led by the Right Eminent Provincial Prior. Following the meeting, which starts at 5.00pm, the festive board is being planned as a red table so that any qualified brethren (who could thus potentially be future Knights) can join the dinner, thereby offering an opportunity to recruit new members to our great Order.

In order to gauge potential numbers, please register your interest with E. Kt. Derek Conway on GOF-Burns2023@gmail.com.

Please be warned, there is a chance that the Provincial Sub-Prior will be wearing a kilt, so those of a nervous disposition should consider their attendance with care.

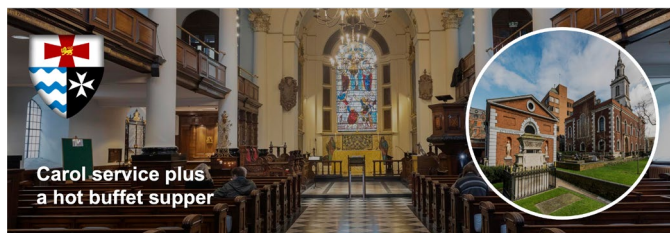
The London Provincial Temple Meeting Thursday 29th September 2022

A Chapter of Provincial Priory will be held on Thursday 29th September 2022 at Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St. James' Street, London SW1A 1PL and it is with great pleasure that the Rt.E. Provincial Prior requests you to attend. The meeting will commence at 4.15pm. We hope that you will be able to offer your full support to all those receiving Provincial Honours whether that is active or Past, promotions or first appointments.



Please visit the Provincial website homepage or to book or make your apologies:
<https://londonknightstemplar.com/>

The London Provincial Carol Service Thursday 1st December 2022



**Carol service plus
a hot buffet supper**

Make a date in your diary for the annual service at St. Botolph Without at Bishopsgate London EC2M 3TL at 6.00pm with a light buffet to follow. Join us for a service of carols and readings. Details to follow shortly.

The Castle of Saint Peter, Bodrum, Turkey

E. Kt. Ian Drury P.Prov.Reg – Commander of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard

January 2023 is the 500th anniversary of the Ottoman capture of Rhodes, which fell after the six-month siege which is mentioned in our Malta Degree ceremony. It led to the Knights of St John withdrawing to Malta, where they would defeat the Turkish invasion in 1565 and put an end to Turkish expansion across the central Mediterranean. The surrender of Rhodes also forced the knights to abandon the island of Kos and their outpost on the Asiatic shore, **St Peter's Castle, Bodrum**.

The fortifications at Rhodes were repaired by the Ottomans and are today recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. In 2016 the Turkish government applied for similar status to be granted to Bodrum castle. The walls were damaged by the 2017 earthquake and tourism ground to a halt during the pandemic: but the good news is that a comprehensive restoration and repair job has now been completed. Surrounding structures that have obscured the original profile of the fortifications have been removed, so for the first time in several centuries visitors can view the castle of St Peter as it was c.1500.



The Castle of St. Peter, Bodrum, Turkey

Construction of the castle began in early 1400s. Bodrum was originally the Greek Halicarnassus, home to Herodotus, the first historian and the site of the Mausoleum, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. (The knights used some of the remains of the Mausoleum to build the castle.) The Hospitallers had seized Rhodes a hundred years earlier, in the immediate aftermath of the suppression of the Templars. However, their manpower remained weak well into the 14th century, limiting further expansion. Attempts to seize and hold footholds in Asia Minor failed to help the Cilician kingdom of Armenia although the island of Kos, just off the coast from Bodrum, was captured in 1337. In 1344 the Hospitallers joined a Venetian, Papal and Cypriot force that captured the lower part of Smyrna (Izmir) but failed to take the citadel. The knights clung to this in the teeth of repeated Turkish assaults until 1402. That summer, the Turks themselves were surprised and overwhelmed by Timur (Tamerlane) and his Mongol/Turkic horde that had swept across Asia defeating every army it met.

Unfortunately it did not stop at Ankara but continued to the coast and stormed Smyrna. Few of the 200 or so Hospitaller knights escaped the massacre that ensued.

Nothing if not ambitious, Timur turned east again and died in Kazakhstan en route to invade China. In the meantime, the knights of St John had started to repair the walls at Smyrna but the new Ottoman Sultan Mehmed I pulled them down again and it was accepted that Smyrna was a lost cause. Instead, the knights built a castle on Kos and occupied the small peninsula on the shore opposite at Bodrum. These castles did not enclose a town, like Rhodes but were military fortresses to cover anchorages from which Hospitaller galleys could operate, and provide refuge in case of Turkish attack. The garrison of Kos was 25 knights, 10 men-at-arms and 100 turcoples. That of Bodrum was probably similar.



French warships shelled Bodrum during the First World War but by then the defence of the region was entrusted to coastal artillery, and sea mines like this one now on display in the castle.

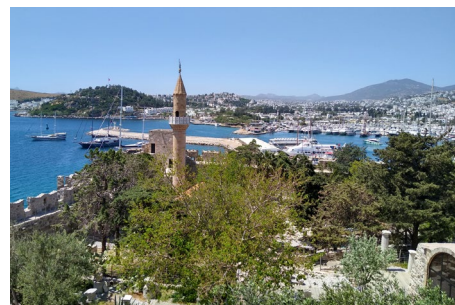
The Castle of Saint Peter, Bodrum, cont'd.



A 3D image of the castle in its final stage of construction c.1500

The bloodthirsty raid launched by Timur saw many great cities laid waste and tens of thousands killed but in its aftermath the Ottoman dynasty produced a succession of inspirational and intelligent leaders. Murad II (1421–51) brought the independent emirates of Aydin, Menteshe and Tekke i.e. the whole of south-west Asia Minor under his control. (You can see one of their castles today at Beçin, a 40 minute drive north of Bodrum.) As in the Holy Land in the time of Saladin, once the rival muslim emirates were united, it became increasingly difficult for Christian enclaves to survive, unless reinforced by a crusade – and those days were long over. Nevertheless, the Hospitallers did negotiate a treaty with the Mamluk rulers of Egypt which allowed them free access to visit the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem and the monastery of St Catherine in Sinai. However, this treaty makes no mention of the hospital in Jerusalem which had continued to function under various muslim rulers since the loss of the Holy City but may have vanished in the wake of the Mongol assault.

Although it was threatened from time to time, the Castle of St Peter never fell, but its retention after the surrender of Rhodes was impractical and it was evacuated. The Turks converted the chapel into a mosque but did little else as the frontline quickly shifted to Greece, the Balkans, Vienna and Malta. Situated in what became a quiet backwater, the castle was eventually abandoned by the Ottoman military, although it was briefly bombarded by the French navy during the First World War. As tourism developed into a significant part of the Turkish economy in the later 20th century, so the castle was conserved. The recent renovations make it one of the best preserved late medieval castles in the region, complete with artillery casemates installed some time towards 1500 in the final stage of its modernisation by the knights.



The harbour seen from the upper towers: favoured today by the Turkish jet set, this part of the city is divided into the 'haves' and 'have yachts'.



E.Kt. Ian Drury P.Prov.Reg.
Commander of the London Provincial Prior's Bodyguard
Literary Agent, Historian

ZAHRA'S FAMILY HUMMUS



This recipe is so easy, but it is so loved in my house. It is my daughter's favourite.

INGREDIENTS

250 grams of dried chickpeas or one can
4 cloves of garlic
½ cup of good quality tahini
Juice of 1 lemon
2 tablespoons of Palestinian extra virgin olive oil
(Zaytoun sell this in the UK)
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon dried cumin

Zahra Khaled, HR Manager of the St. John Eye Hospital Group, based in East Jerusalem

On our recent trip to the Eye Hospital in June, we met and chatted with Zahra. The interview covering her role within the Eye Hospital will be part of future information, but when we explained that our very own Sub-Prior provides excellent recipes for a variety of breads, she kindly allowed us to reproduce the recipe for her own family hummus to be enjoyed with some flatbread!

PREPARATION

Soak the chickpeas in water over night. If using canned, no need to do this. Once the chickpeas are tender add to a blender with all the remaining ingredients and blend until very smooth. Spread evenly on a plate and garnish with parsley and a drizzle of olive oil. Enjoy with your favourite baked bread. 🕒



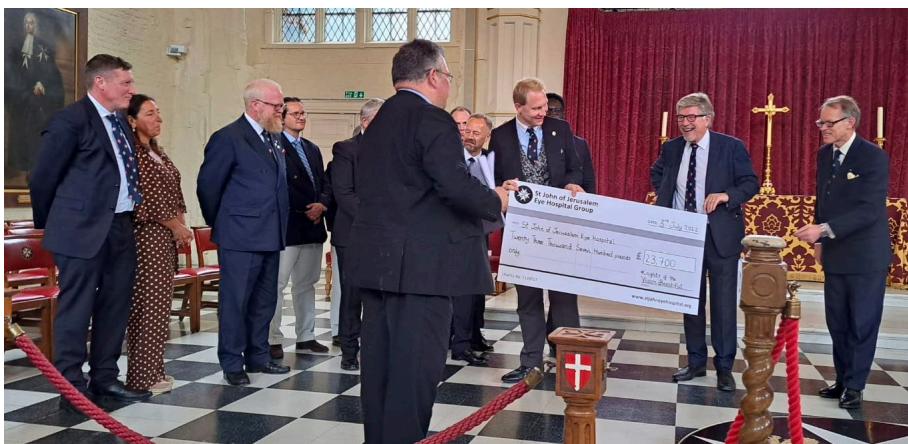
Service for the Nativity of St. John the Baptist

E. Kt. Rev'd. Niall Johnston Dep.Gt.Alm. - Provincial Prelate

On Sunday, 3 July the Provincial Priory of London held a special Church Service to celebrate belatedly the Nativity of St John the Baptist (24th June). This is the second time that the Province of London has held a service to mark the Feast of St John the Baptist, a "red letter day" not just for the United Orders but also in commemorating the anniversary of the foundation of Grand Lodge. In 2020, the Province, during the first lockdown, held a virtual service to mark the Nativity of St John the Baptist.

The service was based on the Church of England's Evening Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer 1662 and involved wonderful prayers, readings, hymns, the Precepts and a recommitment to the work of our Orders.

During the service, the Provincial Prior addressed the congregation and spoke of the close connection between our Province and the Eye Hospital Group, both financially and in terms of awareness raising of the



This year's service was held in the Priory Church of St John, Clerkenwell, which was the site of the medieval headquarters of the English Knights Hospitaller and is now used by the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, its modern successor. The Province is grateful to the Order for allowing us to use their church as an acknowledgement of the financial support that the Great Priory of England, especially the Province of London, has given to the Eye Hospital Group for more than a century.

It was a delight to welcome the Provincial Prior for Hertfordshire and his wife but the principal guests were the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Eye Hospital Group, Sir Andrew Cash *OBE KStJ*, and the Hospitaller of the Most Venerable Order, Mr David Verity. *KStJ*, together with their wives. Also present was the Secretary of the Guild of the Eye Hospital, Diana Safieh, a longtime friend of the Province of London.

Hospital's work. He then afforded the Knights of the Vision Beautiful, led by E. Kt. Angus Rhodes, the opportunity to present a cheque for £23,700. Both Sir Andrew and Mr Verity thanked both the Province and the Knights of the Vision Beautiful for their support and gave an update on the excellent work going on in the Holy Land.



After the collection of alms (£225 plus Gift Aid to be recovered), during which all eight verses of the Templar Hymn were sung, the service concluded with a blessing from the Provincial Prelate and the National Anthem.



The weather was kind and so afternoon tea was served in the garden of the church and gave an opportunity for the congregation to chat informally with the Trustees of the Eye Hospital Group and to learn more about the vital work that the Province helps to fund. By this time, many of the Knights had switched their Provincial ties for an Eye Hospital tie and in doing so raised a further £665!



Authentic roti recipe – it goes great with the hummus!

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

Finding bread recipes with a connection to the Order, however tenuous, has been an interesting challenge. To be asked to pair bread with a family's favourite hummus recipe is a whole new level of challenge. There are so many different varieties of flat bread across the Middle East and Asia – leavened (yeasted) or unleavened; oven baked or griddled. Looking to the Holy Scriptures for inspiration and there is a recipe in 1 Kings 17:12-16 and the last meal for the widow and her son before Elijah's promise that the jar of flour and jug of oil would never run out until the day the Lord sends rain upon the earth. The origin of the oil is easy, it will have been olive oil. As to the jar of flour, some translations refer to flour, others to 'meal', which might have been corn or maize; both of which would have been widely cultivated (possibly even chickpea flour). But one thing has always puzzled me (although I am easily puzzled); there is no mention of water. Before asking for some bread, Elijah had asked for some water (as his own brook had run dry in the drought) to which the widow had not demurred. So perhaps it was assumed that latter readers would know to add water. (Either that, or Elijah was no cook and did not know the proper recipe). Elijah is translated as asking for 'bread', 'biscuit' or 'cake'. Oatcakes and biscuits have a high fat content, being made with lard or butter, and oatcakes were griddled, much in the same way that the widow's last meal would have been as she has collected wood for a fire. So Elijah's reference to a biscuit or cake may be more accurate than 'bread', meaning less water would have been needed and so it could be ignored as an ingredient. However, a hard 'biscuit' of cornmeal does not sound particularly attractive and certainly not suitable for a family favourite recipe.

The usual breads for hummus would be pita (leavened and oven baked but a bit of a faff to cook) or laffa bread (leavened and griddled, but not a recipe that I have tried).

However, the recipe below is for a roti from the Hairy Bikers – 'Mums know best', which I have cooked easily and successfully. This is only a little further to the east but is unleavened, has oil as a key ingredient, can include maize meal with the flour (I made a 75/25 mix), is griddled on a skillet and, like the widow's recipe, doesn't mention water in its list of ingredients (it appears in the 'Steps'). It also tastes delicious with hummus, dhal, chana dhal etc.

Ingredients

- 225g [self-raising flour](#), plus extra for dusting
- ½ tsp [salt](#)
- 1 tbsp [vegetable oil](#), plus extra for brushing and frying



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

Steps

1. Sift the flour and salt into a large bowl. Sprinkle over the oil, and add enough water to make a soft dough (about 140ml/4½fl oz) – add a little more flour or water if needed. Knead gently until smooth. Cover and leave to rest for about 30 minutes.
2. On a floured work surface, divide the dough into six equal pieces and roll each one into a thin circle about the thickness of a 20 pence coin (about 2mm), using a rolling pin.
3. Brush the bottom third of one of the roti with oil using a pastry brush, dust with a little extra flour and fold the oiled third towards the middle. Repeat with the top third, fold inwards again. Give the roti a quarter turn (90 degrees) and repeat the folding process – you should end up with a rough square. Leave to rest while you make the remaining five rotis.
4. Heat a little oil in a heavy-based pan. Using a rolling pin, roll out one of the roti thinly and then fry on one side until it puffs up and is speckled brown on the underside. Turn it over and fry on the other side for a few minutes, until it too is puffed and speckled brown. Remove from the pan, allowing the roti to cool for a few seconds, then fold into four. Wrap in a clean tea towel placed in a colander until ready to eat. Repeat until all the roti are cooked. Serve warm.



A review of visiting in 2021-2022

E. Kt. Antony Legge Provincial Sub-Prior

After nearly two years of no visiting, the Right Eminent Provincial Prior wanted to ensure that every Preceptory in London was visited in 2021-2022, being the first full Masonic season after the pandemic. Over the year, the Provincial Team has managed 24 visits (including one Centenary Meeting); with one to come on September (Galilee). Throughout, the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard has continued its fine tradition of providing pomp and ceremony in the temple (assisting on many occasions to help deliver an excellent ceremony for the candidate knights) followed by companionship and laughter in the bar.

It has been a glorious year – glorious indeed, but it has not been a simple campaign. It all sounded so easy at the time, however dates and Official Visitors were changed at short notice and, on one occasion, the Provincial Sub-Prior had the wrong time in his diary – only leaving work as the meeting was starting! (Luckily, I work only 5 minutes from Mark Masons' Hall so all was fine – aside from the frayed nerves of my Escorting Officer). We had the unexpected pleasure of the Grand Secretary from the Great Priory in Germany unofficially join one of the visits – leading to a quick lesson in protocol for everyone. Yet these issues were less than the sand in our shoes as we marched on under the efficient organisation of Joseph Le Roi Smith (Thank you, Joseph), creating some wonderful memories along the way.

Secretum Templi Londinium with a busy installation



The Centenary of Golden Square, where we were led by the Great Priory Team, all went very smoothly (with the presents for the Great Priory team arriving in the nick of time to be presented at the Festive Board). Less smooth was the drawing of his sword by an Eminent Preceptor for the Profession of Faith and with the words; “copy me”, he felt the hilt break and watched the blade fly across the carpet! Undeterred, he then took the proffered sword from the Escorting Officer and continued the meeting with great aplomb, delivering a superb ceremony.

...on drawing his sword and with the words; “*copy me*”, he felt the hilt break and watched the blade fly across the carpet...

Some exemplary ritual was also delivered by the Provincial 1st Constable, who installed two new knights in two back to back meetings in under 3 hours. Indeed, there have been many magnificent ceremonies – and, of course, there have been some glorious festive boards (and not so glorious heads the following day). The logistical challenge of assisting Secretum Templi Londinium 695 install 12 knights in a single ceremony one Saturday morning was not helped by the Provincial Team being well fortified from the previous night - the Provincial Sword Bearer, in particular, looked in dire need of coffee!

Looking now to the forthcoming season, we have a new team of Escorting Officers and a new set of visits, as set out below. Whilst there are fewer visits this year, as traditionally, those preceptories who meet twice a year are only visited every two years, there will be some extraordinary occasions including 150th celebrations for New Temple Preceptory and for Bard of Avon Preceptory.

Whatever happens, 12 months from now we will have a new set of memories encompassing the great camaraderie of Knights Templar in the Province of London.

Visits 2022-2023

New Temple	117	04-Oct-22
Baluchistan	188	21-Oct-22
Empress	178	27-Oct-22
Mt. Calvary	D	04-Nov-22
Golden Square	219	09-Nov-22
Royal Colonial Institute	321	16-Nov-22
Annus Mirabilis	206	02-Dec-22
Guild of Freeman	512	16-Jan-23
Galilee	185	03-Feb-23
Ascalon	163	06-Feb-23
Sancta Maria	183	22-Feb-23
Military Lodges	300	25-Feb-23
Secretum Templi Londinium	695	04-Mar-23
St J at Ealing	576	01-Apr-23
Shadwell Clerk	154	03-Apr-23
King Edward VII	173	13-Apr-23
Bard of Avon	127	20-Apr-23
Kemeys Tynte & Temple Cressing	45	12-May-23
Connaught Army & Navy	172	16-May-23
Faith & Fidelity	26	27-Jun-23
Sydenham	251	15-Sep-23

The importance of Pilgrimages

E. Kt. Rev'd Niall Johnston Dep.Gt.Alm. - Provincial Prelate

One of the reasons that I have been thinking about pilgrimages to holy places in recent times is the fantastic achievement of E.Kt. Rod Barker (sadly, not of our Province) who recently raised substantial funds for the Eye Hospital by walking part of the pilgrim route to Santiago de Compostela. You can read about this at:

<https://sway.office.com/HuHkvo3QH4cl1ns0?ref=Link>.

Pilgrimage is a form of religious practice that is found in almost all faith communities as part of the search for religious experience. Pilgrimages are not mere tourist trips although they can also be fun! They are journeys in search of a religious experience that may bring to pilgrims new or deeper meanings about themselves, others, nature, or a transcendent or higher good. Such a journey may lead to a personal transformation which they can bring back into their normal daily life.

Christianity has a strong tradition of pilgrimages from the time of Origen in the 3rd century. Pilgrims have gone to sites relevant to the New Testament narrative especially in the Holy Land, and later to Rome and other sites associated with later saints or miracles. Not only is place important, but also time and so Easter, or Holy Week, is the most holy time for Christians to pilgrimage to Jerusalem to recall the final week of Jesus' life before his crucifixion there.

The purpose of Christian pilgrimage was summarized by Pope Benedict XVI this way:

"To go on pilgrimage is not simply to visit a place to admire its treasures of nature, art or history. To go on pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God where he has revealed himself, where his grace has shone with particular splendour and produced rich fruits of conversion and holiness among those who believe.....Christians go on pilgrimage to strengthen their spirit."

There are many places of pilgrimage in England but for me one of the greatest is the simple and somewhat remote surroundings of Lindisfarne, Holy Island, on the north-east coast of England. It feels like a place of pilgrimage for me, and indeed it is for the tens of thousands of people who visit every year.



The majority come to watch the birds and commune with nature but those who come as more traditional religious pilgrims remember the return of the Christian Gospel to the north of England through the missionary work of the Irish monk, Aidan. He arrived from Iona in 635AD on the invitation of the Northumbrian King, Oswald, and founded his Irish-style monastery there. His successor Cuthbert was also recognized as a saint and you can view a wooden statue of the monks who carried his earthly remains to safety on the mainland when Holy Island was attacked by Viking invaders. His body was eventually interred at Durham and both places, Lindisfarne, and Durham with its great cathedral, became great places of pilgrimage.

For Muslims too, pilgrimage is a central feature of religious practice. The Islamic faith is based on five pillars - or basic tenets - professing one's faith; praying five times a day; giving zakat (donating a certain portion of one's wealth); fasting during Ramadan; and making a pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia. This preeminent pilgrimage is known as the Hajj and all Muslims try to make the pilgrimage at least once in their lives. Mecca is the place where the Prophet Muhammad was born and received the first revelations from Allah – revelations, given in Arabic, that went on to become the Holy Koran.

Jerusalem is also a holy place for Muslims because they believe that The Prophet ascended to heaven from the rock over which an extraordinary golden dome was constructed. Inside the dome is even more dramatic than outside, and the Foundation Stone or Noble Rock that it is built over, has great significance in all three Abrahamic faiths. It is spoken of as the place where God created the world as well as the first human being, Adam. It is also believed to be the site where Abraham attempted to sacrifice his son, Isaac, and is regarded as the place where God's divine presence is manifested more than anywhere else. Jews turn towards it during prayer and for Muslims it is the third most holy site after Mecca and Medina.



Jerusalem is a holy place of pilgrimage for Jews, Christians, and Muslims and some 4 million people each year visit the Holy Land, about 2.5 million of them Christians. How many are just tourists and how many are pilgrims and who are we to differentiate? Some who arrive as tourists will leave as pilgrims and that, for me, is part of the work of the Holy Spirit.

Each time I return to St George's Cathedral, in Jerusalem, and its pilgrim guesthouse, a place of calm, reflection, and worship, I see my journey, both physical and metaphorical, to support the Eye Hospital Group as something of a pilgrimage in itself because it is, like Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, a challenging journey, but one whose ultimate destiny is worth all the trouble along the way.

Snippets

Sir Eel



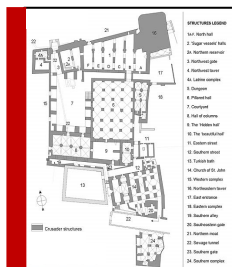
I appreciate that different people like different things, and I now realise different temperatures are included in that. However, it is officially too hot when the lure of jumping into a cold pool with the Knightlings is finally stronger than the horror I feel when I see myself in a swimsuit! I also came to the conclusion, after watching Marcus Waring using a barbeque, that perhaps armour isn't the best idea of sun protection when sitting outside in the recent weather.

Outside we were, and in a relaxing garden after the St. John the Baptist service in Clerkenwell at the Priory Church a month or two ago. It was a case of a lovely service, a good turnout and then tea, sandwiches and a game of guess who they came with? The Priory has a wonderful museum and library but I didn't see a Thesaurus anywhere. I couldn't find the words to describe how upset I was.

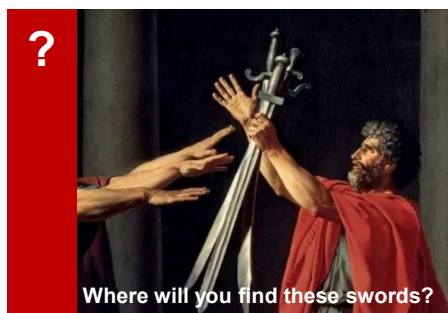
There have also been Provincial meetings up and down the land but I'm looking forward to ours on 29th September. A chance to recognise a few fellow Knights, those who you have no idea who they are once they take off their regalia and stand next to you in a dark suit at the bar. Bit like a golfer when he takes off his hat! You say: 'Hi, haven't seen you for a while. Are you keeping well?' They say: 'I've just been in the meeting with you. I'm your Chaplain, just buy the round!'. The weather just isn't right, hot to very hot, to hot. Then again, somethings just aren't.

Do you know where?

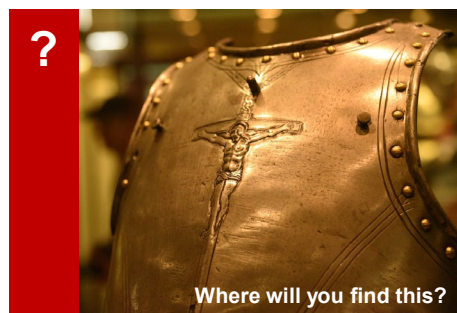
Answers from the quiz in the last issue



A view of the Hospitaller Compound in Acre, the capital of the Crusader Kingdom in Jerusalem as shown in the thirteenth Century. Acre was occupied from the initial siege 1189-1191 until the city finally fell in 1291.



A detail from the Oath of the Horatii. painted in 1784 by Jaques-Louis David, and hangs in the Louvre, Paris



A Sappers Siege Armour breastplate in the Grand Masters Palace and Armoury display in Valetta, Malta



The subterranean crypt of the Priory of St. John of Jerusalem near to St. John's Gate in Clerkenwell, London



The painting is of the Siege of Candia (today Heraklion on Crete), and is the second longest siege in history.

It's a bit like why the word 'phonetically' is not starting with an 'F'. Anyway, to comfort myself and to keep the Knightlings amused, I went out to buy a pet that is able to cope with the heat and would keep us company. I settled on a chameleon. Lost it.

Still, as my great Aunt Gladys always said, 'Where there's a will, there's a relative!'

Quiz answers (Issue 40)

1. Cup of Memory.
2. Night Knight or Moon Knight.
3. The Dark Golf of Death.
4. Cross Pâté.



Sir Eel