



A BEAUCEANT !!

NO 57

Dear Brother Knights

Welcome back from your summer break! I am sure that you, like me, are looking forward to enjoying the coming season and all that Knight Templar Freemasonry has to offer. To get things off to a racing start, let's look back at some of our most recent achievements in this edition of the newsletter. And what better than the following brilliant news from Chepstow! Yours in the Bonds of the Order

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

Sir William Marshall makes history



A momentous occasion in the history of the Province of Monmouth and South Wales was celebrated on Saturday, 13 June 2026, when Sir William Marshall Preceptory No. 668 successfully conducted a Malta Ceremony for the very first time, welcoming Knights Ben and Paul into the Order.

The initiative was the vision and brainchild of the late E. Kt. Mark Preece, whose enthusiasm and foresight inspired the project. Sadly, E. Kt. Mark recently passed to the Great Priory Above before seeing his dream fully realised. Determined to honour his memory, the Knights of Sir William Marshall Preceptory resolved to continue his work and deliver a ceremony worthy of his vision.

Planning for the landmark event began in January 2026, when a group of dedicated Knights met in Chepstow to discuss how the ceremony could be brought to fruition. Numerous planning meetings followed over the ensuing months as preparations gathered pace. New equipment was commissioned, including a magnificent painted Orle for the Priory, while all the necessary regalia and ceremonial items were carefully sourced and acquired.

The commitment of the members was evident throughout the preparation process. The first rehearsal took place on 12 April, followed by a final practice on 11 June, ensuring that every aspect of the ceremony would be delivered to the highest possible standard.

Their efforts were rewarded on 13 June, when the Malta Ceremony was conducted in Chepstow Masonic Centre before an appreciative audience. The ceremony proved to be a spectacular occasion, featuring excellent ritual, impressive sword work, and a standard of delivery that reflected the dedication and hard work of all involved.

Most importantly, the event served as a fitting tribute to the foresight and determination shown by E. Kt. Mark when he first proposed the idea in 2025. His legacy was evident throughout the day, and all present could take pride in bringing his vision to life.

Following the ceremony, the Knights enjoyed an excellent meal together, reflecting on the success of the occasion and the friendships that make the Order so special.

Buoyed by the success of this inaugural Malta Ceremony, Sir William Marshall Preceptory is already making plans to hold further Malta Ceremonies in 2027.

Cysgu yn dawel, Sleep well, Mark. They did you proud.

Article by Kt Stuart John

A double treat for Owain Glyndwr Preceptory

A Meeting of the Owain Glyndwr Preceptory of Installed Preceptors No. 547 was held by Dispensation on Saturday 30th May 2026 at the Neath Masonic Hall.

Those in attendance included Right Eminent Knight Paul R. Calderwood JP K.C.T. the Provincial Prior, Very Eminent Knight Carl D. Davies P.G.Reg, (the Provincial Marshal), Eminent Knight Nigel Williams, Prov Chancellor, Eminent Knight Jamie Ingham-Clark *KStJ*, PDepGtSwdB, Prov Chancellor (Ox,Berks and Bucks) and a plethora of Grand Officers, Provincial Grand Officers, Member Knights, Guests and the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard led by the Deputy Commander, Knight Richard Ackroyd.



Firstly, a Ballot was held for Joining Members of the Preceptory for Eminent Knight Simon J. Robins of the Holy Palestine Preceptory No. 502 and Eminent Knight Brian G. Rees of the Giraldu Cambrensis Preceptory No. 319, which proved successful. Then a Ceremony was held for the Installation of Eminent Knight Richard John Phillips P.G.St.B(B) – until recently the Provincial Sub-Prior of the Province of Monmouth and South Wales - as Eminent Preceptor of the Owain Glyndwr Preceptory of Installed Preceptors No. 547. The Ceremony was conducted with his usual superb accuracy and great empathy by Eminent Knight Peter R. Gilbert P.G.Her. The new Eminent Preceptor then invested and appointed his Officers with friendliness, warmth and accuracy.

The Eminent Preceptor then invited Eminent Knight Jamie Ingham-Clark *KStJ*, DepGtSwdB, Prov Chancellor (Ox,Berks and Bucks) to address the Knights present, which he did with much aplomb. The subject of his address was the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital which he gave both from an in-depth recount of the historical facets of the relationship between the Order and the Hospital, and an insight into the modern workings of the Hospital and its out-reach stations. The Knights present listened with rapt attention to this exposition of facts and information, which proved fascinating to all present. The Eminent Preceptor thanked Eminent Knight Jamie Ingham-Clark wholeheartedly for such an expansive and factual talk.

The Preceptory was then closed and an Owain Glyndwr Priory of Installed Preceptors No. 547 of Malta was opened. Eminent Knight Richard John Phillips P.G.St.B(B) was Installed as Prior and then he Installed and Appointed his Officers before the Priory was closed.

E.Kt. Chris Mugford P.Pr.Swd.B Prov.Comms



A Great Day Out

In London, at the meeting of Great Priory in May, on a bright sunny day, R. E. Kt. Rev Malcolm Lane was reappointed as The Great Prelate, E. Kt Chris Evans was appointed as Great Standard Bearer (VB) and E. Kt. Peter Gilbert was promoted to the rank of Past Great Herald.

At that two more of our fellow Knights received First appointments in Great Rank namely, E. Kt. Revd. Anthony Stevens as Past Deputy Great Almoner and E. Kt. John Steward as Past Great Warden of Regalia. Pictured here are some of them, together with supporters at a very well attended meeting. At the lunch afterwards, our Province filled two of the dining tables and cheered on the happy recipients.

A Full House at Gwent Preceptory as THREE new Knights are Installed,



and a 40 Year Certificate is Presented !!

The Meeting of the Gwent Preceptory No. 115, (being the oldest Preceptory in the Province of Monmouth and South Wales) of the United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple, held its Regular Meeting at the Newport Masonic Hall on Friday the Eighth of May 2026 in the presence of Eminent Knight the Reverend Anthony Harold Stevens (the newly appointed Provincial Sub-Prior for the Province).

The quadruple purposes of the Meeting were to Install three new Knights into the Order, to Install a new Eminent Preceptor, to present a Certificate in recognition of 40 years Membership of the Order of Knights Templar and to Install a new Prior.

The First and Second Ceremonies were superbly and faultlessly undertaken by the Eminent Preceptor, Eminent Knight Luke Stokes (the Commander of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard) who firstly Installed Comp. Mark D.M. Ilott, Comp. Darren P. Scott and Comp. Paul Lane as Knights of the Order {assisted by Eminent Knight Dr, Robert H. Fountain P.G.Std.B(V.B)}, and then he proceeded the Install his successor, Knight Charles Ferris, as the new Eminent Preceptor of the Gwent Preceptory No. 115.

Eminent Knight Reverend Anthony Harold Stevens (on behalf of Right Eminent Knight Dr. Paul R. Calderwood - the Provincial Prior of the Province of Monmouth and South Wales) then, in superb fashion, presented a Long Service Certificate - for Forty Years Service to the Order - to Eminent Knight Dr. Robert H. Fountain P.G.Std.B(V.B). He was joined in congratulating him by Right Eminent Knight Rev. Malcolm C.G. Lane, who was present when Eminent Knight Dr. Robert H. Fountain joined the Order. Right Eminent Knight Rev. Malcolm C.G. Lane is both the Great Prelate of the United Orders and the Provincial Prelate of the Province of Monmouth and South Wales.

A third Ceremony then followed, being the faultless Installation of Knight Charles Ferris as the new Eminent Prior of Gwent Priory No. 115 by the Eminent Prior, Eminent Knight Luke Stokes.

The many distinguished Knights present included Very Eminent Knight Carl D. Davies P.G.Reg. (the Provincial Marshal of the Province of Monmouth and South Wales), Eminent Knight Benjamin W. Dykes P.G.A-de-C (the Provincial Grand Master of Mark Masons in Monmouthshire), Eminent Knight Terence L. Price P.G.Wd.Reg (the Past Provincial Organist), Eminent Knight Gerald P. Williams P.Pr.2nd.Con. and a very large number of Provincial Grand Officers, Members of the Preceptory and Guest Knights.

A day full of symbolism and enjoyment

In a day full of symbolism and enjoyment, a large party of Malta Knights from Monmouth and South Wales travelled to Somerset on Thursday 25th June to present “The Travelling Spur”.

The concept of the travelling spur was conceived in the Knight Templar Province of Worcestershire and, last year, this spur was formally presented by their Provincial Prior, R E Kt Michael Hadden, to the Provincial Prior of Gloucester and Hereford, R E Kt Peter Burrows.

Subsequently it came to Monmouth and South Wales, whose Provincial Prior, R E Kt Dr Paul Calderwood, took great pleasure in handing the travelling spur to R E Kt Paul Davis - for him to transmit in due course to another province.

The accompanying certificate declares, “it is undertaken in a spirit of friendship, fraternal duty and chivalric honour” and with kindest good wishes.

As R E Kt Paul Davis observed at last week’s presentation: “It is good to welcome our Templar relatives from Monmouth and South Wales here in Somerset today and to see the friendship of the two provinces symbolised by the Travelling Spur. It calls to mind the days when our two provinces were one - and reminds us of the strong friendship which exists today and that was sown in those distant days.

“In those days, brother Knights would travel from Haverfordwest and other parts of West Wales to attend meetings in Taunton on a regular basis and Brother Knights from Somerset would journey up to meetings in Wales just as enthusiastically – even during wartime conditions.”

R E Kt Dr Paul Calderwood said “Now, almost 75 years later, those links have not been weakened and we both share a strong sense of belonging. One of the best examples of this is the way in which the bodyguard preceptories of Somerset and of Monmouth and South Wales have established a wonderful tradition a inter visiting and so Our Lady of Walsingham Preceptory is the perfect setting for today’s presentation.

“Today it’s my great pleasure to present the Province of Somerset with a tangible expression of that family feeling which I have already described - but one which has even wider connotations.

“This travelling spur - as the accompanying certificate testifies - is recognition of today’s visit by a large number a bodyguard knights from Monmouth and South Wales (and I thank those who have travelled here from Wales for this meeting most heartily for doing this).”

The Knights of Somerset treated royally all those who travelled to visit the Bodyguard Preceptory of Our Lady of Walsingham Preceptory in Yatton – especially those from Temple Slebech Preceptory of Provincial Bodyguards - and all had a tremendously enjoyable day.

It was an especially memorable day which saw three new Knights admitted to the Order in an outstanding manner. They were Kevin Hannam, Alan Woodbridge and Steve Reece.

The photo shows the Eminent Prior of Our Lady of Walsingham Priory, E Kt Julian Brown (centre), together with R E Kt Paul Calderwood (left), and R E Kt Paul Davis (right).



Sub-Lines – Summer 2026

Jottings, thoughts, musings and travels of your Provincial Sub-Prior

What a great job, as I am finding this is. My grateful thanks for this appointment. As I write this I am now over 120 days in this role and enjoying every occasion and opportunity I can.

My thanks to all that I have visited both as Executive officer and otherwise for the warm welcome, support and friendliness that I have received from you all. From the warmth of my installation at our Provincial Priory to my first solo at our oldest Preceptory, Gwent, to my last before the summer recess to the second oldest preceptory Morganwg in Penarth. What a joy for me to return to my mother preceptory as Provincial Sub-Prior. Not forgetting and of course nonetheless, those on the way Cefn Ydfa and Temple Slebech, both in Bridgend. Thank you all ...I know another of our masonic Orders likes to be known as the Friendly Order ... but it is not the only one as we all know.

I was pleased to see so many other provinces present at our Provincial Priory in March and the welcome that I received from them and from the other Sub-Priors ... a welcome to their Group. I have also been welcomed into their WhatsApp group. A closed group where we can interact socially and share thoughts and things that are being done.

It's been great to visit and represent our Province at Provincial Priories of Gloucester and Herefordshire in Cirencester, Essex in Southend on Sea. Dorset and Wiltshire in Portland. Hertfordshire in Bushey and Middlesex in Harrow. Its good to be there to meet up with my fellow Sub-Priors and their Priors on these occasions in supporting them, fellowship and sharing together. We also get on some occasions the name of Monmouth and South Wales mentioned in the reports in the Friday Feeling from Mark Masons Hall, *Freemasonry @86* .

Opportunities at these Provincial Priories visited, to see a Provincial Prior installed by our Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, and several Sub Priors installed by their Provincial Priors.

(From our visit to Essex, a view from our Hotel, for those who have never seen Southend Pier.)



Every Knight, Preceptory and Province I meet and visit reminds me of the wonderful Order that we are part of.

Finally can I thank you again for the Friendship, Help and assistance I have received in these early days and before. It would be impossible to name all but especially to our Prior Rt.EKt. Dr Paul Calderwood, my predecessor as Sub-Prior EKt Richard Phillips, our Vice Chancellor EKt Anthony Marno and our Provincial Marshal VEKt Carl Davies.

With best wishes to you all in the Bonds of the Order,
Tony
EKt Revd Anthony Stevens



Jerusalem The Golden

If you were to stand on the Mount of Olives with the morning light streaming over your shoulder you would immediately see why Jerusalem is called by many the Golden City. The colours of the stones and buildings have a golden hue and the Dome of the Rock stands out glinting brightly in the morning sun.



However, the Jerusalem of Biblical Times, as were other cities of the Levant, was quite small. It was surrounded by a fortified wall, much strengthened during the Crusades and little remains of those times. A walk around the old city will reveal to the inquisitive and observant eye remains of the past which can be quite revealing.

The Bible tells us that King David, was a man of blood and after what he did to Uriah the Hittite and having an adulterous affair with his wife Bathsheba, was not deemed worthy of building the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem. That task then fell to their son Solomon. Not only does nothing remain of King Solomon's Temple but also, there is no firm archaeological evidence of its existence.

How then do we know how it was constructed and what it looked like? To find the answer to that question we have to look in The Old Testament, the First Book of Kings and the Second Book of Chronicles. The measurement of the Temple was done in Royal Cubits a bit bigger than the standard cubit which was about 52 cms long. The cubit was the standard measurement in Ancient Times and there were various civilisations e.g. Egyptian, Babylonian and Hebrew who used it. Interestingly Noah's Ark, was 300 cubits long.

Scholars have used Biblical sources and evidence from other excavations to formulate a reconstruction of Solomon's Temple. The Temple consisted of three main rectangular rooms. There was a twin pillared portico at the entrance of the Temple called the Ulam which led into a painted main hall the Hekhal. It is likely that the walls would have been painted with brightly coloured images of cherubim and roofed with cedar. The furniture would have included an incense altar, a shewbread, consecrated unleavened bread, table and a lampstand.



Beyond the Hekhal was a smaller room, the Debir or Holy of Holies in which would have been the Rock on which Abraham made his covenant with the Lord and the Ark of the Covenant guarded by two Cherubim. The Ark was an important emblem of God's physical presence exemplified by the shekinah. In the Bible the presence of God is often accompanied by a cloud. At the very back of the Temple were the storage chambers used by the priests.

The courtyard of the Temple was also an equally important area in which ritual washings were performed. It is thought there were ten Mekhonots, carved water carts on wheels with basins engraved with lions and oxen. There was also one Yam which was bigger than the Mekhonots and was a basin used for ritual washing.

How did it all end? Chapter 25 in the Second Book of Kings describes how Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguard of the King of Babylon. ***“came to Jerusalem. He burned the House of the Lord, the King's House, and all the houses of Jerusalem, every great house he burned down”***

The story of the new temple is related in the prophetic books of Haggai and Zechariah and Ezra also depicts the beginning of the restoration of the temple although on completion the prophet Haggai is less than impressed; ***“who is among you that saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing?”***

Article By Kt Roger Lewis