



A BEAUCEANT!!

NO 42

Prayers from the Great Prelate R.E.Kt. Revd. Malcolm Lane KCT:

Merciful Father and Lord of all life, we praise you that we are made in your image and reflect your truth and light.

We thank you for the life of our late Sovereign Lady QUEEN ELIZABETH, for the love she received from you and showed among us all. Above all, we rejoice at your gracious promise to all your servants, living and departed, that we shall rise again at the coming of Christ.

And we ask that in due time we may share with your servant Elizabeth that clearer vision promised to us in the same Christ our Lord; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.



And a prayer for the King and all the Royal Family

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort: deal graciously, we pray thee, with all who mourn, especially our Sovereign Lord, King Charles, the Queen Consort Camila and all the members of the Royal Family, that casting every care on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dear Brother Knights

While September was a busy and varied month for the members of this Province it was over-shadowed by the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

Both the Provincial Prelate, R.E.Kt. Revd. Malcolm Lane, and the Provincial Almoner, E.Kt. Tony Stevens, kindly sent me prayers for inclusion in this issue of the newsletter .

Like the Service for the Queen at Westminster Abbey five days earlier, The Knight Templar Cathedral Service at Wells in Somerset was also an inspiring event and it was well-supported by the Knights of Monmouth and South Wales.



I thank all those who made the journey from this Province - especially those who were delayed by the tragic accident which closed the M4.

Two days later on Monday 26th September 2022, it was also good to see such a large attendance of Members of the Province of Monmouth and South Wales at the Installation of the new Provincial Prior for Somerset, Right Eminent Knight Paul Jeffery Davis, at Loxton in Somerset .

Among them, supporting the Installing Officer, the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, M.E.Kt. Paul Raymond Clement, were the Great Prelate, R.E.Kt. Revd. Malcolm Lane, the Great Vice-Chancellor, R.E.Kt. Ryan Williams, the Deputy Great Marshal, E.Kt. Carl Davies, and Member of the Grand Master's Bodyguard, E.Kt. Alan Hulbert.

Present also were myself together with the Provincial Vice-Chancellor, E.Kt. Nigel Williams, and the Provincial Sword Bearer, E.Kt. Chris Mugford.

The connections between Somerset and our own province have always been strong. Formerly, our own Province was part of what was called the Province of Somerset, Monmouthshire and South Wales.

In 1953 however that Province was divided to create the two new Provinces which exist today (one of course being Monmouth and South Wales and the other being Somerset).

Yours in the Bonds of the Order
Paul Calderwood, Provincial Prior

ENGLISH KNIGHTS TO VISIT WALES

ON FRATERNAL VISIT

As well as the strong links with Somerset which were mentioned on the front page, we also have strong and proud links with the KT Province of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire and a great tradition of exchanging Fraternal Visits. As part of that, on 9th November, their Provincial Prior and a large party of his Knights will be coming over to our Province on just such a visit and—as always—it would be good to see an equally large attendance by our members waiting to greet them and act as good hosts.

The visit this year will be to Brecknock Castle Preceptory in Brecon - so please put the date in your diary and try to be there. The Summons will appear later this month and the meeting will be followed by dinner at the new dining venue (Brecon RFC) which is proving to be such a success.

THE ALMONER'S POST



Greetings in the bonds of the Order from the Provincial Almoner.

I have received no notifications this month to be included in our list for Prayer.

Please send them through. All that is needed is the name of our Brother Knight or member of the family and of course their permission. Happy to hear from you in any way that I can assist.
Email, revtonystevens@gmail.com).

September has seen the great expression of loss and bereavement with the death of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth the Second. We witnessed the great outpouring of emotion mixed with love and thankfulness for her life of service over 70 years. We saw a family in mourning but still ever thankful for the prayers and support of not just our nations, the Commonwealth but the world. It was said by President Macron that she was 'your Queen' but she was to the French 'The Queen'.

We all have felt this loss in different ways. It was said that it brought to us again that sense of loss of our own loved ones and family. It brought back to me the loss of my own mother, some years ago now, but someone who was born around the same time as our late Queen.

It adds to a contemplation of our earthly time, but, a time to rely, trust and take comfort, being a Christian, part of a Christian Order. There is the Christian hope that we die for those of us that believe we are parted for a short time in the vastness of God's eternity until we are reunited again for timelessness itself.

E.Kt Revd. Tony Stevens

A prayer

Loving God, we commend to you again our loved ones who have gone from our sight are in your keeping, held and kept in your love and care. We thank you for them and the time we had together rejoicing that we will meet them again in your presence.

We remember too, our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth commending this Christian Lady to your love and care as we give thanks for her life of service as our Queen. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen

Three Double Ceremonies in a month

During September, three Preceptories within the Province conducted a Double Ceremony, thus admitting a total of six new members—as well as welcoming a Joining member too.



At Cardiff

St John of Cardiff Preceptory No. 712 installed two new Knights into the Order, on the 28th September 2022 at the Cardiff Masonic Hall.

They were Mark Wilcox, who is a Management Consultant in Cardiff and a Member of Llanfair Chapter No. 7353, and Richard Owen Watcyn Edwards who is a very well known Mason in South Wales, having Grand Rank in a number of Orders.

As the Eminent Preceptor, James Forbes-Keir, was unable to attend through ill-health, the Provincial Prior, Dr. Paul Calderwood, at extremely short notice took the “Chair” for the evening and installed the two Candidates (expertly assisted by the Provincial Marshal, E. Kt. Carl Davies, who kindly stood in for the Preceptory Marshal, E. Kt. Chris Mugford who was on duty in another Order) and then welcomed them into the Order.

An excellent After-proceedings ensued, in which the Provincial Prior (as the Installing Preceptor) and the Provincial Marshal were heartily congratulated on their performance by the assembled Knights.

The newest in the Province, St John of Cardiff Preceptory, has admitted four Candidates in to the Order since June and it is hoping that more Royal Arch Companions—from the many that meet in Cardiff—will follow such fine examples.

At Brecon

Another Double ceremony was expertly conducted at Brecknock Castle Preceptory Brecon by the Eminent Preceptor, E. Kt. Paul Evans, who welcomed Companions Paul Leighton Jones and Richard Ackroyd into the Order.

And at Swansea

A further two candidates were welcomed into the Order at Lord Swansea Preceptory. They were Companions Robert Gareth Davies and Stephen Cross.

In addition a Joining member, Kt Christopher Clifford De La Sel, was also welcomed into the Preceptory.

WAS WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR

A CRUSADER ??

An article by E. Kt. Anthony D Jones PProv Almoner



Although not much of English or British history is currently taught in our schools, I'm sure that many of the readers of this newsletter will have attended lessons in the days when 1066 was a key date to remember. Please forgive me for not detailing the immediate run up to the events on 14th October 1066 at Senlac Hill, Battle, Hastings, or of the coronation and subsequent rule of William the Conqueror.

I choose, instead to use the relevant information available about the fundamental nature of the conflict.

In 1064, Harold Godwinson, Earl of East Anglia, Earl of Wessex & Earl of Hereford was shipwrecked at Ponthieu on the coast of Picardy.

The purpose of his journey which resulted in this disaster is unclear; there is great uncertainty that he intended a Channel crossing at all. Plans notwithstanding, the result was that Harold was captured by Guy I, Count of Ponthieu. On hearing of this, William, Duke of Normandy, ordered that the prisoner be handed over to his keeping.

Post Conquest Norman sources claimed that Edward the Confessor had previously sent Robert de Jumièges, Archbishop of Canterbury, to appoint William as his heir; Harold, they assert, was then sent to swear fealty to William, at a later date. This is not known to be recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles.

There is general agreement that Harold's ship departed from Bosham, West Sussex, near Chichester, and was blown off course, wherever that original course was set. If this is accepted, and he was expected in Normandy by William, then it seems strange that he was held as a captive in Picardy, and handed over as such into William's Ducal care. We do know that the captivity and, treatment in captivity, of nobles in the late Dark and early Middle Ages was often at odds with our modern understanding. That they accepted their fate with good humour and were granted an enormous amount of leeway to act semi-independently under licence from the "captor".

It is recorded that Harold accompanied William to take part in a raid against his enemy Conan II, Duke of Brittany. William's army defeated Conan and, at the conclusion of the campaign, he presented Harold with weapons and arms and knighted him. Norman sources, including the Bayeux Tapestry, then indicate that Harold swore an oath, on Holy Relics, to support William in his claim to the English Throne.

As Harold was already a high powered noble in England with several Earldoms to his name, his father Godwin also having been an Earl, as was his brother Tostig, then his knighting by William seems unlikely, unless it was part and parcel of his submission in fealty to William as his overlord.

It may be that the whole process was carried out under duress and seen by Harold as a necessary pantomime to enable him to escape "captivity" and return home to England.

Whether the relics were, in fact, present or, if they were, Harold did not appreciate their significance, this was the issue which secured his ultimate downfall. Whether William believed that he had been offered succession to the English throne by Edward the Confessor or not, it remains a fact that, at this point in English history, it was the function of the "Witan" or "Witenagemot" to convene, and to choose the successor to the throne.

Harold may have considered, being in possession of this knowledge, that any previous oath swearing or acceptance of fealty would be irrelevant to the acclamation and coronation he would later embrace.

As 1065 came to a close, Edward the Confessor fell into a coma; prior to his death in January 1066, he briefly regained consciousness and commended his widow and the kingdom to Harold's "protection".

On being informed of Harold's Coronation, William began his preparations for an invasion but, at first, he struggled to gain military support. However, on expounding the story of Harold's oath in the presence of Holy Relics, and sending a messenger to the Pope to champion his cause, the Church became involved. Pope Alexander II gave his blessing to William's planned



invasion of England and sent a Papal Banner, or Gonfalon.

Alexander's endorsement of Williams proposed action in this manner was reported by William of Poitiers as: "the gift of a banner as a pledge of the support of St. Peter whereby he might, the more confidently, and safely, attack his enemy".

Thus supported, the continental clergy actively promoted William's expedition as being:

"In the cause of God, a Holy War, a Crusade".

Now William had no problem in attracting the required military support and he was, of course, ultimately successful in his objective.

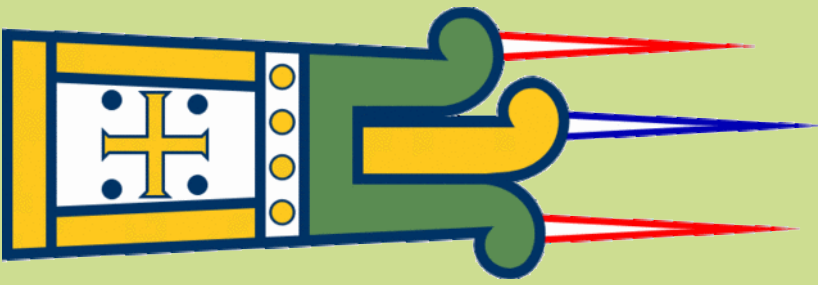
This was not the first "Holy War" proclaimed by a Pontiff. That 'dubious' honour goes to Pope Leo IX who had assembled, and led, an army to fight the Normans in Italy under the command of Humphrey de Hauteville, Robert Guiscard and Richard of Aversa in 1053.

This was the battle of Civitate, which Leo and his forces lost. The defeated Leo was held in honourable captivity along with those clerics who had accompanied him and they were taken to Benevento, where Leo remained until his death.

Leo's successor, Nicholas II held a synod at Melfi in 1059 where he sought an alliance with the Normans. He was a reformer, and needed a bulwark against the Old Guard and the Germans (Holy Roman Emperors) who wanted to retain the authority to appoint Popes in opposition to the newer Canonical Elections.

Following the schism between the Latin (Roman) church and the Orthodox (Greek) church in 1054, he could expect no support from Constantinople either. Thus began a very long alliance with the Normans who became the de facto protectors of the Papacy and its possessions.

Nicholas made Robert Guiscard the first Papal Banner Bearer or Gonfalonier, in 1059, seven years before he sent his Banner to William in 1066.

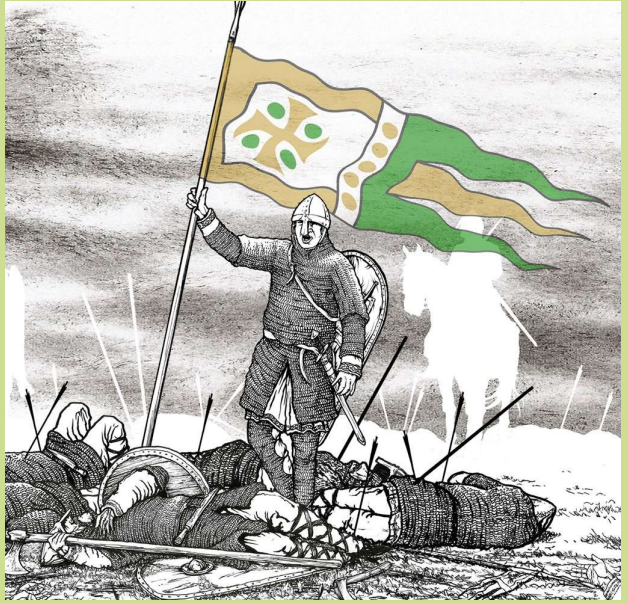


William was clearly not a “Crusader” in the established sense that we understand the wars in the Holy Land, or Outremer, between 1096 and 1291. We must, however, accept that, during his time, there was a Proto-Crusade mentality, and latterly movement, that was gaining ground in the aftermath of Leo IX’s declaration of a Holy War, albeit against other Christians who were, at the time, designated as Enemies of the Church.

The concept of the established Crusades did not spring, fully formed, into the mind of Pope Urban II in 1095.

Neither did conflict with the Muslim Rulers in the Levant, and around the Mediterranean end with the fall of Acre in 1291.

It is noteworthy that St. Bernard of Clairvaux was just as instrumental in preaching the “First” Crusade as he was in the promotion of The Knights Templar and their official recognition by the Papacy under Pope Honorius II in 1128. It is safe to assume that this very influential cleric was in the vanguard of this movement from very early on.



There was, undoubtedly, a growth in the concept of Holy Violence and Holy War, and it is incontrovertible that the initial targets were other Christians. Many later conflicts were also designated Crusades and these were fought against Christian Enemies of the Roman Church in addition to Pagans in the Baltic and Heretics in Southern France and elsewhere.

Thus it is my contention that William the Bastard was indeed a Proto-Crusader.

The Authority of the Pope, the Golfanon “Banner” was clearly depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry, and William had also promised Alexander reform of the Anglo-Saxon Church to bring it into line with contemporary continental clerical ideals.

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A warm welcome from Welsh Knights Templar

The popular glossy leaflet bearing this name has been reprinted.

It is an excellent way of introducing people to our United Orders.

If you would like a stock for your own use or distribution at your Masonic Hall please contact the Provincial Vice-Chancellor by email at

vice_chancellor@kt-msw.org





Co-incidence for new Eminent Preceptor

On Monday 5th September 2022 at the Swansea Masonic Hall, the new Eminent Preceptor David Dyer enjoyed a significant deja vu moment in his Masonic career.

In 2017 David had become a Member of the Holy Palestine Preceptory when the Eminent Preceptor was E. Kt. Stephen Harries and the Chaplain was M. E. Kt Paul Clement, so it was an excellent coincidence that in September 2022 (as a result of the Eminent Preceptor being unable to attend) the Installing Preceptor was E. Kt Stephen Harries PPrAdeC, and the Chaplain was the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Paul Clement.

The superb and flawless Ceremony was also attended by the Provincial Prior, Dr Paul Calderwood, who was accompanied by a number of the active Provincial Officers plus a number of Holy Palestine Preceptory Members and Visiting Knights.

An excellent After-proceedings ensued, in which the Installing Master was heartily congratulated on his performance by the Provincial Prior.

Special night at Chepstow

Tuesday 6th September 2022 was a night to remember for the new Eminent Preceptor, Kt Bernard Charles Patmore, of the Sir William Marshall Preceptory No. 668.

Travelling the considerable distance from his home in Walsall, West Midlands to the Masonic Hall in Chepstow, his loyal support is all the more impressive because for a number of years, he has not been in the best of health.



On this occasion, the Installing Eminent Preceptor having been unable to attend through illness, the role of Installing Preceptor was undertaken by the Provincial Marshal, E. Kt. Carl Davies DepGMar, who (despite having been given short notice) performed the two Ceremonies excellently and with great empathy for the New Eminent Preceptor who has mobility problems.

The flawless Ceremony was attended by the Provincial Prior, Dr Paul Calderwood, who was accompanied by a number of the active Provincial Officers plus a number of Sir William Marshall Preceptory Members and Visiting Knights.

An excellent After-proceedings ensued, in which the Installing Master was heartily congratulated on his performance by the Provincial Prior. The new Eminent Preceptor introduced a Charity Initiative to the Preceptory in the form of William the Cat (a stuffed toy from the Rosslyn Chapel). The Cat, having been "Knighted" by the Provincial Prior and become "Sir William the Marshall Cat", will be the focus of the Initiative.

Articles and photos by E.Kt. Chris Mugford, Provincial Sword Bearer,