



Provincial Priory of Somerset

THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Issue No.9 December 2025



Welcome to the 9th 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



The new Masonic year is now well under way, with all Preceptories and the Encampment having already convened once. What a dynamic beginning it has been: five new Knights admitted, a new Joining Member welcomed, and five Eminent Preceptors installed. My sincere congratulations to all concerned.

The year commenced in splendid fashion with the Provincial Priory Annual Meeting held at the Webbington Hotel, where 143 Knights gathered to make it a truly resplendent occasion. Once again, I extend my thanks to all who contributed to its success, and my warm congratulations to those invested into Office for the year ahead. I look forward to your continued support during the scheduled visits and events, and to the pleasure of visiting you in your own Preceptories.

Regrettably, I must report that membership has declined over the past year. While a number of candidates are awaiting admission, we must continue to encourage new members. I remind you of the Candidates' Introductory Card, available from your Preceptory Registrar or any member of my Executive Team. Equally important is retaining our current members and fostering their active participation in ceremonies. To this end, I have reinstated the Preceptory of Improvement meetings in Frome (see page 2). Any Knight taking office is strongly encouraged to attend and will be warmly welcomed into the life of our Order.

With the assistance of the Provincial Sub-Prior, several Knights, and with the blessing of E.Kt. Ray Guthrie, P.Gt.A.-de-C., Provincial Grand Master for the Craft in Somerset, we have begun delivering informative talks about our Order in Craft Lodges and Royal Arch Chapters. A recent example was at the Love & Honour Lodge No.285 in North Wootton. We trust that these talks have already sown seeds of interest, and we intend to continue them at other Masonic venues across the Province in due course.

Above all, let us continue to spread and embrace the esprit de corps of our Order—and never forget it is to be enjoyed.

The R.E. Kt .Revd. Malcolm Lane, Great Prelate has, yet again, agreed to present the sermon at The Joint Orders Family Carol Service, All Saints Church, Weston-Super-Mare on 10th December. A great way to celebrate Christmas and welcome the New Year. I look forward to seeing you there— the mince pies and wine await!!

YitBotO *Paul*

UPCOMING MEETINGS 2025

December

3rd - Worlebury

5th - Cumba

10th Christmas Carol Service

UPCOMING MEETINGS 2026

January

19th - Keynsham Priory

February

2nd - Selwood Installation

4th - Worlebury

12th - King Ina

23rd - Exmoor

PROVINCIAL TEAM VISIT

27th - Antiquity



Provincial Priory 2025



Provincial Priory of Somerset

THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Issue No.9 December 2025



MEETINGS THROUGHOUT 2025 & 2026 ENTAILING PROVINCIAL PARTICIPATION

The Schedule of Visits for 2025 – 2026 is available on the Provincial website however the following Preceptory meetings in Somerset will receive formal Provincial attendance:

† **Exmoor Preceptory No.638 on Monday, 23rd February 2026 June**, the second **Provincial Team Visit**.

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. Norton in Cumba Preceptory

Kt. Curtis in the King Arthur of Avalon Preceptory

Kt. Sunderland in the Keynsham Preceptory of St Keyna

Kt. Edmunds in King Ina Preceptory

Kt. Howe at the Antiquity Encampment

And E.Kt. James as a Joining member in both Exmoor Preceptory and King Ina

Also, as Eminent Preceptor:

E.Kt. T.J.E. Quartermaine **P.Gt.Chamb.** at Bludud

E.Kt. T.W. Gunner at Estune

E.Kt. R.N. Howard at Worlebury

E.Kt. J.S. Brown at Our Lady of Walsingham

E.Kt. G.W. Bodman at Templecombe

SOMERSET PROVINCIAL PRECEPTORY OF IMPROVEMENT

NOTE: In addition to the PofI being held in Yatton the PofI in Frome has been re-established (meeting dates below):

The Pol in **Yatton** will meet at the Masonic Hall on the same dates:

1st Wednesday in April,
1st Thursday June; and,
4th Thursday October.

Whilst in **Frome** the Pol meetings will be held at the Masonic Hall on:

3rd Wednesday in March,
1st Friday in June; and,
1st Friday in November.

All meetings will be 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.

All Knights are welcome, *(Swords and Belts only are required)*.



Provincial Priory of Somerset

THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Issue No.9 December 2025



PROVINCIAL PRIORY ANNUAL MEETING 2025

Herewith a small collage of photographs courtesy of our "Provincial Photographer" E.Kt. David Nicholson PPrAlm. A further selection can be found on the Provincial Website; but not all of the 370 photographs taken can be displayed.



Arrival of the Provincial Prior for Somerset



Procession of the Preceptory Banners



Arrival of the Somerset Sword of Chivalry



Appointment of the Provincial Sub-Prior and Provincial 1st Constable



Overall Attendance 143 Knights



The Provincial Prior delivering his Annual address



40-year Certificates for E.Kts. Elmont and Creech

The United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St. John
of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta in England and Wales and Provinces Overseas



Provincial Priory of Somerset

THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Issue No.9 December 2025





Provincial Priory of Somerset

THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Issue No.9 December 2025



SOMERSET IN MALTA

E.Kt. Alan McMurray, the Provincial Sub-Prior, and three other Knights of the Province, namely E.Kt. Rod Dean, E.Kt. Darrell Hinder and E.Kt. Terry Gunner, returned to the Island of Malta in October to attend the La Vallette No. 649 and Waller Rodwell Wright No. 640 Preceptorys that meet in the historic capital of Valetta.

A very warm welcome was received at the La Vallette Preceptory which met on the Friday when they Installed four Knights into the Order, and the Somerset contingent were called upon to form the "Arch of Steel".

An equally warm welcome was received at the Waller Rodwell Preceptory on the Saturday evening, when two Knights were Installed as Knights of the Temple, followed by the Installation of the new Preceptor. In this meeting E.Kt. Alan McMurray was called upon to deliver the Accolade and the other Somerset Knights to act as Bodyguard.



To mark the visit Knight Templar Goblets were presented to E.Kt. Lawrence Porter of the La Vallette Preceptory and E.Kt. Giovann De Vita of the Waller Rodwell Wright Preceptory as a mark of gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality received.

Also, a week-long stay allowed plenty of time to enjoy the many historic delights of the island, with the visit to the St. John Co-Cathedral in Valetta being one of the highlights.





Provincial Priory of Somerset

THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Issue No.9 December 2025



KEYNSHAM PRECEPTORY OF ST KEYNA NO.455

WOW what a busy evening it was at the regular October meeting of the Preceptory, starting early so to complete the extensive Agenda in reasonable time, including:

- † The arrival of the Provincial Prior for Somerset and his team of Officer on their first official Team visit of the year
- † Receiving a delegation of Knights from the Worlebury Preceptory of St Dunstan bearing the Somerset Sword of Chivalry for presentation
- † The Installation of a new Knight, the ceremony being ably led by E.Kt. Derrick Griffen PPr2ndCon, (a last-minute stand-in) as Eminent Preceptor, and supported not only by Officers of the Preceptory but by R.E.Kt. Paul Davis, the Provincial Prior for Somerset who conferred the Accolade using the Somerset Sword of Chivalry
- † Dedication of the renewed Preceptory Banner donated by E.Kt. Macolm Behling PPrReg, the Preceptory Registrar
- † Undertaking the election of Officers for the ensuing year as well as other necessary business matters

In total 49 Knights were in attendance and all bar one stayed for the now renowned Keynsham Buffet, consisting of a wide variety of spicy and traditional main dishes with cream cakes and/or cheese & biscuits to follow.

All in all, a very splendid and well organised meeting and celebration, enabling the Knights to depart at a reasonable time.





Provincial Priory of Somerset

THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Issue No.9 December 2025



KING INA PRECEPTORY NO.211



Although having had to be delayed for two weeks the October regular meeting of the Preceptory got off to a really good start when we were honoured by the presence of the Provincial Prior for Somerset R.E.Kt. Paul Jeffery Davis accompanied by Great Prelate R.E.Kt. Revd. Malcolm Clifford George Lane G.C.T. and the Provincial Sub-Prior.

Having read the Dispensation, the meeting commenced on a rather sad and sombre note with a Requiem. in respect of our dearly departed and well-loved knight E.Kt. Maurice Stanley Durrant PPrReg . Known to us all as “Jimmy” he will be long remembered and sorely missed.

Moving on to the main event of the evening Companion Lindsay Randall Edmunds was installed in fine manner by the Eminent Preceptor E.Kt. Richard J. Winter and his officers with the guidance and direction of our Preceptory Marshal E.Kt. Chris Summers PPrReg and visiting Provincial Officers.

Under AoB the Provincial Prior rose, and to the delight and with the well wishes of all the Knights present, V.E.Kt. David Lloyd Jenkins P.Gt.Reg. was presented (and to his surprise) with a Forty Year Certificate for his dedication to the Province and to the Order in particular.

The certificate also recognised the fact that in 2002 he was awarded the great honour of being the **Provincial Grand Master for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset**. Yet, as a certified Preceptor of the KEVII Pol he still endeavoured to improve the standard of Knight Templar ritual and was influential in establishing the Provinces own Preceptory of Improvement in Burnham-on-Sea.

As a fitting touch The Great Prelate concluded the meeting by giving the Final Benediction in Latin.

The warmth of the evening carried on right through the Festive Board and although it was rather late when the Knights parted everyone went home happy and well pleased.

ESTUNE COMMAND PRECEPTORY NO 354



On Thursday 25th September 2025, E.Kt Alan McMurray P.Gt.A.-de-C., the Provincial Sub-Prior of Somerset, was in attendance for the Installation of E.Kt. Terry Gunner as Eminent Preceptor of Estune Command Preceptory No. 354.

Twenty-Four Eminent and Brother knights attended the meeting to also see E.Kt Bill Jefford receiving his 40-Year Certificate presented to him by the Provincial Sub-Prior.





Provincial Priory of Somerset

THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Issue No.9 December 2025



CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE 10TH DECEMBER 2025



The Knights of Somerset are reminded that this year's forthcoming Candlelight Carol Service is be held once again at All Saints Church, All Saints Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 2NL On Wednesday 10th December 2024, at 7 pm

Convened under the banners of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, Knights Templar and Red Cross of Constantine it is open to freemasons of all orders, their families (including children) and friends. All are very welcome to attend.



The Great Prelate R.E.Kt. Revd. Malcolm C. G. Lane G.C.T. will be in attendance once again. He is a most eloquent speaker, and it will be a great pity if there aren't numbers there to support this special Festive occasion.

It is also the wish of The Provincial Prior for Somerset, R.E.Kt. Paul J. Davis, that each Knight of the Province makes every effort to attend and asks them also to encourage family members and friends to come along as well.



CHRISTMAS DAY OBSERVANCE

*R.E.Kt. Paul Jeffery Davis, the Provincial Prior for Somerset, and the Executive send
Season's Greetings to all the Knights of Somerset, their Family and Friends*

The Knights of the Holy House of the Temple in England and Wales and Provinces Overseas are reminded to join in good wishes to their Brother Knights in the Order throughout the world on

Thursday, **25 December 2025**, at 5 p.m. GMT.

In this connection the Grand Masters Council has considered it appropriate that a standard form of prayer be introduced to be offered by Knights Templar on this special occasion in the following words:

**"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."**





Provincial Priory of Somerset

THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Issue No.9 December 2025



TEMPLECOMBE PRECEPTORY NO.686



On Tuesday 28th October Templecombe Preceptory held their 13th installation meeting (not unlucky) and was honoured by the presence of E.KT Alan Mc Murray P.Gt.A.-de-C. the Provincial Sub-Prior.

The Eminent Preceptor, E.Kt. Martyn Russell conducted the ceremony with sincerity Installing the incoming Eminent Preceptor E.Kt. Graham Bodmin as Eminent Preceptor for the ensuing year who afterwards installed his officers with ease.

E.KT Alan Mc Murray ably presented a Malta patent to Kt. Alex Shorey who was later installed as the Preceptory Standard Bearer (V.B.).

A Priory of Malta meeting followed where E.Kt. Martyn Russell also installed E.Kt. Graham Bodmin as Eminent Prior for the ensuing year.

A total of 35 Knights were in attendance (18 members and 17 visitors) to enjoy this splendid meeting and excellent Festive Board.

The photo below shows from left to right Kt. Jeff Willis, the Preceptory 2nd Constable. E.Kt. Martyn Russell the Installing Preceptor, E.Kt. Graham Bodmin the new Eminent Preceptory, E.Kt. Alan McMurray the Provincial Sub-Prior and Kt. Paul Binding the Preceptory 1st Constable.





Provincial Priory of Somerset

THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Issue No.9 December 2025



GREAT PRIORY MALTA 2025

On Monday, 10 November 2025 over twenty-five Somerset Knights gathered together at Freemasons' Hall, London, with many other Brother Knights from around the country, for the Annual Chapter of the Great Priory of Malta.

The meeting was presided over by the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement, *KStJ*, G.C.M. who began by awarding the honour of **Knight Grand Cross of the United Orders** to R.E.Kt. Jonathan Charles Whitaker, *DL*, *JP*, K.C.T. and Great Prior of Malta. After which he appointed V.E.Kt. Dr Nigel Francis John Scott-Moncrieff, P.Gt.Lt.Gen as **the new Great Prior of Malta**,

The meeting was then formally opened by the Great Prior of Malta so to elect and install 3 Templar Knights as Knights of Malta. The ceremony is unique among our Orders, it being the only Annual Investiture Meeting during which a full Masonic Degree Ceremony is worked on actual Candidates.



In the period when the Degree of Knight of St Paul was conferred, The ME&SGM awarded the appointments and promotions in Great Rank on 143 Brother Knights including our own E.Kt. Martyn Russell as P.Gt.Turcopolier. Unfortunately, due to a recent hip operation, V.E.Kt. Adrian Jones was unable to be invested as P.Gt.1stLt.

When the Candidates were readmitted, the ceremony proceeded with the degree being conferred by the Great Prior of Malta and in giving the accolade supported by the Gt.Cap.Gen. and Gt.Lt.Gen.

Further details of the meeting together with a plethora of other photographs can be found on the Freemasonry @86 News 14th November on the MMH Website.

For the first time in many years, Somerset Knights dined in the opulent Connaught Rooms, seated at two adjacent tables, and who enjoyed a scrumptious three course meal (with wine included) in a very convivial atmosphere.





Provincial Priory of Somerset

THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Issue No.9 December 2025



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, 24th 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 the Keynsham Preceptory of St Keyna No.455 who are charged to take the Sword to the Exmoor Preceptory on Monday, 22nd February 2026 meeting in Bridgwater.



PROVINCIAL TIES



The Festive season will soon be with us. 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 gift. 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,

SWIFT PINS

For those who may not have been able to get their hands on one, the "K.T. £20 for 2020 Appeal Swift Pins" are still available.

Individuals can purchase single pins, by contacting Linda Read, M.M.H. Charities Finance Manager at L.Read@mmh.org.uk and Finance Assistant, Millie Pilson, M.Pilson@mmh.org.uk

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

175TH FIRING SWORDS

Should for whatever reason, any of the Provinces 175th 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.

POTENTIAL CANDIDATES



Do you know a Companion who is interested in our
ORDER?

Then speak with your Registrar who has an Introduction Card with details that you can pass on.

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 or in the Liber.



Provincial Priory of Somerset

THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Issue No.9 December 2025



LEST WE FORGET

- † **E. Kt. David Edward Phillips** P.Gt.Chamb. received the command of the Great Captain on 25th September this year.

Although David was a member of the Templecombe Preceptory since 2012 he was Installed as a Knight Templar in 1988 in the Avon Preceptory of St. Andrew in the Province of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire. He aspired to Eminent Preceptor in 1993 and was appointed PPrReg. in 2016, the same year that he attained the Great Priory rank of P.Gt.Chamb.

Additionally, he was a member of the Province of the City and County of Bristol where he had Craft and Chapter connections; as well as in Knight Templar Priests and the Red Cross of Constantine.



- † **E.Kt. Maurice Stanley Durrant** PPrReg received the command of the Great Captain on 18th October this year.

Maurice or "Jimmy" or "Jim" to all those who knew him was aged 93. He was a true Masonic Brother in every sense of the word always putting others first and always ready with a sincere smile and always happy to help and encourage those younger Knights as they progressed through the various offices toward the Chair.

Jim had a long and distinguished career having served as a Sargent in the Somerset Light Infantry followed by an equally distinguished career with British Rail. Finally, apart from our own Illustrious Order of Knight Templar Jim was engaged in many other Degrees to which he gave the same complete commitment and will be missed by many.

- † **E.Kt. David Randolph Parrott** PPr1stCon received the command of the Great Captain on 2nd November this year.

A revered Knight of 49 years standing, he was installed as Knight of the Temple at Worlebury Preceptory of St.Dunstan No.121 on 4th February 1976 and was granted Honorary Membership of the Preceptory in 2021.

†††††

PROVINCIAL WEBSITE – 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).