



## A little Knight Templar news does you good

### In future issues

- Back at Margam Abbey
- A fresh look at the History of the Hospitallers and the Templars
- Did the Knights really go under ground

## Staying in touch

Dear Brother Knight The response to these newsletters has been very encouraging and I am especially grateful to those Brethren who have sent me items and ideas for inclusion.

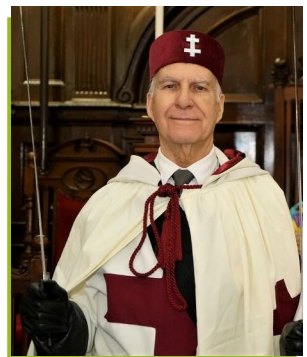
Immediately after the last issue appeared we received a flood of donations for the Eye Hospital. and I thank all of those responsible.

R E Kt Paul Calderwood



*The Commander of the Body Guard, Kt Stephen Roberts ( pictured with his predecessor E Kt Viv Jones—doing something that they tell me is Masonic) suggested that we should have a Templar Quiz in this newsletter—so here is an easy starter. (For the answers please see the last page).*

1. *After the fall of Acre where did the Templars move to?*
2. *How many Langues can you name?*
3. *In what year did the “two knights on one horse” seal first appear ?*
4. *How many years warfare is a Novice asked to undertake?*
5. *Name the Simons mentioned in the ritual?*



Some good news to share! E Kt Jim Thompson who has been most unwell over recent months has picked up enormously. He tells me that he is 100% better since someone mentioned Gluten Free to him. He certainly sounded more like his old self when I spoke to him. So watch out !!

Photo Caption

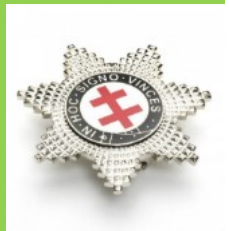


In January this year, 24 Knights (accompanied by 16 partners) from England and Wales, took part in a 10 day pilgrimage of the Holy Land that was specifically tailored for Knights Templar Freemasonry.

They included two knights from our own province, E Kt Ian McLean and Kt Antony Bailey of Gwent Preceptory, who are pictured above congratulating the CEO of the Eye Hospital. Here is E Kt Ian's fascinating account of their visit.

The 10 day tour visited the usual religious sites including Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth - the Mount of Olives; the Garden of Gethsemane; the birthplace of John the Baptist; the Via Dolorosa where we saw the 12 Stations of the Cross, leading to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the site of Jesus' Crucifixion; Temple Mount; Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity; the Sea of Galilee and many other places associated with Jesus and his Disciples. We also visited several important Knights Templar, Hospitaller and Crusader sites, the most important being Acre and Emmaus, the site of a famous battle that forms part of our ritual.

As one would expect, this being a Knights Templar pilgrimage, we also visited the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital in East Jerusalem and the Muristan in the Old City, the site of the original hospital. The Muristan is now used as a walk-in clinic and it is also the location for the Peace Garden, the Swift tree and donation commemorative plaques. In 600 AD, Pope Gregory the Great commissioned the construction of a hospital at this site, a place where Christian pilgrims to Jerusalem could be treated. Over the following centuries, the structure was destroyed and rebuilt several times. However it is most associated with the Knights Hospitaller, who established a hospital there in the early 12th century to care for sick and injured pilgrims of all faiths within the Holy Land. The soldier monks who were looking after the pilgrims recuperating there formed the Order known as the Knights Hospitaller.





Their tradition of treating all who came to their door is still one the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group adheres to today - treating all patients no matter what their religion, ethnicity or their ability to pay.

Our visit to the main hospital was quite literally, and excuse the pun, an eyeopener! We were given a presentation by the CEO, Dr Ahmad Ma'ali on the work they carry out there and at their other two hospitals and clinic, as well as the outreach vehicles that perform minor surgery in remote locations. We then had a tour of the hospital, visiting one of the operating theatres and a temporary children's ward. The new state of the art children's ward was in its final stages of completion and would be opened very soon, having been fully funded and made possible by a donation of £250,000 from Great Priory.

Before our visit, the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group was already having financial difficulties due to the withdrawal of funding by the US Administration. However, this has now been further exacerbated by the total lockdown due to COVID-19. It is therefore imperative that we, as Knights Templar, continue our support for this life changing organisation with our Preceptory annual donations, the 20 for 2020 Great Priory Initiative and any personal donations that we can afford to make.

To show our continued support and appreciation for what they do, there are plans for another visit and pilgrimage in 2021.

So if anyone is interested, please contact me and I will then pass on your details to the organiser.

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**Quiz Answers:**

1. *Rhodes*
2. *Provence, Auvergne, France, Italy, Aragon, England, Germany and Castille*
3. *1158*
4. *Seven*
5. *Simon of Cyrene and Simon of Syracuse*

