

## **Provincial Prior's Address - Tintagel 10th October 2015**

Bro. Kts. - no need to check your watches or set your alarms..... my wife tells me I talk too much so I'll try to be brief!

I have already welcomed our distinguished visitors and guests and I hope to reciprocate their visit during this next year. It now gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this most atmospheric of venues in the Halls of Chivalry in Tintagel and thank you all for your support today.

To all those Kts. who kindly enquired after my health this year - thank you for asking and my standard reply still is : "Pretty good considering the alternative"!

We must congratulate those Kts. I have appointed or promoted today. Remember, this is in recognition of your service and commitment to your Preceptory and also to the Province as some of you have been assiduous in travelling around our geographically challenging Province. I do take this into consideration when making appointments. I know I have invested a strong team again this year and I look forward your support as I travel around the Province.

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

I am planning two Official Visits this year - to Restormel in Hayle in February and Holy Cross in Seaton in September. You will note that these are at the western and eastern extremes of the Province - 130 miles apart - so I do not necessarily expect that the whole team will attend both. The Sub Prior will also have an Official Visit in the Malta Degree at Royal Sussex in Torquay in November. I hope Provincial Officers will support these visits as best they can.

You've already heard in the Vice-Chancellor's report that the Grand Master was pleased to make two new appointments to Great Priory rank and two promotions. I feel it is important to add that the promotion of E.Kt. Tony Moyle to P.Gt.Registrar, and therefore to V.E.Kt. is well deserved and was especially appropriate because V.E.Kt.Tony has been our Provincial Treasurer for 23 years and is only the second Prov. Treasurer in the last 48 years, succeeding V.E.Kt. Bill Watters. Well done Tony -but we won't put you out to graze just yet!

During the last year we have had two Provincial Sunday Lunches - an Autumn Lunch in Cornwall and a Spring Lunch in Devon. The Spring Lunch becomes more difficult each year as all the other Orders in both Provinces also choose this time of year - March/April - for their Provincial Lunch or Dinner. We have decided therefore that we shall have just one Provincial Lunch per annum in the Autumn and that we will alternate between Devon and Cornwall. This year the Autumn Lunch will again be at Lanhydrock Hotel and Golf Club, Nr Bodmin, on Sunday 1st November. I hope Bro. Kts. that you will come and support this very happy social function with your ladies and families. It's also an excellent way to introduce a Companion to our Knightly family. All the information is on the website, for which I must thank our Registrar, E.Kt. Alan Cockman, who set it up and keeps it up to date for us.

A number of us attended the Joint Orders Service in Bodmin two weeks ago, organised by E.Kt. Rev. Dr. Peter Blackwell-Smyth. This service alternates with Devon and next year it will be in Plymouth.

We continue to support the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital both from the Province and from individual Preceptories, and the alms collection today will go to the Eye Hospital so please be generous.

I must thank all those who have been instrumental in organising or assisting with arrangements for today. The Provincial Guard, Kt. Mervyn Symes and E.Kt. Ed Purkis, Prov. WofR, & our Sub Prior, for coming up yesterday afternoon to set up the Sepulchre; the Bodyguard who have been busy since just after 8 o'clock this morning setting out chairs etc.; our Host Preceptory, Mandylion No. 628 Ivybridge, under whose banner we meet today; the management of the Halls of Chivalry for their cooperation - I'm sure you will agree that we are especially fortunate to have access to these very atmospheric Halls for our Provincial Meeting. A big thank you to Mrs Sue Jones for organising the Ladies' Outing to Morwellham Quay - we trust our ladies have had a thoroughly enjoyable day out. Our Vice Chancellor, who at this moment may well be quaffing vast quantities of Vodka at his cousin's wedding in Poland, did put in many long hours before flying out, and of course our Provincial Treasurer and Registrar & E.Kt Ed Purkis who have ensured that his duties today have been covered.

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".

Finally - 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 8th October next year!

Drive safely home, and remember - it is not only cars that can be recalled by their maker!

God Bless, and thank you for listening.

R.E.Kt. Peter Davies

October 2015