

6 Jan 2023

A BEAUCEANT!!

NO 45



Dear Brother Knights

With high hopes and bright prospects, let us welcome in 2023.

I hope that you had a good Christmas. For some, it had sad moments unfortunately and they are firmly in the thoughts and prayers of all of us as we start to build anew.



Today is of course Twelfth Night—and for many it is the end of the Christmas season—and the opening of a new page.

I do hope that it comes up to (and maybe even exceeds) expectations for us all.

One of the many bright things we can look forward to in this new year is the return of an old friend—namely the annual church service at Margam Abbey. Please make a note in your diary that on Sunday 23 April we will be re-dedicating our loyalty to the Order and to one another as we celebrate Divine Worship again in full regalia together with our families and friends in the historic setting of the Abbey and its wonderful medieval buildings.



On the subject of welcoming back old friends, I am sure that we all hope that the New Year will see the return of those few who have fallen out of the habit of regular attendance and supporting their Preceptory. One thing for sure is that a very warm welcome awaits them.

This issue of the newsletter includes reports on the events of the last month which I hope you enjoy.

When *A Beauceant* was introduced 45 issues ago, it had a couple of regular phrases placed beneath its masthead and both they and the newsletter have served us well since then. The slogans were “A little Knight Templar News does you good” and “Staying in touch”.

Many members have told me how much they appreciated the newsletter throughout the Lockdown especially and how it has helped to keep us all in touch.

But now that we are back to regular and well attended meetings again and seeing old traditions revived in full colour, I am persuaded to think that there is no longer the need for this publication to appear quite so frequently as it did at the height of the pandemic. Please do not be surprised therefore if it becomes a quarterly rather than a monthly in 2023 as we hopefully go from strength to strength.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order

Paul Calderwood,
Provincial Prior

Christmas ushered in with a feast of song

True to our proud tradition as “The Land of Song”, the Knights Templar launched the Christmas Season last month with our traditional Carol Service within the Province of Monmouth and South Wales.

Held for the first time in Carmarthen – which claims to be The Oldest Town in Wales – it seemed very appropriate to start off the music with “Once in Royal David’s City” – a song that had distant echoes of Saint David the patron saint of Wales.

Led by The Great Prelate of the United Orders, R.E. Kt. Revd Malcolm Lane, the service of nine lessons and carols was attended by over seventy smiling brethren and family members. The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement, and his wife Molly attended and provided unexpected extra help at the organ after it was announced that the car bringing the Provincial Organist, to the happy event had broken down. For him, E.Kt. Terry Price, (on what was a very cold icy day) it was much more a case of “In the bleak mid-winter” regrettably.

The Great Marshal, R.E.Kt. Tim Wheeler, and his wife Mo travelled from Sussex to support the event once again – and they must have had the longest journey of all. The beautifully warm venue chosen for the event this year was the Ivy Bush Royal Hotel – which also received a nod in the singing of “The Holly and the Ivy”.

Held after a short meeting of the Owain Glyndwr Preceptory of Installed Preceptors, the Carol Service was organised principally by their Eminent Preceptor, E.Kt. Nigel Williams, and the Preceptory Registrar, E. Kt Tony Jones. It thus enabled all the Knights to attend in full regalia and to provide an arch of steel at the end of the Carol Service - which was especially enjoyed by the ladies and children.

After the Preceptory meeting and the Carol Service, all adjourned to the bar where local farm workers praised the singing of “While Shepherds watched their flocks by night” - even though these local shepherds looked too smartly dressed and spruce to have come in fresh from performing an overnight vigil.

Throughout all the proceedings the brethren enjoying the guidance and organisational skills of the Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Carl Davies who is also a Deputy Great Marshal.

The Scripture readings were delivered by the Grand Master, followed by the Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Dr. Paul Calderwood, the Provincial Sub-Prior, E. Kt Richard Phillips, Provincial Chancellor, E.Kt. John Everett, Past Provincial Vice-Chancellor, E. Kt. Alun H Thomas, , the Eminent Preceptor, E.Kt. Nigel Williams, Preceptory Treasurer, E.Kt. Dr Stephen Howlett, the Preceptory Registrar, E.Kt. Anthony D Jones, and the Great Prelate, E.Kt. Revd. Malcolm Lane.

“God rest ye merry gentleman” seemed to catch the mood of the moment well, as all settled down afterwards for a hot carvery lunch and Christmas pudding. In addition, over £400 was raised at the event for the Eye Hospital of St John in Jerusalem. It was undoubtedly a great day but not a “Silent Night”!



Happy meetings

Masonically, December was a short month for all the right family and festive reasons but one of the few meetings that were held was at Cardiff where the newest Preceptory in the Province, St John of Cardiff Preceptory No 712, enjoyed a happy gathering.



On that occasion, no less than four new members were presented with Great Priory Certificates by the Eminent Preceptor, E Kt James Forbes-Keir, who was supported by the Provincial Prior—all of them had joined the Order of the Temple during the course of the year and it was a great demonstration of their enthusiasm that all four were able to be present—namely Knights Nat Board, Philip Hanlon, Richard Edwards and Mark Wilcox .

After the presentation and the election of a new Eminent Preceptor, Kt James Welsh, the members enjoyed an illustrated Talk about the involvement of members of the Royal Family in Knight Templar Masonry over the past centuries which was given by the Provincial Prior and this was followed by a hearty dinner and much exchanging of the compliments of the season.

Looking ahead

January witnesses no less than three KT Installation meetings and visitors can be assured of a warm welcome.

The meetings are at Narberth, Bridgend and Neath on the 9th, 20th and 23rd respectively. See if you can make it and get the year off to a great start—not only for new Eminent Preceptor but also for yourself.

Extra help for Treasurers

Last month saw the addition to the Provincial website (kt-msw.org) of a very useful seven page handbook called “A Guide for Treasurers”. It is to be found in the Useful Documents section and will I am sure be appreciated by all but most of all by newly invested Treasurers. It is password protected but I am sure that your Preceptory Registrar will be only too pleased to let you have a hard copy. It was drafted by E Kt Derek Hemfrey who is a very experienced Treasurer besides being the Provincial Registrar and he fully deserves our warm thanks for this valuable labour of love.

