

**Commemorative Order of  
St. Thomas of Acon**

**Minutes of Grand Master Council  
29<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**Audited Accounts 2016-2017  
as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017**

**Schedule of Fees Payable to the Order  
to be put for approval  
29<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

MINUTES OF THE GRAND MASTERS COUNCIL OF YE COMMEMORATIVE ORDER OF  
ST. THOMAS OF ACON HELD AT BURTON ROAD, LITTLEOVER  
ON MONDAY 29<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2017 AT 10.30 a.m.

Grand Master	Sir Wud Plumpton, KH	M. Cross
Grand Prior	Sir Lee of Bromley-by-Bow, KH	L.J. Millross
Grand Marshal	Sir Philip of Hamilton, KC	P.A.H. Bowler
Grand Treasurer	Sir Adrian of Epping,	A.J. Bannington
Grand Registrar	Sir Geoffrey of Wellington,	G.H. Lee
Grand Secretary	Sir Michael of Accrington, KC	M. Beesley
Grand Historian	Sir Anthony of Horseford, KC	A.W. Llewellyn
Deputy Grand Marshal	Sir James of Nijmegen,	J.F.P. Mulligan
Grand Almoner	Sir Richard of Bradelei, Apology	R.S. Moss
Grand Warden of Regalia	Sir Wayne of Waunarlywydd,	W. Dyer
Grand Sword Bearer	Sir Rodney of Totham Magna,	R.L. Bass
Deputy Grand Secretary	Sir John of Lund,	E.J. Sarti
Grand Banner Bearer	Sir Anthony of Cottam,	M.A. Cross
Assistant Grand Marshal	Sir Daniel of St. Albans	D.M. Heath
Assistant Grand Marshal	Sir Thomas of Shaw	T.P. Corbally
Assistant Grand Secretary	Sir Christopher of Warrnambool, Apology	C.S. Wallace
Assistant Grand Secretary	Sir Alexander of Rio de Janeiro,	A.M. Lisboa
Grand Herald	Sir Anthony of Southampton,	A.R. Welch
Grand Organist	Sir John of Tickenhall,	J.V. Rooks
Deputy Grand Organist	Sir Naunton of Naunton,	N.C.W. Liles
Grand Doorkeeper	Sir Alwyn of Widley,	A.R. Parsons
Grand Cellarer	Sir Klaus of Bilambil, Apology	K.D. von Paschelke
Grand Sentry	Sir Stanley of Clay Hall, KC	S. Smith
Asstistant Grand Sentry	Sir David of Epping Forest	D.C. Bridge

The Grand Master, M.W. Sir Melvyn of Wud Plumpton, KH entered in procession escorted by the Officers of the Grand Master's Council.

Sir Lee of Bomley-by-Bow, KH, GP opened the Grand Masters Council in due form.at 10.43am

The Grand Prior conducted a Requiem for Sir Thomas (King) of Lakefield, KC, PG Precetor (Canada), and other departed Knights listed below:

30/12/2016	Sir Ronald of Fuenta Alamo	R.V. Stokes
10/01/2017	Sir Mervin of Lochaber	M.E.J. Gould
10/02/2017	Sir Robert of Walea	R. Eaves
22/02/2017	Sir David of Byfleet	D.J. Waite
08/03/2017	Sir Geoffrey of Rossington	G. Cliffe
15/03/2017	Sir John of Kilrea	J.M. Hunter
06/04/2017	Sir Henry of Saltburn	H. Freer
06/04/2017	Sir Nicholas of Berk Hamstead	N.D. Williams
01/05/2017	Sir John of Oulton Broad	J.L. Howlett
31/05/2017	Sir Michael of Hannover	M. Lodge
31/05/2017	Sir Warren of Beaconsfield	W.W. Holden
02/06/2017	Sir Malcolm of Ynysforgan	M.E.G. Clarke
08/06/2017	Sir Shane of St. Leonards	S.M. Whelan
21/07/2017	Sir Graham of Townsville	G.E. Stead
22/07/2017	Sir Neil of Horsforth	A.N. Gaunt
23/08/2017	Sir Ardashes of Bishopthorpe	A. Melemendjian
29/08/2017	Sir Michael of Kirkstall Abbey	A.M. Jones
13/09/2017	Sir Douglas of Twyfordton	R.D.M. Penny
23/09/2017	Sir Thomas of Lakefield KC	T.J. King
29/09/2017	Sir Leonard of Kirkford	L.L. Linton
09/10/2017	Sir James of Chelsea	J.R. Byrne
15/11/2017	Sir John of Denbigh	J.J. Draper
16/11/2017	Sir Peter of Farington	P.D. Whalen

The minutes of the Grand Master's Council held in Littleover on Thursday 29th December in the year of our Lord 2016 having been circulated in the electronic year book and available at the secretaries table since 9.00 a.m. were submitted for approval. With

amendments requested by Sir John of Caverlei KH which included adding the names of Sir John of Bishop's Stortford and Sir Christopher of Chipping Sodbury as having withdrawn for the meeting.

The minutes of the Special meeting of Grand Master's Council held at Long Eaton on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017, were read by the Grand Secretary.

Both sets of minutes were then put for confirmation to the assembled knights who accepted them in the manner adopted by the Order.

Sir Adrian of Epping, the Grand Treasurer presented the audited accounts which had been circulated in the summons for the meeting and invited queries. There were no questions and Sir Daniel of St. Albans, Account Examiner reported that he had examined the accounts and found them to be in very good order.

Sir Michael of Accrington KC, proposed that the accounts be accepted and adopted, and asked that thanks be recorded for the way in which the Treasurer and Account Examiners carried out their duties, this was seconded by Sir Philip of Hamilton and accepted by the knights present.

The Grand Secretary then put the following amendments to the Constitutions to the meeting:

Section 1.2	to include after Deputy Grand Organist, the Rank: Past Deputy Grand Organist P.Dep.G.Org.
Section 1.7	to include after Grand Organist, the Rank of Deputy Grand Organist.
Section 6.1.4	to include after the words, at his discretion, 'the Organist need not wear a Sword'
Section 4.5	be amended to read, 'As the Order is invitational, to inform the knights of a prospective candidate, where possible, a Court of Honour should be used, be it informally when the Chapel members are gathered together at dinner, or on a notice from the Secretary, submitted either electronically or in writing. This can be beneficial and avoid embarrassment in Chapel should a candidate be deemed undesirable by some. In the event of unfavourable reports, the proposer and seconder can be invited to reconsider their actions.
Section 6.1.6	to include after the words, 'with the exception of the Prior.' The Organist need not wear either Gloves or Sword.
Section 6.4.5	to insert after the words end of the Baton. Unless he is filling an office, which requires a Sword, he may dispense with carrying a sword.

He went on to explain the inclusion of ranks was to insert omissions made in the transcript of the Constitutions in November 2017, also requests made from, Grand Preceptors, and Organist with regards to the wearing of items of regalia. He told the meeting that he had completely re-worded the section on Courts of Honour to make it more logical.

Sir Ian of Widcombe, GMA, RW Grand Preceptor for Wessex Proposed that the amendments be accepted, Sir Philip of Hamilton, KC, seconded the proposition.

Sir John of Caverlei, KH, a Past Grand Secretary, raised objections to the Constitutions in General, he did not agree with them and told the meeting that he had sent a letter out when he was Grand Secretary discontinuing the use of Courts of Honour. He went on to speak about meetings and sub-committees he had been involved in which were convened some years after he had ceased to be Grand Secretary, to establish who would be Grand Master,

The Grand Secretary rose and apologised for the interruption. He asked Sir John if he was telling us that he had, sometime previously, taken part in a conspiracy regarding the election of Grand Master. Sir John replied 'No', and when he attempted to continue with his submission, the Grand Master interrupted Sir John. The Grand Master told him that they had both been present at the Special Meeting of Grand Master's Council on November 13<sup>th</sup> when the Constitutions had been approved. At that time, Sir John had raised no objections and thereby voted in favour of their adoption. He went on to say that the only points being debated at this meeting were the amendments and not the Constitutions as a whole. At this point, Sir John, when faced with an option of allowing us to continue with our meeting or retiring for the meeting, resumed his seat.

The Grand Master Announced, 'Sir Knights, you have heard the proposition, duly seconded, and the interruptions of Sir John of Caverlei. Those in favour remain silent'. There was not a murmur and the Grand Master announced the amendments passed.

The Grand Secretary proposed, and the Grand Marshal seconded that the fees payable to Grand Master's Council remain unchanged. Once the acclamation had ceased the Grand Master put the proposition to the meeting and was accordingly accepted.

The Grand Master announced that he had appointed, Sir James of Tilchestune KC, Sir Barry of Braintree and Sir Robert of Chartley to serve on the Executive Committee.

The Grand Secretary announced that the Barry of Ilford Chapel No.92, the forum of Right Worthy Grand Preceptors, had nominated: Sir Gareth of Aberdâr and Sir Ian of Widcombe, GMA to serve on the Executive Committee.

Sir Lee of Bromley-by-Bow, KH, Grand Prior, announced:

In accordance with Section 1.6.1 of the Constitutions, the Executive Committee have elected: Sir Melvyn of Wud Plumpton, KH, to be Grand Master for the ensuing year.

The Grand Master was saluted, and suitably responded.

The Grand Master then re-appointed, Sir Lee of Bromley-by-Bow, KH as Grand Prior

The Next business of the meeting was to elect a Grand Treasurer. The Grand Secretary announced that he had only received one nomination, that of Sir Adrian of Epping, our current Grand Treasurer.

The Grand Master then declared Sir Adrian of Epping to be Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The Grand Secretary informed the meeting that he had only received two nominations for the positions of Account Examiners, Sir Daniel of St. Albans and Sir David of Epping Forrest.

The Grand Master declared that they be Account Examiners for the ensuing year.

The Grand Master then appointed Sir Philip (Bowler) of Hamilton, KC as Grand Marshal.

The Knights listed below were reappointed, appointed or promoted to Grand Rank and then invested by the Grand Master.

#### Active Ranks

Grand Treasurer (Elected)	Sir Adrian of Epping	A.J. Bannington
Grand Registrar	Sir Neil of Wylde Green	N.E.A. Watkin
Grand Secretary	Sir Michael of Accrington, KC	M. Beesley
Grand Historian	Sir Terence of Mildenhall	T.C. Lewis
Deputy Grand Marshal	Sir James of Nijmegen	J.F.P. Mulligan
Grand Almoner	Sir Andrew of Ghellinge	A.J.W. Emery
Grand Warden of Regalia	Sir Wayne of Waunarwydd	W. Dyer
Grand Sword Bearer	Sir Anthony of Cottam	M.A. Cross
Deputy Grand Secretary	Sir John of Lund	E.J. Sarti
Grand Banner Bearer	Sir Derek of Anfield	D.A.R. Cook
Assistant Grand Marshal	Sir Daniel of St. Albans	D.M. Heath
Assistant Grand Marshal	Sir Bernard of Tyre	B. Wakim
Assistant Grand Marshal	Sir Thomas of Shaw	T.P. Corbally
Assistant Grand Secretary	Sir Christopher of Warrnambool Apology	C.S. Wallace
Assistant Grand Secretary	Sir Alexander of Rio de Janeiro	A.M. Lisboa
Grand Herald	Sir Andrew of Milton	A.S. Clapp
Grand Organist	Sir John of Tickenhall	J.V. Rooks
Deputy Grand Organist	Sir Naunton of Naunton	N.C.W. Liles
Grand Doorkeeper	Sir Arthur of Timsbury	A.W. Muller
Grand Cellarer	Sir Sidney of Capel Bangor, Apology	S.F. Clench
Grand Cellarer	Sir Ian of Broxbourne	I.S. Gray
Grand Cellarer	Sir Colin of Furness	C. Monkman
Grand Cellarer	Sir Gordon of Cheapside	G.S. Pilkington
Grand Cellarer	Sir Barry of Carringbush, Apology	B.E. Minster
Grand Sentry	Sir Stanley of Clay Hall, KC	S. Smith
Asst. Grand Sentry	Sir David of Epping Forest	D.C. Bridge

#### Appointments to Past Rank

Past Grand Sword Bearer	Sir David of Bellingham	D.J. Roach
Past Grand Banner Bearer	Sir Gary of Gibside	G.D. Taylor
Past Assistant Grand Marshal	Sir Steven of Wirksworth	S.G. Barratt
Past Assistant Grand Marshal	Sir Philip of Markland Woods, Apology	P. Hebert
Past Assistant Grand Secretary	Sir Leonard of Sunbury,	L.G. Hayward
Past Herald	Sir Jean-Paul of Tourgeville, Apology	J.P. Dupinay
Past Herald	Sir Elidinei of Jundiah, Apology	E.C. Micheletto
Past Herald	Sir David of Narberth	D.B. Morris
Past Herald	Sir Terence of Withycombe Raleigh,Aps,	T. Sloan
Past Herald	Sir Geoffrey of Esplavis	G.M. Watkins
Past Grand Doorkeeper	Sir Leslie of Follifoot, Apology	L.T.G. Ayres
Past Grand Doorkeeper	Sir Etienne of Coutances, Apology	E.R. Blondiaux
Past Grand Doorkeeper	Sir Carl of Oldham, Apology	C. Buckley
Past Grand Doorkeeper	Sir Paul of Winterton, Apology	P. Butler
Past Grand Doorkeeper	Sir Alan of Halton	G.A. Carter
Past Grand Doorkeeper	Sir Duncan of Upnor	D.A. Griffiths
Past Grand Doorkeeper	Sir Ross of Northumberland, Apology	R.H. Jackson
Past Grand Doorkeeper	Sir Raymond of Halebank, Apology	R. Leather
Past Grand Doorkeeper	Sir Duncan of Cairns, Apology	D.J. Walker
Past Grand Doorkeeper	Sir John of Mount Annan, Apology	J.A. Whitehouse
Past Grand Cellarer	Sir Graham of Buckley, Apology	A.G. Parry

#### Promotions

Past Grand Marshal	Sir Gerald of Bestone, Apology	G.A.G. Barker
Past Grand Marshal	Sir Rodney of Ttham Magna	R.L. Bass
Past Grand Marshal	Sir Paul of Kettleburgh, Apology	P.A. Norman
Past Grand Registrar	Sir Neil of Maidstone	N. Garbutt

Past Grand Registrar	Sir Richard of Bradelei, Apology	R.S. Moss
Past Grand Historian	Sir André of Cerdanya	A.A.G. Bassou
Past Grand Almoner	Sir David of Cadbury Heath	D.T. Carter
Past Grand Almoner	Sir Julian of Treverbyn	J.T. May
Past Grand Almoner	Sir Alan of Longbarn	A.W. Pattinson
Past Grand Almoner	Sir William of Marchwood	W. Whitfield
Past Grand Banner Bearer	Sir Peter-Igor of Delft, Apology	P.-I. van Mookk
Past Grand Banner Bearer	Sir Anthony of Southampton	R.G. Welch
Past Grand Herald	Sir Alwyn of Widley, Apology	A.R. Parsons

*The country was beset by heavy snow and ice in many areas.*

The Grand Master then address the meeting:

Sir Knights, I thank you all for accepting my re-election as your Grand Master. I do regard this as a great honour and it is now my duty to address you.

I am delighted to see so many of you here in support of the Order, the Officers of Grand Council, and especially those who I have been pleased to appoint and re-appoint in Grand Rank. Your presence enhances the occasion tremendously.

To those who are retiring from active office I add my special thanks, it has been a pleasure to see you on the circuit!

Last year, Grand Master's Council, was a difficult time for everyone. I came to the meeting expecting to install my successor. However, following an impromptu meeting with those Right Worthy Grand Preceptors present, I was asked to remain in post. Great doubt was cast on the validity of our Constitutions following many amendments, made over several years without proper notice and process.

The newly appointed Grand Secretary, Sir Michael of Accrington, committed to carry out a review of the constitutions and to put us back into a legitimate position. We formed a Sub-Committee consisting of the Grand Marshal, Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary who chaired that committee to carry out that task. I am pleased to tell you that after great deliberation and following meetings of the executive officers along with meetings with Barry of Ilford Chapel No.92, which is the forum for the Right Worthy Grand Preceptor's, we at the special meeting of Grand Master's Council held at Long Eaton on the 13<sup>th</sup> November adopted what are now referred to as 'The Constitutions'. Not just another set of amendments, a complete clean sweep! I pay tribute to the Sub-Committee members for the way they approached and carried out their task.

As you have already heard, we have made some slight amendments to those constitutions today. Nothing major, mainly to include a few parts omitted in error.

I must thank, Sir Michael and the members of the Executive who have given up so much of their time to this task. Also, the Right Worthy Grand Preceptors for their input into the consultation process.

I am here today as your Grand Master because I was elected to remain as such by the Executive Committee following a recommendation from Barry of Ilford Chapel. It is quite surreal to be in a building, where your future is being discussed and you have no input into it. I can assure you the Grand Secretary made sure that no one was able to interfere with those deliberations or elections.

You could be forgiven for thinking that sorting out 'The Constitutions' is all we have done this year. Far from it:

In January, The Grand Prior attended Becket the Martyr Chapel No. 1 where he invested Sir Barry of Braintree, who is here today, as Grand Preceptor for East Anglia.

In February we visited Osric Chapel in the Province of Central Midlands to install Sir Robert of Chartley, Bob Crundwell, as Grand Preceptor. We all know Bob, and he is also here today. We also invested Sir Brian of Alrewas as Knight Caritas at the same meeting.

In April we were in the Province of the West Country to consecrate Bryanick Chapel No 125 at St Agnes.

On the way home, or at least the following day, we went to Reginald Fitzjocelyn Chapel No. 74 at Bath where we installed Sir Ian of Widcombe as Right Worthy Grand Preceptor for Wessex. Sir Ian it is nice to see you here today.

In July we went to Cheshire and North Wales Grand Preceptor's Council to Invest Sir James of Kilmallog as Grand Preceptor, then onto Lancashire's Grand Preceptor's Council Meeting where I invested Sir Michael of Accrington with his Knight Caritas.

In September we went to East Anglia to Boadicea Chapel No. 59 where I invested Sir Lee of Bromley-by-Bow, Grand Prior, as Knight Humilitas. Then, later in the month, the East Midlands Grand Preceptor's Council where I invested Sir Philip of Hamilton, Grand Marshal with his Knight Caritas.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> November we went to Paris, where we consecrated two new Chapels, St Vincent No. 126 which will meet in Vienne, and St Eubert No. 127 which will meet in Villeneuve D'Ascq. These we carried out in the magnificent setting of the Grand Temple of the Grand Lodge National of France, and Sir Christian of Marzan, their Grand Preceptor is here.

So, Sir Knights, we have not been slacking.

In the coming year, we already have plans in place:

In January we are back in Lancashire at Nicholas Anglicorum Chapel No. 5, where we will Invest Sir William of Atherton, David Swindlehurst, with his Knight Caritas and Sir Ian of Hore Wyche, Ian Ronson, as Grand Preceptor for Lancashire.

In February we will be in the Province of East Anglia, to consecrate a new Chapel, Dean John Colet Chapel, No. 128, which will meet at Clacton on Sea, but we will be carrying out the consecration in Southend on Sea on the 13<sup>th</sup>, then on the 20<sup>th</sup>, we are in the Province of Greater London at Coeur de Lion Chapel No. 8. in Harrow. Whilst there we will Invest Sir Bryan of Kasama, Bryan Bailes, with his Knight Caritas and Install, Sir Alan of Blackheath, Alan Perry, as Grand Preceptor for Greater London. So, we are off to a good start in 2018.

I must at this point, thank those who are, or have already retired as Right Worthy Grand Preceptors:

Sir Brian of Alrewas, KC, Brain Price, Central Midlands,

Sir Harry of Benfro, KC, Harry Randell, Wessex,

Sir John of Holy Well, KC, John McClain, Cheshire, North Wales,

Sir Trevor of Victoria, Trevor Gray, Greater London,

Sir William of Atherton, David Swindlehurst, Lancashire,

All of whom have severed the Order and their Provinces with great distinction for many years. I hope that they will continue to support the Order and their successors in Office.

There is talk of new Chapels in the North and Central areas of the United Kingdom, also in the greater land mass of Europe there is a hope to expand.

I urge those involved to keep things moving, our diaries are very busy and early notice is essential.

I am fortunate in having an excellent team of Grand Preceptors. They show enthusiasm in supporting their own Provinces and Chapels. It is good when we visit Provinces to see so many of them supporting their neighbours. And I now formally re-appoint them in office.

I would now like to welcome Sir Andre of Byron, KH, from our daughter Grand Council in the USA. It is good to see you Andre. This is the twentieth time Andre has been to our meeting. I remember many happy occasions when America was one of our Provinces. Andre tells me this is likely to be his last visit, we are all getting older!

Many other knights have travelled great distances to be with us today, but I would like to mention one, Sir Alexander of Rio de Janeiro, Alexander Lisboa, one of our Assistant Grand Secretaries who has travelled from Brazil to be invested today. Sir Alexander has been of great assistance in stabilising the Order in Brazil and I thank him personally for all his hard work in those endeavours.

Thanks to my Grand Prior, and Grand Marshal for their assistance during the past year. Also, thanks go to our Grand Treasurer for managing the finances, I am pleased to report that we have a healthy bank balance. The administration team continue to manage the order with efficiency and I thank them all for their hard work.

I also wish to thank the team who organised the meeting and meal today, Sir John of Lund, Sir James of Tilchestune and Sir Philip of Hamilton, along with Sir Michael of Accrington.

Whilst I'm mentioning Sir Michael of Accrington KC our Grand Secretary, I would personally like to thank him for his great patience and understanding, he certainly has more of both than I have! Also, the depth of the detail that he goes to when carrying out his duties and making arrangements for us.

Some think that taking a pot shot at the Grand Secretary is 'fair game', I would caution you about that approach. I have never known a Grand Secretary as approachable as Sir Michael, let's not spoil a good thing!

Our relationship with Canterbury Cathedral has not been what it was. I can assure you efforts are continuing to restore normality. This is being carried out on a Churchman to Churchman basis, and I wish Sir William of Marchwood every success in his quest. Sir William is sat down on the left, you can easily spot him!

Sir knights my address has been longer than normal, because I have had so much information to impart to you, please forgive my longevity!

And thank you for listening to me

May God bless you all.

The Secretary, Sir Michael of Accrington, KC, then presented his report:

Worthy Knights, the last twelve months presented me with a steep learning curve along with a heavy work load as a result of our many activities. I hope that this report, whilst somewhat longer than last year's for which I had only four days notice, is also, longer than next year's report, which will be on a more normal year.

Membership: Currently the Order has 1762 (1660-2016) members or 2359 (2286-2016) subscriptions. In 2017 the Order lost 95 (73-2016) individual Knights due to: 23 (13-2016) deaths, 1 (12-2016) Hon, 4 (13-2016) Excl and 67, (122-2016) Resignations. In 2017 the Order Registered 216 (111-2016) new knights and 65 (64-2016) joining members = 281 a net gain of 73 or 3.2% (175-2016 a net gain of 8 or 0.38%).

Whilst the numbers are encouraging we have to keep it mind the some of the joining members are Chapel founders. Fortunately many of the resignations are those knights who were admitted to Chapels in order to become founders of other Chapels and never intended remaining a member of their mother Chapels.

Chapels: The order now has 103 active Chapels and we have consecrated 3 New Chapels in 2017. Bryanick Chapel No 125 in the West Country and St Vincet No 126 and St Eubert No. 127 in the France. We will consecrate Dean John Colet Chapel No 128 in February at Southend on Sea. There are plans for at least another three new Chapels 'That I am aware of,' but paperwork has still to materialise.

I would like to thank the Provincial and Chapel Secretaries and Treasurers for all their work they do on behalf of the Order. I am pleased to tell you that, in the main, their cooperation has been brilliant. I feel I have made many more friends than enemies!

Challenges: Having, hopefully sorted out our Constitutional issues, I am pleased to report that our relationship with Mark Masons Hall, is much improved. When you hear the rumour mongers telling everyone that we are doomed and are going to be Proscribed, you can tell them they are wrong. We still have much to do to re-establish full trust and although we will have a considerable wait before we can hope for recognition for our Order, we are going in the right direction.

Members Average Age remains one of my concerns, the average age of our members is 67.5 (68.5-2016), with 12% of the membership being 80 or over, 67.5% in their 60's and 70's with those below 60 making up the 20.5%. Our youngest member is 29, with 17 members are under 40.

Returns: Outstanding Annual Dues stands at 4 Chapels with a total of £733.00 yet to be paid. a considerable improvement on 2016. We have a small number of Chapels who have not yet supplied their Installation Returns, for 2017, the numbers are however much lower than last year. I am in dialog with the Provincial and Chapel Secretaries on this subject. The Constitutions now presents Chapels with time scales for paperwork which should improve matters.

Website: I would like to thank the Webmaster, Sir Geoffrey of Esplavis for all his efforts on our behalf. Please consider sending him items of interest for inclusion on the site, if you share your enjoyment of our Order you might just end up with more knights to enjoy it with.

Quality of Paperwork: One of the main difficulties I experience are with hand written forms, some of the handwriting is barely legible. I have asked the webmaster to look at putting an editable forms section on the website which should improve matters somewhat. In the mean time can I ask those filling out forms to please use block capitals to avoid errors being introduced into the database.

Marshals Team: Twelve months ago our Grand Marshal, Sir Philip of Hamilton KC, and I barely knew one another, but I would like to pay tribute to way he has forged his team into the unit it now is. And that unit interacts with the Secretariat in a very effective manner that works for both sides and most importantly for the good of the Order.

Notice of Motion(s): I am sure you will be please to hear that I have no Notice of Motion(s) or propotions at this point.

Apologies: Numerous apologies had been received by the Deputy Grand Secretary and have been recorded and are on an attached sheet and will be placed in the GMC Minute book.

The Grand Council was closed in due form at 12.52 p.m. to meet again on or before the 29<sup>th</sup> day of December in the year of our Lord, 2018.

The National anthem was sung.

The MW Grand Master accompanied by the ME Grand Prior, the RW Grand Preceptors and Grand Officers then retired.

Sir Lee of Bromly-by-Bow KH  
Grand Prior

Sir Michael of Accrington KC  
Grand Secretary

29<sup>th</sup> December 2018

# The Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon

## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST AUGUST 2018

INCOME	2017/18	2016/17	EXPENDITURE	2017/18	2016/17
Warrants and Dispensations	25.00	27.50	Administration	1,271.75	944.12
Registration Fees	961.50	779.00	Year Books	658.06	0.00
Fees of Honour	1,271.00	2,340.00	Batons and other regalia	0.00	0.00
Annual Dues (Chapels)	14,369.00	14,200.33	Regalia Purchased for sale	10,832.98	16,681.55
Regalia Sold	17,009.36	13,389.90	Dining Expenses	3,269.00	3,400.85
Dining Fees	3,402.00	3,912.00	Travel Expenses	12,725.49	5,753.08
Year Books	0.00	0.00	Legal fees	0.00	2,429.40
Bank and Big Soc Interest	39.37	29.11	Ladies weekend	0.00	1,824.50
Miscellaneous	0.00	40.00	miscellaneous	26.50	37.50
			Sub total	28,783.78	31,071.00
			Excess of Income/Expenditure	8,293.45	3,646.84
	<b>37,077.23</b>	<b>34,717.84</b>		<b>37,077.23</b>	<b>34,717.84</b>
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Sir Adrian of Epping			Grand Treasurer		
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Sir Daniel of St-Albans			Account Examiner		
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Sir David of Epping Forest			Account Examiner		



**BALANCE SHEET AT 31st AUGUST 2018**

	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>				
Surplus Brought Forward	79,375.52	75,728.68	27,971.01	18,246.67
Excess of Income /Expenditure	8,293.45	3,646.84	65,030.77	64,991.40
	<b>87,668.97</b>	<b>79,375.52</b>		
<b>PILGRIMAGE FUND</b>				
Brought Forward	2,260.66	34,261.91		
Donations received	2,348.00	2,988.00	54.28	54.11
Gift Aid donations	0.00	0.00		
Relief chest interest	0.17	10.75		
B S Interest from General Fund	0.00	0.00		
Transfer from General Fund	0.00	0.00		
	<b>4,608.83</b>	<b>37,260.66</b>		
Donation made	0.00	35,000.00		
<b>Carried forward</b>	<b>4,608.83</b>	<b>2,260.66</b>		
<b>CARITAS FUND</b>				
Brought Forward	1,656.00	1,596.00		
Donations received	487.24	60.00		
Donations made	-1,764.98	0.00		
<b>Carried forward</b>	<b>378.26</b>	<b>1,656.00</b>		
<b>Eye Hospital Fund</b>				
<b>Brought Forward</b>	0.00	0.00		
Donations received	400.00	0.00		
Donations made	0.00	0.00		
<b>Carried forward</b>	<b>400.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>		
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>93,056.06</b>	<b>83,292.18</b>	<b>93,056.06</b>	<b>83,292.18</b>

# Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon

## Schedule of Fees and Payments to be made to the funds of the Order:

The Fees hereunder set out are payable to the Grand Master's Council of the Order:

For a Warrant of Constitution	£	40.00
Registration of each Founder of a new Chapel	£	5.00
Registration of a Knight on Admission	£	5.00
Registration of each joining or re-joining member	£	3.00
Dispensation Fee payable on each application for		
Dispensations	£	7.50
Dispensation nunc pro tunc	£	10.00
Dispensation (for unattached Chapels)	£	7.50
Replacement Certificates	£	10.00
Replacement Warrants	£	40.00
Fee of Honour payable on the first appointment or election as a Grand Officer or Past Grand Officer as follows:-		
Grand Master	£	100.00
Grand Prior	£	80.00
Knight Humilitas	£	80.00
Knight Caritas	£	80.00
Grand Preceptor	£	80.00
G.Mar., G.Treas.,G.Reg., G.Sec.	£	60.00
G.Hist., Dep.G.Mar., G.Alm., G.W.Reg., G.Swd.B., Dep.G.Sec.	£	50.00
G.B.B., Asst.G.Mar., Asst.G.Treas., Asst.G.Sec.	£	40.00
G.Her., G.Org., Dep.G.Org., G.Dkr.	£	30.00
G.Cel., G.Sent., Asst.G.Sent.	£	20.00
On promotion in Rank, the fee of Honour shall be the difference between the fee for the former rank and that due for the higher rank.		
<b>Annual fee</b> payable by every Chapel to the <b>Grand Masters Council</b> until at <b>31st. August 2019</b> , in each year in respect of every Knight who has been a subscribing member during the whole or any part of the preceding 12 months (Cheques made to The Order of St Thomas of Acon.	£	7.00
<b>Annual fee</b> payable by every Chapel to the <b>Grand Masters Council</b> from the <b>1st. September 2019</b> , in each year in respect of every Knight who has been a subscribing member during the whole or any part of the preceding 12 months (Cheques made to The Order of St Thomas of Acon.	£	10.00

For Approval by Grand Masters Council 29<sup>th</sup> December 2018