

Provincial Prior's Address - Tintagel 8th October 2016

Bro. Kts., we have an extended meeting this afternoon so I'm going to be brief. I have already welcomed our distinguished visitors and guests and I do thank them for their kind hospitality when we visit their Provinces.

It now gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this iconic venue at the Halls of Chivalry in Tintagel and to thank you for your support today.

We must congratulate those Kts. I have appointed or promoted this afternoon, in recognition of their service and commitment both to their Preceptory and to the Province. I do encourage you to get around the Province and visit your sister Preceptories and I do take this into consideration when making appointments to Provincial Office.

I trust that the strong team I have appointed today will support me and the Sub-Prior as we travel across our widespread Province this coming year.

Congratulations to those E.Kts. whom the Grand Master was pleased to appoint or promote to Great Priory rank in May. E.Kt. Warner Barton, promoted to Gt. Std.B(VB), E.Kt. Nidrel Walsh to Gt.Chamberlain, (both active posts), and to E.Kts. Peter Keaty and Richard Thomas, both to P.Gt. A-de-Camp.

On the social side, we had a superb meal and a splendid attendance at our Autumn Lunch at The Lanhydrock Golf Club, near Bodmin, last November. We are continuing the Golf Club theme this year when we will be holding our Autumn Lunch at the Fingle Glen Golf Club near Exeter on Sunday 6th November. I do hope you will support this happy social function with your ladies, families and friends. It is an excellent way to introduce friends and Companions to our Knightly family.

The Joint Orders service was held in Plymouth this year on 25th September and I'm pleased to say that our Order was well represented.

We continue to support the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital from the Province and from individual Preceptories and this year the Province will donate £1,000 to this wonderful cause. We have received certificates from the

Eye Hospital to recognise the contributions we/YOU, Bro. Kts. have made. The Alms collection today will go to the Eye Hospital, so please be generous.

Now I must thank all those who have worked tirelessly for the Province this year, culminating in arrangements for today. Our Provincial Vice-Chancellor, E.Kt. Jan Olszewski, and our Registrar, E.Kt. Alan Cockman who, in addition to keeping our website up to date has taken on the lunch arrangements for the meeting today - Jan and Alan, thank you for all the hard work you put in all year round and which is so easy to take for granted. Jan - thank you especially for your company and support on our many visits in and beyond the Province. The Provincial Guard, E.Kt. Mervyn Symes for setting up the Sepulchre and furniture; the Warden of Regalia, E.Kt. Ed Purkis, for his efforts in getting a dedicated Provincial 'kit' together and supporting our charity efforts with substantial contributions from the Regalia fund; the Bodyguard who were busy early this morning setting out tables and chairs; our host Preceptory, Vera Crux Preceptory No. 654 under whose banner we meet today; and, of course, the management of the Halls of Chivalry for their cooperation, enabling us to meet in these atmospheric premises.

A big thank you this year to my wife Elisabeth and to Mrs Selin Thomas for organising the Ladies' outing to Royal Horticultural Society, Rosemoor - we trust they will have had a thoroughly enjoyable day out.

The annual reminder, Bro. Kts., of the Grand Master's Council recommendation that at 5pm on December 25th we remember our Bro. Kts. around the world with this short prayer: "Preserve O Lord, our Bro. Kts. by land and sea and air, and as we keep them in our thoughts, so keep them in Thy care".

Thank you all for your support today - I look forward to seeing you all in your Preceptories during the coming year, and, of course, back here on Saturday 14th October 2017.

And finally, yes, finally!, a thought for today: the actress Audrey Hepburn said: "Nothing is **im**possible - the word itself says '**I**m possible'."

Thank you for listening, God bless, and have a safe journey home.

R.E.Kt. Peter Davies

October 2016