



A BEAUCEANT !!

NO 47



Dear Brother Knights

Welcome back to the start of another Masonic season, which I trust will be full of friendship and enjoyment.

But first, let me take my hat off to you for all that you have achieved over the past year - as we have continued to recover from the damage done by the Covid pandemic. In spite of predictions that our numbers would fall, subscribing memberships within the province have risen in recent years from a low of 436 to stand at 446 now - thanks to your efforts. Well done !

Many of the things that you have achieved in the summer months are recorded by articles contained in this edition of the newsletter. One of the special highlights was the colourful and joyful return of the annual church service at Margam Abbey.

Similarly, at the packed annual meeting of Provincial Priory, I congratulated and thanked you then and I suggested that we make our next target an attempt to move away from the use of Ritual Books during our meetings - the one exception being the book in the hands of the official prompter.

The reason for this is simple: if we want all those new Knights to keep coming to our meetings, we must set a good example and offer ceremonies that people will admire. One way that this target could be achieved is by sharing out more of the work for example.

To help you enhance the quality of our ceremonies, a Ritual Demonstration meeting has been arranged and it will take place at Porthcawl on Monday 2nd October in the evening. Do try and attend and ask questions. Full details of this special event will appear on our new-look website.

That prompts me to tell you that E.Kt James Forbes-Keir and Kt Andrew Newson have been working very hard, on behalf of all of us, during the summer to give the Knight Templar website of Monmouth and South Wales a superb new look. Do pay it a visit and take advantage of the new features (kt-msw.org). It also provides information about the Family Carols and Lunch which will take place this year at Llandovery.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order
R.E.Kt. Dr. Paul Calderwood

Special thanks to the following contributors to this edition:

*E. Kt. Chris Mugford PrSwdB, who wrote the Meeting reports and photos.
E.Kt Revd. Tony Stevens, for his article and work as Provincial Almoner.*

New Eminent Preceptor at Owain Glyndwr

In June, at Neath Masonic Hall, by Dispensation, a new Eminent Preceptor and Eminent Prior was Installed at a meeting of Owain Glyndwr Preceptory of Installed Preceptors No. 547 in the presence of E. Kt. Richard J. Phillips P.G.A. de C. the Provincial Sub-Prior.

The "new" Eminent Preceptor and Eminent Prior, E.Kt. Timothy R. Clark P.Gt.W. of R is a Past Preceptor of the Castell Nedd Preceptory No. 577 (he is also the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies in the Craft Province of South Wales as well as holding significant positions in a number of other Companion Orders).

The excellent Ceremonies were carried out by the Installing Preceptor E.Kt. Nigel Williams P.Dep.Gt.Swd.B. (who is the Provincial Vice-Chancellor) assisted by E.Kt. Roger Thompson P.Gt.Capt.Gds. (the Deputy Marshal of the Province). They were supported by a number of Great Officers, Provincial Officers, Past and Present Members of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard.



Appointments and Celebrations in London

Wales was well represented at the Meeting of Great Priory, which was held at Freemasons' Hall in London in May.

Two of our members were re-appointed to Active Rank and four new Great Officers were appointed.

It was a matter of great pride to see R.E.Kt. Revd. Malcolm Lane and R.E. Kt. Ryan Williams re-appointed as Great Prelate and Great Vice-Chancellor.

Many Knights from Wales travelled to London to applaud the splendid news and celebrate the following First Appointments:

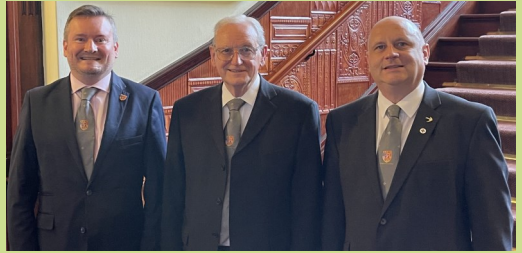
E.Kt. Anthony Baker P.Gt. A. de C., E Kt. Thomas Richard Eirian Jones P.Gt. A. de C., E.Kt. Timothy Clark P. Gt. W. of R., and E.Kt. Michael Hopkins P. Gt. W. of R.

The members of the Province extend their heartiest congratulations to these distinguished Knights whose outstanding service to the United Orders was recognised.



Discovering Templar Treasure on the Web

At a special event at The Cardiff & County Club in Cardiff, the new website for the Knight Templar Province of Monmouth and South Wales was launched and went live on 1st September.



It contains many new features which the members of the province will find helpful and it will undertake a number of self-updating functions too which will make the management of the site far easier and thus provide a greater benefit to the members. For example, as each featured preceptory meeting occurs, details of the next one will take its place on the website automatically. The site also provides "How to get there" maps and advice for each of the venues across this very wide province.

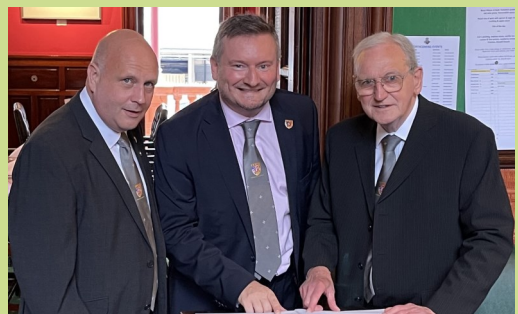
At the launch event, the Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Dr. Paul Calderwood began by paying a powerful tribute to the splendid work which had been undertaken by the previous webmaster, E.Kt. Dr. Tony Strachan, saying:

"Tony's retirement is a great regret, not least because he created the old website - absolutely from scratch - and he has maintained it so well for the past seven years. We are all extremely grateful to him for all that he has achieved in that long term of office.

"His retirement, however, prompted us to think that the time may have come to give the website a fresh look and it was a great stroke of good fortune for the Knights of the Province when E.Kt. James Forbes Keir and Kt Andrew Newson offered their services.

"James is a professional in the field of website development and Andrew's background is in technical systems design and management. They have really burned the midnight oil (literally) in order to create a wonderful new facility for us all - and for the benefit of those who are not yet members of KT but who want to know more about our internationally respected and admired Order".

Founded in 1866, The Cardiff & County Club is a hub for businessmen and others throughout South Wales and, like our oldest KT Preceptory, it recently celebrated its 150th anniversary. Being situated just yards from the studios of Website Express, in Museum Place - where so much of the work was undertaken to create the new website by James and Andrew - it seemed a most appropriate place for the launch.



As the Provincial Prior pointed out: "This is a real Templar Treasure and I have no doubt that all the Knights of the Province will join with me in saying how very grateful we are to James and Andrew for their hard work and generous support of the Order by creating this new facility. One of the great benefits is that the Knight Templar website address remains unchanged although the look and feel of it is very different."

Website Express was born in 2008, when a group of young IT professionals came together to start delivering better web services, for companies in Wales and the south-west of England. For more information, please go to www.website-express.co.uk



A Year of achievement celebrated at Provincial Priory

At the Meeting of Provincial Priory held at Bridgend in May, there was a definite air of celebration abounding in the packed Temple which was filled with visiting Provincial Priors with their Sub-Priors and their supporting Provincial Officers, Great Officers of the Province, Provincial Officers, Eminent Preceptors and Members of the Province.

Having welcomed the many Guests and Visitors, the Provincial Prior congratulated the Members of the Province who had been recognised with Great Rank appointments and promotions, particularly R.E.Kt. Malcolm Lane who had been re-appointed as Great Prelate, R.E.Kt. Ryan Williams who was re-appointed as Great Vice-Chancellor and those who had received first appointments: E.Kt. Thomas Richard Eirian Jones, E.Kt. Anthony Baker, E.Kt. Tim Clark and E.Kt. Michael Hopkins.

He made special mention of E.Kt. Carl Davies, the Provincial Marshal, who had retired as Deputy Great Marshal, having brought great distinction upon himself and been a source of great pride to the Province.

The Provincial Prior thanked the Provincial Officers who had worked so hard during the year and he extended warm congratulations to all those who had received Provincial Appointments and Promotions at this meeting. He especially thanked V.E.Kt. David Court for "standing in" when his successor as Sub-Prior E.Kt. Richard Phillips had been unwell, E.Kt. Derek Hemfrey (Registrar), E.Kt. Nigel Williams (Vice Chancellor), E.Kt. Anthony Stephens (Chaplain), E.Kt. Tony Strachan (Webmaster) and E.Kt. Chris Mugford for his publicity work.

Having achieved so much during the period of the pandemic, the Members of the Province were exhorted by the Provincial Prior to keep up their efforts with regard to improvement of the ritual and to aspire to even higher standards than those which have already been achieved.



Giraldus Cambrensis Preceptory's 75th anniversary

In July, Giraldus Cambrensis Preceptory No. 319 celebrated the completion of 75 years in the Masonic Hall at Harries Avenue in Llanelli. An oration on the History of the Preceptory was given by E.Kt. Michael Eckley P.Std.B (VB), who had extensively researched the subject. The Oration was received by a lengthy and hearty round of applause.

A Ceremony of Installation for a new Knight was then held and Companion Adrian Thomas was warmly welcomed into the Order by the Eminent Preceptor E.Kt. Martin J. Marks - assisted by the Chaplain, E.Kt. Lionel Hughes P.Gt.A-de-C., the Preceptory Marshal E.Kt. Dr. Johnathan Jones, E.Kt. Carl Davies, the Provincial Marshal, and E. Kt. Tony Jones.





Church Service returns to a crowded Margam Abbey

In April, the Provincial Church Service was held at Margam Abbey for the first time in four years. R.E.Kt. Malcolm C.G. Lane, who is both the Grand Prelate of the United Orders and the Provincial Prelate of the Province of Monmouth and South Wales, presided over the Service in the Margam Abbey Church which was full to capacity with Members of the Order in their full Regalia, relatives and friends.

Under the supervision E.Kt. Carl Davies Deputy Grand Marshal and Provincial Marshal, the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard provided an Honour Guard as the Banners of all the Preceptories within the Province were paraded in the Church, carried by their Preceptory Banner Bearers and accompanied by their Eminent Preceptors, followed by the Provincial Party, Grand Officers and Distinguished Guests.



The Banners were blessed by the Provincial Prelate.

The Provincial Prior welcomed everyone to the Service and expressed his thanks to all for their support.

Photos by Kt. A. R. Davies (Fforest Preceptory) and Ms. Bev Gulley (Margam Abbey Church).

Six Candidates at Malta Meeting

A further six Knights were admitted to the Malta Degree at the Regular Meeting of the Temple Slebech Preceptory of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard No. 568, in June, at Bridgend. It followed the recent admission of a total of 28 new Malta Knights at other meetings within the province in less than four months.

The Provincial Prior pointed out that "This 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 Bridgend was presided over, in his inimitable manner, by the Eminent Prior, E. Kt. Andrew Thomas, and it was attended not only by R.E. Kt. Dr. Paul R. Calderwood but also by the Provincial Sub-Prior E.Kt. Richard J. Phillips, plus a number of Great Officers, Provincial Officers, the active Members of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard (with their Charity Mascot "Sir William the Cat") and a large gathering of Knights of the Order.

Australian becomes Eminent Preceptor at Cefn Ydfa

At the Meeting of Cefn Ydfa Preceptory No. 579 in June, the Eminent Preceptor, E.Kt. Michael Davies, installed Kt. R. John Hibberd as the first Australian to become Eminent Preceptor and Prior in their history.



The Installation Ceremonies at Bridgend, were attended by the Provincial Prior, with E.Kt. Richard J. Phillips the Provincial Sub Prior, together with a large number of Great Priory Officers, Provincial Officers and Brother Knights. The Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Carl Davies, in addition to his own duties, undertook his regular duties of Preceptory Marshal.

The Provincial Prior and Sub Prior gave extensive explanations of Great Priory Certificates in the Temple and Malta meetings to a host of candidates.

New Eminent Preceptor for Menevia

At Aberaeron the Eminent Preceptor of Menevia Preceptory No. 427, E. Kt. Stephen Doyle installed his successor Kt. Stephen Smith as Eminent Preceptor and Prior in May. The Installation Ceremonies were attended by the Provincial Prior, together with a number of Great Priory Officers, Provincial Officers and Brother Knights. The Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Carl Davies, in addition to his own duties, undertook the duties of the Preceptory Marshal who was acting in another capacity.

New members of the Preceptory were presented with their Certificates in the Temple and Malta meetings.



Busy Fforest Preceptory Meeting

At Treharris in June, E.Kt. William (Bill) Thomas, the Eminent Preceptor of Fforest Preceptory, Installed Companion Michael Andrew Brown of the Sure and Steadfast Chapter No.8991 as a Knight of the Order. The Installation Ceremony, which was attended by E.Kt. Carl Douglas Davies P.G.Dep.Mar, the Provincial Marshal, and a number of Great Officers, Provincial Officers and Bro Knights, was carried out by the Eminent Preceptor with the assistance of the Preceptory Marshal E.Kt. Viv Jones P.Pr.B.B, the Chaplain, E.Kt. Keri Evans P.Pr.2nd Const. The Provincial Marshal expertly explained the Symbols of the Order. Following this Ceremony, the Provincial Marshal proclaimed the E.Kt. Bill Thomas as Eminent Preceptor and then Eminent Prior for a further year.





THE ALMONERS POST

Greetings in the bonds of the Order from the Provincial Almoner, and the hope that you all had a very restful summer recess.

Over the last months we have received a number of emails with news of sickness or those that have departed. You know my reluctance, from my time as a Parish Priest, Area Dean and Hospital Chaplain to publish names in this post without permission.

But, when we receive these notifications by email it gives us the opportunity to remember them and their family as we are a Christian Order, a Christian Community in our thoughts and in Prayer.

Many of these emails' originate from the excellent work of our Almoners, and our thanks to them. Their role is more difficult in some ways as they need to balance their role against the Almoners in our craft lodges.

Many times, that I write I have tried to pass on information from the other Provinces of our Order, Notes of help and guidance. On this occasion I make use of a document produced by the Almoner of my mother Craft Lodge, Loyal Commercial, and my Royal Arch Chapter, Dovey. In him we have an excellent and extremely conscientious Almoner, Kt Michael McNiff, a member of the Provincial Priors Bodyguard in our Order. Mike has produced for our Lodge and Chapter an Almoners Document, which I think says it all. This was sent to all the members of my Lodge and Chapter. I thought it might be useful to you all to see how Mike sees the role of the Craft Almoner and compare how our role in this order may complement that.

I quote this with Mikes permission:

'I hope you don't mind me sending this email to help promote understanding of the role of the lodge almoner and how this can help those in need.

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

As almoner and a Mason, I am sure we all try to be caring (empathetic not sympathetic), understanding, and maintaining confidentiality when dealing with sensitive matters.

It is vital to ensure contact across the lodge by all lodge members. This way we can be alert to members that may be ailing or distressed either directly or in relation to their loved ones.

The almoner is then able to contact the member, family or those loved ones of a deceased member and keep in contact with widows and family members.

Almoners are also well placed to promote, where necessary, Masonic charities and provide information on how to contact them.

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

Central to providing pastoral care is the almoner. This role originally existed to look out for Freemasons who fell ill, and to act as a source of support and contact for the widows of deceased members over Christmas periods.



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The almoner's role over the years had grown substantially and now includes activities such as home visits, being aware of and providing support for those who are in difficulties as a result of cost-of-living pressures, poor mental health issues and the impact and demands of modern life.

Care and home visits are just a few of the activities that can support members, other activities can include:

- *Acting as a listener to those who want to discuss their mental health or health concerns.*
- *Acting as support for those with relationship difficulties*
- *Support during bereavement*
- *Job loss and supporting members going through this*
- *Assisting with tasks such as transport and getting prescriptions, attending hospital appointments, Doctors appointments,*
- *Helping take members who have transport or mobility difficulties, shopping*
- *Assistance with financial planning, budgeting, and assessing risks through helping members in their annual budget planning.*
- *Filling out form and administration tasks such as helping to set up direct debits*
- *Helping to identify unclaimed benefits they can access*

In Masonry as in most forms of voluntary service, a job is what we make it. All members can help Almoners to provide assistance and help in improving the quality of life for those who have suffered hardship or are going through difficult times.

We all hope that we will not have to face financial hardship or major health problems, need help in supporting our children or requiring extra care in our old age.

In reality we know we will have members who need a little extra assistance, we as Freemasons, are fortunate to have that support at hand, to make sure Freemasons and their dependents who are in need of support receive it, when they need it.

As such I ask that members keep in contact with fellow members and let me know of those who may need assistance so we can ensure we support each other.'

I hope that this has been of some benefit, not just to our Almoners but to Brother Knights, just as it was to me as I read it.

As always, 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 theirs or their 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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