



Dear Brother Knights

There seems to be no end to the stream of good news that senior members of this Order are being recognised for their efforts elsewhere in Freemasonry also.

Last month *A Beauceant* congratulated R E Kt Dr Vivian Thomas and E Kt Carl Davies on their appointments respectively as Grand Master of the Knights Beneficent of the Holy City and Provincial Grand Master of the Royal Order of Scotland.

This has been followed in recent days by the good news that E Kt Keith Ferguson, the Immediate Past Preceptor of Holy Palestine Preceptory, is to be invested as the Deputy Grand Master of the Order of the Secret Monitor.

Warmest congratulations to them all.

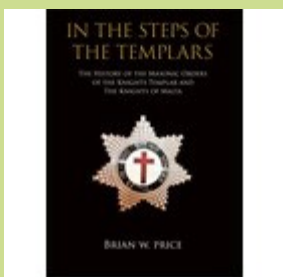
In our own United Orders, the focus is very much upon Malta over the coming days. The annual meetings of the Provincial Priory and the Great Priory of Malta in London are about to take place —when a number of distinguished Knights from this Province will receive appointments and promotions. This good news is also a delight and we plan to include photos and a full report in the December issue of this newsletter.

The mention of December reminds me that we intend to start the Christmas season in style with the annual Carol Service and Lunch for members and their families at the Ivy Bush Royal Hotel in Carmarthen on Saturday 10 December and if you have not already booked your places please do so without delay. Details are available on the Provincial website at www.kt-msw.org

I hope that you enjoy the coming weeks and many of the happy events that are coming up in the United Orders.

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

A CHRISTMAS STOCKING FILLER ?



Many of us are stumped when asked by family and friends what we would like for Christmas.

Several good books about the Knights Templar have been published this year and one of those might be a welcome reply.



In case it helps, here are two suggestions:

In the steps of the Templars by Brian Price

The Knights Templar in the Holy Land by David West

Details of both are available at the Lewis Masonic website at <https://www.lewis-masonic.co.uk/>



THE ALMONER'S POST

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

Vaughan Watkin has unfortunately had a further spell in hospital. Our thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery.

I have received no further 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).

As I write, this year is moving on fast indeed, Halloween and in our churches, we commemorate All Saints and All Souls, but moving on into November our thoughts and prayers in this time of Remembrance continue, Remembrance Day on the 11th November and Remembrance Sunday on 13th.

A time for all of us to remember give thanks for those who have laid down their lives in the service of our Sovereign and indeed for us all to live in peace. From the many conflicts over the years, perhaps members of or families or even those that some may have served alongside. As we remember I include a poem from the Second World War.

Remembrance Sonnet 1941

We knew them as our comrades.

We shall raise heads that are proud with sorrow when men tell of brave young souls that stood and fell

And left to us their heritage of days.

We shall remember, on the paths we blaze,

The land, the hopes they loved and guarded well.

We shall be still, touched deeply by the spell

Of gratitude they leave with us always.

The future is not ours to take or squander;

These comrades of our boyhood, it is theirs.

Where freedom lives, where poverty is slain,

There shall their spirit dwell, their footsteps wander

Over the hills; and in our thoroughfares

Their selfless accents shall be heard again.

Captain G. Haslett Connor RAMC, Doctor. (Later GP in Harrow)

'At the going down of the Sun and in the morning
We will remember them



Tony Stevens



A GREAT FRATERNAL VISIT

Our Province's strong links with the KT Province of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire were celebrated at Brecon in November through the great tradition of exchanging Fraternal Visits.

Their Provincial Prior, R E Kt Peter Burrows, accompanied by his Sub-Prior, E Kt Philip Wightman, and the previous Provincial Prior, R E Kt Roger Edgar, together with 12 Knights came over to our Province on just such a visit and—as always—it would be good to see 30 of our members led by their own Provincial Prior and the Sub-Prior, E Kt Richard Phillips waiting to greet the guests and act as good hosts.

The visit this year was to Brecknock Castle Preceptory in Brecon. The last time such a thing took place was in 2019 when our Provincial Prior and a large party of Welsh knights went over to Hereford for a fraternal visit.

The other big item on the agenda at the meeting in Brecon in November was the Installation of Kt Lyn Jones as Eminent Preceptor—a ceremony conducted with aplomb by his predecessor and great friend, E Kt Paul Evans, and attended by almost 45 Knights.

Giraldus Cambrensis Preceptory hosts Provincial Chancellor

On the 4th November 2022 at the Llanelli Masonic Hall, the Giraldus Cambrensis Preceptory No. 319 held its Installation Meeting in the presence of E. Kt. John Everett, the Provincial Chancellor, who was supported by a number of both Active and Past Provincial Officers.



The sincere Ceremony of Installing E. Kt. Martin Marks was carried out by the Installing Preceptor E. Kt. Robert Stevens assisted by E. Kt. Keith Eckley (who acted as Marshal at very short notice) and E. Kt. Tony Jones PPrReg – a visiting Provincial Officer – who acted as Chaplain (again at short notice). They were also assisted by E. Kt. Peter Gilbert PGAdC and E. Kt. Chris Mugford Provincial Sword Bearer.

In the after-proceedings, the Provincial Chancellor, E. Kt. John Everett, congratulated the new Eminent Preceptor and wished the Preceptory well for the forthcoming year. He also recalled attending many happy Ceremonies at the Giraldus Cambrensis Preceptory – which had provided a number of the Founder Members of his own Preceptory, St David's Preceptory No. 568 in Narberth.

*The above Photo and article were kindly supplied by
E Kt Chris Mugford, Provincial Sword Bearer*

Another welcome Candidate

The steady stream of Candidates entering our Order was illustrated at a very happy meeting of Morgannwg Preceptory at Penarth in late October. On that occasion because the Eminent Preceptor was not able to attend due to ill-health, the chair was taken by his predecessor, E Kt Alan Hulbert. As the Provincial Marshal, E Kt Carl Davies, said "The candidate. Companion Edley Wright, was well impressed by the ceremony".

Welcome to the United Orders Kt Edley !

POST SCRIPT TO WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR'S CRUSADE

By E. Kt. Anthony D Jones PProv Almoner



Having shared my article on William with Eminent Knight Paul Eustace, Past Prov. 1st Constable in the KT Province of West Yorkshire, as he has shared his articles with me, the first word of his response was WOW!!

This was not because of my literary skills, but due to the content.

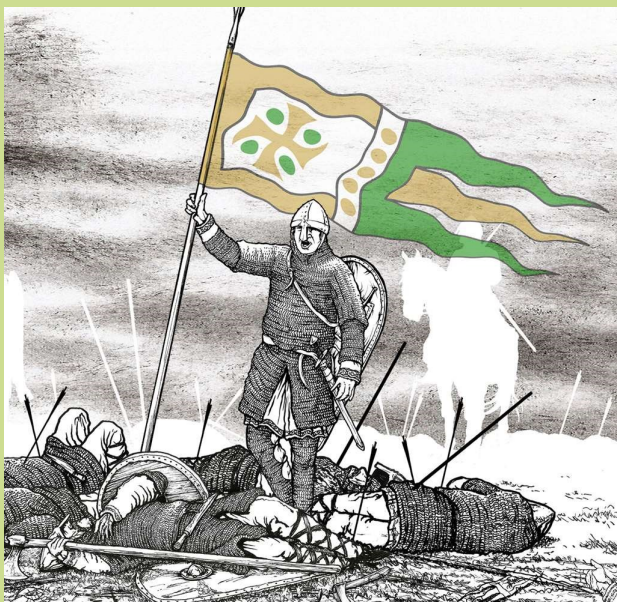
Let me explain:

Paul has a family connection with that very Banner, or Gonfalon, sent to William the Conqueror by Pope Alexander II, as a Mark of his approval and support of Williams claim to the English crown, and his proposed invasion to achieve it. Shown on the Bayeux Tapestry, carrying the Gonfalon “banner” is a Norman Knight identified as Count Eustace II of Boulogne.

Many families claim to be descended from the Companions, or Knights, or Men-at-Arms who accompanied William and took part in the Battle of Hastings. The fact is that many of these claims are unproven.

It is not, however, in doubt that Count Eustace II of Boulogne was present at the Battle.

The “Gold Standard” for the “proven” companions of William, is probably the account of William of Poitiers: Eustace, Count of Boulogne, a.k.a. Eustace II (Source: William of Poitiers)



"With a harsh voice he (Duke William) called to Eustace of Boulogne, who with 50 knights was turning in flight and was about to give the signal for retreat. This man came up to the Duke and said in his ear that he ought to retire since he would court death if he went forward. But at the very moment when he uttered the words Eustace was struck between the shoulders with such force that blood gushed out from his mouth and nose and half dead he only made his escape with the aid of his followers."

So, Eustace was there, and was the Gonfalonier of the day. Why is this important, because the Count is the X30 Great grandfather of our Brother in Arms, Eminent Knight Paul Eustace, Provincial 1st Constable in the Province of West Yorks.

Eustace had three sons by his second wife, Ida of Lorraine. These were:

- Eustace III Count of Boulogne;
- Godfrey de Boullion , a Leader of the 1st Crusade, and later first Ruler of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem, as “Defender of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem;
- Baldwin of Boulogne, later first “King” of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem as Baldwin I.

Thus, Eustace III and Baldwin are, respectively X29th Great Grandfather and X29th Great Uncle to our Brother. However, the story becomes even more interesting, as Godfrey is reputed to have carried the very same Gonfalon banner at the storming of Jerusalem in 1099 as that carried by his father at Hastings in 1066.

I feel assured that this can only strengthen my assertion that

William the Conqueror was a proto-Crusader.