

Knights Templar

Province of Monmouth & South Wales
Christmas 2019 Newsletter



Christmas Knights Carols & Carvery

The Knights Templar Christmas Carol Service and Carvery Lunch was held at the Castle Hotel in Brecon immediately after the December meeting of Owain Glyndwr Preceptory of Knights Templar.

The preceptory has seen a large increase in membership recently and this was reflected at the Carol Service - which was very well supported.

Hosted by the Eminent Preceptor of the Owain Glyndwr Preceptory of Installed Preceptors, E Kt Alun Howell Thomas, the Carol Service was attended by a large group of almost 100 people - Brother Knights together with their family and friends and it was an especially joyful occasion.

Conducted by the Great Prelate of England and Wales, RE Kt The Rev'd Malcolm Lane, it was also attended by The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master of the United Orders, Paul Raymond Clement, with his wife Molly and some regular visitors who had once again travelled from Sussex for the event.

The Grand Master delivered the first of the Nine Lessons which was followed by scripture readings read by R E Kt Dr Paul Calderwood, E Kts David Court, Nigel E. Williams, Alun Howell Thomas, Richard Phillips, Tim Clark and Eirian Jones.

The star prizes in the raffle included meals for two at the Cwrt Bleddyn Hotel and the Brecon Castle Hotel which together with numerous other prizes raised nearly £500.

The money raised by the event provided a substantial boost for the work of the Eye Hospital of St John at Jerusalem.



All Knights Templar are reminded to join in good wishes to their Brethren throughout the world on the 25th of December at 5pm GMT

Preserve, O Lord, our Brother Knights

By land, sea or air

And as we hold them in our thoughts,

So keep them in Thy care.

Great support for the St. John Eye Hospital

An exceptionally generous personal donation by one of our brother knights, as well as a year-long fund-raising campaign by another knight – together with many welcome gifts from the members of the province – have all helped to boost the valuable work of the Eye Hospital of St John in Jerusalem recently.

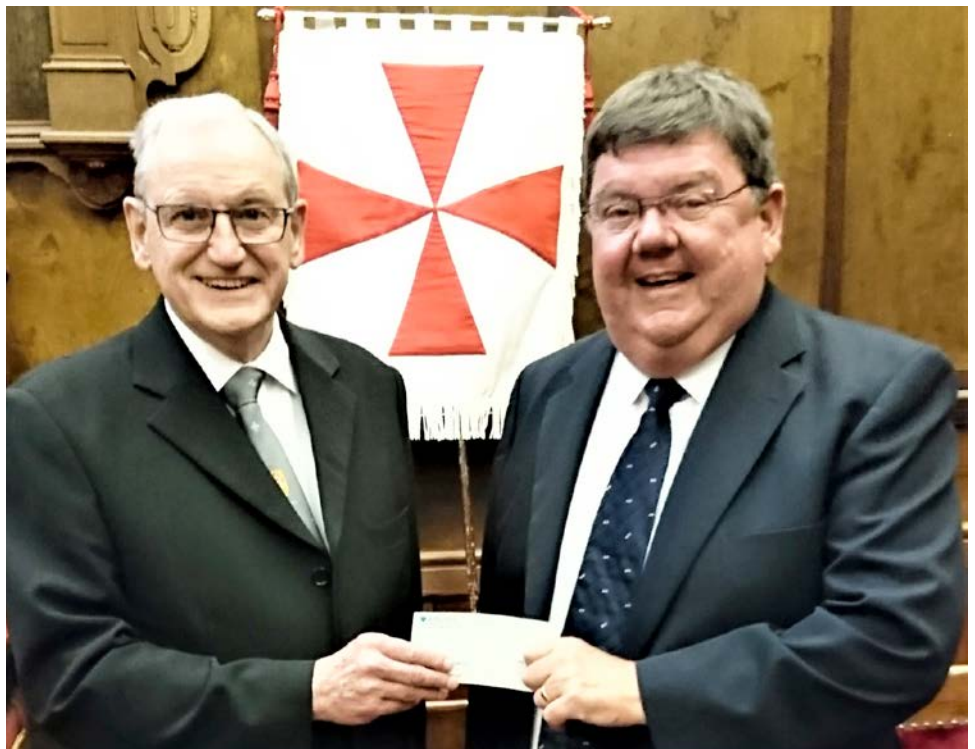
Touched by the plight of so many of the people who have been supported by the hospital – especially the small children saved from blindness and lifelong problems – Kt Antony Bailey of Gwent Preceptory made an exceptional donation of £870 in the autumn.

Moved in a similar manner, E Kt Kenneth Alun Davies organised a raffle each time that he visited a Preceptory in the course of his provincial duties as a Provincial Aide de Camp during the past year - and as a result he raised the remarkable sum of £747 for the benefit of the Hospital.

Receiving these significant donations, R E Kt Dr Paul Richard Calderwood, Provincial Prior, expressed the thanks of the province and of the hospital for these tremendous acts of love and kindness.

E Kt Alun Davies pointed out that the task had been made easier by the hospitality and generosity extended by our members throughout Monmouth and South Wales.

E Kt Alun (pictured on the right) is a



member of Holy Palestine Preceptory - where he is well-known for his enthusiasm and determination to promote the United Orders and the work of the Eye Hospital, which is the principal charity supported by the Knights Templar.

A further sum of £750 was donated to the Hospital by the Province as a whole at its annual meeting in Bridgend in 2019 – making it a most successful day for this important charity.

The hospital has been badly hit during the past year because US government funding for charities in the Middle

East was severely reduced for political reasons.

Since then the Knights Templar have stepped up their efforts to make up for this shortfall in the finances of the hospital and to help it to continue its priceless humanitarian work.

The generous gifts from Monmouth and South Wales have been a very important part of that assistance and are greatly appreciated.

If you would like to know more about the work of the hospital please go to stjohnseyehospital.org

David wins shield

Anyone entering the Temple at Bridgend cannot fail to notice the display of Welsh Crusader Shields that decorate its walls. Every year a miniature version of one of those seven shields is raffled at the dinner which follows the annual meeting of the Knight Templar Provincial meeting.

The winner of the crusader shield this year was Kt David J Davies of Fforest Preceptory which meets at the Masonic Hall in Treharris. The shield which he received in May from the Provincial Prior, R E Kt Dr Paul Richard Calderwood, bears the arms of Philip de Braose, Lord of Radnor and Builth.



Affirming the Faith

Every Freemason, at his admission into Freemasonry, is asked to affirm his belief in God and every candidate for admission into the Knights Templar is asked to confirm his belief in the Trinitarian Christian Faith.

When - as a direct result of becoming a Knight Templar - someone goes on to make a personal choice to become baptised and confirmed is something much more unusual. One such remarkable occasion occurred quite recently - and in south Wales - to the delight of everyone who was involved.

When Companion Chris David Thomas of Frederick Phillips Royal Arch Chapter No 4074 became a Knight Templar, he was asked in the normal way if he believed in the Trinitarian Christian Faith and having assented, he was admitted and became an enthusiastic member of the Order in the Province of Monmouth and South Wales at Sir William Marshall Preceptory in November 2018.

Subsequently, of his own volition, he decided that he would like, in addition, to become a baptised member of the Church in Wales.

He therefore approached the Great Prelate of the Knights Templar, R E Kt Revd Malcolm Lane to see if this was possible and how it could be accomplished - and (after a course of Christian instruction) he was baptised as a member of the Church in Wales at St Teilo's Church, Llantilio Pertholey in July 2019.

He then asked if he could be confirmed in that church also - and this celebratory event took place (after further regular preparation) in October - along with several other candidates - at the hands of the Archbishop of Wales, The Most Reverend John Davies.

Among those present to support him and to congratulate him at the ceremony were the Great Prelate, R E Kt The Reverend Malcolm Lane, and the Provincial Prior of the Knights Templar, RE Kt Dr Paul Calderwood, and his wife Mrs Jean Calderwood.



Left to Right: Knight Christopher Thomas together with the Revd Malcolm Lane, The Great Prelate, The Most Revd John Davies, Archbishop of Wales and Dr Paul Calderwood, the Provincial Prior

It was a most memorable occasion accompanied by a peal of bells at this beautiful ancient mediaeval church and to the accompaniment of a large choir and Chris proudly wore his Knight Templar tie and badge for the event. It is yet another of many instances that "knock into a cocked hat" the sometimes expressed mistaken idea that Freemasonry somehow leads people away from religion and it confirms the truth that Freemasonry reinforces and expands the involvement of so many people in their chosen religious faith.

Welsh Knights honoured in London

The United Orders hold two Investiture meetings for Great Officers each year - one for the Order of the Temple and one for the Order of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta.

In November at the meeting of the Great Priory of Malta four members of our Province were invested as Great Officers.

They were:

E Kt Carl Davies from Cefn Ydfa Preceptory in

Bridgend - who was Invested as Great Baillie

E Kt Nigel Williams from Morganwg Preceptory in Penarth - who was Invested as Great Turcopolier

E Kt John Anthony Carnes from St David's Preceptory in Narberth - who was Invested as Great Turcopolier

E Kt David Elsley from Menevia Preceptory in Aberaeron - who was Invested as Great Captain of Outposts

It was the fitting acknowledgement of many years devoted work and the climax to a year of remarkable distinction for these four hard-working Brother Knights.

In May this year they had also been Invested as Great Officers in the meeting of the Great Priory of the Order of the Temple.

Both meetings were splendid colourful occasions attended by around a thousand in the impressive setting of the Grand Temple at Freemasons' Hall in London.

Hearty congratulations to all concerned.





A Knight to Remember

The Rulers of no less than seven Masonic Orders from the south and west of Wales attended a remarkable ceremony at Aberaeron in October when E Comp David Smith was admitted in to the Order of the Temple.

At the invitation of E Kt David Elsley, the Eminent Preceptor of Menevia Preceptory, and in the presence of the Craft Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch for West Wales, E Kt James Ross, this Knight Templar ceremony was conducted by the following distinguished team of Rulers:

Rt E Kt Dr Paul Calderwood, Provincial Prior of the Knights Templar,

E Kt David Court, the Provincial Sub Prior

E Kt Gwilym Jones (District Grand Master of the Order of Royal & Select Masters)

E Kt Ronald Slater (District Grand Prefect for the Order of the Allied

Masonic Degrees)

Kt Keith Ferguson (Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for South Wales in the Order of the Secret Monitor and Provincial Grand Summus for South Wales in the Order of the Scarlet Cord)

They were assisted by the Provincial Marshal, E Kt Carl Davies, who is also the Substitute Provincial Grand Master of the Royal Order of Scotland.

Good wishes were also received from three more Rulers who had originally intended to take part in the ceremony too (but were prevented by subsequent events). They were RE Kt Graham Gubb, the Intendent General of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine, E Kt John Everett, Inspector General of the Rose Croix, and E Kt Michael Hopkins, the Grand Superintendent for the Order of Knight Templar Priests.

The team of Rulers which conducted the ceremony was assisted by a number of other visiting Knights, including E Kt Ian Mosely and E Kt Chris Mugford,

who acted as Constables, Kt Paul Evans and Kt Nick Sawyer, who acted as Heralds, Kt Lynn Jones and Kt Gary Lilywhite, as Standard Bearers and E Kt Jim Thompson, who acted as Guard.

The Candidate was made a Knight Templar in a ceremony of a particularly high standard which culminated with the Eminent Preceptor conferring the accolade upon him.

This remarkable show of strength by members of the Order had been organised to boost the profile of Menevia - the most westerly Knight Templar Preceptory in Britain - and it had a good result because the occasion attracted a much larger attendance of members than is normal for a domestic meeting.

This meeting also witnessed the Joining of three new Members, namely E Kts David Court, Vaughan Watkin and Jim Thompson. As a result, the Preceptory emerged stronger and more popular than ever and is looking forward to a bright future.

New Members get large welcome

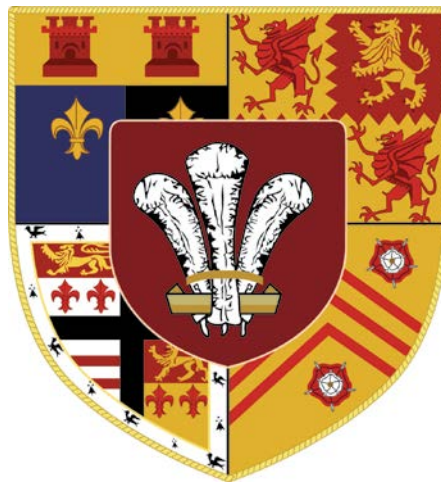
An especially large number of knights attended the annual meeting of the Knight Templar Province of Monmouth and South Wales which was held at Bridgend Masonic Hall on 22nd May. The full attendance was in excess of 130 and over-filled the car park.

A new feature of this year's meeting was a formal welcome extended to members who have joined the United Orders of the Temple and of Malta during the past twelve months.

Twelve - out of more than three dozen - new members who joined this year were in attendance. They were presented to the Provincial Prior, R E Kt Dr Paul Richard Calderwood, who greeted each one of them personally and presented him with a unique and distinctive lapel-pin badge to denote his attendance at this, his first, annual meeting of the province.

Each one was encouraged to come to the annual meeting as often as possible in future years and to encourage others to do the same - especially those who join the Order over the next twelve months because they too will receive this limited-edition badge next year.

The meeting was held this year under the banner of Cefn Ydfa Preceptory - many of whose members acted as helpers and



stewards at the event.

In the traditional manner, there was a colourful parade of Preceptory Banners at the meeting and, later, the banners were displayed in the Refectory throughout the dinner.

The Provincial Sub-Prior, E Kt David Court, was reappointed and a full list of Officers were appointed and promoted. For more information, please go to the provincial website which is at kt-msw.org

At the start of the meeting, the Provincial Prior announced the enforced absence of E Kt Carl Davies, Provincial Marshal, who was in hospital recovering from a surprise setback in his normally good health - and at the end of the meeting he congratulated the Deputy Provincial Marshal, E Kt Roger

Thompson, for the excellent manner in which he had conducted the ceremonial of the meeting at such short notice.

The Provincial Prior also congratulated those members of the Province who had been honoured in London at Great Priory earlier that month by the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement.

In active offices, they included R E Kt Rev Malcolm Lane, who was re-appointed as Great Prelate, R E Kt Ryan Williams, who was reappointed as Great Vice-Chancellor, and E Kt Ben Dykes, who was promoted to the rank of Great Aide de Camp.

In addition to these Active ranks, four more of our brethren received First appointments in Past Great Rank, namely:

E Kt Carl Davies as Past Great Aide de Camp

E Kt Nigel Williams as Past Great Warden of Regalia

E Kt Anthony Carnes as Past Gt Chamberlain

E Kt David Elsley as Past Great Captain of Guards

In his annual Address the Provincial Prior said he was pleased to report that the total number of members (and memberships) within the province had increased significantly over the past year once again - and he thanked all for their continued strong support of the United Orders.

Our Swift arrives at Lord Swansea



The route of the Travelling Swift - 2019-20

Nr	PRECEPTORY	Town	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
115	Gwent	Newport											9	
200	Morganwg	Penarth									8			
319	Giraldus Cambrensis	Llanelli				6								
427	Menevia	Aberaeron		15										
502	Holy Palestine	Swansea		5										
547	Owain Glyndwr	Swansea												14
556	Sant Madoc	Porthcawl						7						
568	St. David's	Narberth										3		
577	Castell Nedd	Neath							1					
579	Cefn Ydfa	Bridgend											4	
582	Fforest	Treharris		10										
602	Temple Slebech	Bridgend						16						
668	Sir William Marshall	Chepstow			11									
673	Lord Swansea	Swansea									2			
704	Brecknock Castle	Brecon						12						
712	St John of Cardiff	Cardiff									13			



E Kt Lee Saunders, Eminent Preceptor of Castell Nedd preceptory passes the Travelling Swift on to E Kt Mark Bevan, Eminent Preceptor of Lord Swansea preceptory.

To book in for any occasion, please contact the preceptory Registrar on the back page of this newsletter

Guidance on Ritual matters

A third Workshop for the practice, discussion and improvement of Knight Templar Ritual will take place at Bridgend Masonic Hall at 6.30pm on 15th January.

Brother Knights from all Preceptories will be welcome to attend the event and benefit from a number of informative presentations given by the Provincial Marshal, E Kt Carl Davies, and the Deputy Provincial Marshal, E Kt Roger Thompson.

Throughout the evening, it is hoped that there will be a great deal of lively conversation and active participation by all the Bro Knights present at this 90 minutes session.

Those who attend will be presented with a handbook of useful guidance to keep for future reference.

No regalia is required although it would be useful if members could bring their sword and belt along with them. The dress code is casual.



Remembrance and Malta

Being held on the day before Remembrance Sunday, the provincial Malta meeting was preceded in November by the traditional Act of Remembrance.

Members wore black ties and stood in silence after the reading of Laurence Binyon's famous verse that begins "They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old".

There then followed the appointment and investiture of Provincial officers in the Order of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta.

Eight candidates for membership of the Order were presented and - after becoming Knights of St Paul first - they then took part in the full Malta ceremony.

They were Kt Christopher Thomas – from Sir William Marshall Preceptory, Kt Mark Mulford – Morganwg Preceptory, Kt Michael McNiff - Morganwg Preceptory, Kt Kristian Clement - Castell Nedd Preceptory, Kt Brian Glyn Rees - Giraldu Cambrensis Preceptory, Kt Ceri de Lloyd - Giraldu Cambrensis Preceptory, Kt Phillip Morgan - St. John of Cardiff Preceptory, and Kt Andrew Dixon - St John of Cardiff Preceptory.

In our province this is one of only three occasions each year when the Malta Degree is conferred upon candidates – and it is always the largest such gathering and took place in the Masonic Hall at Llanelli attended by Brother Knights from all over South and West Wales.

The next Malta meeting will be at Narberth on 2 March and the final opportunity of the year will be at Bridgend on 16 June.



The pride of the Bodyguard

The enthusiasm of the members of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard is legendary and it recently took off in two impressive new ways.

The members turn out for events all over South Wales, Monmouthshire and West Wales in support of the United Orders and accompany the Provincial Prior on his travels.

Their esprit de corps is something that makes them stand out and they recently commissioned the production of a number of polo shirts for wear at training and promotional events and just to wear socially.

Enjoying the full support of the Provincial Prior, the Commander of the Bodyguard, Kt Stephen Roberts said "The polo shirts have been introduced to underline a team spirit approach to the Bodyguard".

"We have introduced these grey shirts to match the colour of the provincial tie. This is a great example of a team approach and identification of our fellow Knights".

He added that "There is no reason why any Brother Knight who is proud to be a member of the province can't have one of these shirts. If they are not in the Bodyguard it would solely feature the provincial crest and name of Monmouth and South Wales but without the reference to membership of the Bodyguard".

In a separate development, one of the much-travelled members of the Bodyguard, Kt Mark Newbold- inspired by his visit to Rosslyn Chapel - purchased a Jewel there in the shape of a sword and donated it to the Commander for him to wear at the festival board.

At Rosslyn Chapel, he was inspired by the history of the Knights Templar there and he wanted to recognise the hard work of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard across the southern half of Wales. This jewel will be handed by each Commander to his successor as a further reminder of the pride that the members have in being members of the Bodyguard and as a reminder of Mark's generosity.

The Commander - who is shown in the pictures, wearing the polo shirt and the refectory jewel - is currently recruiting new members for the Bodyguard and anyone interested in being considered should apply to provprior@kt-msw.org



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

RITUAL WORKSHOP

Bridgend Masonic hall, Coychurch road, Bridgend, CF31 2AP
6:30pm, 15th January 2020

PROVINCIAL CHURCH SERVICE

Margam Abbey, Margam, SA13 2TA - Refreshments afterwards
26th April 2020

PROVINCIAL PRIORY MEETING

Bridgend Masonic hall, Coychurch road, CF31 2AP - All Knights are most welcome
27th May 2020

GREAT PRIORY

UGLE, Great Queen St, London WC2B 5AZ - All Knights are most welcome
20th of May 2020

PROVINCIAL PRIORY of MALTA

Llanelli Masonic hall, Harries Avenue, Llanelli, SA15 3LF
14th November 2020

GREAT PRIORY of MALTA

UGLE, Great Queen St. London WC2B 5AZ - All Knights of Malta are welcome
17th November 2020

CAROLS and CARVERY

The Castle of Brecon Hotel, Brecon, LD3 9DB - Family and friends are welcome
5th of December 2020

NOTICE BOARD

Preceptory Meetings

To send an email to one of our Registrars simply

CLICK 
on his name

GWENT PRECEPTORY N° 115

Meeting at Newport, NP20 2AG
2nd Friday in Feb & May (Inst), & 4th Friday in Nov
Registrar: E Kt [Ian McLean](#) - 01443 742257

MORGANWG PRECEPTORY N° 200

Meeting at Penarth, CF64 3LR
4th Wednesday in Jun (Inst) and 4th Friday in Oct.
Registrar: E Kt [Vaughan Watkin](#) - 02920 618992

GIRALDUS CAMBRENSIS PRECEPTORY N° 319

Meeting at Llanelli, SA15 3LF
2nd Wednesday in July and 1st Friday in Nov (Inst)
Registrar: E Kt [Dr Jonathan Lee Jones](#) - 07494 452215

MENEVIA PRECEPTORY N° 427

Meeting at Aberaeron, SA46 0JG
1st Wednesday in May (Inst), Oct & Feb
Registrar: E Kt [Christopher Samuel](#) - 01970 625873

HOLY PALESTINE PRECEPTORY N° 502

Meeting at Swansea, SA1 4DF
1st Monday in Sep (Inst) and 3rd Monday in Feb
Registrar: E Kt [Jim Needs](#) - 01792 414189

OWAIN GLYNDWR PRECEPTORY OF INSTALLED PRECEPTORS N° 547

Meeting at Swansea, SA1 4DF
1st Saturday in June and December
Registrar: E Kt [Tim Clark](#) - 01792 520054

SANT MADOC PRECEPTORY N° 556

Meeting at Porthcawl, CF36 5DF
1st Tuesday in Feb (Inst), Jun and Oct
Registrar: E Kt [Derek Hemfrey](#) - 01656 788277

SAINT DAVID'S PRECEPTORY N° 568

Meeting at Narberth, SA67 7DR
2nd Monday in Jan (KT Inst), 1st Monday in March (Malta Inst), 1st Monday in July & 3rd Monday in Oct
Registrar: E Kt [John Everett](#) - 01646 636435

CASTELL NEDD PRECEPTORY N° 577

Meeting at Neath, SA11 1DN
Monday before 4th Tuesday in Jan (Inst), and 2nd Monday in July.
Registrar: E Kt [Michael Strangward](#) - 07836 206836

CEFN YDFA PRECEPTORY N° 579

Meeting at Bridgend, CF31 2AP
2nd Thursday in March and Nov, plus 3rd Thursday in June (Inst)
Registrar: E Kt [Aneurin L. Hughes](#) - 01443 773363

FFOREST PRECEPTORY N° 582

Meeting at Treharris, CF46 5HH
1st Friday in June (Inst), 4th Monday in October & 3rd Monday in February.
Registrar: E Kt [Wayne Cowley](#) - 01633 329117

TEMPLE SLEBECH PRECEPTORY OF PROVINCIAL BODYGUARDS N° 602

Meeting at Bridgend, CF31 2AP
3rd Friday in January (Inst), 3rd Friday in June (Full Malta)
Registrar: E Kt [Barry J Stubbings](#) - 01792 390035

SIR WILLIAM MARSHALL PRECEPTORY N° 668

Meeting at 36 School hill, Chepstow, NP16 5BZ
3rd Saturday in June (Inst), 1st Tuesday in September & 3rd Thursday in November.
Registrar: E Kt [Roger Thompson](#) - 07522 752275

THE LORD SWANSEA PRECEPTORY N°. 673

Meeting at Swansea, SA1 4DF
30th day of April (Inst) and 4th Tuesday in September.
Registrar: E Kt [Barry J Stubbings](#) - 01792 390035

BRECKNOCK CASTLE PRECEPTORY N° 704

Meeting at Brecon, LD3 7NT
2nd Wednesday in Nov (Inst), 4th Tuesday in March & 3rd Wednesday in June.
Registrar: E Kt [Keri Evans](#) - 01443 821137

ST JOHN OF CARDIFF N° 712

Meeting at Cardiff, CF10 2HL
2nd Wednesday in March (Inst), 4th Wednesday in September and 2nd Monday in December
Registrar: E Kt [Wayne Cowley](#) 01633 329117

HALF PRICE REGALIA

Half price Knights Templar regalia is available through the Provincial website: www.kt-msw.org

We have a good stock of both Knights Templar & Malta regalia – all of which has been pre-owned and pre-loved, and is now looking for a new home!

Please contact our Warden of Regalia:

E Kt Peter Vincent

Warden_regalia@kt-msw.org



At a loose end? In the other end of the Province? Want to know which Preceptories meet on which days and at which Masonic halls? Have a look at our 2020 calendar go to <http://www.kt-msw.org/Documents/Useful/2020Calendar.pdf>

