



Dear Brother Knights

Welcome to the 50th edition of your newsletter.

Four years ago, when the first edition of *A Beauceant* appeared as a “temporary” measure to help “keep us together” during the anxious early days of the pandemic, I, for one, never imagined then that it would still be going 50 issues later ! It obviously says something about our deep affection for Knight Templar Freemasonry.

While the past two months have been packed with many happy Templar events, much more awaits us during April and May and you will find details of both within this special edition.

One of the most heartening things that has taken place recently has been the warm response given to our “Initiative to help Companions and Templar Knights”.

You will no doubt have heard from your Preceptory Registrar about this important initiative and I thank all who have welcomed and embraced this golden opportunity to strengthen the historic links between the Royal Arch and the Knights Templar.

When it was launched at the Registrars’ Forum in February this year, I explained the background to this Initiative. Put simply, it is this: that while we as Knights Templar have made an excellent recovery as a Masonic Order after the pandemic, we can not expect our good luck to last indefinitely - unless we do more to help our Royal Arch Chapters and to make the links between the two organisations even stronger.

One of the aims of this Initiative is to establish a more formal link between each Preceptory and its local Chapters and at the present time we are busily engaged in pairing arrangements so that, hopefully, each Preceptory will have something like a “Twin-Towns” relationship with up four nearby Chapters by mutual agreement.

As that process takes shape over the coming months, I hope to present badges to the first “KT Representatives” later this year. They will undertake a similar role within Chapters to the one performed by RA Representatives within Craft Lodges.

It is an Initiative designed to strengthen both Royal Arch and Knight Templar masonry with a fuller and more active membership and it is something that deserves our enthusiastic support. More details are provided in this next few pages.

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

GREAT RANKS

Heartiest Congratulations to the following members of this Province who are to be appointed to the following ranks in London at the meeting of Great Priory on 15th May:

R.E.Kt. Revd Malcolm Lane as Great Prelate

E.Kt. Dr. Philip Harries as Past Great Herald

E.Kt. Christopher Martin Davies as Past Great Aide-de-Camp

E.Kt. Keri Evans as Past Great Aide-de-Camp

E.Kt. Terry Price as Past Great Warden of Regalia

A CLEMENT DAY

Two well-known local members of the United Orders had special cause for celebration in March when E. Kt. Lewis Clement had the great distinction of being installed as the Eminent Preceptor of the Preceptory of St George No 6 at Mark Masons' Hall in London.

St George's is a very special Preceptory whose membership consists chiefly of many of the Rulers of Freemasonry, and therefore it was a particular delight to see him installed by his predecessor, E. Kt. Jonathan Spence – who is of course also the Pro Grand Master Of the United Grand Lodge of England.

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master of the United Orders, Paul Raymond Clement, was in attendance of course and wore the expression of a very proud father !

Lewis' very proud mother, Molly, thought it would be good moment to share with you a relevant family photo of one of the first Templar events that father and son attended together - back in 1991, when Lewis' father was the Provincial Marshal of Monmouth and South Wales.

As the photo shows so clearly, Lewis acquired a great delight for Templar regalia at an early age and, following this event, his great-uncle - another well-known Swansea Mason, the late E. Kt Harry Steele - made him a wooden sword, little knowing where it would all lead.



IMPORTANT NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY

The annual Church Service of the Province - for members in regalia (accompanied by family and friends hopefully) will be held at Margam Abbey on 21 April at 2.30pm.

The annual meeting of Great Priory will be held at Freemasons' Hall in London on 15 May.

The annual meeting of the Province will be held at Bridgend on 22 May.

AN EASTER REFLECTION

The Great Prelate, R.E.Kt Revd. Malcolm Lane, writes:

I am confident that without one experiencing the agony and grief of Holy Week, and I mean the scourging, the humiliation, the whipping and the falling on the way to Calvary, one cannot really feel the emotion of the resurrection of our Great Captain, our Lord Jesus Christ and if, after the pain and grief of Jesus' passion and death, we are looking for a happy ending, then the gospel accounts of the resurrection might seem like a bit of a disappointment. There is no triumphalism here, no promise that everything will be alright now. What there is instead is a whirl of experience and emotion.

St Mark's Gospel which I have been studying through this Lent and which ends with terror, amazement, and fear. Whilst St. John describes the beautiful but bewildering encounter between Mary Magdalen and the risen Jesus in the garden. Though her tears may have turned to joy at the sound of her name from the lips of one who knows her like no other, still there is an incompleteness here when Jesus says "Do not hold on to me". That pain of being unable to hold, to touch, the beloved is one to which we can all surely relate more closely now than ever. Resurrection, at least in these gospel accounts, is not necessarily the uncomplicated resolution to every pain and sorrow.

As we rise to greet the dawn of this Easter day, whether we are singing triumphant Alleluias or barely daring to whisper them, the grief and lament in our own lives too is so often not always resolved. Yes, we mourn all that we have lost in any year, we bear the wounds and scars of this time, and our Easter joy does not take them away. Nor should we expect it to. The risen body of Jesus still bears the scars of crucifixion and we – the church, Christ's body in the world – we too still hold within us our own wounds even as we rise.

Resurrection is not the soothing ointment for all our ills, it does not promise unending, untroubled happiness. Not because the gift of life and unconditional love which Jesus brings into the world in his rising is too small, but because it is something greater than that, something different, yes, and more complex, deeper and more lasting, than the false hope of "it's all going to be ok". Try saying that to a member of your family and anyone else you may know who is terminally ill, who may or may not have a faith

The joy which is kindled on Easter morning, 'while it was still dark', is a joy which burns slowly and deeply, which burrows into the very depths of our being, into the very substance of the universe, and can never be extinguished. This is not the false optimism which wants to dismiss our grieving, or smooth over the hurts and injustices of the world. This is the deep-rooted hope of resurrection life itself which knows that death will come and grief will hurt, but still steadfastly says that death cannot have the last word. This is the light of love which burns so constantly and steadfastly that it cannot be overcome and with that all around us we can catch glimpses of this resurrection glory. Not only in the obvious joys – Spring has arrived in the blossoming trees, the familiar faces – but also in treasure more deeply buried but there for the seeking. It is there in the resilience of communities and the love of neighbours; in resistance to injustice in this troubled world, and refusal to look away; in dissatisfaction with the world as it is and dreams of what it could be.

The whole creation, which we are only custodians of, is shot through with resurrection glory, if only we will have eyes to see it. This is the great revelation of Easter, the great truth of our faith: that a different world – different from the one which will crucify its saviour rather than bear to hear the truth of who God is, different from the one which will crucify again and again those who dare to resist destructive power and embrace another way of living – a different world is not only possible, but is already here. Underlying all our hopes and fears, joys and sorrows, guilt and shame and grief, underlying all that makes us human in all our messy complexities and all its contradictions, underlying all that we are and all that the universe contains, is the unending, immeasurable, incomprehensible love of God – deeper and wider than our imaginations can contain, infinitely merciful, and totally freely given.

We are fickle people just like those on Palm Sunday who shouted their Hosannas and the same crowd who on Good Friday shouted Crucify him! It is this that the resurrection reveals. Not the triumph of good over evil, or the end of suffering and death – even the most cursory glance at the world could tell us that that is not the case. But something both less heroic and more pervasive – a paradigm shift, a new way of looking at the world, a transformed and transforming change of perspective.

In his rising Jesus flings open every imprisoning gate and door to reveal the sheer, overwhelming grace in which God holds all time and space and all eternity. And once we have caught a glimpse of it, once we have seen – even in our anxiety and uncertainty – the underlying, all-encompassing unconditional love of God as the foundation on which the whole universe rests, then our way of seeing the world, our neighbours, and ourselves, is forever fundamentally altered. This is the great rupture which the resurrection brings, both in Jesus' rising on that first Easter day, and also in every resurrection moment in which we catch sight – however fleetingly – of that sure and steadfast joy.

Easter is not the 'happily ever after' of a fairy tale ending. It is so much more than that. For a start, it isn't an ending. Resurrection is much more a beginning than an ending: far from neatly rounding off the Jesus story, it opens it up and points ahead, into a vast, expansive reality of joy and hope, love and new life. This reality, this realm of resurrection, is often hard to catch sight of, often obscured, but it is always present, ready to bubble up in new and unexpected ways, ready to invite us with the whole creation into new and abundant ways of living.

Amen

A DOUBLE CELEBRATION IN HEREFORD



An enthusiastic band of 16 Brother Knights from Wales went over to Hereford - on the extra day this year - for a Fraternal Visit and a Malta Celebration.

There were not only two Candidates present but also two Provincial Priors and two Sub-Priors, accompanied by almost sixty Brother Knights from the two provinces of Monmouth and South Wales as well as Gloucestershire and Herefordshire.

Hosting the event was the Eminent Prior of Sir Thomas Docwra Preceptory No 376, E. Kt. Bryan Richard Wood – who, together with his team, delighted everyone with an exemplary ceremony - at which Kt Andrew Bailey and Kt Gareth Evans were admitted to the Order of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta.

It continued a long and happy tradition of exchange visits between the two provinces. The Provincial Prior for Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, R. E. Kt. Peter Burrows, and the Sub-Prior, E. Kt. Phillip Wightman, welcomed the Knights from Wales and thanked them for their support.

In response, the Provincial Prior for the Province of Monmouth and South Wales R. E. Kt. Dr Paul Calderwood - accompanied by the Sub-Prior E. Kt. Richard Phillips - pointed out that normally the day after the 28th February is St David's Day but - since 2024 is a Leap Year - the knights from South Wales were delighted to be in the City of Hereford on 29th February in order to rehearse their imminent celebration of that special Feast Day in the company of their friends and neighbours on the English side of Offa's Dyke. Amity and concord abounded!

JONES THE MARSHAL

E.Kt Terry Jones, who was formerly the Provincial Marshal, was elected an Honorary Member of Sir William Marshall Preceptory at Chepstow in March and he delivered an excellent talk on Sir William Marshall and the history of the Knights Templar.

Congratulations to him on that and upon becoming, in February, a member of Fforest Preceptory - which meets at Treharris.

At the same meeting of Fforest Preceptory – whose numbers are growing strongly - Companion Adam King was admitted as a new member to the Order. Welcome Kt Adam !





PORTHCAWL ON THE CREST OF A WAVE

A big turn-out of almost 50 Knights attended the Installation Meetings of the Preceptory and the Priory of Sant Madoc in Porthcawl on 6th Feb.

They saw two very good Installation ceremonies conducted by E. Kt. Wayne Dyer and they witnessed a strong attendance by the incoming team of Officers – only one of whom was unable to attend.

The new Eminent Preceptor and Prior, E Kt. Richard Newman, said how pleased he was to fill all the progressive offices with Knights who have not yet been through the chair.

The Provincial Prior, R E Kt Dr Paul Calderwood, congratulated him also on the wealth of Candidates who are waiting to come in to the Preceptory and he thanked R.E.Kt. Graham Gubb and R.E.Kt Dr Vivian Thomas for agreeing to present Certificates to new members in both of the meetings that night.

RAISING THE STANDARDS OF RITUAL

Much praiseworthy effort has been put in to raising the standards of our ritual this year.

One of the highlights was a Ritual Demonstration Evening at Porthcawl which was led by the Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Carl Davies and was well supported.

Another opportunity to learn from some of the country's leading ritualists and to ask questions will arise when the King Edward VII Preceptory of Improvement visits Bridgend on the last day of April.

Since most of the instruction team will be travelling from England and distant places, it is hoped that a good number of members of this province will also make the effort to support the event .

It will start at 6pm and be followed by a buffet. Details are being provided on the provincial website, which is at kt-msw.org.



Provincial Officers 2024



Next month, the current team of hard-working Provincial Officers will retire and a new team will be invested at the annual meeting of the Province. The ceremony will take place on Wed 22nd May at Bridgend Masonic Hall and it will be attended not only by Knights from this province but also by many visitors from other provinces - near and far. After thanking the current team for its loyal support over the past year, the Provincial Prior will make the following appointments:

Sub-Prior E.Kt. Richard J. Phillips
Prelate R.E.Kt. Malcolm C.G. Lane KCT *JP*
Chancellor V.E.Kt. Harry J. Randell
First Constable E.Kt. Peter R. Gilbert
Second Constable E.Kt. Gerald P. Williams
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. Martyn J. Lench
Standard Bearer (B) E.Kt. Anthony S. Charles
Standard Bearer (VB) E.Kt. David J. Dyer
Banner Bearer E.Kt. James A. Forbes Keir
Sword Bearer E.Kt. D. Lyn Jones
Aide-de-Camp E.Kt. James D. Driscoll
Warden of Regalia Kt. Andrew R. Newson
Chamberlain E.Kt. Andrew P. Brayley
Captain of Guards E.Kt. Martin J. Marks
Organist E.Kt. Terry Price
Guard E.Kt. Michael Davies

Past Rank First Appointments

Past Provincial Standard Bearer (B) E.Kt. James E.C. Thompson
Past Provincial Aide-de-Camp E.Kt. Graham M. Newstead
Past Provincial Warden of Regalia E.Kt. Stephen Doyle

Past Rank Promotions

Past Provincial Second Constable E.Kt. Jeffrey W. Henshaw
Past Provincial Herald E.Kt. Robert Tanswell
Past Provincial Standard Bearer (VB) E.Kt. T. Iwan Jenkins
Past Provincial Standard Bearer (VB) E.Kt. K. Alun Davies
Past Provincial Sword Bearer E.Kt. James E. Roberts
Past Provincial Aide-de-Camp E.Kt. Anthony H. Hartwell Jones
Past Provincial Aide-de-Camp E.Kt. T. Alan Davies
Past Provincial Aide-de-Camp E.Kt. Raymond J. Jones

I am sure the Knights of the Province will join me in applauding these appointments and will do their best to attend the meeting and lend their support on this happy occasion.

Details and booking forms will be available on the Provincial website which is kt-msw.org

An Initiative to help

Companions and Templar Knights



Aim

To increase the number of active members of the Royal Arch in the province and to enable Craft Brethren who wish to become Knights Templar to find an easier pathway.

Strategy

Stage One - To encourage every KT Preceptory in the Province to establish a formal link with at least four local Royal Arch Chapters (in cases where there is no link at present, Brother Knights will be encouraged to apply for membership of these Chapters).

Stage Two - With the support of the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, to revive one or more ailing Chapters by providing a band of new Joining Members from KT (who will re-style the Chapter as a route not only into the Royal Arch but also into Templar Freemasonry).

Benefits

The Royal Arch province will see an increase in members (KT Masons with a broad Masonic experience);

For Brethren not already in Royal Arch, Chapters will acquire the added attraction of being able to offer a straightforward route to Knight Templar Masonry;

Ailing Chapter(s) will be given a new lease of life;

KT Preceptories will be more closely allied to local Chapters.

The Communications Plan

The Provincial Prior will explain the plan at meetings and seek support for it from

The Provincial Executive in January 2024

Preceptory Registrars at their annual forum in February 2024

Preceptories from February onwards via the newsletter and at Installations

Initial Actions

Stage One - To pair up Preceptories and Chapters. The KT and RA Provincial Executive Officers to work with Registrars of Preceptories and Chapter Scribes E to develop desirable twinning arrangements.

Where agreement is established, KT members will apply for membership of the identified Chapters. (A KT Representative Lapel Badge will be produced by the KT Provincial Office and those qualified will be publicly invested by the Provincial Prior).

Stage Two - The Royal Arch Provincial Office to consider discussing with ailing Chapters the possibility of an infusion of KT members and of its name possibly being modified.

Step 1. To explain in each Preceptory the plan to members and identify four Chapters (avoid overlap!)

Step 2. Select a Rep for each of the 4 Chapters, discuss this with RA and(if necessary)Join

Step 3. Appoint Reps at KT Installation meetings (nb Badge and Toolkit)

Step 4. Support the Rep at Chapter meetings

Step 5. Phase Two - Following RA advice, recruit a Rescue Team & support it