

Provincial Prior's Address - Tintagel 14th October 2017

Bro. Kts. I have already welcomed our distinguished visitors and I now welcome you all to our Provincial meeting here in the iconic setting of King Arthur's Halls in Tintagel.

We have many congratulations to offer. First, to R.E.Kt. Keith Jackson, our penultimate Provincial Prior, on being presented with a 50 year certificate for service to Templar Masonry. A splendid and enviable record indeed. Congratulations also to those Knights I have appointed or promoted today. These appointments are not only a recognition of service and commitment in the past, but in expectation of continuing commitment to both Preceptory and Province.

I have appointed a strong team of Officers to support me and the Sub Prior this year and I look forward to their support as we traverse our geographically challenging Province. I would remind you that I do take visiting into consideration when making appointments and promotions to Provincial office.

To those knights retiring from Office this year, we thank you for your support and commitment and trust that you will continue that service to your Preceptories and to the Province.

We have already heard in the Vice-Chancellor's Report that at Great Priory in May, the Grand Master was pleased to appoint E.Kt. Alan Cockman, our Registrar, to P.Gt. A-de-C, E.Kt. John Bate to P.Gt.W.ofR. and to promote E.Kt. Richard Thomas, our Sub Prior, to P.Gt.St.B.(B.) and E.Kt. Alan McArthur, Provincial Marshal, to P.Gt.St.B.(V.B.).

Our congratulations to them all and I hope that many of you will be able to attend Great Priory of Malta in November to see them appointed to equivalent rank in the Malta Degree.

We also heard that we had 17 new Knights Installed this year. That is more than one per Preceptory, but sadly we suffered the loss of 30 members through death, infirmity or moves related to family or work. This is not so surprising when you consider the age demographic of our Province.

We had 3 Official Visits last year, two in the Temple and one in the Malta Degree. All were well supported and successful visits.

This year our Official Visits in the Temple will be to Launceston Castle No. 480 and Mandylion No. 628, Ivybridge, and in the Malta Degree to St. Andrew Priory No. 90, Hayle. I trust you will continue to support me and the Sub Prior in these visits.

Last month Elisabeth & I, along with E.Kt. Mike Jones and his wife Sue, attended the Great Priory Family Service in Lincoln Cathedral - what a day that was! Over 700 Knights in full regalia in the Cathedral and over 500 sat down to dinner at the County Showground. It was a most enjoyable day and a memorable experience. When the event is repeated I do urge you to make every effort to support it.

Our Autumn Lunches continue to be well supported as we alternate between Devonshire and Cornwall. Last year we had a super lunch at Fingle Glen Golf Club near Exeter. On Sunday November 5th this year we will return to Lanhydrock Hotel & Golf Club near Bodmin. Do come along and bring your families and friends. It is always a very happy, social occasion and an excellent way to introduce friends and Companions to our Knightly family.(Details on the website.)

You will know that our Order is a major contributor to, and supporter of, the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. At the last Grand Master's Preceptory meeting we received a talk from a member of the Finance Committee of the Eye Hospital. Bro. Kts., last year in its three hospitals, three clinics and its outreach clinic, over 80,000 patients, many of them young children, were treated without regard to colour, creed or ability to pay. Our collection today is for the Eye Hospital and I ask you to be generous in your contributions.

I must thank all those who have been instrumental in assisting with arrangements for today - the Provincial Guard, E.Kt. Mervyn Symes and members of the Bodyguard who have been busy since 8.30 this morning setting up; Mrs Selin Thomas, for organising the Ladies' outing to lunch and wine-tasting at Trevibban Mill Vineyards and Orchards near Padstow; our retiring Vice- Chancellor, E.Kt. Jan Olszewski for all his hard work and commitment again this year (!cuanto se lo agradecemos hombre!); our host Preceptory, Union or Rougemont No.F, 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 very atmospheric premises.

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 Brother Knights by land and sea and air, and as we hold them in our thoughts, so keep them in Thy care".

Thank you all for your support today and I look forward to seeing you all in your Preceptories during the coming year.

And finally..... I came across this note on the door of my 12yr old granddaughter's room: 'Remember: you are braver than you believe, stronger than you feel and smarter than you think!'

Thank you for listening, God bless and may our Great Captain keep you safe on your journey home.

R.E.Kt. Peter Davies Provincial Prior

October 2017