

3 December 2021

A BEAUCEANT!!

NO 34



A little Knight Templar news does you good

Staying in touch

Dear Brother Knights

November proved to be the busiest month of the year for Knights Templar in our province. It saw three Installation Meetings, a Domestic Meeting (to admit two Candidates) as well as a 150th anniversary celebration meeting - plus two annual meetings, namely the Provincial Malta meeting and the Great Priory of Malta.

Over the past three months, we have had a very productive time enjoying a happy resumption of Knight Templar Masonry right across the south of Wales. At all the meetings which were held, the joy and enthusiasm of the members present was resounding. Similarly, respect and affection was also expressed for all those members who were not able to be present and for whom the time is not yet right for a return.



All of our Preceptories have now enjoyed an Installation Meeting – with the exception of two which are scheduled to take place next month and one soon afterwards. In addition, four Candidates have already been admitted to the Order and a number of Joining Members have been welcomed.

At the end of November, for the further protection of members, new guidance was issued by the Great Vice Chancellor, recommending the wearing of masks at meetings for the present time and until more is known about the Omicron virus.

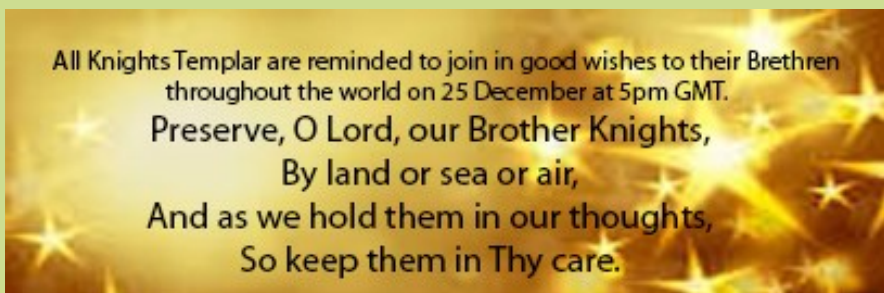
This edition of the newsletter contains reports about all of the meetings that took place in November - together with some reflective words from The Great Prelate - and details of a new book that has just been launched at Great Priory.

As we move into December, I would like to express my warmest good wishes to you and your family for a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order

R

E Kt
Paul



Calderwood

Celebrating 150 Years of Knight Templar activity

The oldest Knight Templar Preceptory in the Province of Monmouth and South Wales celebrated its 150th anniversary on 26th November.



A large gathering of Brother Knights attended this event, headed by the Very High and Right Eminent Great Seneschal, R.E. Kt. Andrew Christopher Rainbow G.C.T. supported by the Deputy Great Marshal, E.Kt. Fraser Fowlie.

The Great Seneschal congratulated Gwent Preceptory No 115 on attaining this remarkable milestone in its history and presented it with a Sesquicentenary Warrant. He subsequently invited the Great Prelate, R.E. Kt. Revd Malcolm Lane K.C.T., to deliver an Oration.

E.Kt Gerald Williams presented a short Talk on the history of the Preceptory - which had been Consecrated in Newport in 1871.

The Provincial Prior of Monmouth and South Wales, R.E. Kt. Dr. Paul Calderwood, delighted the assembly by making a surprise Field Appointment, saying:

"I am sure that all the members will agree with me that the most appropriate person to receive this honour is the brother who has added so much enjoyment to our ceremonies over the past 12 years as the Provincial Organist - and who is moreover in the chair tonight as the Eminent Preceptor of the 150th anniversary Preceptory."

The amazed Eminent Preceptor, E.Kt. Terry Price, was thereupon promoted immediately to the rank of Past Provincial Herald in the Order of the Temple and to the rank of Past Provincial 2nd Lieutenant in the Order of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta.

The occasion was enhanced by the presence of two Past Provincial Priors, R.E.Kt. Graham Gubb K.C.T. and R.E. Kt. Gordon France K.C.T.

Gwent Preceptory had been part of the Province of Somerset, Monmouthshire and South Wales until 1953 - when that Province was divided to create two Provinces (one being Monmouth and South Wales and the other being Somerset).

It was therefore a special joy to welcome the Provincial Prior, Provincial Sub Prior and Provincial Marshal of Somerset, namely R.E.Kt Barry Burridge K.C.T., E.Kt. Paul Davis and E.Kt. Roger Brockington.



Dignitaries from closer to home who also supported the occasion included R.E.Kt. Dr Vivian Thomas K.C.T. Past Provincial Prior of Northampton, Huntingdon and Bedford who now lives in Porthcawl and V.E.Kt. Naunton Liles, the former Great Organist, who provided a wonderful musical accompaniment to the proceedings - while his good friend and colleague, E.Kt. Terry Price, (who is normally the Preceptory Organist), presided over the very happy celebration.

More Preceptory News



On 5th November at the meeting of **Giraldus Cambrensis Preceptory**, E Kt Wynn Evans installed his successor, Kt Robert Stevens, as the new Eminent Preceptor. At the same meeting he welcomed a Joining Member, Kt David Inkin, who was appointed and invested as Registrar almost immediately.

On 10th November at the meeting of **Brecknock Castle Preceptory**, the Eminent Preceptor E Kt Mark Morgan presided over the Installation of his successor, Kt Paul Evans.

On 11th November at a meeting of **Cefn Ydfa Preceptory** E Kt Stewart Richards (seen in the centre of the photo) was invited to admit two Candidates to the Order, namely Companions Philip Popp (on the right) and John Sebury (on the left).



On 18th November at the meeting of **Sir William Marshall Preceptory**, E Kt Chris Evans installed his successor, E Kt Steven Davies, as the new Eminent Preceptor. At the same meeting he welcomed a Joining Member, Kt Christopher Parrish who is also a member of Dean Forest Preceptory of St Mary.

Provincial Priory of Malta

For the first time in two years, we were able to hold a **real** – as opposed to a Virtual - Provincial Malta meeting in November.

It was opened with a moving and solemn act of remembrance in memory not only for those who had died in warfare but also for family members and friends who had died since the start of the pandemic.

A much more spacious venue was chosen for the meeting on this occasion in order to attract members who might be anxious about social distancing.

Thus, it was held in the east of the Province at Penarth - under the banner of Fforest Preceptory - and it was attended by over sixty Brethren. This clearly proved to be a popular decision and Penarth is likely to be the permanent venue for this event.

The previous year's Malta Officers were invested for a second term by the Provincial Prior, R E Kt Dr Paul Calderwood.

The Malta ceremony was led by the Provincial Sub Prior, E Kt David Court - assisted at various points by E Kts John Everett, Terry Jones and Peter James and the Provincial Prior - and it was a great delight to see seven new members admitted to the Order namely Knights

- Roy Veal - Fforest Preceptory
- John Cooper - Fforest Preceptory
- Andrew Davies - Gwent Preceptory
- Adrian Martin—Gwent Preceptory
- Andrew Price - Gwent Preceptory
- Paul Deenik - Cefn Ydfa Preceptory
- Simon Robins - Holy Palestine Preceptory





The Great Priory of Malta

Members of this province were among those who were appointed to Great Rank at the annual meeting of the Great Priory of Malta last month in London. The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement, presided over the meeting which was attended by several hundred members of the Order.

At the start of the meeting The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master appointed to the Honour and Dignity of Knight Grand Cross of the United Orders Right Eminent Knight John Lawson William Wright, K.C.T. He also appointed to the Honour and Dignity of Knight Commander of the United Orders V.E. Knight Jonathan Charles Whitaker, *JP*, Great Prior of Malta.

Among those whom he appointed and invested as Great Officers of Malta were the following Brother Knights from this Province:

R E Kt Revd Malcolm Clifford George Lane re-appointed Great Prelate

E Kt Carl Douglas Davies re-appointed as Deputy Great Mareschal

V E Kt Harry John Randell promoted to Past Great First Lieutenant

E Kt Richard John Phillips appointed as Past Great Baillie

E Kt Dr Anthony John Strachan appointed as Past Great Turcopolier

E Kt Peter John James appointed as Past Great Captain of Outposts

Whose names were read out by another member of this province, R E Kt Ryan Andrew Williams, Great Vice-Chancellor.



The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master expressed how delighted we all felt to be back in each other's company again at the Annual Chapter of the Order of Malta, following a two year break, and as he pointed out "what better way to resume our labours in this Order than to witness and enjoy a first class Ceremony of Installation". He thanked the Great Prior and all his Officers for an uplifting and memorable Degree Ceremony.

Templar Reflections by The Great Prelate



As Brother Knights we are meant to act and behave in a chivalric way meeting in our Preceptories and looking out for one another and protecting the vulnerable and at all times thinking of others.

Our world is so full of self fulfilment and individualism that it is easy to lose sight of the fact that we are designed to be relational and we actually need other people to work out our faith with. Church life in particular is about the body of Christ working together. Church leadership is never a solo performance and whilst we are shaped by Jesus' life and ministry the Old Testament still helps us to understand the kingdom and God's heart for us.

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But

how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Peter writing to the early church often encouraged people to work together and he understood the value of sharing a common vision and purpose, after all he had been alongside Jesus in his earthly ministry. He uses a wonderful picture of the people of God being built into a living temple. To put it another way, as Christians we are the church, not physical buildings and as we cooperate together that people will glimpse Jesus at work. Our lives are visible evidence of God at work in his world.

"As you come to him, a living stone rejected by people but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." 1 Peter 2:4-6

Just some thoughts. We cannot be followers of Jesus on our own, no matter how attractive that thought might be at certain times! Jesus calls us to live as the community of faith, our cooperation is a natural outworking of Jesus' love for us and we will achieve far more together. I love the picture that Paul gives us of the body of Christ at work. Paul calls the church to care for one another and reminds us too that when we don't cooperate then we will suffer but when we work together we celebrate together. Like Peter he also recognises that the church is made up of individuals who together are the church.

"That there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." 1 Corinthians 12:25-27

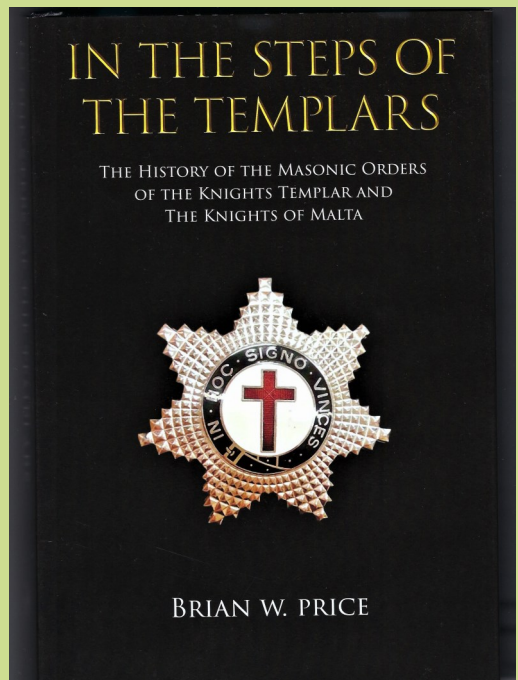
As you pray today ask God to help the church be a real community of cooperation. Pray too that we will take seriously the challenge to work together and to care for one another. Finally pray that our church leaders would recognise the importance of team working rather than solo performances.

A New Book Launch

A new book on the history of the Masonic Orders of the Knights Templar and Knights of Malta was launched at the meeting of Great Priory.

Written by E Kt Brian W Price, it is called "In the Steps of The Templars" and it contains a Preface by the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master.

Copies can be obtained online from the publishers, Lewis Masonic, at <https://www.lewis-masonic.co.uk> and from many Masonic regalia shops.



The Great Priory of the Masonic Orders of Knights Templar and Knights of Malta in England and Wales celebrated its bi-centenary in 1991 with the publication of *Brethren in Chivalry* written by Frederick Smyth, another highly respected Masonic author.

Since that book was written, much new material has come to light and so Brian Ward's book provides a more comprehensive history of the Masonic Orders of Knights Templar and Knights of Malta, as well as the history of the Crusading Orders from which The United Orders drew their inspiration, and the developments over the intervening centuries that preserved the chivalric ethic to provide an environment which facilitated the emergence of speculative Freemasonry in general and the chivalric Masonic Orders in particular.

Lost Property

After the 150th anniversary meeting of Gwent Preceptory, a Medic Alert bracelet was found on the floor. If you know who might have lost it please contact E Kt Robert Tanswell at the following email address bob@tanswell.com

Also, a sword was lost at the Malta meeting in Penarth. Could you please look in your regalia bag and make sure that it has not accidentally been taken to the wrong home. If you find it - could you contact the Provincial Vice Chancellor please (at newwilliams@btinternet.com) as he knows the owner.