

3 February 2024

# A BEAUCEANT !!

NO 49



## Dear Brother Knights

“Officially” the deep mid-winter may have passed but most of us are still thinking about warming up.

Certainly that is true for the Knights Templars — who are “warming up” for lots of interesting events over the coming weeks as you will discover in this newsletter.

You will also find out about some of the good times we have had since the last edition was published.

Have a wonderful time !  
Yours in the Bonds of the Order  
R.E.Kt. Dr. Paul Calderwood

## A Leap Year Treat

A really enjoyable and interesting evening awaits us in Hereford on the 29 February - Leap Year Day - when the Knights of Monmouth and South Wales pay a Fraternal Visit to Sir Thomas Docwra Preceptory.

A Full Malta Ceremony is planned and - no doubt - there will be some regional variations to keep us on the edge of our seats.

It is hoped that many Knights from Wales will take up the invitation to go and show support, accompanying the Provincial Prior and Sub Prior.

Last year a large contingent from Hereford came over to Wales and supported us at a meeting in Brecon and it would be good to see a similar response on our part this year.

Car sharing arrangements are available – just contact our Provincial Vice Chancellor for details.

The evening will start with Tea, Coffee and Biscuits at 5.30pm, followed by the meeting in a most interesting Masonic Hall and the menu, for dinner, is : Poached Pear with Stilton, Chicken Curry Rice / Chips, Lemon Posset OR Cheese and Biscuits (If ordered beforehand)

Bookings need to be in by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024 and sent to the Vice-Chancellor of Monmouth and South Wales E.Kt Nigel E. Williams by email to [newilliams@btinternet.com](mailto:newilliams@btinternet.com)

Please remember to bring £20 cash to pay for the meal on the night.

No need for swimming trunks — as the Baths are very much a Masonic Hall now !



## Joining the Bodyguards

The Provincial Prior’s Bodyguard is always on the look-out for suitable new members. If you would like to be a part of it and to discuss what it involves please contact E Kt Tony Marno, the Registrar of the Bodyguard, on [tony@vivienmarno.plus.com](mailto:tony@vivienmarno.plus.com).

He would be pleased to hear from you and to let you have more information.

Being a member of the Bodyguard brings with it many opportunities to develop your knowledge of the Order and your circle of friends too. There is a special bond within the Bodyguard as the members travel to new places and meet new people.

## Christmas Sparkle at Owain Glyndwr Preceptory



A Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols, followed by a Yuletide Luncheon, further enhanced the meeting of Owain Glyndwr Preceptory of Past Preceptors last December, which was held for the first time at The Castle Hotel, Llandovery.

The Hotel, situated in the centre of the market town, adjacent to the thirteenth century Llandovery Castle, was an idyllic location, overlooking the Towy River, with an authentic and historic feel.

The Eminent Preceptor, E Kt. Timothy Clark welcomed Knights to the meeting, where amongst several items of domestic business, the members elected E Kt. Vivian Jones as Eminent Preceptor for 2024-25. He will be Installed at the next regular meeting to be held at Neath Masonic Hall on 1 June

The Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols was once again presided over by the Great Prelate, R.E. Kt. Revd. Fr Malcolm C.G. Lane, KCT JP and commenced at 11.30am with approximately sixty in attendance, consisting of Bro Knights along with their wives, partners, family and friends.

The first Lesson was read by the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement. It was also a great pleasure to welcome the Great Marshal, Right Eminent Knight Tim Wheeler.

On behalf of the province, the Provincial Sub-Prior, E. Kt. Richard Phillips thanked all those involved in the organization of this event. With regard to the splendid Luncheon, he made special mention of E.Kt. Keri Evans (Organiser) and E Kt. Alun Littlejohns (Manager) and his incredible team.

Many generous donations to the raffle, helped to raise the magnificent sum of £325.00. When added to the Alms collection of £166.00 along with a modest top-up from the Preceptory, we are able once again to make a significant contribution of £500.00 to the Jerusalem Eye Hospital.



# RECENT MEETINGS

## AT NARBERTH

“Holding the fort” is a nice military expression which sums up the good work being carried out by the Eminent Preceptor of St David’s Preceptory No 568.

In January E Kt Jim Driscoll agreed to serve for a second year in a row as Eminent Preceptor and he was gratefully proclaimed by E Kt Andy Fraser, the Preceptory Marshal at the Installation Meeting last month.

It was clear that everyone had done a great deal of preparation and carried out their duties well. The Eminent Preceptor invested each of his Officers with sincere personal remarks and compliments. The skills of his team - especially the Marshal, E Kt Andy Fraser, and the Registrar, E Kt Peter Gregory, showed through as they managed the meeting well.

It was a snowy evening – which affected the attendance – but it was good to see that all the progressive offices are being filled by members who have not been through the chair yet.

A strong Provincial team was in attendance and included, not only the Provincial Prior, but also the Sub Prior, E Kt Richard Phillips, the Provincial Chancellor, V E Kt Harry Randell, the Provincial Marshal, E Kt Carl Davies, both of the Provincial Deputy Marshals, E Kt Roger Thompson and E Kt Stephen Roberts; the Provincial First Constable, E Kt Peter Gilbert; the Provincial Standard Bearer (B), E Kt Basil Phillips, the Provincial Sword Bearer, E Kt Paul Evans; the Commander of the Bodyguard, Kt Luke Stokes; the Registrar of the Bodyguard, E Kt Tony Marno and members of the Bodyguard team – many of whom had made long journeys to attend and support.

## AT NEATH

The Installation Meeting of Castell Nedd Preceptory took place on 22nd January and was a busy night, preceded by the admission of a Candidate to the Order, namely Companion Nathan Mark Johns.

Due to the unavoidable absence of the Eminent Preceptor, the Marshal, E. Kt. Peter Gilbert, acted in his stead, supported by the Provincial Treasurer, E. Kt. Stephen Howlett, who acted as Preceptory Marshal. E. Kt. Tony Jones - in addition to acting as Provincial 2nd Constable - took the office of Preceptory 2nd Constable and other members of the Provincial Team assisted with the Bodyguard and other Preceptory Offices.

Despite the last minute changes the Candidate was installed into the Order in a splendid ceremony with dignity and sincerity. The newly installed Eminent Preceptor, E. Kt. Jeffrey Joseph was also installed as Eminent Prior of Malta during a short ceremony. In both cases, he received a good ceremony carried out by E. Kt. Peter Gilbert.

V. E. Kt. Harry Randell, the Provincial Chancellor, led the Provincial Team.

E. Kt. Stephen Roberts carried out the duties of Provincial Marshal, with E. Kt. Colin Mansueto as his Deputy.

Three Great Priory Certificates (one Temple and two Malta) were presented by V. E. Kt. Harry Randell to Kts Michael Woods and Rhys Davies. The Eminent Preceptor thanked him and all the Provincial Officers for their assistance in the Temple. A very relaxed and happy festive board was enjoyed by all after the ceremonies.





# AT BRIDGEND

Temple Slebech Preceptory of the Provincial Bodyguard No 602 held its annual Installation meetings of the Preceptory and Priory at the Masonic Hall, Coychurch on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

The meeting was well attended, as would be expected of the Body guard Preceptory where many are Great Officers and Provincial Officers - plus numerous visitors - making an impressive escort for the Provincial Sub Prior, E Kt Richard J Phillips, deputising for the Provincial Prior, who was representing the Province elsewhere on Masonic business.

A strong Provincial team was present and included the Provincial Chancellor, V E Kt Harry Randell; the Provincial Vice Chancellor, Em Kt Nigel Williams; the Provincial Grand Marshal, E Kt Carl Davies; Provincial Deputy Marshal E Kt Stephen Roberts; the Provincial Treasurer, E Kt Dr Stephen Howlett; Provincial Registrar, E Kt Derek Hemfrey and both Provincial Constables, E Kt Peter Gilbert and E Kt Aneurin Hughes.

The Installation of E Kt James Thompson as Eminent Preceptor and Eminent Prior was conducted in a smooth and dignified manner by Em Knight Andrew Thomas, himself a member of the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master’s Bodyguard.

The new team of Officers incorporated senior, experienced and safe hands together with many new and enthusiastic members of the Bodyguard which stands the Preceptory in good stead for the busy year ahead.

Following the formalities, all the Knights retired to a very convivial Festive Board with all the usual camaraderie and banter associated with the Temple Slebech Preceptory of the Provincial Bodyguard.

## A long journey

### *A far travelled visitor to Sant Madoc Preceptory*

Knights Templar have a reputation for travelling long distances to join in KT meetings, however this visitor’s travels may be a KT record for Wales. Joining the Knights at Sant Madoc at their regular meeting last October in Porthcawl was an unusually far travelled visitor from KT 604 Jose Ballivian Preceptory in Bolivia.



E Kt Wayne Dyer was hosting E Kt Edmond Tondou & brought him to Sant Madoc to witness an installation ceremony of our new Knight Les Stokes. They had met up in South America where E Kt Wayne, as Grand Secretary of the Order of Athelstan, organised a Grand Team where they visited the USA, El Salvador, Columbia, Bolivia, Peru and Brazil during which nine new units were +consecrated.

As Edmond had not brought KT regalia with him for this unplanned visit, R E Kt Graham Gubb kindly supplied the necessary kit to allow E Kt Edmond to participate in the meeting.

E Kt Edmond was very interested in the ritual we used and there was discussion on each other’s ceremonies. There was more chat following the festive board which was most enjoyable and made the night a lot different from our usual meetings. We reckon Edmond is the furthest travelled visitor to a South Wales Preceptory – or is he ??

## Future events

A warm welcome awaits you at the following events:

- 19 Feb – Fforest Preceptory – Installation Meeting - Treharris Masonic Hall,
- 26 Mar – Brecknock Castle Preceptory – Installation meeting – Brecon Masonic Hall,
- 21 April – Provincial Church Service – Margam Abbey – family and friends most welcome

If you are free for any of these occasions and you would like to come along, please make a note in your diary – the booking forms will be circulated very soon.

# THE ALMONER'S POST



Greetings in the bonds of the Order from the Provincial Almoner, and with the hope that you all had a very enjoyable Christmas and looking forward to the New Year. If I have not seen you already in this New Year, A Happy New Year to you.

As I write this we are still into those 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. But let us look forward to spring as we begin to see the first green shoots of spring around us, even the odd daffodil already in our front garden.

I have been thinking recently about a particular word. One that is always with us given in so many and different ways, circumstances. The word 'Listen'.

It's with us from our earliest days, some of you may even remember the BBC's 'Listen with Mother' for very young Children. Perhaps we can remember it from our parents as 'Listen' as we are instructed to do something or not do something. There with our teachers as they taught us or even a word in exasperation as they tried to bring order to the Class.

Maybe from our colleges or universities or some instruction in our training. Perhaps a word to emphasise something that we did not take in. 'Listen properly this time.'

It's there in something that we have enjoyed, we would like to pass on to others, perhaps 'Listen to this piece of music, podcast etc.'

It's there in our relationships, Wife, Partner, children or friend. We emphasise it to mean something we really want to put across, 'Listen, I really mean this' or even in sadness 'You have not listened to me'.

I have been talking about this word with Sue, my wife. You know her as a retired teacher and Priest, but she is also a qualified counsellor and psychotherapist as well as a qualified supervisor of other counsellors. She tells me that listening is one of the fundamental, basic skills of their profession, indeed it forms much of the initial training in Certificates before they progress onto diplomas, Degrees, Masters etc.

It's true as well for each of us as Almoners. Listening is so important. It can be the start of so many things. It gives us information on problems, joys sorrows, need for help, how we can help, actions we need to do. Listening takes time in our busy lives, but it is so worthwhile. Even from that greeting when we meet, we can sometimes sense that there is a need for more to be said, not needing to push but just waiting and being ready to listen.

It's a bit late for New Years Resolution for me, but if it is so worthwhile, perhaps a Springtide one ....., a resolution for me to listen a little longer and harder.

In these hard winter months as always, there have been several deaths, as well as sickness of fellow knights over these times, some 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 Spring, Easter rest of 2024.

**Ekt The Revd Anthony Stevens, Provincial Almoner,**

**Email: [revtonystevens@gmail.com](mailto:revtonystevens@gmail.com)**

**Tel: 07815 050579**