



## Provincial Priory of Somerset



### THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Issue No.11 June 2026

#### Welcome to the 11<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.

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



Brother Knights - I trust you are enjoying the wonderful spell of weather we have been blessed with, and—if the forecasts are to be believed—we may look forward to an equally glorious summer ahead.

The past three months have been both eventful and deeply rewarding for our Province. We have welcomed **five new Knights** into our magnificent Order; seen **seven Eminent Preceptors installed** (including one Commander); celebrated **seven new Knights of Malta**; and witnessed **four Brother Knights** extend their commitment by joining an additional Preceptory. These are achievements of which we may all be justly proud.

While our overall membership remains steady, a number of Preceptories would still benefit from additional support. I therefore encourage you to continue raising the profile of the Knights Templar within your Lodges and Chapters. We cannot afford complacency. I remain firmly convinced that if we continue to admit **Quality Candidates**, in **Quality ceremonies**, delivered in **Quality Preceptories**, then the strength and vitality of our Order will be assured for many years to come.

Your dedication and enthusiasm were especially evident at **Great Priory on 20th May**, when more than **thirty Somerset Knights** travelled to London to support E.Kt. Revd. Stuart Boyd and E.Kt. Bill Whitehead as they received their Great Honours from the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master. It was a memorable day—one filled with pride, fellowship, and the unmistakable spirit of Somerset.

As mentioned in February's newsletter, we are delighted to be building on last year's successful Black-Tie event with another gathering at the end of this month—this time in the south of the Province. Full details are included below, and places remain available for those who wish to join us.

We also look ahead to the **Provincial Officers' Dinner** and the **Provincial Council Meeting**, both important milestones as we prepare for our **Provincial Priory Annual Meeting on 14th September**. This is the most significant event in our calendar, and your presence is essential in ensuring that it is a fitting and memorable occasion for those receiving honours. And let us not forget that the Luncheon forms an integral part of this celebratory day.

Brother Knights, thank you for your unwavering support, your good humour, and the pride you take in making Knights Templar Masonry in Somerset so very special. Keep smiling—and keep enjoying your Masonry – especially K.T.!

*Paul*

#### AN EXTRA-SPECIAL EVENING FOR KNIGHTS & LADIES

A Three Course Banquet  
+ Musical Accompaniment

Tickets £36 pp

Booking form below Page 9



A Black-Tie event is to be held at the  
Batch Country House, Lymsham

All Knights and their Ladies  
Family & Friends are welcome



SATURDAY, 27 JUNE 2026

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS 2026

*June*

1<sup>st</sup> - Selwood

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

11<sup>th</sup> - King Ina - Malta

12<sup>th</sup> - Bladud

17<sup>th</sup> - King Arthur

25<sup>th</sup> - OloW

27<sup>th</sup> - **Black Tie Dinner + Ladies**

*July*

No Meetings

*August*

14<sup>th</sup> - Provincial Council Meeting

*September*

9<sup>th</sup> - Cumba

TBA - Provincial Priory 'run-thro'  
**Main participants only**

14<sup>th</sup> - **Provincial 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:

Kts. Reece and Chrisostomou in Worlebury Preceptory  
Kt. Wood in King Ina Preceptory  
Kt. Kerley in Antiquity Encampment  
Kts. Sargeant and Barker in Templecombe Preceptory  
Kts. Holden and Lindsay in Estune Command Preceptory

And the Knights who Joined:

Selwood - E.Kt. Whitehead and Kt. Park  
Cumba - Kt. Evans  
Estune - E.Kt. Chipperfield

Also, as Eminent Preceptor:

E.Kt. C.A.F. Lambert at Selwood  
E.Kt. P.J. Drake at Keynsham  
E.Kt. R.M. Hubberd at King Arthur  
E.Kt. R.J. Thomas at Cumba  
E.Kt. J.D. Brown at King Ina  
E.Kt. R.F. Brockington at Exmoor  
E.Kt. M.I. Hollyman at Antiquity Encampment

Plus, the following who became Knights of Malta:

Kt. Deakin }  
Kt. O'Connor } all from Worlebury Preceptory  
Kt. Bomford-Glaylor }  
Kt. Tedd }  
Kt. Knight }  
Kt. Howe } all from Antiquity Encampment  
Kt. Kerley }



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.somersetk.org.uk](http://www.somersetk.org.uk)

### 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 P.Gt.W.ofR. and will start promptly at 7.00 p.m.

The PoI in **Yatton** meets at the Masonic Hall on the: & in **Frome** the PoI 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 – INSTALLATION 2026



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 Officers. 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

#### KEYNSHAM PRECEPTORY OF ST KEYNA NO.455 - 2026 INSTALLATION



At the March 2026 meeting, a total of 39 knights including the Provincial Sub-Prior attended the Installation of our new Eminent Preceptor, E.Kt Paul Drake. A Past Preceptors Jewel was presented to E. Kt Richard Gover who thanked the members for the help he had received during his year in office.

After the meeting the knights enjoyed the now famous Keynsham Buffet where harmony and laughter prevailed.

MB





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#### 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 an 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.

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 F. 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.

CJ





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#### A MOST ENJOYABLE EVENING – KING INA APRIL MEETING

Well over Forty Knights were in Attendance at the King Ina Installation meeting which was held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April to support the Eminent Preceptor E.Kt. Richard J Winter place his successor Bro.Kt. James D. Brown into the Chair of the Preceptory in a fine and dignified manner ably assisted by the Preceptory Marshal E.Kt. Christopher E. Summers PPrReg and the Provincial Deputy Marshal E.Kt. Darrell J. Hinder P.Gt,A-de-C.



The meeting was Honoured by the Presence of The Provincial Prior R.E.Kt. Paul J. Davis accompanied by his Sub-Prior E.Kt. Alan J. McMurray P.Gt.A-de-C and a large entourage of Provincial Officers including the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Provincial Constables.

The Atmosphere was very Warm and Friendly as befits our very fine Order.



The evening was unexpectedly further enriched when the Provincial Prior requested E.Kt. John David Phillips P.Gt.Her. to be presented and proceeded to congratulate E.Kt. John with a Forty-Year Certificate to mark the many years of distinguished service to the Order not only in Somerset but in Other Provinces where Jon as served as Provincial Chancellor.

The warmth of the occasion was carried forward throughout the Festive Board enriched with the traditional fine fayre to add to the occasion.

BCRP

#### EXMOOR PRECEPTORY NO 638 INSTALLATION

At the Preceptory's Installation Meeting on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April E.Kt. Roger Brockington P.Gt.Std.B.(B). was installed into the chair of Eminent Preceptor by E. Kt V F Easthope P.Gt.Std.B.(B).

A somewhat unique occasion as both of these Knights were Founder members of Exmoor Preceptory when it was formed at Minehead in 2003 and both E.Kt's were the last 2 founding members to take the Chair. The REPP and Sub Prior were in attendance with a good number of visiting nights to witness an excellent evening





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### ANTIQUITY – APRIL INSTALLATION

Both R.E.Kt. Paul J. Davis the Provincial Prior for Somerset and his Sub-Prior E.Kt. Alan J. McMurray P.Gt.A-de-C. were in attendance at the Antiquity Encampment Installation Meeting on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April to see E.Kt. Martyn I. Hollyman installed as the Eminent Commander



### WORLEBURY PRECEPTORY OF ST DUNSTAN NO. 121 – FINAL MEETING OF THE SEASON

This past Wednesday, Worlebury Preceptory of St Dunstan No. 121 held its final meeting of the season. The Preceptory was honoured by the presence of Provincial Sub-Prior Alan McMurray, P.Gt.A.de-C, who was accompanied by a strong contingent of the Provincial Bodyguard in support of the evening's proceedings.

The highlight of the meeting was the installation of a new Knight into the Order, Companion Andreas Chrisostomous. The ceremony was conducted superbly by Eminent Knight Ralph Howard, who delivered a first-class performance. The floor work was carried out in excellent fashion, as is his custom, by the Preceptory and Provincial Marshal, Eminent Knight Brian Horn, striking the perfect balance of humility, warmth, and sincerity.

The ceremony was ably supported throughout: Eminent Knight Jim Weedon delivered an excellent rendition of the Charge, Eminent Knight Ray Beckingham presented the Cup of Memory, and the Symbols were expertly performed by Knights Justin Pusey, Andy Richards, and Nathan Henderson.

The evening continued with the presentation of a Knights Templar patent to Knight Steve Reece, conducted by the Sub-Prior, who had the pleasure of being present at Knight Steve's original installation. This was followed by the election of the new Prior, Knight Justin Pusey, who will be installed at the next meeting.

The night concluded with a highly enjoyable after-meeting, where a great atmosphere was shared by all in attendance. A particular highlight was the response to the toast of the visitor by Eminent Knight James "Annette" Brown, who entertained the brethren with the story behind his nickname, bringing both smiles and laughter to the room.



Overall, the meeting was a fitting close to the season and a true showcase of the camaraderie and enduring bonds within the Order.

NaH



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### GREAT PRIORY - MAY 2026

Great Priory on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May saw in excess of 30 Knights from Somerset attend this year's meeting, where four Somerset Knights received Great honours; E.Kt. Les Sinclair and E.Kt. Angus Rhodes were promoted to Gt.Her. and P.Gt.Her. respectively, whilst E.Kt. Revd Stuart Boyd and E.Kt. Bill Whitehead received a first appointment of P.Dep. Gt.Alm. and P.Gt.W.ofR.



Courtesy of Chris Eley



AMcM



AMcM

It was pleasing to see so many Knights present, especially some for the first time, two of whom were recently installed Knights from the Antiquity Encampment.

More detail and photographs of the meeting and grand reception in the Connaught Rooms afterwards can be found in the Freemasonry@86 News 22 May 2026 available on the MMH website



AMcM

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



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BLACK-TIE DINNER 2026



*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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## Provincial Priory of Somerset

### 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 Cumba Preceptory who are charged to deliver the Sword to the King Arthur of Avalon Preceptory No.551 in Glastonbury on the 17<sup>th</sup> June. They in turn will bring the Sword to the Provincial Prior at the Provincial Priory Annual Meeting on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2026.



#### 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

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of:

† E.Kt. Colin Ayton PPrA-de-C who 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 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.

† Brother Knight Michael Edward Bidwell heard and obeyed our Heavenly Captains word of command and began his final pilgrimage to the Holy City on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026, at the age of 64. He joined King Arthur of Avalon Preceptory No.551 in 2023 and held the position of Herald in the Preceptory at the time of his death.

† E.Kt. Richard Mark Warry PPrHer heard and obeyed our Heavenly Captains word of command and began his final pilgrimage to the Holy City on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026, at the age of 75. Installed as a Knight in the Cumba Preceptory No.476 in 2003 and became Eminent Preceptor in 2011.

A stalwart of the Crewkerne Masonic Temple, being also a member of the Parrot & Axe Lodge and Chapter who met there. He was the unpaid caretaker, maintenance, bar manager and a very reliable member of all the units he was a member. He will be sadly missed by all who new him.



†††††

*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).