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# ***K*night*s of Saint M*ary *of B*ethlehem**

**Bulletin 20th October, 2024.**

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## Overview

The UK economy grew by 0.2% in the last month and the Office of National Statistics has warned of a slowing economy in the New Year, adding on the poor strength of the pound and an upcoming budget where £40 Billion is to be found these developments presents both challenges and opportunities for the charitable sectors in the UK, not to mention the impact of the above and numerous problems in the UK for the populace. As we navigate these complex times, let us remain steadfast in our resolve, supporting one another and advocating for values and actions which uphold a civilised and strong society.

## Developments

It is with great pleasure that the Order of the Knights of Saint Mary of Bethlehem is now registered with company house as a not for profit organisation. Company Number is 16027893, very well done to all involved, this is a milestone for us all.

## Manchester Homelessness Partnership

On 9th October, Keith joined Phillip and Natasha Stanley, an operational officer, at a stall at the Manchester Homelessness Partnership's Homeless Health Event, organised by the Physical Health Action Group to coincide with World Homelessness Day (10th October). Excellent contacts were made and information exchanged on how to collectively go forwards on this issue, Homelessness has gone up by 27% in the last year (1) and this urgent and pressing issue needs input from all sectors.







## Walk the Bridge, St Helens.



Saturday 19th of October saw another walk the bridge event, this multi organisation event including the Knights of Saint Mary raising the profile of mental health action. Well done to all!

## Arrival of the Mantles



The Mantles of the Order have arrived, these are high quality garments and were obtained at the best price we could get, it is important that chivalry, origin and history of which the Order is based upon, is honoured.

## Free Mental Health Training

There is a website funded by HM Government and in association with MIND where a person can get an accredited, CVable Level 2 qualification in mental health training for free of charge; there are various qualifications on offer, the link is [HERE](#)

## The General Meeting

This remains on target for the 2nd of November, 2023 and will be held at the Unitarian Church in Altrincham [About our Inclusive Church | Unitarian Chapel, Altrincham \(altrinchamunitarians.org.uk\)](http://altrinchamunitarians.org.uk) Time to be announced.

The Knights Templar GoodWill Charity of Scotland are attending and have booked into;

Travelodge  
Altrincham Central  
WA14 1DQ.

This appears to be the hotel of choice for this event.



To conclude

In these challenging times, the Knights of Saint Mary of Bethlehem continue to embody resilience, unity, and compassion. Despite a slowing economy and a weakened pound, things could be getting harder across all charitable sectors, our steadfast dedication to our mission remains unwavering. The word 'surrender' is not in a Knight's vocabulary.

We have much to celebrate. The recent registration of our Order as a not-for-profit organisation with Companies House is a testament to our collective hard work and commitment. Congratulations to all involved in reaching this significant milestone.

Our engagement with the Manchester Homelessness Partnership underscores our commitment to addressing pressing social issues. With homelessness increasing by 27% in the past year, the urgency of our efforts is clear. The connections made and knowledge exchanged at the Homeless Health Event will undoubtedly strengthen our initiatives and collaborations moving forward.

As we look ahead to our General Meeting on November 2nd, let us reflect on our achievements and renew our commitment to our cause. The attendance of the Knights Templar Goodwill Charity of Scotland highlights the importance of solidarity and collaboration in our endeavours.



Like the walk the bridge event, any hard time is made easier in a supportive environment where strengths combine and unify into a single direction. Together and only together, can we face any challenge with hope, strength, and insight. Thank you for your unwavering dedication and support. Let us continue to work towards a brighter, more compassionate future for all.

With gratitude and encouragement,

Privy Chamber.

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## Reference

1. Crisis (2024). *Rough sleeping rises by 27% as the homelessness crisis deepens across England*. [online] Crisis. Available at: <https://www.crisis.org.uk/about-us/media-centre/rough-sleeping-rises-by-27-as-the-homelessness-crisis-deepens-across-england/>.