

Provincial Prior's Address – Tintagel 11th October 2014

Bro. Kts. – I have already welcomed our distinguished visitors and it now gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this wonderful iconic setting of King Arthur's Halls in Tintagel. I'm especially pleased, as indeed I was at lunchtime, to see so many of you here, given the alternative attraction happening in Newquay today. I have sent my best wishes to E.Kt. David Pascoe on his Installation as Grand Superintendent for Cornwall.

We must congratulate those Kts. I have appointed or promoted today. Bro. Kts. this is recognition for your service and commitment to your Preceptory and in some cases, for travelling to represent your Preceptory across our geographically difficult Province. I trust you will continue to maintain that commitment and encourage other members of your Preceptories to visit with you.

Three of our Kts. were honoured by Great Priory in May this year. E.Kt Michael Jones, our Provincial Sub Prior, and our retiring Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Ed Purkis, were both promoted to Past Great Herald. The Provincial Organist, E.Kt. Clifford Earp, was appointed to Past Great Warden of Regalia. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend Great Priory of Malta next month to see them invested in equivalent rank in the Malta Degree.

I have visited each of our Preceptories this year, including Official Visits to Vera Crux Preceptory No.654 in Exmouth and The "Royal Veterans" Preceptory No. 10 in Plymouth. The Sub Prior has had an Official 'Malta' Visit to Holy Cross Preceptory No. 561 in Seaton. This coming year we shall have Official Visits in the Temple to Trinity in Unity Preceptory No. 19 in Barnstaple in January, St. John of Jerusalem Preceptory No. 611 in Newquay in February and in the Malta Degree, to Union or Rougemont Preceptory No. "F" (from Time Immemorial) in Exeter in March. I have no plans at the moment for a Provincial Working this coming year! (Sigh of relief from Sub Prior!)

I do thank all the Preceptory Registrars and Marshals for the work they put in on your behalf.

This year I have also visited seven Provincial Meetings across the south of England – and, but for medical advice, it would have been more. However I am determined this year to extend my visits even further in order to reciprocate those of some of our distinguished guests today. (God willing, I will get to East Anglia this coming year, Stewart!)

A number of us attended the Joint Orders Service in Plymouth last month, organised by E.Kt. Rev. Dr. Peter Blackwell-Smyth. Next year this service will be held in Cornwall at Bodmin.

We had a most enjoyable Autumn Lunch at Lanhydrock Hotel & Golf Club, near Bodmin, last November and I hope to see you with your ladies & families again in 3 weeks time, on Sunday 2nd November. Then our Spring Lunch in 2015 will be on Sunday 29th March (Easter being 1st weekend in April next year). It will be at the Moorland Garden Hotel in Yelverton, a beautiful spot on the edge of Dartmoor. Details will be on the website and will be sent out in 2015. Bro. Kts. these lunches are one of the few ways we have of showing our appreciation to our ladies, so please come and support us. Bring your families and friends –and it's also a good way to introduce a Companion to our Knightly family!

This year the Province has donated £2,125.00 to the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. Bro. Kts., with the troubles in that region, now more than ever, the people of Gaza and the surrounding area need our help. Please continue to support this most worthy cause, and the Alms collection today will be for the Eye Hospital.

Now I must thank all those who have worked tirelessly for the Province this year, culminating in arrangements for today. Our Provincial Vice Chancellor, who as many of you will know, is both Assistant Provincial Grand Master in the Craft in Cornwall and now District Grand Master of The Order of Royal & Select Masters for Devonshire and Cornwall. E.Kt. Jan, thank you for all your hard work in preparation for this meeting, and for your company on our jounies within and beyond the Province: our Marshal, Deputy Marshal, Commander & Deputy Commander and members of the Bodyguard – some of whom were here yesterday afternoon setting up the Hall and Sepulchre: our retiring Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Ed Purkis, for his efforts in getting an unofficial Preceptory of Improvement off the ground and which has already proved instructive and beneficial to those who have attended his sessions.

I should also thank E.Kt. George Evatt for his time and cooperation in providing access to the Mount Edgcumbe Masonic Hall, Plymouth, to enable the Kts. to practise. E.Kt. Alan Cockman, our Registrar, who, in addition to keeping the website up to date, has taken on the organisation of our Autumn and Spring Lunches, and a big thank you to Mrs Sue Jones, wife of our Sub Prior, for organising the Ladies' outing to the Elizabethan Manor at Prideaux Place, and Padstow.

A vote of thanks to our "Host" – Tamar Preceptory of Past Preceptors, under whose Banner the meeting is held today.

I'm asked to remind you of the Grand Master's Council recommendation that at 5pm on Christmas Day we remember our Bro. Kts. around the world with this short prayer: "Preserve O Lord our Brother Knights, by land and sea and air. And as we keep them in our thoughts, so keep them in thy care".

And finally, yes, finally! Thought for the day from Dr Robert Goddard, a US rocket engineer in the middle of the last century:

"Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant with the weak and the wrong. Sometime in your life, you will have been all of these."

Thank you for listening. Have a safe journey home.

R.E.Kt. Peter Davies

11th October 2014