

30 November 2024



A BEAUCEANT!!

NO 52

Dear Brother Knights

It is my joy to say to you that as we approach the Christmas Season, one of our members has already received a bumper Christmas present - as you will immediately recognise from the photo of an official Patent alongside these words.

Knight Grand Cross is an honour - limited by our book of Constitutions, the Liber, - to no more than 15 people in the world at any one time (unless you happen to be Grand Master, Past Grand Master or a member of the Royal Family)

and so it was with tremendous pride that the members of the United Orders heard at Great Priory of Malta in November that this distinction was to be awarded to R.E.Kt. Revd. Malcolm Lane, who has been the Great Prelate for more than 12 years and is of course the Provincial Prelate of Monmouth and South Wales. He was invested there and then.

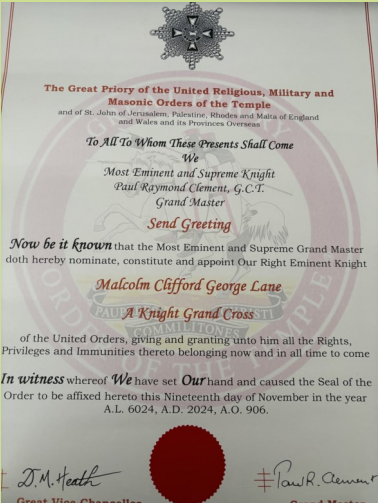
I am sure that you and all the Knights of the Province will join me in sending him our heartiest congratulations - something which many of you will get the opportunity to do in person when we meet at The Castle Hotel in Llandovery on Saturday 7th December for the Christmas Carol Service and Roast Lunch.

As I do every year at this time, please try to keep the following annual message in mind If possible at 5pm on Christmas Day

With every good wish to you and your family for a very happy Christmas.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order

R.E.Kt. Dr. Paul Calderwood



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.

NOVEMBER WAS A VERY EVENTFUL MONTH

Highlights included:

Great Priory of Malta in London

where five knights from Monmouth and South Wales were honoured. They included not only R.E.Kt. Revd. Malcolm Lane who was re-appointed as Great Prelate, but also E Kts Keri Evans , Chris Davies, Phil Harries and Terry Price appointed to Past Great Rank.



Provincial Priory of Malta at Penarth

where the Officers of the year were invested and 16 Candidates were admitted to the Ancient and Masonic Order of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta.



The admission of Seven Companions

as members of the Order of the Temple at Chepstow and the welcoming of Kt Stephen Hutchins as a Joining Member into Sir William Marshall Preceptory.



Giraldus Cambrensis Preceptory

which saw the Installation of Kt Brian Rees, a former member of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard, as Eminent Preceptor



At Brecknock Castle Preceptory

A memorable evening when Kt Tony Biella was Installed as Eminent Preceptor and Knight Ian Price Re-Joined the Preceptory.



What is Advent?

*An article written by The Great Prelate,
R.E.Kt. Revd. Malcolm Lane G.C.T.*

The name comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming". The season celebrates Christ's anticipated coming again in the fullness of time to rule triumphantly over life in heaven and earth, as well as the coming of Christ as the infant Saviour whose birth we celebrate at Christmas and because the season emphasises Christ's comings and not just his birth, it's more than just a time to get ready for Christmas.

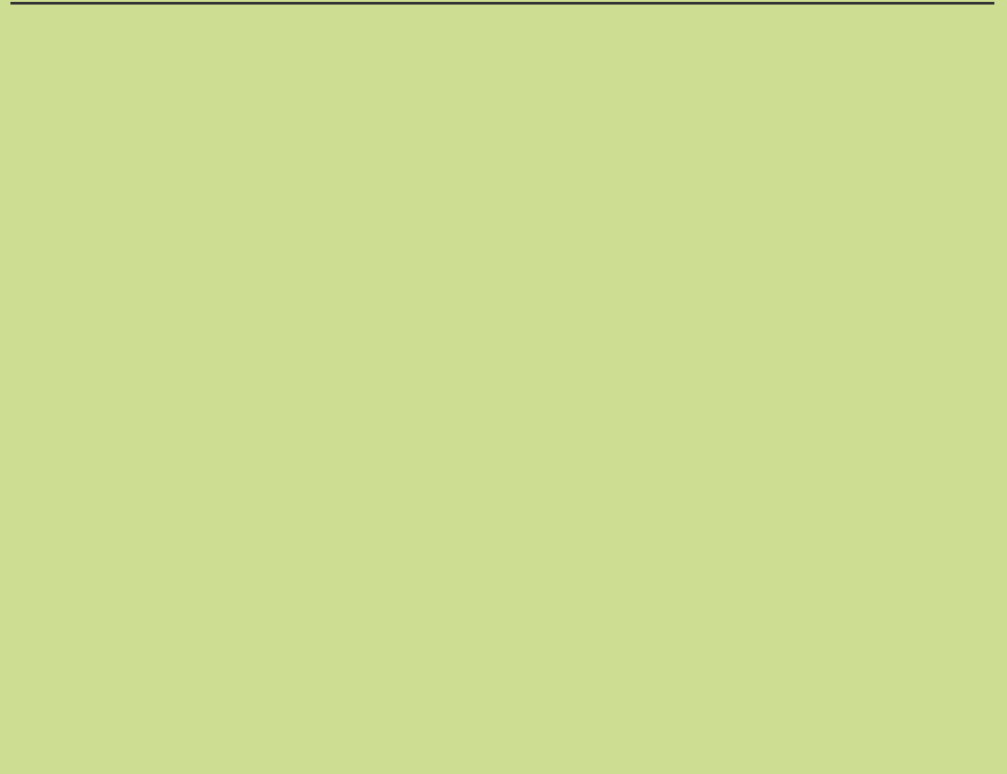


God's first intervention within our history came not in the form of some instant or earth-shattering event, but instead, God chose to come into the world as we all do, to be born as a baby amid a chaotic world. By our impatient standards, this seems such a slow way to bring salvation to the world. But God may not always choose the easy answer or the quick fix. But by His earthly incarnation, He demonstrates a total commitment to the very core of humanity.

A commitment, to its day-by-day routines and challenges, a commitment to humanity from the cradle to the grave and beyond. And in that same incarnational way, God comes to us day by day, through the working of the Spirit, through His Word and Sacrament, making the ordinary extraordinary; making the broken whole; and redeeming and restoring the past, present and future, whatever they hold.

This is a message which is clear in the gospel History, myth, belief and imagery come together to create a vision, the strength of which is not in trying to understand the detail of Christ's second coming but in catching a glimpse of the message of salvation and healing being completed. We should not spend our time worrying about the timing of God's arrival or about the distraction of what might happen in the meantime. God's reign has already broken into our world through the incarnation, death and resurrection of Christ.

His Kingdom is near and it is coming, even as it is already arrived but not fully realised. We are to remain watchful, and aware, and to be prepared for the final coming, which is likely to arrive any time that God's love is shared with uncommon grace in a world so desperately in need of that love. It is through us, and through the very imperfect Church that bears His name that His love and grace continue to come and spread, at Advent and through the Christian year ahead as we look to His coming in glory.



The Almoner's Post



Greetings in the bonds of the Order from the Provincial Almoner, and with the hope that Autumn has been kind to you all. The weather is now fast changing from the heavy rains and floods to snow, and the dark nights are with us. There is though, the beauty of the trees around us as they change into glorious different colours and shed their leaves. The seasons of Advent and Christmas are before us, which are for most of us times of looking forward and celebration with family and friends.

But for Almoners it is a time as well for us to think about our Preceptories, for those who may be infirm or isolated this Christmas time. As we know a visit, a conversation, a gift may mean so much at this Christmas time.

As you know from past Almoner's Posts, I try and look around for advice for us as we try to exercise our duties as best we can. I found a series of statements and articles that may be of help for the origins, history and practice.

From the Encyclopaedia Britannica:

Almoner, originally, an officer responsible for distributing alms to the poor, usually connected with a religious house or other institution but also a position with some governments. In the 13th century, almoners were attached to the French court to distribute the royal alms, and in 1486 the office of grand almoner of France was established. The grand almoner was a high ecclesiastical dignitary who was in charge of the clergy attached to the court and who supervised charitable works. The office was suppressed in France in 1790, revived by Napoleon I and again by Napoleon III, and finally abolished in 1870.

In England the offices of hereditary grand almoner and high almoner still exist, as part of the Queen's Household. The high almoner, usually a bishop or other prelate, distributes the royal alms on Maundy Thursday.

In modern times the term almoner has also been used in Britain for a trained social worker, usually a woman, qualified to work in a medical setting. In this sense "almoner" was superseded in 1964 by the title medical social worker, the term also used in the United States. Medical social workers are employed by hospitals and public health departments.

From Wikipedia:

An almoner is a chaplain or church officer who originally was in charge of distributing money to the deserving poor. The title has to some extent fallen out of use in English, but its equivalents in other languages are often used for many pastoral functions exercised by chaplains or pastors. The word derives from the Ancient Greek: ἐλεημοσύνη *eleēmosynē* (alms), via the popular Latin *almosinarius*.

I have also come across a guide book to the Office of Almoner Produced by the Masonic Charitable Foundation and available free to download. I particular found the sections on things to look out for and guidance on visits, particularly thought provoking. This was produced by a number of Provincial Grand Almoners, for the Craft, but has lots to set our thoughts going for other orders such as our own.

You can Download this booklet on <https://b.ugle.org.uk/charity-almoners>. Where there is also access to fact sheets on various questions that are asked of each of us.

I hope these helps and will paste some of the other bits of history etc in a future Almoners Post.

In these last few months, there have been no deaths amongst our fellow knights which is excellent news. My thanks to our Provincial Registrar and Provincial Vice Chancellor for passing this information to me.

But perhaps as we approach this Christmastide an opportunity for each of us to remember loved ones, Brother Knights and friends who have shared Christmases past with us and are now no longer with us. Perhaps in a few moments of silence over the busy Christmas tide to remember them again. 'May they rest in Peace and rise in Glory'. 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 this Christmas before us, may it be one of happiness and joy for you all and your families, and may the person of the Christ Child be real to us all and among us once again. A blessed Christmas and happy New Year to you all.

Tony,
EKt The Revd Anthony Stevens, Provincial Almoner,
Email: revtonystevens@gmail.com Tel: 07815 050579