



Beaucéant

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE GRAND PRIORY
OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR IN ENGLAND & WALES



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Dear Chevaliers and Dames,

Let me wish you and your loved ones a happy, peaceful and healthy new year. May the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you.

God bless,

Frank Soboczenski

~ NON NOBIS DOMINE NON NOBIS SED NOMINI
TUO DA GLORIAM ~



De ingressu in templum domini sepulchri et processione inibi facta ad loca sacra.
Je. viij. Iulij hora vespertina in ipso venerandissimo domini sepulchri templum a paganis id est rectoribus ipsius civitatis sancte Ierosolime suum? admitti et numerati ostijs p. eos aperta: pro qua re unusquisque nostrum quinque exsoluit denarios: nec unquam alias hoc aperitur templum ab eis nisi vel propter adiutores pecuniosos vel fratres mutandos qui ibi pro custodia deputantur. Ad nos quoque nobis intromissis templum clausum? Intrauerunt autem nobiscum. Gardia nus ipse et plures suos coheredes. Quapropter autem devotus quisque xpianus vel peregrinus in templum hoc pedem posuerit: plenaria consequitur remissionem.
Est autem hoc dispositio templi eiusdem sacratissimi. Ecclesia ipsa rotunda est: habet per diametrum inter columnas septuaginta tres pedes: ab eis fidesque que habent per circuitum a muro exteriori ecclesie decem pedes super sepulchrum domini quod in medio eiusdem ecclesie est apertura rotunda: a ut tota crepta sancti sepulchri sit sub domo. Galgathana autem ecclesia ad hunc ret. Iste est oblonga loco: ecclesie sancti sepulchri ad hunc: sed parum demissio: sunt tamen ambo sub uno tecto. Spelunca in qua est sepulchrum domini habet in longitudine octo pedes: in latitudine similiter octo: vnde quod tecta marmore exierit: sed inter? est rupes una sicut fuit tpe sepulchri.

Church of the Holy Sepulchre; Source: Bernhard von Breydenbach, sanctae peregrinationes
Main: Erhard Reuwich 11th February 1486

The Yorkshire Preceptory

"At its meeting on August 18th. Chapter received and approved a petition from the Greater Leeds House to become a Preceptory. This will be ratified at our 2013 AGA early next year and an election for Preceptor will be held in due course. Congratulations to this active House and its enthusiastic members who hosted us at the recent Leeds History and Heritage weekend and who have now reached the requisite number of members. The new Preceptory will be known as The Yorkshire Preceptory of St. Everilda."

Godfrey Fowler



Templar Pilgrimage Trust—a message from the Chairman, Canon Philip Norwood

The Trustees are keen to encourage all members of the Order to look out for people who might benefit from the grants that we are able to offer. Do you know of young people going to Taize or Lourdes or Holy Island, for instance, or anyone, young or old, who would benefit from a pilgrimage to Walsingham or the Holy Land? People are sometimes hesitant to join a pilgrimage group for lack of finances. We can sometimes help, if in a limited way. Applications should be made in the first instance to the Applications Secretary, Templar Pilgrimage Trust, 34 St. Augustine's Gate, Norwich. NR3 3BE.

Thank you any help you can give with this.

Philip Norwood



FORTY YEARS ON AND STILL GOING - *STRONG* (!!!)

It was in the Autumn of 1972 when I was approached by one of my work colleagues, Frank Sherry, who told me that because of my French ancestry and my name I would be very eligible to become a Knight Templar with the title of Chevalier, which was highly respected throughout the world. This intrigued and interested me and the next thing was I found myself at the Scottish Corporation in London's Covent Garden with full bib and tucker, including honours and awards. The function included a splendid meal during which an appeal was made for funds to support a Highlands



& Islands Home for the Elderly. At the end of the meal I was informed that I was now a Squire of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem and my mentor was to be Chev Frank Sherry, the Grand Prior of Scotland.

After some research which increased my interest I attended several of these functions until 5th June 1973 when I received the Accolade from Sir John Waller Bt and became a Chevalier.

The service was very simple and was held in the beautiful medieval church of St Mary, Shipley, Sussex, once belonging to the original Templars. My rise through the Order from then was pretty rapid until the death of Chevalier Robert Wright, Grand Prior, in 1978 when I was appointed his successor. In 1980 while on pilgrimage in the Holy Land with Barbara I had the great honour and experience of renewing my vows before the Rev Philip Norwood, in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. I have seen many changes in the Order since then, including three changes in the design of the Order's red cross and I believe most of our present sisters and brothers are aware of some, if not all of these changes.

Many years ago I was given a handmade book bound in red leather, which I scribed and illuminated in 2010 with the Daily Office of the Order, a long-held ambition of mine. This was blessed by our Chaplain General; Rev Michael Brain at Rothley at the AGM in 2011.

Finally, it has been my great honour and privilege to have served the Order for all these years, having met and made many lasting friendships with my fellow Templars but now my family think that after 40 years service it is time to 'put away my sword and scabbard' and join the honourable ranks of the retired! They have been saying this to me for some years but I have always managed to mislay my hearing aids.

Denys Le Fevre



Steve and Lindsey Jones write about the problem of homelessness in Bristol, and of their work with three local charities improving the lives of people on the streets.

More than 20 stalwart members of the Order braved the atrocious weather to attend the H&H weekend hosted by the Greater Leeds House at the By the time you read this article Bristol City Council will have cut the number of hostel beds in Bristol by 20%, including the only female shelter. Several specialist support services for sex workers and drug and alcohol misuse have also been closed. Only 2 homeless day-centres remain open in Bristol due to a withdrawal of voluntary and government funding. At the same time, changes to benefits mean that vulnerable people are being put through distressing reassessments and losing their homes and their only source of income.

In the midst of this uncertainty we are proud to be associated with three organizations fighting to provide a lifeline to these lonely and desperate people.

The Bristol Methodist Centre is a Christian community offering shelter, sanctuary and support to homeless and vulnerable people. The Centre provides a drop-in service where support staff are on hand to chat and help with problems, free meals are served 5 days a week and guests can take part in the regular pattern of worship in the chapel. The Centre provides a friendly and non-judgmental environment where guests can relax in safety, have a coffee, make a phone call, do their laundry, have a shower and read the papers. The Day Room is a hive of activity while the Prayer Room is a sanctuary of quiet for those who wish to be still. Additional services provided by the Centre include an

art group, sewing service, one-to-one visiting, free use of the computers, movement therapy and a second-hand clothes store.

Caring at Christmas provides a safe, warm and supportive night shelter for people who are homeless in Bristol over the Christmas period. This year the shelter will be providing 50 beds, 3 meals a day, showers, clean clothes, medical services and entertainment to its guests. For many this is a particularly difficult and emotional time of year when little support is available. The guests at the shelter don't know what the New Year will bring or even if they will survive the winter months. On New Year's Eve people on the street are particularly vulnerable and open to abuse by "party goers" coming home from parties and pubs who then attack and abuse the people they find in doorways. Caring at Christmas also produces a Survival Handbook of information about accommodation, healthcare, day-centres, food, advice, support and other services in the Bristol area.

The Bristol Soup Run Trust operates a nightly soup run to ensure that food and other essential supplies are available, free of charge, to homeless and needy people on the streets of Bristol. A dedicated team of volunteers turns out with their own food, whatever the weather, to two meeting points in the City centre. Other people who are too scared to come out of the shadows may be visited on a one to one basis. Soup, hot drinks, food, blankets, clothes and toiletries are distributed along with information on accommodation, help with addiction, and day-centre facilities. Informal, friendly and non-judgmental conversation is a human life-line to the 80+ people who queue for the soup run every night. For many of them, the volunteers are the only people they have spoken to that day.

At this difficult time of year we would urge all our fellow Templars to consider the plight of these desperately needy people and to help in any way you can. In the words of the wonderful hymn by F. Pratt Green:

*Across the world, across the street
The victims of injustice cry
For shelter and for food to eat,
And never live until they die.*

*We have no mission but to serve
In full obedience to our lord;
To care for all, without reserve,
And spread his liberating word.*

Further information can be found at:

www.methodist-centre.org.uk
www.caringatchristmas.org.uk
www.bristolsoupruntrust.org.uk

Steve and Lindsey Jones



Oxford House Meeting 2012

On Saturday the 27 October the Oxford House got together. It was well attended, a privileged time for fellowship and to reflect on the meaning of 21st Century Templarism, within the context of the wider church movement known as "New Monasticism as Fresh Expression". We heard examples of what other communities are doing to follow this. We acknowledged the challenges this brings, and agreed that there is scope for further discussion, perhaps at national level. We said Evening Prayer together followed by refreshments. As one of the attendants kindly mentioned: "It was a productive and enjoyable meeting and a wonderful example of true fellowship. Good company, stimulating conversation and delicious sandwiches and cake." The latter courtesy of Elisabeth and Rebecca.

Joseph Fernandez



From the Greater Birmingham Preceptory

For several years now the Birmingham Preceptory has met on the 13th October, following a suggestion by Chev Brian Hartill that it would be good for us to acknowledge in some way the suppression of the Templars in 1307 by King Philip of France and the martyrdom of so many knights.

We usually have a service followed by a meal. This year we had Said Mass in the Preceptory Church of St Michael and All Angels, South Yardley, Birmingham, followed by lunch at a nearby hotel. With a turnout of 17 members and friends it was a convivial occasion - plenty of food and drink and great conversation.



Our next get-together will be on the 8th. December for Christmas buffet at chez-Wyatt. This is to be a bring-and-share event, starting at 2 pm.

Brenda Wyatt (Preceptor)



Templar Focus Day - October 13th

Members of the London Preceptory



Remembrance Day Birmingham 2012

This is now the fifth year we have presented a wreath. The weather was bright and sunny as usual, as they say the sun shines on the righteous as always. The wreath was presented this year by Don Wyatt.



If anybody visits Birmingham our wreath is in the Hall of Memories at the bottom of Broad Street. As you go into the Hall of Memories our wreath is right at the front on the extreme right. It will be kept in the Hall Of Memories for one year.

Those present this year were:

Don Wyatt GOTJ, David Jones CTJ, Brian Hartill CTJ, Katarzyna Wlodarczyk and Brian Lintern



Brian Hartill



Remembrance Day Bristol 2012

On November 11th Dame Lindsey Jones and Chevalier Steve Jones from the St Bernard of Clairvaux Preceptory attended the remembrance ser-

vice held at Westbury on Trym in Bristol and laid a wreath on Behalf of the Grand Priory of Knights Templar England and Wales.

They were invited by the Holy Trinity Church who conducts the procession to join the Wreath bearers in Church during the Eucharist and to process out to the Memorial wearing our Mantles, with a Cadet military Band playing. It was a lovely bright day, and the service was very moving, they were joined by several hundred people who lined the streets. After the service a few people came up and asked about the Order and also said how lovely the mantles looked.

Finally we would like to give our thanks to Father Andre Hart who gave us permission to join the procession in our mantles.

Steve Jones



Thanksgiving Service for Bill Chapman

A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of William Thomas James Chapman (known to all as Bill) was held on 11 June 2012 at St Mark's Methodist Church in Yeovil; following his unexpected death at home on Sunday 27 May at the age of 68 years. Bridget and John Titcomb attended on behalf of the Preceptory of St Bernard of Clairvaux and the Grand Priory; and Simon Le Fevre attended on behalf of the Templar Heritage Trust, of which Bill was chairman.

During the service conducted by the minister, the Reverend Christina Le Moignan, we learned something of Bill's happy and mischievous childhood (one story being about the sun, a magnifying glass, the garden hedge and the inevitable results!) and his education in his home town of Yeovil. There was also reference to the career which led him to a senior management position in a local engineering firm and later into consultancy on environmental engineering. He was also a tireless volunteer, taking on roles in the local business community, the Scouts, the RNLI and various heritage organisations. Although a life-long Methodist, Bill had a strong ecumenical interest, and became a Franciscan Tertiary and a member of an advisory committee in the Church of England Diocese of Bath &

Wells as well as being much in demand as a Methodist lay preacher. Bill's role in our Order was also duly acknowledged.

His wife, Rose, was supported at the Service by many members of Bill's extended family and by numerous friends, former colleagues and representatives of the organisations he had been involved with during his life.

In fact, the congregation was so large that the church was already full an hour before the service started; and the additional congregation crowded into the adjacent church hall and even several marquees set up in the car park! This was a great tribute to the affection in which Bill was held and to everyone's gratitude for his years of service.

The Service closed with the Scout Song by Ralph Reader (familiar as: 'Riding along on the crest of a wave'); which would, people felt, have appealed to Bill's sense of humour.

Simon Le Fevre



London Preceptory News

Our Preceptory needs a Secretary & Treasurer. Do you have skills and time to volunteer? Time requirements are not onerous!

George MacLean



Preceptory of St Bernard of Clairvaux

Members of the Preceptory of St Bernard of Clairvaux met for their bi-annual meeting on 20th October 2012 at Sherborne in Dorset. Matters for discussion included progress reports from the Houses (two posts for Casalier are currently vacant), the Treasurer's report, welfare reports, the Preceptory's contribution to the website, and our charitable donations. By the end of 2012 the Preceptory will have donated over £200 to good causes and is actively seeking the involvement of all its members by inviting decisions by post and email as well as by attendance at meetings. The meeting was followed by lunch at the White Hart Inn in Sherborne.

Lindsey Jones



Kent Preceptory Advent Dinner 2012

Another enjoyable weekend was experienced by knights, dames and guests at Canterbury Cathedral Lodge. Hosted by Kent Preceptory, this event has to come high on the calendar of Grand Priory events. This year with everyone in their evening finery, the raffle sales techniques of Barbara LeFevre and Catherine Comoy raised £150 towards a range of worthy charities. Our Grand Prior, Godfrey Fowler, updated everyone on plans at the national and international level for 2013. The finale of the evening was an auction for two wonderfully illustrated books showing a range of paintings from the Old and New Testament, with George MacLean, Chapter Clerk and Preceptor of London, taking hot bids from throughout the dining room. A total of £140 was raised in a matter of moments, again to be divided between worthy causes.



We joined the Sunday congregation for Eucharist first of all, and then were made most welcome in the Church Hall for a quick coffee before returning to the church to parade and admit our new knight, Nicholas Swift of the Kent Preceptory and new novice, Richard Shannon, of London Preceptory. As usual, we were all a happy bunch for the inevitable photo-shoot afterwards, and by then being hungry, headed down the hill to The Fox for a welcome Sunday Roast lunch, enjoyed with much hilarity, by all.

George MacLean



Birmingham Preceptory

The Preceptory of St Michael and All Angels held its Advent 2012 meeting at the home of Chevalier Don and Dame Brenda Wyatt on the 8th December. Chaplain General Fr Michael Brain opened the meeting with prayers and a reflection on the meaning of Advent. Part of the meeting was looking back over the year 2012.

We now schedule the gatherings to take place on Saturdays wherever possible. 2 lunches; 1 'day out'; 1 meeting in Dudley for lunch and afternoon tea; October 13th Commemoration day church service followed by lunch; invited to lay a wreath at Birmingham Remembrance Sunday; donations to 4 local charities; 1 national; also to British Legion and the Templar Heritage Trust.

We have booked our first event/meeting of 2013 in early February. After closing prayers, we enjoyed a superb 'bring and share' lunch.

John Harcourt



Service of Admission and Investiture, Sts Peter and Paul Church, Temple Ewell.

Sunday broke bright and sunny for the assembly of knights and dames to welcome a new knight and a new novice into the Grand Priory.



Grand Prior's Letter

Brothers and Sisters

The new year is now well established and I share with you just a few of the happenings 2012 before looking forward to 2013.

Firstly, congratulations to Grand Prior Emeritus Denys Le Fevre who achieved his 40th anniversary in the Order in October. A small group of us were able to assemble in the Church of St Botolph without Bishopsgate in London on October 13th when we held a service to commemorate the sacrifices of the early members of our Order and also to celebrate Denys's 40 years of service.

Our thanks are due to John Harcourt who has decided that it is time to stand down as Deputy Grand Prior and Seneschal after serving the Order in these and several other capacities for a number years. I am sure that all members who have known and worked with John will want to join me in paying tribute to his hard work, valued contribution and unique sense of humour. Whilst John has filled the dual role Chapter has decided that in future the offices of deputy Grand Prior and Seneschal will be separated.

I must also pay tribute to the activities of the Greater Leeds House whose enthusiasm has resulted in the formation of a new Preceptory (the Yorkshire Preceptory) which will be dedicated to St Everilda. Chev Brian Goodall is Preceptor elect and the New Preceptory and Preceptor will be formally ratified at our AGA next March.

During 2012 most Preceptories and some Houses have been active in getting together for social occasions including at least two other Christmas events in addition to the long standing St. Augustine Preceptory Advent dinner which was held on November 24th in Canterbury. There is no doubt that the current financial crisis is affecting us all and events local to groups of members are not only good for fellowship but also more economic in terms of travelling distances and costs.

On the International Front it is my responsibility to represent the Order at OSMTH- KTI meetings and this year I was in Helsinki in September and Erika represented us at a meeting in Texas in June. There are now 20 Grand Priories in OSMTH-KTI Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, England & Wales, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Mexico, NATO, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, USA.

I have already mentioned the current financial crisis which is affecting every European country and I have proposed that the OSMTH-KTI Grand Magistral Council, of which all Grand Priors are members, should consider the possibility of reducing the costs of our international meetings by holding only one a year instead of the current two. This proposal will be discussed at the OSMTH-KTI Spring meeting in Tomar, Portugal.

The OSMTH-KTI positions of International Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander and Chancellor General all come up for re-election this year and as you know Simon LeFevre is one of the nominees for the post of Grand Commander. Elections will be held at the Tomar meeting.

Our AGA will be held over the weekend March 9/10th and by the time you read this you will have received the booking form and details from our Chancellor.

For newer members can I explain that at this meeting Officers and Preceptors will be presenting annual reports and the accounts and budgets will be available for discussion and agreement. Our Constitution (the document which guides and controls everything we do) has over the past 18 months been subject to review and updating. The current edition is some 10 years old. This and other important papers will be sent out to you shortly so please read them carefully and come to the AGA well prepared for any debate and decision. I look forward to meeting you there.

Also at the AGA, following our discussions last year, we must get to grips with some important questions (hopefully followed by practical actions).

Among these are:



Why did we become Templars?
Are we fulfilling the aims hopes and aspirations
which we had at our investiture - and which are
embodied in our official 'raison d'être'?
Where are we going?
What do we need to do to get there?

Can I assure you that we are not alone here.....
OSMTH-KTI is also asking the same questions.

Finally, my thanks to all who have assisted and
supported me over the past year.

A belated Happy New Year to you all and may we
and all world leaders remember the words of the
Carol which we sang just a few short weeks ago

*Beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife
And hear the angels sing.*

nnDnn
Godfrey



A busy year for the St Bernard Preceptory

December marked the end of a busy year for the Preceptory of St Bernard of Clairvaux. On 13th December Dame Lindsey Jones presented a cheque for £110 to Caring at Christmas - the homeless night shelter in Bristol - as voted for by our Preceptory members. The shelter served 150 hot meals a day and accommodated over 50 homeless people overnight during the Christmas week and is manned and funded entirely by volunteers. During 2012 the Preceptory gave a total of £230 to good causes including Emaus Orphan Children of Spain, the RNLI, the British Legion, Caring at Christmas and Templar general funds.

We marked the end of the year with a very enjoyable Christmas Lunch at the Cold Harbour Inn near Swindon where we were delighted to welcome members from around the UK. We were especially pleased to see Edna Jones, a Friend of the Order (and the Chancellor's Mum!) who had recently been unwell and was venturing out for the first time since leaving hospital.

May we take this opportunity to wish all members of the Order and their loved ones a happy and blessed 2013 and we look forward to sharing fellowship with you all during the coming year.

Lindsey Jones



Web and Social Media bits:

A website for al things Christian:
<http://www.matterstheological.com>

We are now on Twitter!
Our twitter account is: **KTEW1**

Keep an eye on our new website managed by Andy Strickland.

<http://www.knight-templar.org.uk/>



The Beaucéant welcomes contributions from other Grand Priories for our international section. If you would like to have a special Quote, an article, image or an interesting finding included in future editions please send an email to:
Frank.Soboczenski@cs.york.ac.uk



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- **March 9th - 10th : AGA, Rothley**
- **July 19th - 21st, History and Heritage Weekend, St Stephen's House Oxford**
- **6th-8th September, Retreat and Fellowship Weekend, Launde Abbey Leicester**

