

A BEAUCEANT!!

NO 23

A little Knight Templar news does you good



Dear Brother Knights

“Looking forward to better times” is the theme of this issue of our newsletter.

Looking forward, firstly, to Christmas and all the happiness that we hope that it will bring to you and your family.

Looking forward also to a New Year and getting past what may be a challenging start. In a positive sense, 2021 will get underway with two important online events for Knights Templar that I am sure you will want to enjoy

On the last day of the Christmas Festival, Twelfth Night, an online Templar Service has been arranged for members, their families and friends. On that date, 6th January, Christians throughout the world will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany and it is a very appropriate time for us to look forward with hope for a much better year.

Already one Preceptory in our Province has held a face to face meeting and as the mass vaccination programme rolls out across the nation over the coming months we could see more such meetings taking place when circumstances permit. No doubt - at first - they will be small gatherings but, gradually, as people grow in confidence attendances will rise.

However, no one should return to these much enjoyed activities until they feel fully comfortable. No pressure of any kind should be experienced.

In the meantime, and to help us brush up on our recall of the beautiful KT Ritual, an online demonstration will be held on 12 January - courtesy of the King Edward VII Preceptory of Improvement. Why not watch and practice your lines at home?

Details of both the Twelfth Night Service and the Ritual Demonstration are contained in the following pages and on the last page you will uncover a magnificent achievement.

Over the next few weeks I am sure that we will all find time to call a friend and brother in order to check up on his health and wellbeing, to wish him well and to exchange news. As Knights Templar, I would especially encourage you to phone one or two of your fellow Knights who you have not spoken to for a while and, when you do, why not start off by saying “The Provincial Prior has asked me to call you and wish you well”.

With every good wish to you for a happy and peaceful Christmas.
Yours in the bonds of the Order

R E Kt Paul Calderwood

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

Preserve, O Lord, our Brother Knights,
By land or sea or air,
And as we hold them in our thoughts,
So keep them in Thy care.

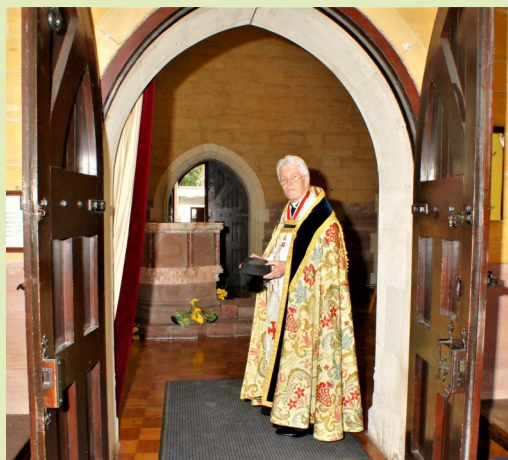
IN OUR THOUGHTS

Special good wishes are sent to those of our Brethren and their loved ones who are—or who have recently been—in hospital, particularly to E Kt Howard Mortimore, Kt Jonathan Morgan, Averil the wife of V E Kt Howard Matthews and many others.

A START TO THE NEW YEAR - FULL OF HOPE

On the Twelfth Night of Christmas, a Knight Templar Service will be held via Zoom at 7pm on 6th January.

Bring along your family and friends if they would like to join us. Conducted by the Great Prelate, R E Kt Revd Malcolm Lane, it will include a Reading by the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement, and it will close with the Templars' Hymn. This service will undoubtedly help us start the new year with prayer and full of hope, looking forward to a brighter future. Please try to



join us and gather a few minutes before 7pm by clicking on the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7955114865?pwd=Qk9WSlRqMEF3dkZ0ZHJyRVV1UEJGUT09>

Forgotten parts of the ritual ?

Not at all, I am sure — but a great opportunity presents itself on Jan 12th to blow away a few cobwebs and remind yourself about our ceremonies and the words we need to know.

The King Edward VII Preceptory of Improvement invites you to attend an online demonstration by a distinguished team at 7pm.

The meeting will consist of Opening and Closing a Preceptory and the Ceremony of Installation of a Knight.

This will be carried out in accordance with the guidelines laid down by Mark Mason's Hall which state that 'no signs, passwords or description of the same to be included'.

Graphics of the Temple Floor Plan indicating the positions of the Knights will accompany the Ceremony and members of the King Edward VII Preceptory of Improvement will take the relevant offices.

If you would like to watch please contact the Registrar of the Preceptory, E Kt Harry Randell and he will give you the online key to the door. His email address is harryrandell@btinternet.com





THE FIRST MEETING

For the first time since March, a physical meeting of a Templar Preceptory and Priory of Malta was held in our Province at the end of November.

On that occasion a small number of members of Holy Palestine Preceptory assembled at Swansea Masonic Hall to Install Kt Keith Ferguson as their new Eminent Preceptor and Eminent Prior.

A total of ten socially distanced and protectively masked knights in regalia met and carefully observed all the health and safety guidelines, under the watchful eye and wise guidance of the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement, who is a member of Holy Palestine Preceptory of course.

The Installing Preceptor was E Kt Julian Pye and I wonder if you can recognise the other masked figures in the picture. No prizes will be offered.

A PRIZE CHRISTMAS QUIZ

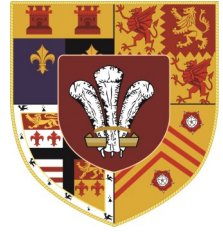
Perhaps something for the day after Boxing Day but nonetheless it is a special pleasure to offer you a slightly longer Quiz than usual with the added spice of a Book Prize on offer for the winning entry.

The questions and the prize have been generously provided by E Kt Chris Mugford, the Eminent Preceptor of Fforest Preceptory. The closing date for entries to reach him is 7pm on New Year's Day. Please email your entries to him at cemugford@hotmail.com

1. In what year was the "Hospital of St John" formed in Jerusalem and the Hospitallers come into being?
2. When were the Hospitallers granted Papal Recognition?
3. When was the Military wing of the Hospitallers (the Knights Hospitaller) given Papal Recognition?
4. When was the Military wing of the Hospitallers (the Knights Hospitaller) given Recognition under the "Rule of Troyes"?
5. Who was the "Master" the Knights Hospitaller in 1179?
6. In what year were the Knights Templar coffers in England transferred from Edward II to the Knights Hospitaller?
7. On which island were the Knights Hospitaller based from the 1200's until the 1500's?
8. In which year did Charles II of Spain award the Knights Hospitaller a new base on Malta?
9. What is the name of the modern Catholic Order of the Knights Hospitaller?
10. In which year did Queen Victoria grant a Royal Charter to the Protestant Hospitaller movement in Britain – the Order of St John of Jerusalem?



A Great Achievement by the Province



Although 2020 will be remembered for many shortcomings, it was undoubtedly one of great achievement in one very special sense so far as this Knight Templar Province is concerned.

When the “20 for 2020 Appeal” was launched in support of the Eye Hospital of St John of Jerusalem by the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master earlier in the year, it was greeted enthusiastically.

However, the subsequent arrival of Covid and the fact that we could no longer hold regular meetings made fundraising much more difficult.

Nonetheless the members of the Province of Monmouth and South Wales overcame these challenges and have displayed remarkable generosity.

I am delighted to announce that in our Province the total raised by this Appeal exceeded the expectations of many and raised £2,330.



Together with other generous donations, this has enabled the Province to send (with Gift Aid) a total of **over £7,000** to Great Priory this year for the support of the Hospital.

I know you will agree with me that this is a magnificent achievement and I thank you very much indeed for your tremendous generosity and kind hearts.

The people—and especially the children—who rely on the Eye Hospital will indeed be most grateful for your wonderful support.

Next year I shall look forward to letting you know what the grand total was that was raised by the United Orders as a whole.

