



A BEAUCEANT!!

NO 8

A little Knight Templar news does you good

In future issues

- The Knights of Malta fighting at sea
- The Jolly Roger
- The Cup of Memory

Staying in touch

Dear Brother Knight

The annual meeting of the Provincial Priory would have taken place today and so this edition of the newsletter is focused on some of the business that would have been transacted.

One of the first things that we would have rightly done is to remember those whom we have lost over the past 12 months.

List of Knights called to Higher Service since last Annual meeting of Provincial Priory

E.Kt David Gwynfryn Rowlands	15/08/2019	Fforest, Owain Glyndwr
E.Kt William John Williams	22/11/2019	Lord Swansea, Holy Palestine
E.Kt Peter William Dilley	27/11/2019	Sir William Marshall
E.Kt. Noel Orville Arrindell Alleyne	07/12/2019	Cefn Ydfa
R.E.KT Peter Glyn Williams KCT	18/12/2019	Holy Palestine
E.Kt. John Anthony Carnes	27/12/2019	St David's
Kt. Stephen Williams	11/01/2020	Sant Madoc
Kt. Ronald John Davies	09/04/2020	Sir William Marshall

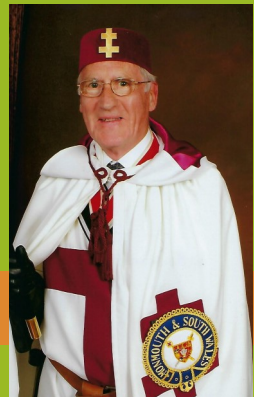
The joys and sorrows of our chequered existence is a concept familiar to all Freemasons and so let me now respectfully turn to some of the joys.

We may not be able to parade the Preceptory banners at Bridgend today but we can have a virtual parade here within the newsletter because the banners beautifully illustrate the following Address which I would have given at the annual meeting today.

I hope you find it interesting.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order
RE Kt Paul Calderwood

I am sure that every Knight in the Province will be delighted with the news that REKt. Peter Gordon France, Past Provincial Prior, has been appointed to the honour and dignity of Knight Commander of the United Orders. We offer him our heartiest congratulations.



Address by the Right Eminent Provincial Prior

Brother Knights – while these may be rather unusual circumstances, it is nonetheless a real pleasure to be in contact with you and to review the year which has just passed. The first ten months of the year were especially good and I will of course give that my initial attention.



Let me start by talking about the wonderful work that you have been doing in support of the Eye Hospital. Since May last year, the sculpture of a Swift which you were awarded has been making its way around the province moving from preceptory to preceptory – so that we can all admire and enjoy it. Such has been your generous response to the recently launched 20 for 2020 Appeal that we are now well on our way to winning a second such Award and I thank you for your support of the hospital.



The year has seen many highlights which have included:

In June: A visit by a large contingent of knights from Worcestershire who staged a drama production that examined the Malta Degree; and later that month the Malta ceremony itself was conducted by Temple Slebech Preceptory;

In September: A Rulers Ceremony at Aberaeron when seven Heads of Order took part in the admission of a new knight to our Order;



In November: the Provincial Malta meeting which opened with a moving and solemn act of remembrance for those who had died in war;

In December: we had a joyous – and full volume - Christmas Carol Service at the Castle of Brecon Hotel;

In January: the last of a series of Ritual Workshops which were held at various venues across the province. They were warmly appreciated by all who attended them and who were able to take home a valuable instruction manual;



Also in January: a Preceptory Registrars Conference which proved once again to be a valuable forum for the exchange of information. At the meeting we launched a comprehensive Registrars Handbook;

In March: St David's Preceptory conducted a Malta meeting with candidates from all three Royal Arch provinces.

For the success of **ALL** of these significant events I thank you - and I hope that they added to your enjoyment of this special Order and a greater sense of pride at being a member.



The total number of Preceptory memberships within the province was on course to show an increase until two months ago when all Masonic activities were suspended. Nonetheless we have been able to maintain our membership level at the previous figures. This is an achievement which is entirely due to your enthusiasm for the Order.

Over the past two months I have been tremendously impressed and delighted to see so much compassion and communication demonstrated by our members in countless ways. One unexpected result of the current emergency was the birth of a weekly provincial KT newsletter, *A Beauceant* – which people tell me they enjoy very much as a means of staying in touch and a demonstration that as a body of knights we are staying together.



At last year's provincial meeting I welcomed our newest members personally and awarded each of those present with a badge exclusive to them. I was hoping to do the same again today but the suspension of activities renders that impossible and so I plan to do that next year when this year's intake will be acknowledged together with those who come in over the next 12 months.



But now let me bring the focus down on to the events of Today – which is very much an occasion for expressing thanks to those who have worked so hard to help the members of our province enjoy to the full their Knight Templar Freemasonry.

Today, many of those brethren have been recognised with appointments and promotions which take effect from today. I congratulate them personally and on your behalf I thank them for their commitment to this distinguished Order. For **them** of course the story of their commitment is not over but rather it is the start of a new phase – because (as we all know) privileges bring with them obligations and an expectation that they will continue (and if possible) increase their leadership role.



Brethren of a similar character were recognised with even higher honours this month in London at the meeting of Great Priory. On that occasion, knights from our province were appointed to and promoted in Great Rank.

In active offices, they included
REKt Rev Malcolm Lane who was reappointed as Great Prelate
REKt Ryan Williams who was reappointed as Great Vice Chancellor.

And E Kt Carl Davies Davies who was promoted to the Active rank of Deputy Great Marshal.

In addition to these Active ranks, at that meeting of Gt Priory, four of our brethren received First appointments in Past Great Rank, namely:

E Kt Ronald Slater as Past Great Aide de Camp
E Kt Barry Stubbings as Past Great Aide de Camp
E Kt Vaughan Watkin as Past Great Warden of Regalia
E Kt Roger Thompson as Past Great Captain of Guards

So – for those who received honours at Great Priory last week and at Provincial Priory today. Let us celebrate and congratulate them upon their distinctions. (A virtual round of applause?)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have served as Active Provincial Officers over the past year. Their service, their friendship and their support have been greatly appreciated and I hope that each one of them will take away many happy memories of this special year in their life.



Over the past 12 months, I and the province have been immensely fortunate to have enjoyed and benefited from the service of many very dedicated Brethren. Although It would be hard to list them all I want especially to pay tribute to the Sub-Prior E Kt David Court for his steadfast support and wise advice over the past four years;

the hard-working Treasurer E Kt Richard Phillips;

the indefatigable Registrar E Kt Derek Hemphrey;

the Vice Chancellor E Kt Nigel Williams who has served the province with such distinction;

the Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, E Kt Tony Marno who helps in so many ways but especially the monitoring of summonses;

the Marshal E Kt Carl Davies and his team who have worked so hard to make our events so impressive;

the Provincial Orator RE Kt Dr Vivian Thomas;

the Webmaster E Kt Dr Tony Strachan and

our newsletter editor E Kt Roger Thompson].

In connection with the Carol Service I would particularly like to thank E Kts Keri Evans and Simon Daniel as Special Events Organisers for the province.

In my list of thanks there is a special place for the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard who have turned out on so many occasions to accompany me across this very wide province and add their own special magic to every occasion. With the Bodyguard I have visited many Masonic meetings and I thank the members of this province for the warmth of the welcome that they extended to me and my team on those occasions.





Above all I want to thank each and every one of YOU (the members of this province) for the tremendous enthusiasm which you have brought to the work of supporting and promoting the Order and making it a remarkable year.

In closing, let me turn to the events of the past two months and to express the deepest sympathy to all those who have lost family members and friends during the pandemic. For all of us but specially for them the past two months have been a most difficult time.

As we all wonder what the future will hold it may be a good idea to look at the lessons of the past. One hundred years ago the world was emerging from the bloodiest conflict in human history and its conclusion coincided with one of the worst pandemics ever - in which millions lost their lives. At that time, hereditary rulers were toppled, empires collapsed. The hallmarks of social and economic turmoil and upheaval were everywhere - as businesses were swept away, traditional approaches gave way to the new in the workplace, in unemployment, in forms of transport and the media.

It was another period of deep anxiety and yet surprisingly it was one in which Freemasonry entered a period of unprecedented growth.

Despite the events which followed - and which were marked by the General Strike, the Wall Street Crash and the Depression - more people than ever sought at that time the friendship and support afforded by Freemasonry.

Who knows whether we shall be so lucky – but the resilience which has been shown by our organisation in centuries past is an encouragement.

We have all missed our meetings and the fellowship of our brethren and I am sure that when the suspension is lifted there will be much celebration and an enthusiastic attendance. I look forward to that day and being in your company as soon as we are safely able to do so.

As you know - The Templars Hymn contains many stirring and inspiring thoughts. As I said last year the penultimate verse provides a particularly appropriate theme on which to close this address and puts all our modest achievements into a proper perspective:

*But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of glory passes on His way.
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

