



Dear Brother Knights

This issue of the newsletter includes reports on some of the events of the last few months which I hope you enjoy reading.

One of the many bright things we can look forward to is the return of an old friend next month —the annual church service at Margam Abbey.

Please make a note in your diary that on Sunday 23 April at 2.30pm we will be re-dedicating our loyalty to the Order and to one another as we celebrate Divine Worship again (in regalia) together with our families and friends in the setting of the Abbey and its wonderful medieval buildings.



Tea and cakes will be served in the Abbots Kitchen afterwards!

I am also pleased to announce that the following worthy Knights will be appointed or promoted at the meeting of the Province on 24 May. Yours in the Bonds of the Order

Paul Calderwood, Provincial Prior

Sub-Prior	E.Kt. Richard J. Phillips
Prelate	R.E.Kt. Malcolm C.G. Lane KCT <i>JP</i>
Chancellor	V.E.Kt. Harry J. Randell
First Constable	E.Kt. Peter R. Gilbert
Second Constable	E.Kt. Aneurin L. Hughes
Treasurer	E.Kt. Stephen P. Howlett
Registrar	E.Kt. Derek J. Hemfrey
Vice-Chancellor	E.Kt. Nigel E. Williams
Marshal	E.Kt. Carl D. Davies
Deputy Marshal	E.Kt. Roger P. Thompson
Deputy Marshal	E.Kt. Stephen M. Roberts
Almoner	E.Kt. Rev'd Anthony H. Stevens
Herald	E.Kt. Alan R. Hulbert
Herald	E.Kt. W.J. Wyn Evans
Standard Bearer (B)	E.Kt. Basil M.P. Phillips
Standard Bearer (VB)	E.Kt. Andrew Thomas
Banner Bearer	E.Kt. Vivian Norris
Sword Bearer	E.Kt. Paul Evans
Aide-de-Camp	E.Kt. M. Keith Eckley
Warden of Regalia	Kt. Andrew R. Newson
Chamberlain	E.Kt. Steven A. Avo
Captain of Guards	E.Kt. A. Mark Morgan
Organist	E.Kt. Terry Price
Guard	E.Kt. Robert E. Stevens

Past Rank First Appointment

Past Provincial Herald	E.Kt. Keith Ferguson
Past Provincial Standard Bearer (VB)	E.Kt. Mark Newbold

Past Rank Promotions

Past Provincial 2 nd Constable	E.Kt. S. Jim Needs
Past Provincial Herald	E.Kt. Malcolm E.R. Phillips
Past Provincial Herald	E.Kt. Andrew A. Fraser
Past Provincial Standard Bearer (B)	E.Kt. Michael John
Past Provincial Standard Bearer (B)	E.Kt. David Harries
Past Provincial Standard Bearer (VB)	E.Kt. Peter R. Vincent
Past Provincial Standard Bearer (VB)	E.Kt. Graham C.G. Thomas
Past Provincial Standard Bearer (VB)	E.Kt. John Watson



Dozens line up to become Knights of Malta

A further eleven Knight Templar Candidates were admitted to the Malta Degree at the Regular Meeting of St David's Priory No. 568, on 6th March, at Narberth.

It follows the recent admission of 17 Malta candidates at the Provincial meeting in Penarth and brings the total to 28 new Malta Knights for the province in fewer than four months.

As the Provincial Prior, said "It is a further welcome illustration of the way in which the United Orders have bounced back throughout Monmouth and South Wales since the end of the Lockdowns, reflecting the number of Companions who have become Knights Templar over the past year".



The meeting at Narberth was presided over by the Eminent Prior, E. Kt. Graham Newstead, and it was attended not only by the Provincial Prior but also by the Provincial Chancellor E. Kt. John Everett, plus a number of Great Officers and Provincial Officers - at a gathering of 50 Knights of the Order.

The Great Officers included E. Kt. Carl Davies (Provincial Marshal and Deputy Great Marshal), V. E. Kt Harry Randell (soon to be promoted to Provincial Chancellor), E. Kt. Peter Gilbert (shortly to become Provincial 1st Constable) and E. Kt. James Ross (Provincial Grand Master in the Craft and Grand Superintendent of the Holy Royal Arch of the Province of West Wales).

The admission of the eleven new Knights, was followed by the Installation of E. Kt. Jim Driscoll as the new Eminent Prior of St David's Priory.

This Ceremony - and much of the preceding ceremony - was conducted by V. E. Kt Harry Randell and with his usual expertise and flair.

After the Priory Officers had been invested, V. E. Kt Colin Fielder and E. Kt John Jones were elected Honorary Members of the Priory in recognition of their joint 55 years commitment and dedication to St David's Priory.

The After-proceedings were held in the Dining room of the Masonic Hall and those present were treated to the usual excellent repast for which the Narberth Masonic Hall is noted.

E. Kt. Chris Mugford Provincial Sword Bearer

The First Installation Meeting of 2023

For the Province, the New Year began with the Meeting of St David's Preceptory No.568 at Narberth on 9th January, when the new Eminent Preceptor E. Kt. Jim Driscoll was Installed in the presence of E. Kt. Richard Phillips, the Provincial Sub Prior of the Province of Monmouth and South Wales, and a number of Great Priory Officers, Provincial Officers and Brother Knights.

The Installation Ceremony was carried out by E. Kt. Graham Newstead, assisted by the Preceptory Marshal E. Kt. Andy Fraser.



The Provincial Sub Prior commented on the fact that it was good to see so many Members meeting again and was extremely pleased to give an explanation of their Great Priory Certificates to two new Knights before congratulating them.

Superb Ceremony by “the stand-in”

At the Meeting of the Castell Nedd Preceptory No. 577 at the Neath Masonic Hall on 23rd January, the Eminent Preceptor “in the Chair” was the Preceptory Marshal, E. Kt. Peter Gilbert, who (having been given only a couple of hours' notice) displayed his expert talents and depth of knowledge by conducting two faultless Ceremonies of Installation of the new Eminent Preceptor and Prior, Eminent Knight Ian. J. Greenhill.



The Provincial Marshal, Eminent Knight Carl Davies, in addition to his own duties, undertook the duties of the Preceptory Marshal who was otherwise engaged !!

After the Installation, two new members of the Preceptory, Knights Richard D Jones and Meirion A Woods, were presented with their Certificates in both the Temple and Malta meetings. The explanations of the Certificates were given by the Sub-Prior and Provincial Prior respectively.

E. Kt. John Everett, the Provincial Chancellor, E. Kt. Nigel Williams, the Provincial Vice-Chancellor, and a large number of Great Priory Officers, Provincial Officers and Brother Knights were also in attendance.

Peter to the rescue –again

At the Meeting of the Gwent Preceptory No. 115 at Newport on 10th February, the Eminent Preceptor “in the Chair” was Kt. Peter Gilbert P.Gt.A-de-C,

E. Kt. Peter (having been invited to substitute for the Eminent Preceptor who is abroad) yet again displayed his expert talents and depth of knowledge by conducting a faultless Installation Ceremony for two Candidates.



Peter was assisted by the Preceptory Marshal (and Deputy Provincial Marshal) E. Kt. Roger Thompson in installing the two new Knights, David James and Craig Mathews.

The articles on this page were kindly written by E. Kt. Chris Mugford

A Bodyguards Fest !

E. Kt. Andrew Thomas, a member of The Grand Master's Bodyguard, was Installed as an Eminent Preceptor of the Temple Slebech Preceptory of Provincial Prior's Body Guards No. 602 at the Bridgend Masonic Hall on 20th January.

For E. Kt. Andy, it was his second time in the chair as a Knight Templar Preceptor - having previously been Installed at St John of Cardiff Preceptory.



This second Installation Ceremony was attended by R. E. Kt. Dr Paul Calderwood, the Provincial Prior of the Province of Monmouth and South Wales - together with E. Kt. Richard Phillips, the Provincial Sub-Prior, and V. E. Kt. David Court, the Past Provincial Sub-Prior.

E. Kt Nigel Williams, the Provincial Vice-Chancellor, was also present together with a large number of Great Priory Officers, Provincial Officers and Brother Knights.

The Ceremony was carried out in an exemplary manner by E. Kt. Stephen Roberts, the former Commander of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard.

In the highly convivial after-proceedings the Provincial Prior broke with the normal tradition of only announcing Provincial Appointments at the yearly Provincial Meeting.

He therefore announced that the Installing Preceptor, E. Kt. Stephen Roberts, is to be appointed as Deputy Provincial Marshal at the forthcoming Provincial Meeting. This news was received with sustained applause by all the Knights present – not least because it broke additional new ground, being the first time the Province has had two Deputy Provincial Marshals.

In pointing to the fact that this province covers at least half of Wales the Provincial Prior said that it was important to have more than one Deputy Provincial Marshal - and it was right to see this extra help being given to the Provincial Marshal, E. Kt. Carl Davies, and his Deputy, E. Kt. Roger Thompson, who had covered so many miles in the past in the service of the Order.

This delightful evening was crowned by a donation by the Preceptory of £200 to support the important work of the Eye Hospital of St John of Jerusalem.

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St John of Cardiff Preceptory disrupted by heavy snow

At the Meeting of the St John of Cardiff Preceptory No.582 at the Cardiff Masonic Hall on Wednesday 8th March 2023, the Eminent Preceptor E. Kt. James Forbes Keir installed Kt. James Welsh as the fifth Eminent Preceptor of the St John of Cardiff Preceptory No. 712 and subsequently as the fifth Eminent Prior of the St John of Cardiff Priory No. 712.

The Installation Ceremonies were attended by Eminent Knight Richard Phillips, the Provincial Sub-Prior of the Province of Monmouth and South Wales, together with the Provincial Marshal E.Kt Carl Davies (who is also a Deputy Grand Marshal of the United Orders), the Deputy Marshal E. Kt Roger Thompson and the Provincial Sword Bearer E. Kt Chris Mugford (the Preceptory Marshal). Attendance at the Preceptory Meeting was severely curtailed by the heavy snow storm which had brought severe adverse conditions to the whole of South Wales.





THE ALMONERS POST

Greetings in the bonds of the Order from the Provincial Almoner, and a belated Happy New Year. I have received no notifications over the last months that I could include in the list of Prayers. Before I can list any of our brother Knights or members of their family in this post I must have assurance that those we are naming are happy for this to be done.

This is a great opportunity for us to remember in prayer and to be able to assist in any way that we can.

If I can assist in any way please get in touch, for even as an ex Hospital Chaplain I do not pretend to have all the answers to help, but I will always do my best to find someone who can. I am here to help.

I have shared some advice for Almoners with you previously, that I have gleaned from other Provinces or Orders. They may not fully apply to us and to our situation but may be food for thought. This is an extract from an article on the role of the Almoner is from the Province of West Lancashire.

'Caring for those less fortunate than ourselves'

ALMONER

An almoner is key to providing care to our members, their families, widows, dependents, and resigned Freemasons who may be experiencing difficulties in their life.

In trying to define the almoner's role and the necessary qualities that are essential in the person were reviewed. Some of the skills etc., which are paramount in being able to fulfil the office of almoner are:

- ***Be of a caring nature (empathetic not sympathetic)***
- ***Understanding and maintaining of confidentiality and safeguarding***
- ***Maintain contact with all lodge and chapter members***
- ***To be aware of and in contact with ailing or distressed members of the lodge or chapter***
- ***Make contact with the family of a deceased member***
- ***To be aware of and keep in regular contact with the widows***
- ***Be aware of the Masonic charities and how to contact them***
- ***Be a good 'listener', this is a skill. (The skill can be developed: it is about being an 'active listener', rather than a passive one)***

Freemasonry encompasses the basic principle of caring for others. For centuries, Freemasons have supported orphans, the sick, the elderly and many others during times of distress. One of the core values instilled in each member is the importance of looking after the welfare of fellow Freemasons and their loved ones.

If you would like Brother Knights or members of their families remembered in this Post.

Please send their names through. All that is needed is the name of our Brother Knight or member of the family and of course their or family permission. Happy to hear from you in any way that I can assist.

Yours in the bonds of the Order,

Tony

EKt The Revd Anthony Stevens, Provincial Almoner

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