



A BEAUCEANT!!

NO 48



Dear Brother Knights

There is lots of good news in this issue of the newsletter but before I urge you turn the pages and read about some of the many things that have been happening, it is right that we should pause for a moment and hold in our thoughts V E Kt Gareth Gait who recently passed away.

He was the hard-working Sub-Prior of this Province during the term in Office of my predecessor, R E Kt Gordon France, who has contributed the following fine eulogy.

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

V.E.Kt. David Gareth Gait,

known as Gareth, was the Provincial Sub-Prior of this Province of Monmouth and South Wales with me from 2010 until 2015. From the start he was a very committed and enthusiastic supporter of the Order and with his knowledge and experience of the other Orders of which he was a member, brought with him a solid background of ideas and thoughts both old and new. We established a regular meeting of the Provincial Team to discuss matters current and the future.

Gareth was always willing to take on any task, and was a great supporter of the Province in accompanying me to other Provincial meetings in England; and also going on his own when I was unable to visit them, throughout his tenure of office. He was, of course, a great visitor in this Province to be at our Preceptory's Installations.

I will miss Gareth, as he always had a good outlook on life despite his health problems in the past few years. He enjoyed the Knights Templar enormously and was very active in his own Preceptory, again always willing to fill the gap if anyone was missing. After he stepped down as Provincial Sub-Prior he was recognised and took the rank of Very Eminent Knight.

You will be missed Gareth, Rest in Peace

Gordon France, Past Provincial Prior

As we move into December, I and the Provincial Executive would like to express our warmest good wishes to every member and his family in this happy province for a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

All Knights Templar are reminded to join in good wishes to their Brethren throughout the world on 25 December at 5pm GMT.

Preserve, O Lord, our Brother Knights,
By land or sea or air,
And as we hold them in our thoughts,
So keep them in Thy care.

A day to remember



A well-kept secret, a large attendance and a busy agenda were all hallmarks of this year's annual meeting of the Provincial Priory of Malta in November.

The meeting, which took place at 11am on Armistice Day, was held at Penarth and, as usual, it began with a solemn act of Remembrance.

This was followed by the admission of nine new members into the Order, who were dubbed by the Provincial Prior, R E Kt Dr Paul Calderwood, in a ceremony led by the Provincial Sub-Prior, E Kt Richard Phillips, assisted by E Kt Terry Jones and Kt Peter James.

After thanking the Officers of the Province who were retiring that day, the Provincial Prior then appointed and invested the new team of Officers for 2023-2024.

An unexpected item - not on the agenda - then emerged, to the delight and applause of the 65 Knights present, when it was announced that an Award for Outstanding Service to the United Orders was about to be made. Only once has such an award been made (and that was seven years ago).

As intended, it caught the recipient and all who were present by surprise. In making the award to V E Kt David Court, the Provincial Prior outlined David's distinguished Masonic career and some of his many achievements - in at least nine Orders of Freemasonry.



Adding serendipity to the occasion, he said what a delight it was that this presentation fell precisely on the day when David became a Knight Templar on 11 November, 30 years previously.

Having been a member of four Preceptories, the author of The Registrar's Handbook and Provincial Sub-Prior for six years, V E Kt David was, in the words of the Provincial Prior,

“a very worthy recipient of this rare award”.



Remembrance 2023

By The Great Prelate of the United Orders

I love to hear that verse from St John's Gospel chapter 15 and verse 13: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you". I remember that Some years ago there was a television advertisement which tried to sell a certain sort of insurance by telling us that security was the most basic human instinct. It was a policy wrapped around a castle and to illustrate this, the advert also featured the Great Wall of China, telling us – though this may not actually be true – that it is the only human structure that can actually be seen from space is a wall. A wall, is of course primarily built for security, but what this really means is protection from each other. To mark out a particular territory. To keep other I expect many of you may Remember when a past President of the United States, Donald Trump, when he became elected in 2016, it was on a promise to build a wall which is indeed so often a basic human instinct.

But is it the most basic! Isn't it rather a sign of our failure to love each other, not just our need to be secure. As we remember today particularly all those who died in two world wars and subsequent conflicts and who are dying at this very moment in the Middle East, The Sudan and other volatile areas because of the failures that ended in war and conflict and as we consider the growing divisions in this world and arguments and fake news and hate speeches that separate us from each other in our world today, how on earth can we ever establish peace? And where should our allegiances lie? To those whose side of the wall we happen to share? Or to those who care for peace so much that they are prepared to tear walls down? I also remember that just three years ago amid the pandemic at Remembrance Sunday we were all separated from each other and not able to gather for worship, fellowship and support in the ways we would wish.

And we had to abide by the law and do all that we could to stay safe and support our Health Service, we also needed a vision for peace and health which is beyond warfare and divisions and can even begin to see what a different, more peaceful and collaborative world might look like beyond the horrors of those days of Covid 19.

Such a vision is given us in Jesus Christ. Working for this vision and letting our communion with God inspire and equip us, is the best way of honouring those who died to secure our peace and whose sacrifice we remember today, and the best way of building a different sort of world. You know that when someone is baptised into the family of the Christian Church, as the sign of the cross is made on their forehead, this prayer is said in the Anglican Church by the congregation and I quote, as a Templar, "Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin the world and the devil and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.

This is a modern version of the Prayer Book which says, "Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified and to fight under his banner..." Those who prepare the services for the Church of England today prefer the language of disciple to soldier, but the image is essentially the same; it is taken from an ancient military ceremony where colours are presented and laid before the altar. Just as a soldier fights under the banner of their regiment, whose colours march ahead and whose presence raise morale, so a Christian lives their life under the banner of Christ. So What is this banner? Well, of course it is the cross. The sign of peace.

But not that peace which little more than an empty truce – the silence after the guns have stopped firing but true reconciliation painfully embraced – something worth dying for. On that cross, Jesus confronts the hate and anger, the disease and divisions of the world. And he does it with love. He receives the worst the world can give but he goes on loving. He lays down his life for his friends. He asks us to do the same. That is The God of Jesus Christ the barrier breaker, The tombstone roller, The barricade buster God. Sins forgiven. Those who are separated are brought together. Enemies even become friends. For, if the Great Wall of China is the only human work that can be seen on earth as if it were from heaven, then the only human work that can be seen in heaven from earth are the wounds of Christ. The wounds that we made when we tried to get rid of love. The wounds that are themselves the sign of barriers broken down. If we want to know the truest human instinct, then we must look to Christ. For he shows us that it is not security, but community that brings us peace; not alienation, but forgiveness; not conquest, but sacrifice. None of us wants to have to fight for these things. And war must always be a very last resort. And politicians must learn wisdom and now especially restraint, for it is not the politicians who go into battle. And better than anyone, if you want to know about the horrors of war, ask a soldier but he so often will **not** speak about it.

And every war begins with human greed and human failure. But as we gather today on Remembrance Sunday for this annual remembrance of those whose lives were lost in war, we make this remembrance by declaring our allegiance to God, the God who is revealed in Jesus Christ. It is under his banner that we march, and it is he, and he alone, who can secure the peace we long for. Let us look beyond ourselves, beyond other ties of school or family or class or caste, or even nation, beyond the remembered pandemic which hopefully has been confined to history, to that other country "whose fortress is a faithful heart and whose paths are paths of peace." Amen

Rt E.Kt.Reverend Fr. Malcolm C G Lane JP KCT



In London: The Great Priory of Malta

It was a matter of great pride in November to see R.E.Kt. Revd. Malcolm Lane and R.E. Kt. Ryan Williams continuing to act as Active Great Officers. Many Knights from Wales travelled to London to applaud the splendid news and celebrate the following First Appointments: E.Kt. Anthony Baker P.Gt. Baillie, E Kt. Thomas Richard Eirian Jones P.Gt. Baillie, E.Kt. Timothy Clark P. Gt. Warden of Regalia, and E.Kt. Michael Hopkins P. Gt. Warden of Regalia. At the same time, two members of the Grand Master's Body Guard were re-appointed, namely E.Kt. Alan Hulbert and E.Kt. Andy Thomas.

Crowning 50 years in Freemasonry

Celebrating 50 years as a Freemason this year, Kt David Inkin went into the chair of Giraldus Cambrensis Preceptory in November. For some years, David has been the stalwart Registrar of the Preceptory and his Installation was guaranteed to be a very special occasion. It was conducted by his predecessor, E Kt Martin Marks with dignity and style.



David invested as his Constables, two hard-working and much-travelled members of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard, Kt Brian Rees and Kt Ceri de Lloyd – much to the delight of both the Provincial Prior, R E Kt Dr Paul Calderwood, and the Provincial Sub-Prior, E Kt Richard Phillips, who attended the event at Llanelli. The Provincial Prior expressed their delight at seeing this much respected trio at the head of the Preceptory - which is clearly in good hands.

In addition, two new Joining members, E Kt David Harries and Kt David Bentley-Miller, were welcomed into the preceptory that night and three new Candidates for the Order were also announced.

At dinner an extra toast was taken to recognise the 50 years' service given to Freemasonry by E Kt David Inkin - with much applause.

Busy Brecknock

A busy year ahead for the members of Brecknock Castle Preceptory was assured at the Installation meeting in November.

Following the Installation of Kt Neil Briggs in the chair as the new Eminent Preceptor, it was announced that four applications for admission to the Order had been received.

This welcome news was greeted with delight by all the members - not least of all by the new Eminent Preceptor, who has already thrown himself into his new duties with gusto.



He was Installed in the Order of the Temple by his immediate predecessor, E Kt Lyn Jones, and in the Order of St John by E Kt Carl Davies at a well-attended meeting. After dinner, a donation of £100 for the Eye Hospital of St John of Jerusalem was presented to the Provincial Prior.



THE ALMONERS POST

Greetings in the bonds of the Order from the Provincial Almoner, with the hope that you all had a very rewarding autumn. I am sure a highlight for many of you, like me, was the time together and fellowship at our Provincial Malta meeting in Penarth. It was so good for us all to be able to share in that Act of Remembrance together.

We now move into the Winter months and the pressure this may put on some of our older brethren, either through infirmity or financial. We are there as Almoners to assist in any way we can.

Before us is the wonderful season of Christmas, a season of light, peace and love, as we celebrate again the Birth of our Blessed Saviour, Jesus our Emmanuel, God with us. But, first is this month of November, known by some in these days as Mouvement. A time when we can think about Men's Health, and particularly for some of us Prostrate Cancer. As almoners we often hear of fellow knights or members of families affected by this prevalent Cancer. In this time, we are reminded of the need to encourage each other to take advantage of the free PSA tests that are available, an essential indicator (all the info is available at www.prostratecanceruk.org).

The Masonic Benevolent Fund has done much this year in South Wales for Prostate Cancer and we saw the minibus outside the Provincial Grand Lodge in Barry in June. Just to show the importance of this test I share with you my recent personal experience. I have a strong history of Prostate Cancer in my family, and so I have been having regular PSA tests yearly since before my 50th birthday (the usual recommended time unless there is family history or other symptoms ... and all on the NHS). All was going well until last year with consistent low levels. Last year there was a sudden rise, and I was sent for further tests. Following examinations, Scans, biopsies I was diagnosed late last year with early-stage Prostate Cancer. After the Consultants multi discipline team met at Velindre and early in the new year I met my consultant who explained my treatment, prognosis, answered any questions and with me throughout.

The team assessed my treatment, as my tumour was small but aggressive, but had not spread at all. They had agreed to treat me with medication and a course of 20 sessions of Radiotherapy, and confident that this would remove the tumour.

The need for regular PSA tests also came home to me clearly at the first meeting with my consultant when I was told that if the PSA test had not detected changes, this could have been life threatening if left. I had no other symptoms.

At the end of the radiotherapy my consultant told me the treatment was successful and I now just keep taking the tablets for a while, plus the regular monitoring at Velindre. So I am now just fine and mightily relieved.

I try to pass on from my experience, that early diagnosis is essential and the best indicator we have at present is the PSA test. There may be no other symptoms so my advice to all is start having a test It's free! I share this with all who will listen.

The photo is of me ringing the bell at Velindre at the end of my Radiotherapy treatment.

There have been a number of deaths of fellow knights over these last months, some very senior, to which our Orders really owe a great deal. You will have heard of these through your Almoner or at our meetings. Please continue to remember them and their families in your Prayers. If you wish to speak or share about any of the above, please get in touch, always happy to hear from you in any way that I can assist.

Yours in the bonds of the Order and with my best wishes for the coming Blessed and Joyous season of Christmas and the New Year.

Tony,

**EKt The Revd Anthony Stevens, Provincial Almoner,
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Welcoming November's new Knights

A selection of photos of some of the new members who joined the United Orders recently :

At Sir William Marshall Preceptory:

Kt Gareth Lyndon Birch and Kt Steven Marshall



At Cefn Ydfa Preceptory:

Kt Gerald French



And at Gwent Preceptory

Kts Michael Roberts and David Clayden



A warm welcome to them and all the other Knights who recently joined the United Orders