



Provincial Priory of Somerset

THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Issue No.5 December 2024



Welcome to the 5th 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



At the Provincial Meeting in September, I was delighted to install E.Kt Alan McMurray as my new Provincial Sub-Prior who I look forward to working with over the coming year; as I do also with the other Provincial Officers I invested that same day; and of course, my Bodyguard. I know we offer them our warmest congratulations as they take on their new Offices, as we equally acknowledge the outstanding service of those

who now return from Active Provincial roles to their own Preceptories.

The dedication and commitment of those Knights – has been second to none. All have gained and will continue to gain from visiting Preceptories across the Province. Indeed, visiting is one of the most pleasurable and enjoyable facets of the Order. Therefore, I would encourage each of you to set an individual target to visit another Preceptory at least once during the forthcoming year. Equally, when visiting Royal Arch Chapters remember your Introductory cards for identified and suitable candidates – presently there are 14 Companions waiting in the Wings - but we could always do with more.

As you are aware E.Kt. Ray Sheppard was unavailable to see in his successor in September, due to a leg injury which required hospitalisation. Although recovering well, he was unable to join the Knights of the Bodyguard Preceptory and I on our trip to Malta – a visit he had arranged! However, I was pleased to report back, although he was missed, we had an excellent time, enjoying the glorious Mediterranean sun and attending two Preceptory's where we took active roles in the ceremonies (*see below*). There will a next time E.Kt. Ray.

The coming year looks exciting too with several events taking place (*details below*), but before then the largest Christian Festival of the year will be upon us. To begin with, The R.E. Kt .Rev. Malcolm Lane, Great Prelate has agreed to present the sermon at The Joint Orders Family Carol Service on 11th December so please make every effort to attend – the mince pies and wine await – and I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible, and with your families and friends.

With the end of the year also approaching I would like to take this opportunity, to wish everyone of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

As always: - this is an Order to be enjoyed! YitBotO *Paul*

UPCOMING MEETINGS 2024

December

4th - Worlebury

6th - Cumba

11th Christmas Carol Service

UPCOMING MEETINGS 2025

January

20th - Keynsham Priory

February

3rd - Selwood Installation

5th - Worlebury

13th - King Ina

24th - Exmoor

27th - Bladud

28th - Antiquity



E.Kt. Alan Joseph McMurray P.Gt.A.-de-C. – The Provincial Sub-Prior of Somerset

was installed at the Provincial Priory Meeting held on Monday 9th September. A member and current Registrar of the Cumba Preceptory No.476 was originally installed as a Knight Templar in Estune Command Preceptory No.354 in 2011. But, having moved home Joined Cumba Preceptory in 2015, became their Eminent Preceptor in 2017, and Provincial Registrar that same year. Great Rank honour followed in 2021.



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MEETINGS THROUGHOUT 2025 ENTAILING PROVINCIAL PARTICIPATION

The Schedule of Visits for 2024 – 2025 is available on the Provincial website with the following meetings in Somerset receiving formal Provincial attendance:

- † **The Keynsham Priory of St. Keyna No.455 on Monday 20th January** will include a Fraternal Visit to Somerset by Knights of the Province of Gloucestershire & Herefordshire. Our Provincial Prior will be hosting his opposite number and wishes his Provincial Officers to attend also.
- † **The Templecombe Preceptory No.686 on Thursday 13th March, the first Provincial Team Visit**, will see the arrival of the Sword of Chivalry borne by a delegation of Knights from King Ina Preceptory No.211; and there will be a candidate to Install.
- † **The Selwood Preceptory of St. John No.244 on Monday, 2nd June, the second Provincial Team Visit**, where it is planned for the KEVII¹ P of I to be in attendance to provide us with their wisdom on the KT Ritual.
- † **The Keynsham Priory of St. Keyna No.455 on Wednesday, 22nd October, for a Banner Dedication.**

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:

Bro.Kt. B.N.L. Palmer in Cumba Preceptory
Bro.Kt. K.L. Hannam in King Arthur of Avalon Preceptory

Whilst the following the following joined/re-joined the Order

Bro.Kt. I.D. Moore at Cumba Preceptory
Bro.Kt. R.T.S. Todd at Exmoor Preceptory
Bro.Kt. R.K. Woodland at Exmoor Preceptory

Also, as Eminent Preceptors:

E.Kt. Jon Mansell who was installed for a second consecutive year in Estune Command Preceptory
E.Kt. Terry Porter, at the Worlebury Preceptory of St Dunstan
E.Kt. Martyn Russell at Templecombe Preceptory
E.Kt. Graham Chipperfield at Our Lady of Walsingham
E.Kt. Bill Whitehead at Bladud Preceptory

Plus, the following who became Knights of Malta:



At Templecombe:

Bro.Kt. Paul Binding
Bro.Kt. Jeffery J Willis

At A & B in Bath:

Bro.Kt. Mark (Jack) G Hargreaves
Bro.Kt. Nigel C Dovell



¹ King Edward VII Preceptory of Improvement



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PROVINCIAL PRIORY OF SOMERSET – ANNUAL MEETING 2024

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Somerset Provincial Priory was held on Monday, 9th September, at the Webbington Hotel, Loxton, Somerset. Once again, the Provincial Priory was well attended there being 142 Knights present. After opening, the Preceptory banners were paraded and roll call taken, followed by arrival of the Somerset Sword of Chivalry.



When the appropriate business had been concluded, the Provincial Prior ceremoniously appointed his Provincial Sub-Prior E.Kt. Alan McMurray P.Gt.A.-de-C., before appointing and investing his Provincial Officers for the ensuing year. A new Commander, Dep. Commander and Registrar of his Bodyguard were also appointed before an inspection of the chosen Knights.

More details will be found at www.somersetkt.org.uk

Guests and Visitors were then formally welcomed before the Provincial Prior addressed the Knights, expounding upon the success of the past year and illuminating the possibilities for the future. In conclusion the Chapter was closed and the Knights retired for a superb luncheon and the customary Toasts.





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ESTUNE COMMAND PRECEPTORY NO. 354

On Thursday 26th September 2024, the Provincial Prior accompanied by the Provincial Sub-Prior, attended the Installation of E.Kt. Jon Mansell as Eminent Preceptor for the second consecutive year of Estune Command Preceptory No. 354.

A Knights Templar Patent was presented to Kt Stewart Galway by the Provincial Sub-Prior and two Malta Patents presented to Kts Stewart Galway and Steve Harris by the Provincial Prior.



In total of 30 Eminent and Brother knights attended the meeting, most impressive were 12 members attending of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard out of 15 members ... most in picture above.

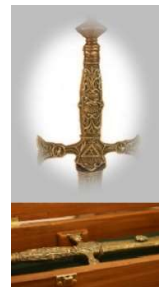
Additional good news was proposals of five potential Knights over the next two years.

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 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 still continues its journey around the province and is currently in the safekeeping of King Ina Preceptory No.211,



This picture shows the Somerset Sword of Chivalry being presented to V.E.Kt. David Jenkins by E.Kt. Jon Mansell, the Eminent Preceptor of Estune Command with other Knights of the delegation.

The Knights of King Ina are now charged to take the Sword back to the Templecombe Preceptory No.686 at their next meeting to be held on Thursday 13th March 2025.



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OUR LADY OF WALSHINGHAM PRECEPTORY NO.672 - VISIT TO MALTA

On Wednesday, 2nd October the Provincial Prior for Somerset, R.E.Kt. Paul Davis, accompanied by five of his Somerset Knights from Our Lady of Walsingham Preceptory embarked on a visit to the Island of Malta. This visit by the Somerset Bodyguard Preceptory had been arranged to coincide with the meetings of two Knight Templar Preceptories meeting on the Island, who work the under the Statutes of the Great Priory of England and Wales and its Provinces Overseas.



The two Preceptories visited were the La Valette Preceptory No.649 and the Waller Rodwell Wright Preceptory No.640, both which meet at the same venue, in the Masonic Hall in Valletta; and conveniently on consecutive days, the first meeting being on Friday, 4th October in the morning and the other on Saturday, 5th October in the evening.

At the first meeting E.Kt, Darrell Hinder and E.Kt. Graham Chipperfield together with Kt. Ralph Howard, the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard Commander and Kt. Tim O'Neil the Deputy Commander were invited to form the Arch of Steel and to guard the Sepulchre during the Installation ceremony of three Knights Templar. Whilst our Provincial Prior was invited to present Templar Patents to two Knights installed at a previous meeting.

At the second meeting the Somerset Knights again provided the Arch of Steel and Sepulchre Guard for the Installation of two Knights, while Provincial Prior was honoured to confer the Accolades and to present two more Patents.

Both meetings were very well attended by many Knights who had also travelled from the UK and elsewhere. The Festive Boards were packed to capacity and a very warm welcome was extended to all.

This left a further 4 days for the Knights to enjoy the sights of Malta, details of which can be found on the Provincial website page allocated to OLoW Preceptory

<https://somersekt.org.uk/our-lady>



Many congratulations go to E.Kt. Ray Sheppard, the Past Provincial Sub-Prior (who had to withdraw at the last minute) and E.Kt. Les Sinclair, of the Waller Rodwell Wright Preceptory for initiating the visit; and to E.Kt. Darrell Hinder for taking the role of 'Tour Director – Commander', for which a new Mantle Badge is being considered.



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GREAT PRIORY OF MALTA 2024

Nigh on thirty Knights from Somerset attended the Great Priory of Malta meeting which took place on Tuesday 19th November at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London. It is rumoured that the total attendance for the meeting was in the region of 450, none of whom were deterred by the Farmers demonstration taking place that same day although some were delayed by the inclement weather and travel disruption.

Both E.Kt. Darrell J Hinder and E.Kt. Christopher Moore from Somerset were awarded the honour in Malta of P.Gt. Baillie and P.Gt. Turcopolier respectively by the Most Eminent & Supreme Grand Master Paul Raymond Clement G.C.M.

A summary of the meeting and many photographs can be found in the **Freemasonry@86** #Fiday Feeling bulletin dated 29 November 2024 which can be accessed via the MMH website <https://markmasonshall.org/>



Following the meeting most Knights retired to the Connaught Rooms to dine whilst some of the steadfast Knights of Somerset decamped to the Brassie Blanc Restaurant in Chancery Lane, the favoured eatery used many times in the past, where a fine food and wine aplenty were enjoyed.



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



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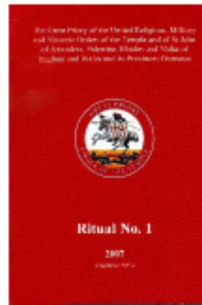
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King Edward VII Preceptory of Improvement

(Held under the licence and authority of the M. E. & S. Grand Master)



How well do you know your ritual?

Meetings of the KEVII Preceptory of Improvement will be held at
Mark Mason's Hall, 86 St James's Street, London SW1A 1PL
at 6.00pm on the following dates

Tuesday 11 March 2025 (Malta)

Tuesday 22 April 2025

Tuesday 26 November 2024

Tuesday 27 May 2025

Tuesday 14 January 2025

Wednesday 18 June 2025

Wednesday 5 March 2025

Tuesday 2 September 2025

All Knights of the Order are cordially invited to attend meetings

Regalia is not required – swords and belts are provided at MMH

Dress Code: Smart Casual. Strictly no jeans or trainers

Registrar contact details:

E.Kt. Antony Legge P.Gt.Her.

Telephone: 07976 438 463

Email: antony.londonkt@gmail.com

Website: www.kingepoi.org



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CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE 11TH DECEMBER 2024

The Knights of Somerset are reminded that this year's forthcoming Candlelight Carol Service is to be held at All Saints Church, All Saints Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 2NL (website for directions etc www.allsaintswas.org). On Wednesday 11th December 2024, at 7 pm, and that it is 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.

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

This year's service is expected to be more resplendent than ever as the Great Prelate R.E.Kt. Revd. Malcolm Clifford George Lane K.C.T. will be in attendance. 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.

In addition, the Provincial Prior will be accompanied by his good lady Carole who will be giving one of the readings; and there will be mince pies & wine afterwards.



*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

Wednesday, **25 December 2024**, 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."**





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WARDEN OF REGALIA



Meet Bro.Kt. Richard Hibberd your new Warden of Regalia (undressed & dressed).

Bro.Kt. Richard is a member of King Arthur of Avalon Preceptory No.551 and has already inherited a plethora of second hand regalia of reasonable quality, and is finding his feet around the myriad of outlets for new if it is your preference.

Remember the Provincial Warden of Regalia should be your first port of call when looking for Regalia, and perhaps regalia for other Orders too.



Profits realised will go to the Province in the first instance and then on to the Jerusalem Eye Hospital, the charity that our Order supports.

Unfortunately, Richards details did not be in this year Somerset Yearbook, but he can be contacted via e-mail on richard.hibberd@mbzonline.net

PROVINCIAL TIES



Should your KT Provincial Tie is looking a bit tired, what better than to ask your loved ones for a new one. 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,

NOTICES

SOMERSET PROVINCIAL PRECEPTORY OF IMPROVEMENT

Held under the direction of a KEVII qualified Preceptor E.Kt. Adrian Jones **P.Gt.Her.** and Meets at 7.00 p.m. in the **Masonic Hall, Yatton** on the **1st Wednesday in April** & the **1st Thursday in June**.

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

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.



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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.



LEST WE FORGET

† E.Kt Simon Charles Finn. PPrA-de-C was installed as a Knight of the Order in Antiquity
Encampment No. 1 on the 24th of November 2006 and was installed as Eminent Commander
on the 25th of April 2014. E Kt Simon served the Encampment with distinction and was
awarded his Provincial honour the following year.

E Kt Simon has been ill for some months but continued with his Masonic duties until to the
end on 10/09/2024. He will be greatly missed in Craft, Chapter and of course Knights Templar
but especially in the Degree of Master Mark Masons in which he held Grand Rank.

† Bro.Kt. Anthony Charles Brinkworth a member of Antiquity Encampment No.1 was installed as
a Knight of our Order on 30/11/2018. He was only with us a short time before receiving the
Command of Our Great Captain on 8/10/2024. He will be sadly missed.



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).