

A BEAUCEANT!!

NO 55



Dear Brother Knights

Commencing with St David's Day, March is one of the most important months of the year for the Knights Templar of Monmouth and South Wales.

It will witness the annual meeting of the Province and the investiture of a new Sub-Prior as well as the appointment and promotion of many members in Provincial Rank.

Last year, the attendance at this happy event was 50% up on the previous year - a warm-hearted endorsement of the decision to move the meeting to a Saturday morning.

Do try hard to attend this meeting, which will be held on 21st March at 11am at Bridgend Masonic Hall. Booking details will be on our website at www.kt-msw.org

For those who are able to stay for lunch, it is an opportunity to meet old and new friends, Bro Kts drawn from right across the whole of southern Wales and from many distant parts of England. It always surprises me how far people are willing to travel in order to be part of this special event !

It will give us an opportunity to thank E Kt Richard Philips who has served so well as Sub-Prior of the Province for the past four years and to congratulate his successor, E Kt Revd Tony Stevens who will be invested that day.

A central part of the meeting will be the hearty welcome extended to those who have become Knights during the past 12 months and a chance to see each of them receive a distinctive award.

A full list of the long-serving Brother Knights who will be receiving appointments and promotions at this meeting is included on the Provincial website. Do take the opportunity to support them also by attending and adding to the applause.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order

R.E.Kt. Dr. Paul Calderwood
Provincial Prior



Lunching after the annual meeting



CELEBRATIONS AT THE CASTLE

The Castle Hotel at Llandovery was completely taken over by Knights Templar and their families at the start of December - as they gathered to celebrate their annual Carol Service and Christmas Lunch.

Hosted by Eminent Preceptor, E.Kt Peter Gilbert and the members of Owain Glyndwr Preceptory, the Carol Service was led by the Great Prelate, R.E.Kt. Revd Malcolm Lane GCT, and it attracted more than 90 attendees.

The Provincial Prior of Monmouth and South Wales, R.E.Kt. Dr Paul Calderwood, expressed Special Thanks to E.Kt. Keri Evans, who had undertaken the organisation of the lunch, with so much professional care and attention.

The Collection and Raffle raised £634 for the Eye Hospital at Jerusalem and the general opinion was that this was the best that has been held in the nine years during which this successful celebration for members and their families has been hosted by the Preceptory.

The series of events began with the Owain Glyndwr Preceptory meeting, at which the Provincial Sub-Prior, E.Kt. Richard Phillips, was elected to be the Eminent Preceptor for the coming year.

In addition, six new Joining Members were admitted to this Preceptory of Installed Preceptors.

There then followed the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols and the Lunch.

The Readers of the Lessons were (front row, left to right) R.E.Kt. Dr Paul Calderwood, E.Kt. Peter Gilbert, R.E.Kt. Revd Malcolm Lane, E.Kt. Richard Phillips, (back row) E.Kts. Nigel Williams, Provincial Chancellor, Tony Marno, Provincial Vice-Chancellor, Alun H Thomas, Preceptory Chaplain, Dr Stephen Howlett, Provincial Treasurer, and Revd Tony Stevens. the Provincial Almoner.

At the end of the Carols, the ladies and guests retired under an Arch of Steel.



A LENTEN REFLECTION FOR THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

Lent is a season of solemn grace. It is a time when the Church calls her children to reflection, repentance, discipline, and renewed devotion to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. For those of us who bear the title and obligation of a Knight Templar, Lent carries a particular resonance. Ours is a Christian Order, explicitly Trinitarian in faith, professing belief in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We stand beneath the banner of the Cross, pledged to uphold and defend the Christian faith. Lent therefore speaks not only to us as individual believers, but to us as Knights.



The forty days of Lent mirror our Lord's forty days in the wilderness.

There, Christ was tested, stripped of comfort, and confronted by temptation. Yet in that barren place He revealed perfect obedience to the Father. As Knights Templar, we too are called into the wilderness — not necessarily of sand and stone, but of the heart. Lent invites us to examine our spiritual armour. Is it sound? Has it grown dull through neglect?

Have we allowed the discipline of prayer, Scripture, and charity to weaken?

A Knight understands discipline. The imagery of our Order recalls vigilance, readiness, and fidelity. In medieval times, a knight's armour required constant care; rust or neglect could prove fatal. So too the Christian life demands daily attention. Lent is not about grand gestures but about steady, faithful maintenance of the soul. Prayer restores clarity. Fasting sharpens dependence upon God. Almsgiving strengthens compassion. These are not merely Lenten customs; they are the disciplines of a spiritual warrior.

Yet Lent is not only about self-denial. It is about drawing nearer to Christ Crucified. The Cross stands at the centre of our faith and at the centre of our Order. We do not follow an abstract philosophy but a crucified and risen Lord. The Cross reminds us that true knighthood is sacrificial. Our vows and obligations are not for honour in the eyes of men but for service in the sight of God.

The Trinitarian nature of our profession deepens this reflection. We are baptised into the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Lent calls us back to our baptismal identity. The Father calls us to repentance and holiness. The Son shows us the path of obedience through suffering. The Holy Spirit strengthens and sustains us in the struggle against sin. In this sacred season, we are reminded that the Christian life is not sustained by our own strength but by the grace of the Triune God.

There is also a corporate dimension to our Lenten journey. Though Lent is deeply personal, it is never solitary. As Knights, we stand together. We kneel together. We pray together. The companionship of the Order reflects the fellowship of believers in Christ. In a world that often seeks to marginalise faith, our unity as Christian brethren is itself a witness. Lent offers an opportunity to renew not only our private devotion but also our brotherly charity — forgiving where needed, encouraging where possible, and supporting one another in faithfulness.

Moreover, Lent confronts us with the reality of mortality. "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." These sobering words echo through the season. The Knight Templar tradition reminds us that earthly honours fade, but eternal life is secured in Christ. Our hope is not in titles or regalia, but in the resurrection. The discipline of Lent directs our gaze beyond the temporary to the eternal Kingdom.

As Holy Week approaches, we walk with Christ toward Jerusalem. We see the betrayal, the trial, the suffering, and finally the Cross. For a Knight Templar, this is not distant history; it is the very foundation of our commitment. We are called to be defenders of the Christian faith not through force of arms, but through integrity of life, steadfast belief, and humble service.

Therefore, let this Lent be a season of renewal. Let us polish the armour of faith. Let us strengthen the shield of trust in God. Let us lift high the banner of the Cross, not in pride, but in gratitude. And above all, let us remember that the victory we proclaim is not ours, but Christ's — won not by conquest, but by sacrifice; not by power, but by love.

May the Father who calls us, the Son who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit who sustains us, guide us through this holy season and bring us with renewed joy to the celebration of Easter.

Amen

Rt E Kt Revd Fr Malcolm C Geo Lane JP GCT

WELCOMING NEW KNIGHTS

Many Companions of the Royal Arch have been admitted into the United Orders since the last edition of *A Beauceant* was published and it is a great delight to welcome them all.

Among the most recent were Ian Williams and Nicholas Dewhurst who were admitted into KT by E Kt Nigel Willis at the February meeting of Menevia Preceptory in Aberaeron, supported by E Kts Gary Lillywhite, Peter Gilbert, Tony Jones, Steve Smith and Michael Winn among others.

We wish them and all Companions who have recently entered the Order a long and happy association.



SWIFT SUPPORT FROM NEATH TO NARBERTH



January demonstrated that it is not at all quiet on the Western Front. The most westerly Knight Templar Preceptory in Britain held a busy meeting in January, celebrating the Installation of a new Eminent Preceptor, welcoming a distinguished Joining Member, witnessing the appointment of Brother Knights to represent the United Orders at three local Royal Arch Chapters and the arrival of a special bird from Jerusalem.

As Eminent Preceptor of St David's Preceptory at Narberth in Pembrokeshire, Kt Michael Harries was Installed by his predecessor, E Kt Paul Bird and in fine style.

The meeting also welcomed a distinguished new Joining Member, V.E. Kt Roy Leavers P.Gt.Reg., who used to live in Surrey but has relocated to live in west Wales.

In addition, KT Representatives were appointed by the Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Dr Paul Calderwood, to represent the United Orders at three local Royal Arch Chapters.

A PORTHCAWL FEAST



A meeting of Sant Madoc Preceptory is always a notable occasion but in February this year it took on a special charm.

As the largest Preceptory in the Province (after the Installed Preceptors Preceptory of Owain Glyndwr) it is always a magnet and this year it drew more than 45 Knights to its Installation Meeting in Porthcawl.

On this occasion, E Kt Bill Holder, the Eminent Preceptor, conducted an impressive ceremony by placing Kt Adrian Hooper in the Chair as his successor.

In addition, R E Kt Dr Paul Calderwood, the Provincial Prior, was delighted to invest KT Representatives - namely E Kts Charles McBride, Anthony Baker, Adrian Hooper and David Stokes - to four local Royal Arch Chapters (Sker, Llanilltud Fawr, Venables Llewellyn and Llynfi Chapters).

Enhancing the occasion still further, two past Provincial Priors were present, R E Kt Graham Gubb and R E Kt Dr Vivian Thomas (Northampton, Huntingdon and Bedford) and R E Kt Graham was invited to present Great Priory Certificates to six of the members, which he did with panache.

Added interest was provided by E Kt Michael John who for many years has been the Marshal but has decided to step down and - towards the end of the meeting - his successor, E Kt Martyn Thomas, was invested by the New Eminent Preceptor.

There was a fine turnout of Officers to be invested and the whole occasion was completed with a special Porthcawl Banquet.

REGISTRAR NOW EMINENT PRECEPTOR



At a Meeting of the Temple Slebech Preceptory of the Provincial Bodyguard No. 602 held on Friday 16th January 2026 at the Bridgend Masonic Temple, a new Eminent Preceptor was Installed, the Eminent Knight being the well-respected and long-term Registrar of the Preceptory, E. Kt. Barry J. Stubbings P.Gt.A.de.C.

The Meeting was held in the presence of the Provincial Sub-Prior E.Kt Richard Phillips P.Gt.AdeC, with the Provincial 2nd Constable E.Kt Tony Jones, the Provincial Marshal, V.E.Kt Carl Davies P.Gt.Reg, plus E,Kt Andy Clapp P. Gt.G.A.De.C, E.Kt Richard Cooper P Gt.A.De.C, E.Kt Darrell Hinder P. Gt.A.De.C, E.Kt Ralph Howard (Eminent Preceptor of the Our Lady of Walsingham Preceptory No. 672) and E.Kt Graham Chipperfield (the Immediate Past Preceptor of the Our Lady of Walsingham Preceptory No. 672) together with a plethora of Great Officers, Provincial Great Officers, Members of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard, Members and Guests of the Preceptory.

The Installation of the new Preceptor, E. Kt. Barry J. Stubbings P. Gt.A.de.C., was carried out in a very competent style by the Installing Preceptor, Eminent Knight Martyn J. Lench P.Pr.Her, (also a Past Preceptor of the Morgannwg Preceptory No. 200) who performed most creditably despite having been very unwell recently. The Eminent Preceptor then invested his Officers, with a new Registrar, E. Kt. Ronald A. Marno, who took over from the retiring Registrar E. Kt Barry J. Stubbings P.Gt.A.de.C whose many years of excellent service were notable.

The Preceptory was then closed, a Priory of Malta opened, the new Prior Installed and the Officers appointed.

At the conclusion of the Ceremony, the Installing Preceptor was congratulated by Provincial Sub-Prior E. Kt. Richard John Phillips P. Gt.Std.B.(B), who also confirmed his sincere appreciation for the work of the Officers of the Preceptory.

The Preceptory having been closed, the Knights repaired to the Dining Hall of the Bridgend Masonic Hall where the very convivial After-Proceedings were held.

E. Kt. Chris Mugford PPrSwdB ProvComms