



## Provincial Priory of Somerset



# THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Issue No.10 March 2026

### Welcome to the 10<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Issue of the Somerset Masonic Knight Templar Newsletter

All previous issues of the Newsletter can be found on the Provincial Website.

**FOREWARD** by R.E.Kt. Paul Jeffery Davis, the Provincial Prior for Somerset



It's amazing how much can happen between newsletters. Since our last edition we've enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Carol Service, welcomed a new year, and seen plenty of activity across the Province.

I'm delighted to say that the Order in Somerset continues to be in very good shape. Yes, MMH's statistics at the Priors' Conference last November showed a small 4% dip in membership, but the reality here on the ground is far more encouraging. By the end of January we had twelve candidates waiting to be installed and another four joining members. That's a strong and very positive sign for the months ahead.

With the help of the Provincial Sub-Prior and our Development Officer, we're continuing to strengthen links with Royal Arch Chapters within each Preceptory's natural area. It's important that potential candidates are supported locally, rather than unintentionally drawn away from their home Preceptory, which can leave smaller units struggling. This more thoughtful approach will make a real difference towards strengthening K.T. across Somerset.

As I travel around the Province, I'm constantly reminded of what makes this Order so special. The warmth of the welcome, the good humour, and the genuine camaraderie are always uplifting. Recent meetings at Keynsham, Frome, and Exmoor were excellent examples of that spirit. Sadly, the candidate for Exmoor was taken ill the day before his installation, but we wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him installed later in the year.

Some Preceptories would really benefit from a little extra support, and as I've mentioned before, becoming a joining member is a simple but meaningful way to help. Selwood Preceptory of St John, for example, will celebrate its centenary next year. They are a small but enthusiastic band of Christian Knights, and I know they would welcome any additional support with open arms.

We're also planning to build on the success of last year's Black-Tie event by holding another one later this year—this time in the south of the Province. You'll find full details and a booking form elsewhere in this newsletter.

Above all, let's remember that Knight Templar Masonry is something to be enjoyed. Let's continue to support one another, strengthen our Preceptories, and celebrate the fellowship that binds us together.

*Paul*

### UPCOMING MEETINGS 2026

#### March

- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Keynsham Installation
- 4<sup>th</sup> - King Arthur Installation
- 6<sup>th</sup> - Cumba Installation
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Worlebury Special Mtg
- 12<sup>th</sup> - Templecombe
- 20<sup>th</sup> - Bladud
- 26<sup>th</sup> - Estune Command

#### April

- 9<sup>th</sup> - King Ina- Installation
- 24<sup>th</sup> - Antiquity - Installation
- 27<sup>th</sup> - Exmoor - Installation

#### May

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Cumba
- 6<sup>th</sup> - Worlebury
- 19<sup>th</sup> - Templecombe
- 20<sup>th</sup> - **GREAT PRIORY (Temple)**
- 27<sup>th</sup> - A & B Priory





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## RECENT EVENTS

### PRECEPTORY/PRIORY MEETINGS

Since the last issue of this publication congratulations and welcome to the following who have been Installed as Knights of the Temple:

Kt. Reece in the Worlebury Preceptory of St Dunstan

Kt. Wood in the King Ina Preceptory

Kt. Kerley at the Antiquity Encampment

And the two Knights who Joined Selwood:

E.Kt. W. Whitehead PPrReg; and

Kt. R.A. Park

Also, as Eminent Preceptor:

E.Kt. C.A.F. Lambert at Selwood

Plus, the following who became Knights of Malta:

Kt. Norton from Cumba Preceptory

Kt. Short from Keynsham Preceptory of St Keyna

Kt. Hamblen from Keynsham Preceptory of St Keyna

Kt. Sunderland from Keynsham Preceptory of St Keyna

Kt. Acreman from King Arthur of Avalon Preceptory



**PROVINCIAL PRIORY OF SOMERSET**

Have you considered becoming a **KNIGHT TEMPLAR?**

The Knights Templars is a progressive and select Order, which has an historical connection to Craft and Royal Arch Freemasonry.

Membership encourages a commitment to a rewarding dimension of Freemasonry in the broadest sense, enriching the bonds of friendship and esprit de corps.

Our ritual commemorates the legend of Knights Templars, who were granted sanctuary in the precincts of the ancient site of King Solomon's Temple.

To be considered as a Candidate one must be a Master Mason, a Royal Arch Mason (of more than 12 months) and a Christian.

For further information about Knights Templar visit the Provincial Priory of Somerset website or contact E.Kt. Alan McMurray  
email: alan.mcmurray7824@gmail.com. Phone: 0758 128 8644

[www.somersetkt.org.uk](http://www.somersetkt.org.uk)

## ALL ORDERS CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE 2025

On 10<sup>th</sup> December last a very successful All Orders Christmas Carol Service, under the Banners of Knights Templar, Red Cross of Constantine and the Ancient and Accepted Rite, was held at All Saints Church, Weston-super-Mare.

Revd Stuart Boyd lead the service and we were privileged to have the Rev. Malcolm Lane, Great Prelate for Knights Templar and Past Provincial Grand Master for Monmouthshire, to give the Address. The occasion was enjoyed by a near capacity congregation with Readings from Rulers in most Somerset Orders. An extended Choir from St. Cecilia's Lodge, led by David Smith, accompanied by Rod Pring provided excellent accompaniment. Following the service mince pies, wine and other goodies were on hand for attendees to socialise. A grand total of £700, including Gift Aid, was collected and the picture shows the event organisers Rev Stuart Boyd and Keith Baker presenting a cheque for this amount to Children's Hospice South West at Wraxall, an exceptionally worth cause."





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#### KEYNSHAM PRIORY 2026



Fifty-one Knights attended the Keynsham Priory of St Keyna for the first meeting of 2026, and with the majority of Knights wearing their Malta Regalia made it a colourful spectacle. Four knights were elected and installed individually as Knights of the Order by the Eminent Prior, ably assisted by members of the Priory and the Provincial Prior who conferred the accolades.



E.Kt. David Smith the immediate Past Prior presented a Past Priors Jewel to E.Kt. Richard Gover, the residing Eminent Prior, and requested that it be worn by each and every Prior in the coming years.

The Provincial Prior presented a 40-year certificate to E.Kt. Alan Thompson and thanked him for his service and dedication to the Province Order since 1985.

A cheque for £750.00 to the Jerusalem Eye Hospital was presented to the Provincial Prior on behalf of the members of The Keynsham Preceptory of St Keyna.



The warmth of the evening (literally) carried on through to the Festive Board where the usual toasts were honoured and harmony prevailed.



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#### ORGAN DEDICATION AT GERARD LODGE NO.8999, KEYNSHAM

*(A narrative by R.E.Kt. Paul J. Davis the Provincial Prior for Somerset)*

The Provincial Grand Master of the Craft Degree, Somerset. E.Kt. Ray Guthrie (P.Gt.A.-de-C.) graciously hosted a distinguished gathering on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2026 for the formal dedication of the newly installed organ at Gerard Lodge meeting in Keynsham. The occasion proved to be both auspicious and uplifting, marking a memorable moment in the musical and ceremonial life of the Province.

The ceremony itself was conducted with exemplary precision and dignity. The Craft Provincial Team discharged their duties with confidence and harmony, and the addresses throughout the afternoon resonated with clarity and purpose. Particularly noteworthy was the Oration on *Harmony* delivered by the Provincial Grand Chaplain E.Kt. Bob Moore (P.Gt.Chamb.), whose thoughtful reflections captured the spirit of unity, goodwill, and shared endeavour that defined the day.

A highlight of the event was the superb organ recital performed by the guest organist from London. His masterful command of the instrument provided a recital of rare quality - an inspiring demonstration of the musical potential now available within the Lodge. While Knights Templars - of Keynsham Preceptory of St Keyna - may face a formidable challenge in matching such virtuosity, the presence of such a fine instrument will undoubtedly encourage future efforts.

The Province extends its warmest thanks and recognition to **Kt. Lindsay Edmunds of King Ina Preceptory**, whose generosity made the acquisition of the organ possible. His thoughtful donation has enriched the Lodge Room/Temple immeasurably, and the brass plaque now mounted in the Lodge Room stands as a fitting and lasting tribute to his contribution. It will serve as a reminder for years to come of the goodwill, dedication, and fraternal spirit that underpin our Order.

The Provincial Grand Master's hospitality throughout the day was exemplary, ensuring that all present felt warmly welcomed and part of a truly special occasion. The dedication of the organ marks not only the enhancement of the Lodge's and Preceptory's musical lives but also a celebration of the generosity and unity that continue to strengthen the Craft Degrees & Knight Templar Order in Keynsham and throughout the Province of Somerset.

YitBotO *Paul*

#### SOMERSET PROVINCIAL PRECEPTORY OF IMPROVEMENT

All meetings are held under the Stewardship of V.E.Kt. Adrian Jones P.Gt.Reg. and/or E.Kt. Bill Whitehead PPrReg and will start promptly at 7.00 p.m.

The Pol in **Yatton** meets at the Masonic Hall on the:      &      in **Frome** the Pol meets at the Masonic Hall on the:

1st Wednesday in April

1st Thursday June

4th Thursday October

3rd Wednesday in March

1st Friday in June

1st Friday in November

**All Knights are welcome - Swords and Belts only required**



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#### SELWOOD PRECEPTORY OF ST JOHN NO.244



The Installation meeting of Selwood Preceptory on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February saw E.Kt. Clive Lambert installed as Eminent Preceptor in the presence of the Provincial Prior for Somerset, R.E.Kt. Paul Davis, the Provincial Sub-Prior, E.Kt. Alan McMurray P.Gt.A.-de-C., and twenty-five other Knights of the Province.

He was likewise installed as Eminent Prior of the Selwood Priory.

The Installing Preceptor conducted both ceremonies in a splendid manner; and with only a small number of Selwood Knights present, the newly installed EP was able to promptly and customarily appoint and invest his Office. The evening concluded in a happy, harmonious and joyous atmosphere with a superb banquet and the appropriate toasts.



R.E.Kt. Paul Davis the Provincial Prior for Somerset with E.Kt. Clive Lambert on his installation as the Eminent Preceptor of the Selwood Preceptory of St John No.244

#### EXMOOR – PROVINCIAL TEAM VISIT



The Exmoor Preceptory No. 638 welcomed a well-supported and memorable meeting at the Bridgwater Masonic Centre on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026, marked by distinguished attendance, fraternal purpose, and a strong sense of Knightly unity throughout the evening.

The Preceptory was honoured by the presence of the Provincial Prior for Somerset, R.E.Kt Paul Jeffery Davis, accompanied by the Provincial Sub-Prior, E.Kt Alan Joseph McMurray, and a goodly number of Provincial Officers and Knights of the Provincial Bodyguard on their Second Provincial Team visit of the year. Their attendance brought great encouragement to the Preceptory and added further dignity to the proceedings.

A further highpoint was the arrival of a delegation of Knights from Keynsham Preceptory of St Keyna No. 455, led by their Eminent Preceptor E.Kt. Richard Gover bearing the Somerset Sword of Chivalry for presentation as it continued its journey around the Province. The Sword's purpose being to promote Brotherhood, unity, and mutual support among all Preceptories and Encampments in Somerset, it was warmly acknowledged.

The Sword was formally received by the Eminent Preceptor of Exmoor Preceptory E.Kt. Fripp Easthope, who had been charged with its safe keeping and to deliver it, accompanied by as many Exmoor Knights as possible, to deliver it to the Cumbe Preceptory on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026.



A primary purpose of the evening was to use the Sword during the installation ceremony of a Knight Templar but sadly the intended candidate suffered a heart attack on the day before the meeting. We wish him well for a speedy recovery and hope that he will be well enough to be installed as an Exmoor Knight of the Temple on a future date.

As a alternative the assembled Knights were treated to a fascinating and well-researched lecture delivered by E.Kt. Fripp Easthope, exploring the continuation of the Crusades after 1307 AD, which despite the loss of the Holy Land, the Crusading spirit endured for nearly another four centuries, The lecture provided valuable historical insight that was greatly appreciated by all present.

The United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St. John  
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Following this the normal business resumed and the Election of Officers for the ensuing year took place. As the only remaining Founder of the Preceptory not yet having taken the office of Eminent Preceptor E.Kt. Roger Francis Brockington P.Gt.Std.B.(B). was elected as Eminent Preceptor for the ensuing year..

All business having been completed the Preceptory was closed and the Knights retired to a well-attended Festive Board. As ever, Exmoor Preceptory offered its renowned hospitality, with excellent dining, warm fellowship, and the generous spirit for which the Preceptory is known.



#### AIDE-MÉMOIRE

### K.T. Great Priory 2026

Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026

@ Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street

Procession starts at 12:15pm

*(Rehearsals - 10:30 AM)*

Registration will be available on the MMH website  
closer to the date

In the meantime why not consider advance tickets for  
your mode of transport



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BLACK-TIE DINNER



*Province of Somerset  
Knights Templar  
Black Tie Dinner*

**Saturday 27th June  
Batch Country House  
Lymsham BS24 0EX  
6.30pm for dining at 7.30pm**

**An invitation to Knights,  
Wives, Partners, Family,  
Friends and all Masons**

**3 Course Menu  
Entertainment**

**Tickets £36**

Accommodation is  
available at the venue,  
which can be booked  
on their website.

Use code 8564  
for a 10%  
discount



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### Black Tie Dinner Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Batch Country House, Lympsham, BS24 0EX

#### Menu Choices

##### Starters:

- A. Smoked Chicken Ceasar Salad
- B. Farmhouse Pork Pate
- C. Fan of Galia and Cantaloupe Melon with Fresh Fruit Coulis (V & G.F)

##### Mains (all served with Seasonal Vegetables):

- D. Roast Topside of Beef with Yorkshire Pudding
- E. Fresh Fillet of Salmon with a Tarragon and Lemon Cream Sauce (G.F)
- F. Roasted Mediterranean Vegetable Struble with a Tomato and Basil Sauce (V & G.F)

##### Sweets:

- G. Homemade Warm Chocolate Brownie with Vanilla Pod Ice Cream
- H. Fresh Fruit Pavlova with Raspberry Coulis (G.F)
- I. Zesty Lemon Cheesecake with Chantilly Sauce
- J. Vegan Homemade Warm Chocolate Brownie with Vegan Vanilla Pod Ice Cream (V & G.F)

*Coffee or Tea*

**Booking Forms** are available from your Preceptory Registrar which requires attendee's details together with their Menu choices, and payment of **£36.00** per person:

**Payments** by cheque payable to: Provincial Priory of Somerset General Account (*post-dated to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 accepted*); or by BACs to: the Provincial Priory of Somerset General Account (*details on the Booking Form*)

**Details** required from you should include:

Name (and rank if applicable)	Menu Choice (ie: A – E – I)	Cheque or BACs payment	Dietary Requirements
Contact Details:			

**RESERVATIONS should be sent to the Provincial Development Officer E.Kt. Ray Beckingham P.Gt.Std.B.(B).**

##### Notes:

*Attendance is limited to around 85 – so first come first served.  
Copies of the Booking Form can be obtained from your Preceptory Registrar.  
If overnight stays are required, then this is to be booked directly with the venue.*





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#### SOMERSET SWORD OF CHIVALRY

The Somerset Sword of Chivalry was first accepted on behalf of the Province at the consecration meeting of the Templecombe Preceptory No.686 held on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2012 by R.E.Kt. Barry Desmond Burrige, the Provincial Prior for Somerset at the time.

As originally intended the Somerset Sword of Chivalry continues its journey around the province and is currently in the safekeeping of Exmoor Preceptory No.638 who are charged to take the Sword to Cumba Preceptory on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026 meeting in Crewkerne.



#### PROVINCIAL TIES



Remember, should your KT Provincial Tie be looking a bit tired, what better than to ask your loved ones for a new one as a birthday gift or with Easter approaching an "Easter Egg". There are plenty in stock & there is no plan at present to alter the design.

For an individual purchase, or Preceptory stock-buy, please contact the Provincial Warden of Regalia or a member of the Executive.

#### KNIGHTS TEMPLAR SWIFT PINS

For those Knights who do not have a Swift Pin individual purchases can be made by contacting the MMH charities team at [charitiesfinance@mmh.org.uk](mailto:charitiesfinance@mmh.org.uk)

The Swift Pins are £20 each and funds raised will go to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group.

Gift aid can also be applied to the donations.

#### 175<sup>th</sup> FIRING SWORDS

Should for whatever reason, any of the Provinces 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Firing Swords be returned please contact the Provincial Warden of Regalia; I'm sure he will be able to find a good home for them.

#### REGALIA

Similarly, should any other surplus regalia, in reasonable condition, become available please contact the Provincial Warden of Regalia.

#### KING EDWARD VII PRECEPTORY OF IMPROVEMENT

If you are an aspiring Marshal and wish to become a certified practicing Preceptor, or any Knight wishing to improve their KT Ritual, then it may be for you!

Meetings are held monthly at MMH and Life Membership for a Knight is only £2 per annum.

Therefore, all Knights of the Order are cordially invited to attend. Regalia is not required & swords and belts are provided at MMH.

More details can be found on the KEVII Website: [www.kingepoi.org](http://www.kingepoi.org) or in the Liber.

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#### LEST WE FORGET

† E.Kt. Colin Ayton PPrA-de-C heard and obeyed our Heavenly Captains word of command and began his final pilgrimage to the Holy City on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026, at the age of 72 yrs. He joined Selwood Preceptory of St John No.244 in 2007 and became Eminent Preceptor in 2014. He was also a member of St Lawrence Preceptory No.669 meeting in in Warminster and a Founder member of Geoffroi de Charny Preceptory No.708.

Colin was a highly respected and consummate Freemason and a member of several Masonic Orders, predominantly in Wiltshire where he was currently Provincial Senior Grand Warden in the Craft, Provincial Grand Almoner in Mark and Provincial 1<sup>st</sup> Constable in Dorset and Wiltshire Provincial Priory. His funeral will take place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 1:00 pm at the West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington, Nr Trowbridge BA14 6HL.



†††††

*PROVINCIAL WEBSITE* – [www.somersetkt.org.uk](http://www.somersetkt.org.uk)

The focal point of contact regarding this publication is the Provincial Development Officer  
E.Kt. Ray Beckingham P.Gt.Std.B.(B).