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A BEAUCEANT!!

NO 35

A little Knight Templar news does

Staying in touch



Dear Brother Knights

Perhaps it might raise a smile if I suggested that December was a peaceful time.

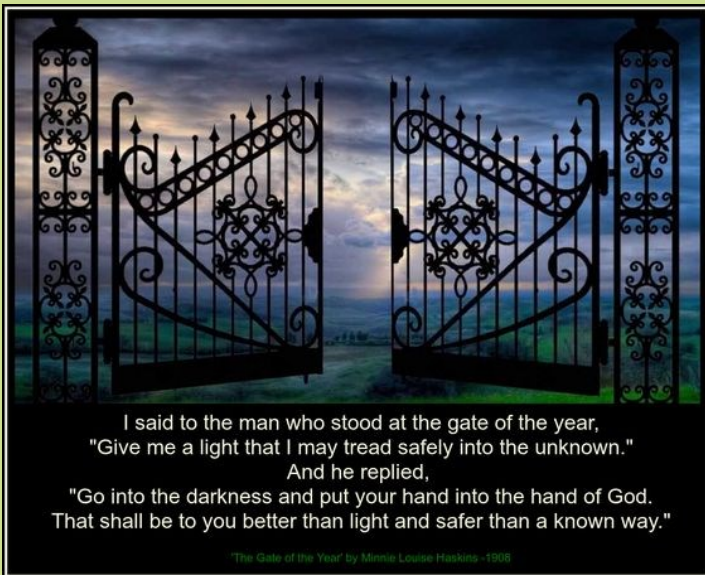
Masonically it was more peaceful than the months that preceded it but thankfully for many families it was a busy month - full of journeys, reunions and celebrations. We have much to be thankful for.

For the Province, the major happening of the past month was the very successful Carol Service. It attracted a record attendance and I hope that you enjoy reading about it in the article on the next page. It is followed by the story of the oldest working Preceptory in Wales and some inspiring words from The Great Prelate.

In December Provincial Priors from far and wide sent messages to YOU wishing you well for the great Christian Festival. They included electronic greetings from our neighbours in Cheshire and North Wales and from as far away as Surrey.

Now, as we move into a new year (with almost all of our Installation meetings behind us) the focus again will be on admitting new members to these wonderful Orders - and incidentally there is much demand for used regalia at the present time. If you know of any that is for sale could you please let the Province know. In the meantime, I would like to extend my warmest good wishes to you and to your family for a very happy and healthy New Year.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order
R E Kt Paul Calderwood



A marvellous start to the Christmas Season

Wales is world-renowned for its love of music and singing and a glorious example of this passion was provided in December when the Knights Templar of the province held their Christmas Carol Service and Carvery Lunch at the Castle Hotel in Brecon.



The event attracted a record attendance this year with over 90 people present singing their hearts out.

Held immediately after the December meeting of Owain Glyndwr Preceptory of Installed Preceptors - under the baton of the Eminent Preceptor, E Kt Jeffrey Henshaw - it was attended by Brother Knights together with their family and friends and it was an especially joyful occasion as this popular event had not been able to go ahead last year due to Covid restrictions.

Led by the Great Prelate, RE Kt Revd 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.

The Grand Master delivered the first of the Nine Lessons which was followed by scripture readings read by the Provincial Prior, R E Kt Dr Paul Calderwood; the Provincial Sub-Prior, E Kt David Court; Provincial Chancellor, E Kt John Everett; the Provincial Treasurer, E Kt Richard Phillips; the Eminent Preceptor, E Kt Jeffrey Henshaw; Preceptory Treasurer, E Kt Dr Stephen Howlett; the Preceptory Registrar, E Kt Tim Clark; and the Great Prelate, R E Kt Revd Malcolm Lane.



This was followed by festive refreshments and a splendid Carvery lunch in the Ballroom organised with flair and dedication by E Kt Keri Evans . The star prizes in the raffle included meals for two at the Cwrt Bledwyn Hotel and the Brecon Castle Hotel which together with numerous other prizes raised over £400.

This, combined with the Alms Collection to provide a substantial boost for the work of the Eye Hospital of St John at Jerusalem.



The oldest working Preceptory in Wales

The following account is an extract from the Talk which was delivered by E. Kt. Gerald P Williams P.Prov.St.B.(V.B.) at the 150th anniversary celebration of Gwent Preceptory in November 2021.

Evidence of early attempts to introduce the United Orders into Wales mention Cardiff in 1812 and Swansea in 1818, whilst an old certificate issued by the French Prisoners' Lodge at Abergavenny in 1813 to Bro. Benjamin Plummer describes him as "the Superintendent Grand Commander of the Order of Knight Templar, etc, etc." Presumably it had a very brief existence, or it was erased like those mentioned at Cardiff and Swansea.

It was in 1871 that the Gwent Preceptory came into being. The first meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Newport, on 22nd November 1871 and since that date the Gwent Preceptory has enjoyed uninterrupted working.

The chief officer of the consecrating party was Sir Kt Shadwell Henry Clarke, Past Preceptor, Grand Commander, West Indies assisted by other officers of Great Priory. The first E. Kt. Commander was Sir Kt Col. Charles Lyne.

The success of the Gwent Preceptory seemed assured with the growth of Newport as a town and the existence of two Masonic craft lodges, one Royal Arch Chapter and the newly established Keystone Lodge of Mark Master Masons, a Rose Croix Chapter and the Gwent Conclave of Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine in the 1870's.

Originally the Gwent Preceptory was not attached to a Province, but on 25th July 1889, representations having been made to the Somerset Province, it was incorporated into that province.

On the 27th of October 1904 at the 75th Meeting of the Preceptory, the Provincial Prior announced that E, Kt. S G Homfray, a Gwent member had been appointed Provincial Sub-Prior.

The Homfray family were all involved in many masonic degrees. Captain Homfray was Provincial Grand Mark Master Mason of Monmouthshire from 1885 to 1894 and second Provincial Grand Principal of Royal Arch Mason of Monmouthshire, from 1873 to 1894 and he gave his name to the Homfray Lodge at Risca.

When Provincial Priory met at the Gwent Preceptory, Newport on 28th October 1909, the beautiful furniture of the chapel, provided by the Gwent Preceptory, impressed the visiting Knights greatly.

The special Meeting of Friday 12th June 1953 under the banners of the Antiquity and Bladud Preceptories at the Masonic Hall Bath was called by the Sub-Prior in charge for the purpose of winding up the old Provincial Priory of Somerset, Monmouthshire, and South Wales before dividing it into two Provinces.

The Gwent Preceptory has played an historic part throughout the history of the Order of Knights Templar, and many of its members have taken part in the Consecration of Preceptories in our Province since its inception. In its 150 years Gwent Preceptory has had good times and bad times. Its membership fluctuates from year to year, but its future is bright.



Templar Inspiration – Reflections by The Great Prelate

As a Knight Templar, I wonder what inspires you?

Inspiration can come in many forms, for some it is the beauty of the natural world, for others it is art and others find inspiration in great literature, theatre or cinema. We are all different and our personalities have an impact on how we view the world and what excites us.



As knights of our beloved United Orders, our faith too is shaped by our personalities and this can impact our preferences in worship, liturgy and how we relate to God. Yet one thing we all have in common as Knights is that our faith inspires us to work for the Kingdom by looking after the less fortunate, the vulnerable, the fatherless and the widow.

Jesus told his disciples that God would inspire them and equip them by the power of the Holy Spirit and that same power of inspiration is there for us too.

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.” John 16:13

The Holy Spirit inspires us and empowers us to work out our faith on a daily basis. We also have the promise that we will never be left on our own and that God loves and cares for us and is with us on every step of our journey of life.

Even in the most difficult times of our life and the Pandemic continues to challenge us all we have the knowledge that Jesus is walking with us in our own pilgrimages. The bible is full of encouragements that we never need to be anxious or dismayed because God is with us.

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10

As well as the Holy Spirit we also have the scriptures to inspire us in our faith. The Holy Spirit brings to life the written word and preachers and teachers take the words and give them application and meaning. I am sure we have all found that the bible has a knack of shining a light into our lives when we most need it and challenging us to change our behaviour or pushing us in new directions. Paul writing to Timothy reminds us that God has inspired the scriptures and they have power to enable us to be better disciples.

“Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God’s way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17 Message

Lastly we can be inspired by one another. I am constantly amazed by the gifts and skills I find in other Christians. We have all been gifted in so many different ways and these gifts are given to enable us to inspire and encourage one another. Our faith is a relational one and God has equipped his church to show his love in the world. Every one of us has a role to play and God has not called us by accident. When we love each other as God intended then we can inspire one another to great achievements.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Colossians 3:16

As you pray today thank God for those who have inspired and encouraged you in your Christian journey. We pray too for the inspiration that comes through prayer, worship and the scriptures and give thanks for those who interpret and teach us about our faith. Finally pray that we might be an inspiration to one another that God might use us to help others to flourish in their faith.