



# A BEAUCEANT!!

NO 4

A little Knight Templar news does you good

## In future issues

- Promoting a good sense of Humour and the United Orders
- Did the Knights really go underground?
- A fresh look at the History of the Hospitallers and the Templars

## Staying in touch

Dear Brother Knight—Today many of us would have been meeting in the historic grounds of Margam Abbey to enjoy the annual church service of our province and to give thanks for our lives and all that the Order means to us.

It is always a special occasion and while we may not be able to be there together today I am sure that in our hearts we will be.

Last year we were treated to a truly inspirational sermon by the Great Prelate of England and Wales and I can think of no better way to remind ourselves of that day- and of good days to come - than by recalling what he had to say on that occasion and by looking again at some of the superb photos that were taken on that occasion by Kt Richard Beecher.

I hope you enjoy these reminders of happy times together and if you would like me to see if there is a photo of you in the folder just get in touch.



Yours in the Bonds of the Order

R E Kt Paul Calderwood



*R. J. Beecher*



*R.J. Beecher*

You've probably heard the story of the two wolves because it's quite well known and it goes something like this:-

"There are two wolves, and they live inside each and every one of us. They are always fighting. One is darkness and despair and it produces, things like anger, envy, greed, arrogance, lies, false pride, and ego.

And the other wolf generated light and hope. It lives for, and produces, things like joy and peace, humility and generosity, faith, hope, and love. These two wolves live in each one of us, and they are constantly struggling for dominance.

And of course the obvious big question the question is Well you have guessed which one wins? The answer is always... **whichever one you feed and that's a pretty fair statement and conclusion to the story** Which leads me on to my text which I have taken today from the Gospel according to St John ,Chapter 10 VERSE 11 I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD .

The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep and protects them from the wolves. Remember those Knights Templars of old had this ingrained into their very being as they guarded those pilgrims making their way to the Holiest place in Christendom itself the Holy sepulchre in Jerusalem and we as Trinitarian Christian pilgrims and our families will I have no doubt have this image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, calling his sheep together to protect them from the adversary.

But he goes on to say that he has other sheep, and is calling them together too. Then there will be one flock, one shepherd. I find this idea both a very powerful and beautiful one. It reminds me too that Jesus said that when he was lifted up on the Cross he would draw the whole world to himself. I mean drawing people together and drawing the world together, is his work. When he tells us that he does what the Father does, and that his work is the will of his heavenly Father, we see that this drawing of things together is God's purpose for the whole of his creation.



In fact, the blessed St Paul said that the whole universe holds together in Christ. Being held together, being in other words drawn into a oneness, is the Father's work; and it's the work that Jesus does. So it's the work that we have to do as well and especially as members of our precious United Orders I'm sure that some of us may remember those words of St Theresa of Avila which still ring in my ears from pre ordination days and that is that 'Christ has no body now on earth - **but yours**, no hands - **but yours**, no feet - **but yours...**', and so on If his work is one of drawing people together, drawing the universe together, then that's our work as well because we are his body in the here and now.

We sometimes wonder what we can do as Christians in today's world, how we can witness to the Gospel, where so much seems dangerous or broken; where religion is looked on in some societies with a mixture of apathy and suspicion, so we're left not sure what we're meant to be doing. Well, Ask yourselves "what do we see Jesus doing in all this"? What he does is what we must do. Work with him to draw things together. Now!

Sowing division, driving wedges between people or sections of society or nations, that's the work of the wolf, the work of the devil, and we see plenty of it in this world. And do we see any of it in ourselves? 'Be sober, be vigilant;

Think of our Precepts as Knights Templar because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, or it could be the wolf seeking whom he may devour.' That's what we've got to spot and to resist. There's a simple question we can ask about anything we do, anything we see in the news, anything in our family or at work or in any situation: are things being driven apart, or are they being drawn together? The action of God is always to draw things together.



So when we come across situations in which things are drifting apart, or are being torn apart, we know that the fundamental purposes of God are being subverted and the wolf is among us. Ask yourself -which wolf are you feeding? It's never the will of God to tear apart, but always to heal, to gather, to unite. The revelations that we heard for example some time ago about the Windrush scandal, and the further realizations of carelessness or hostility towards those of that generation, even active institutional hostility, have exposed a driving apart rather, than a building up of unity. We must work with Christ to bind together.

There's been some low-grade sneering at the Commonwealth as a meaningless and purposeless body. But it is a sign and an **instrument** of some kind of desire for unity between disparate nations in this world, and in that surely it fulfils the purposes of God; it's on the side of binding together rather than driving apart.

And there's Brexit. What a sigh!! Whatever the view you take (and I know there's a variety of opinions in here), we are experiencing not division within Europe but also division within our nation; and the question for us as British Christians, Knights Templars and Pilgrims is how we work with Christ to draw people together again. The sowing of division in the nation, and the bitter things said by people on both sides in the media and social media since, have to be redeemed so that we can move on together. I'm not going to pretend that it's easy, but it's our calling to work with it. In Christ's name we can model how to disagree well; how love and respect can create a climate for genuine conversation about hopes, fears and differing opinions, and the gradual building of a commonly- owned future.



*R.J. Beecher*



*R.J. Beecher*

Not easy, I grant you, but its our simply calling.



And we have to take on board that the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep; he draws the world to himself by being lifted up on the cross. It's about experiencing pain, sacrificing reputation, being traduced in order that healing and unity can come. Whichever side of the thing we think we're on we have to be reconcilers in positive ways because we're Christians, and the work of Christ is our work.

One of the great lessons taught by those who have been at the cutting edge of reconciliation is that you have to work in a committed way with those you disagree with or whose actions you find abhorrent. You have to establish a relationship; you have to come to an appreciation of their humanity; you have to honour their dignity as humans made in the image of God; you have to let them tell their story in their way. We saw all this years ago in the Truth and Reconciliation work Archbishop Desmond Tutu and what he pioneered in South Africa, work that was controversial and painful but was undertaken so that the nation, black and white, could be drawn into unity.

Inspired by that example, we have seen it used as part of the peace process in Northern Ireland despite what's is going on at this moment And it's Christians who so often have been at the forefront of these initiatives, resisting the other wolf and standing with the Good Shepherd. In all of this - whether it's division at home, at work, in church, in politics and nation - as Christians we have always to hold a greater end before our eyes.



Whatever our own personal aims or hopes or disappointments there's something infinitely greater than them, which is the overarching purpose of God, the direction in which his grace is flowing in creation, which we are shown in Jesus Christ and are called to enter into. I might feel attracted to dealing with perplexing issues by creating division; I might wish that I could separate my life from this person or that community; I might yearn for a life that doesn't require much of me in terms of effort or compromise or sacrifice.

Yet it's clear that this is not God's way. I must learn, You must learn, from the Good Shepherd that he calls everyone together, even those who are not of the same fold as me, to be one flock. Yes. I must accept in my heart that when he's lifted up on the cross it isn't just to draw me and others like me to him, but to draw the whole world around him, me and all the others who aren't like me. Where things are being driven apart, in his name and by his

grace I must resist it.

Where things are being drawn together, in his name and by his grace I must work with it. This is the gospel. This is good news for the world. This is to be a Christian Pilgrim and a Knight Templar. Then there will be one flock, one shepherd; then we will begin to experience the whole universe coming together in Christ. This the Good news of Christ In the name of the father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit AMEN

Rt.E Kt. Reverend Fr Malcolm C G Lane

JP. KTC

The Great Prelate

The Provincial Prelate

