



## Provincial Priory of Somerset

# THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Issue No.4 September 2024



**Welcome to the 4<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



This last quarter has been somewhat quieter with only a few meetings taking place, with one new Knight installed and five other Knights having completed their Malta Degree. However, other events including fraternal visits and social events have taken place which have served to foster camaraderie and the bonds of friendship across the Province.

With the closing of another Masonic Year, I would like to thank all my Officers for their unstinting support in, what I believe, has been a successful year with a total of thirteen new Knights being installed. Raising the profile and awareness of our Order through the use of the 'personalised' Introductory Card appears to be proving its worth (Cards available from your Registrars).

Our Provincial Priory Meeting is fast approaching, and I am looking forward to investing my new team and visiting your Preceptories once again, and it would be marvellous if there were new candidates on every occasion!

Below you will find reminders of important events, including Great Priory (Malta) where this year's Great Malta appoints are made. As the 30 Knights who came to support Great Priory in May will attest it is a tremendous day out – not to be missed. And don't forget the exceptional Joint Orders Carol Service which will be held in Weston -super-Mare on Wednesday 11 December.

I wish you all well. And remember, this Order is to be enjoyed.

YitBotO *Paul*

### UPCOMING MEETINGS 2024

#### September

6<sup>th</sup> Cumba

9<sup>th</sup> - Provincial Priory

23<sup>rd</sup> Exmoor

25<sup>th</sup> King Arthur

26<sup>th</sup> Estune - Installation

#### October

2<sup>nd</sup> Worlebury - Installation

7<sup>th</sup> Selwood

10<sup>th</sup> King Ina

22<sup>nd</sup> Templecombe - Installation

23<sup>rd</sup> Keynsham

28<sup>th</sup> OLoW - Installation

24<sup>th</sup> P of I CANCELLED

#### November

19<sup>th</sup> GREAT PRIORY - Malta

28<sup>th</sup> Bladud - Installation

29<sup>th</sup> Antiquity

### PROVINCIAL TEAM VISITS 2024-2025

The Schedule of Visits for 2024 – 2025 is now available on the Provincial website. Again, there will be two Provincial Team Visits to:

**Templecombe Preceptory No.686 on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025** when the Sword of Chivalry will arrive borne by a delegation of Knights from King Ina Preceptory No.211; and,

**The Selwood Preceptory of St. John No.244 on Monday, 02 June 2025**, where it is planned for the KEVII P of I to be in attendance to provide us with their wisdom on the KT Ritual.



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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:

Bro.Kt. R.J. Dallimore King Arthur of Avalon Preceptory.

Also, the following who became Knights of Malta:



*At King Ina:*

Bro.Kt. Sam Sheasby

Bro.Kt. Harris

*At OLoW in Nailsea:*

Bro.Kt. Mark Twist

Bro.Kt. Stewart Galway

Bro.Kt. Clive Loxton

There were no Eminent Preceptors Installation Meetings during this quarter.

#### PROVINCIAL TEAM'S SECOND TEAM VISIT OF THE YEAR

The second Provincial Team Visit of the year took place on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March this year when the Provincial Prior for Somerset accompanied by his team of Officers descended upon the Keynsham Preceptory of St. Keyna No.455.



The Provincial Team had a very enjoyable evening supporting the R.E. Provincial Prior in its visit to Keynsham, it was also nice to welcome the visiting Brother Knights from Devonshire & Cornwall.

Inadvertently , Phillipe picked up the incorrect Regalia, but he did represent the Malta order.

Y.i.t.B.o.t.O.



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### COFFEE & CAKE



On Saturday 29th June a Coffee & Cake morning took place at The Grand Atlantic Hotel, Weston-super-Mare.

The morning was enjoyed by Brother Knights, their wives and friends.

It was a pleasure to see the Provincial Prior Paul and his wife Carole.

It is surprising when mixing together and chatting about everything including Masonry time flies, our get together lasted 2 hours.

We are now looking forward to our next event, getting to meet other Brother Knights and their partners.

### VERA CRUX FRATERNAL VISITATION

Just after Templecombe Preceptory was consecrated it was agreed to liaise with Vera Crux Preceptory No. 654, also a day time Preceptory, that meet in Exmouth.

Each year Templecombe members visit Exmouth, and Vera Crux visit us.

On Tuesday 9th July four brother knights visited Exmouth, where we met many old friends and some new ones, we enjoyed the Installation of their new E.P. which was followed by a salad buffet.

We look forward to our visit next year when it is hoped many more Brother Knights will join us.



The photo shows from left to right, John Knight, Ray Beckingham, Andrew Yelland the Sub Prior designate for Devon & Cornwall, Richard Thomas P.P. Alan Seager, Sub Prior. Paul Binding, Phillipe Giorgetti and the newly installed E.P. Michael Springfield.

Ray B.

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in April; & 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in June.**

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

**Please note: the October meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday has been cancelled indefinitely.**



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#### INSPIRATION FROM THE PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

We are about to start our new season of meetings. Over the past year the Craft & R.A. Chapter have been giving talks regarding the Membership Challenge, now some may feel they have heard enough, but can I ask you all to work as hard as you can in supporting these Degrees. They are the foundations on which we build, and our survival is utterly dependant on eligible candidates from Royal Arch. So, don't hesitate to approach suitable Companions in your Chapter - aim for quality over quantity – and instil the message that ours is a membership that should be cherished.

Can I also encourage every Preceptory, whenever possible, to organise a get together, whether it is a Lunch, Dinner or Coffee morning or any other event; and consider extending invitations to other Preceptories. We now have the option of detailing our events on Freemasonry@86 News, which is published by MMH. It is free advertising, and great way to spread the news! If you need any help or advice to support your endeavours do not hesitate to contact me.

Visiting other Preceptories is encouraged by the Provincial Prior. Visiting is a wonderful experience, and we should encourage our newly installed Knights to join us when we travel round the Province Always a great evening of Templar activity awaits and new friendships aplenty.

And if a Preceptory doesn't have a candidate, I am willing (if free) to give a talk, just e-mail me, [atthebayray@gmail.com](mailto:atthebayray@gmail.com)

#### PROVINCIAL ALMONERS MESSAGE TO ALL KNIGHTS OF THE PROVINCE OF SOMERSET

My Dear Brother Knights,

After much thoughtful consideration and consultation, the time has arrived that I should lay down my Mantle as your Provincial Almoner and make way for a New Knight to take on the role.

Over the last eight years I have had the honour and privilege of serving two outstanding Provincial Priors; first our late departed and well-loved R.E.Kt. Barry Burrige K.C.T. and now the R.E.Kt. Paul Davis. Under R.E.Kt. Paul's leadership the Province is going from strength to strength, his sincere warm and gentle manner has encouraged us all to uphold the excellent ideals and precepts of the Order and strengthen our Christian faith. I could not have asked for better support.

But, as many will now know, at the Provincial Meeting, on 9<sup>th</sup> September, the Almoner's mantle is to be placed upon the shoulders of E.Kt. Martyn I. Russell PProv 1<sup>st</sup> Constable.

I have no doubt E.Kt. Martyn is the right choice; he is a well-respected member of the Order; and has the relevant experience to carry forward the ongoing work with dedication and commitment. And I know you will afford him the same help and encouragement that you have all given me over my many years of tenure.

In closing it would be very remiss of me if I did not send my Heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for the way that you have all supported me during some of the most difficult times the country has faced particularly the Covid Pandemic.

May Our Good Lord Bless You All and Your Loved Ones.

Stay safe.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order

E.Kt. Brian C. R. Porte P.Gt.Herald (Retiring Almoner)



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#### PROVINCIAL OFFICERS DINNER 2024

The Provincial Officers Dinner was this year held at the Long Sutton Golf Club. Twenty-nine Knights of all Eminences attended to celebrate the success of the past year and to introduce the designated Officers for next year to their predecessors, and hopefully for them to pass on their enjoyable experiences.



Held at the Long Sutton Golf Club  
Thursday 22 August 2024



A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all which was capped by it being announced that the Somerset KT Golf Team, captained by E.Kt. Jon Mansell, had trounced the other Teams representing the other Orders at the Somerset Annual Golf Tournament, for a second year too.

It being rightly so especially as the event had been organised originally by a former Provincial Sub-Prior, V.E.Kt. Robin Bex after whom the trophy is named.



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#### INTRODUCTION



Meet Bro.Kt. Richard Hibberd your new Warden of Regalia (the only picture I have of him at present).

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.

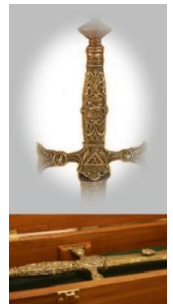
Remember the Provincial Warden of Regalia should be your first port of call when looking for Regalia, and perhaps regalia for other Orders too. Any profits realised will go to the province in the first instance and then on to the Jerusalem Eye Hospital, the charity that our Order supports.

Richards details will not be in this year Somerset Year Book, but he can be contacted via e-mail on [richard.hibberd@mbzonline.net](mailto:richard.hibberd@mbzonline.net)

#### 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, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2012 by R.E.Kt. Barry Desmond BurrIDGE, 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 Estune Command Preceptory No.354 who are charged to ensure it is taken to the Provincial Priory Meeting in September.



#### CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024

This year's Weston Candlelight Christmas Carol Service will be held at 7pm. Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024, at All Saints Church, All Saints Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 2NL (website for directions etc [www.allsaintswas.org](http://www.allsaintswas.org)).

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.

The service will consist of the usual traditional carols and Somerset Heads of Order, or their representative, have been invited to present Readings. Following the service there will be an opportunity to have a glass of wine or soft drink, along with mince pies and sweets for children, and to socialise with our extended masonic family.

It has always proved to be a significant and enjoyable event in our yearly calendar, and I am sure you will find it is an ideal way to start the Festive Season.

Therefore, I would encourage as many Knights, family and friends as possible to be there – especially as we hope to have something special this year for children who attend.

As this service is under the Banner Knights Templar the attendance of at least the Eminent Preceptor and as many members of your Preceptory as possible along with their family & friends would go some way to enhance the evening.

The Provincial Prior and his good Lady Carole very much look forward to your company there."



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#### NOTICES

##### 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.

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.

##### SWIFT PINS

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

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

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

##### 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.

#### PROVINCIAL TIES



The Somerset KT Provincial Tie is now entering its seventh year of wear and by now yours may need  
revitalising.

If so, you will be pleased to know, that there are now plenty of new ones 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.



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#### CHRISTMAS DAY OBSERVANCE

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.”



#### LEST WE FORGET

It is with great sadness that we announce that E.Kt. Richard John Francis Conneely on 21-Jun-24 received the call of our Great Captain of Salvation.



*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).