



the Surrey knight



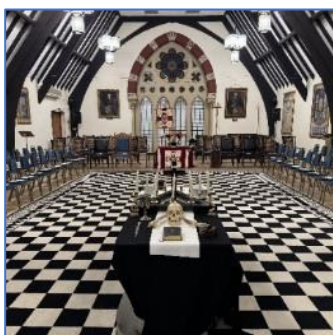
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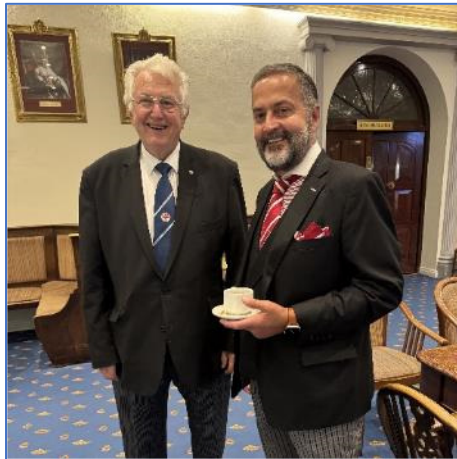
Provincial Priory of Surrey Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Priory of Surrey was held on Saturday the 12th of July 2025 at the Croydon Masonic Centre in Oakfield Road, Croydon. E.Kt. Brian and the team did a sterling job of ensuring everyone could get in the car park.



The Acting Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Graham McGlashan, his Deputies, and the team were busy rehearsing in the Temple while the rest of us were enjoying coffee and bacon butties downstairs. Prior to the meeting (*excuse the pun*) our Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Pat Crossan, KCT, made sure he individually welcomed all our guests and Brother Knights of the Province.







By 10.45 we were all gathered in the Temple. The Brother Knights were called to Order by the Provincial Marshal to receive the Provincial Prelate, E.Kt. Chris Craddock. He was preceded by the Provincial Cross Bearer and accompanied by the Provincial Almoner, E.Kt. John Coleman. Then followed the Delegation of Knights of Malta.

RE Knights and other Distinguished Guests, then entered the Temple in procession. The Provincial Prior entered the Temple preceded by the Provincial Sword Bearer and followed by the Provincial Banner Bearer.





Provincial Priory was opened in due form, and the Provincial Prior was saluted with seven under direction of the Provincial Marshal.

The Provincial Prior welcomed the Honoured Guests from other Provinces, as well as the Heads of Surrey Orders and their Executive. The roll of Preceptories in the Province was called, during which the Preceptory Banners were paraded.



After the regular business of Provincial Priory had been concluded, the Provincial Prior presented several donations from the Provincial Charity Account:

St John Eye Hospital, £1,000; Surrey Craft 2030 Festival, £250; PSDS, £150; and Woking Strokability, £150.

These were presented to E.Kts. Nigel Harding, Robbie Dobbie, John Coleman and Miguel Godfrey.



The Provincial Prior thanked E.Kt. Dr Miguel Godfrey for his support as Provincial Sub Prior over the past year and said he had much pleasure in re-appointing him as Provincial Sub Prior, He was then Proclaimed and saluted with five. E.Kt. Miguel responded accordingly. The Provincial Prior then appointed and invested his Provincial Officers, following which he thanked E.Kt. Charles Hoad for his services as Bodyguard Commander and Registrar. He then appointed E.Kt. David Olliver as Commander, and re-appointed E.Kts. Mark Carter as Deputy Commander, and Stephen Barney as Registrar. He thanked the members of the Bodyguard for supporting him on his Official Visits.

E.Kt. Steve Jones, Provincial Warden of Regalia, presented the Provincial Prior with a donation towards the Provincial Benevolent Fund from the sale of new and pre-loved regalia over the past year. The Provincial Prior addressed Provincial Priory. In his Address he greeted all those attending with warmth and a hearty welcome and said how pleased he was to see so many Brother Knights, and guests from other Provinces and Orders attending. He spoke about the need to look after others, both within and without our Order, as one of the Precepts of our Order. He congratulated

all those Knights he had appointed or promoted this day wishing them a happy year to enjoy their honour. R.E. Knight Pat ended by thanking all those who worked so hard and contributed to the success of the meeting.



Provincial Priory was closed in due form and the R.E. Provincial Prior retired in procession, accompanied by the Provincial Sub-Prior, Officers of Great Priory, guests of the Province, and the Provincial Officers of the year, greeting his Honoured Guests as they retired from the Temple.



A few drinks in the bar gave us the opportunity to catch up with some old friends.





We then retired to the dining room to enjoy a lovely meal together with our guests.





During the meal the Provincial Prior presented E.Kt. Robbie Dobbie, a Middlesex Knight and the Managing Director of Surbiton Masonic Hall, with a framed photograph hoping that it will be given pride of place at the Centre.

Many thanks to R.E.Kt. Trevor Gulliver, KCT, for kindly playing the organ for us. Also, a big thank you to Gary Billington of the Croydon and District Masonic Hall for putting up a rolling slide show of all our activities over the past year to keep our guests entertained while in the lounge, as well as all the staff of Croydon Masonic Hall for looking after us so well.





Service of Rededication and Thanksgiving



The Biennial Church Service will be held on Sunday the 19th of October at the lovely old church of St Mary's in Thorpe.



It is impossible to say exactly when St. Mary's Church was built, although portions of the building are of venerable antiquity which leads one to believe it is a Medieval Church. In 1963 a Roman cinerary urn, dated to 120 -150 A.D. was discovered buried in the Churchyard, establishing that this site has been of religious significance for nearly 1900 years.

We always receive a very warm welcome from the Vicar and his team, and the coffee and home-made cakes go down well after the service.

We hope that many knights of the Province will attend to make this a very special day in our calendar.

Great Priory

Wednesday the 21st of May saw an excellent turnout of Knights Templar from the English Constitution and visitors from overseas attend the Annual Chapter of Great Priory at Freemasons' Hall.

The first items of business having been completed, the Very High and Right Eminent Great Seneschal, Andrew Christopher Rainbow, G.C.T., rose to propose the re-election of Paul Raymond Clement, OSTJ, G.C.T., as Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master in typically warm and erudite fashion. This was greeted with acclamation from the Knights present.

In turn, the Grand Master was then very complimentary with his comments about the Great Seneschal and announced his re-appointment.

It was then announced that R.E.Kt. Paul Richard Calderwood, Provincial Prior for Monmouth & South Wales, V.E.Kt. Jonathan Spence DL, First Great Constable and V.E.Kt. Daniel Mark Heath, Great Vice-Chancellor, were to be Appointed, Obligated and Invested as Knights Commander of the United Orders and they were duly presented to the Grand Master.

The Great Vice-Chancellor was then called upon to read the names of the 152 Knights receiving appointment to, or promotion in, Great Rank and those present were invested by the Grand Master.

Following some further items of business, the Grand Master then addressed Great Priory. He began by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their attendance, and for re-electing him as their Grand Master. He then congratulated the three new Knights Commander of the United Orders on their preferment, and all the Brother Knights receiving appointment to or promotion in Great Rank.

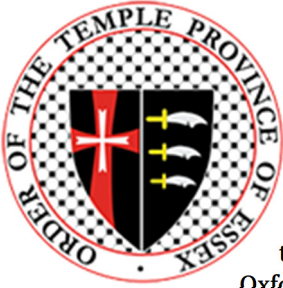


He announced that Great Priory will be donating £71,000 to fund equipment for the Paediatric department at the new Nablus Hospital. This represents Great Priory's funding for the Eye Hospital for both 2025 and 2026 as one lump sum to help ensure the Hospital opened with the equipment it needs. This sum will augment the other money already being directed to support the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group from Provinces, Preceptories, and Brother Knights of the Order.

E.Kt. Revd Niall Johnston, Deputy Great Almoner, was privileged to be invited to attend the official opening of the new St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group (SJEHG) Day Hospital in Nablus on Saturday the 10th of May. The hospital had commenced work on the 16th of March and the opening was then marked by a special ceremony by SJEHG's Chair Sir Andrew Cash KStJ and key donors during which the relationship with K.T. was mentioned on a number of occasions.

This remarkable achievement would not have been possible without the generosity of Great Priory, the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, the St John Priory in the USA and several other significant donors.

The Nablus Day Hospital is a wonderful example of how Great Priory leads and oversees the support from K.T. towards the work of SJEHG in many ways. The K.T. Benevolent Fund has provided significant startup funding for paediatric eye care for the first two years, the Province of Durham is providing a significant piece of theatre equipment for cataract surgery and the Knights and Dames of the Vision Beautiful have committed to covering the cost of a large steam autoclave. Other Provinces and individual Knights are also considering providing ring-fenced support for the Nablus Day Hospital as part of the overall Great Priory commitment that has been in place for over 100 years.



THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL PRIORY OF ESSEX

On 8 May 2025 the Province of Essex once again held its annual Knights Templar meeting at Saxon Hall Southend. The meeting was a great success with 180 Knights attending the meeting, with guests joining the Knights of Essex from Yorkshire, Devon & Cornwall, East Anglia, Hertfordshire, Kent, Middlesex, Oxfordshire, Worcester, Surrey, Lincolnshire and London.

The Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Roger Smith, appointed his active officers for the year along with those Knights receiving their first honours and promotions. He reminded the Knights that the honours they were receiving were not for just what they had done, but for what they should continue to do in the future.



Amongst the new promotions were 6 new knights joining the Provincial Priors Bodyguard. The Provincial Bodyguard gave an excellent rendition and display of the 'Silent Drill' which was warmly received by all those attending.

With the start of the new Provincial 'Centenary Fund', the Prior took the opportunity of presenting 'Patron Certificates' to those Preceptories that had achieved Patron status, which has raised to date, the magnificent sum of £10,000. The new 1930 first Provincial Prior Collar Jewel cufflinks were available for collection at the meeting, and this has raised a further £1000 for the 'Centenary Fund.'

During the Provincial Prior's address he informed the Knights of the great success the Province has had over the last year and of the enthusiasm shown by the Knights when attending Preceptory visits, visits to other Provinces and the attendance at the Provincial Preceptory of Improvement. He told the Knights that they should be proud of the enthusiasm, drive, passion and dedication that they show to the order in Essex, as he indeed is proud of them. He announced that there would be details available soon for the 'Individual Patron scheme' for the Centenary Fund, which he hoped would raise further substantial funds for the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital.



Following the recession from the meeting, the Knights of the Province along with the guests enjoyed drinks followed by luncheon.



THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL PRIORY OF KENT

On Saturday, the 5th of July 2025 at Oakley House, Bromley the Provincial Priory of Kent was opened by the Provincial Prior R.E.Kt. David Jordan K.C.T.

He heartily welcomed many distinguished guests from around the Country and other heads of orders in Kent.

After installing his Provincial Officers for the insuring year he presented to the retiring Provincial Treasurer and his auditing team the Provincial Prior's awards of merit.



The event was hosted this year by Axstane Preceptory of St. John Jerusalem No. 373 who organized the car park very well and marshalled the Knights to their respective changing rooms.

The Provincial Prior's Bodyguard was out in numbers, all 20 of them and performed extremely well. They were indebted to E.Kt. Kevin Johnson who added to the proceedings by expertly playing the organ.

There was fantastic 200 Knights in attendance with 154 staying for lunch.

Thanks to Bob Tuthill



THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL PRIORY OF MIDDLESEX

On the 7th of July, the Provincial Priory of Middlesex held their Annual Meeting at the Harrow District Masonic Centre, Kenton in Middlesex. Present at the meeting was the Very High and Right Eminent Great Seneschal, Andrew Christopher Rainbow, G.C.T.



After tea and coffee in the lounge and the opportunity to catch up with old friends we went into the Temple.



The Provincial Prior of Middlesex, R.E.Kt John Roberts, K.C.T. entered in procession accompanied by his Provincial Officers and opened Provincial Priory. He was saluted with seven under the direction of the Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Tom D'Souza, P.Dep.Gt.Mar.

The Very High and Right Eminent Great Seneschal, Andrew Christopher Rainbow, G.C.T., entered in procession and was warmly welcomed by the Provincial Prior of Middlesex. The Great Seneschal said how glad he was to be able to join the Knights of Middlesex and was saluted with nine under the direction of the Deputy Great Marshal.



The Provincial Prior welcomed all the honoured guests and visitors and, after the regular business of Provincial Priory had been concluded, the Preceptory Banners were paraded into Provincial Priory by the Preceptory Banner Bearers. The Provincial Prior had much pleasure in appointing E.Kt. Terence Michael O'Neill, P.G.Her., as Provincial Sub Prior. Before he did so he thanked V.E.Kt. Silverio Ostrowski, P.Gt.Reg., for all the friendship and support he had received from V.E.Kt. Silverio over the years. The Provincial Officers for 2025-26 were then appointed and invested.



In his Address the Provincial Prior thanked everyone for attending, especially those from other Provinces who had travelled some way to attend the meeting. He thanked them for their hospitality when he and his team had visited their Provinces.

He also thanked the Great Seneschal for his support in ensuring the Provincial Priory of Middlesex meeting was both enjoyable and successful. In his reply the Great Seneschal said that he would like to make a special presentation to E.Kt. Tom D'Souza of a Certificate from the King Edward VII Preceptory of Improvement.

After the collection of Alms, the Great Seneschal and his team retired from Provincial Priory. Provincial Priory was closed in due form and the Provincial Prior, the Provincial Sub Prior, Provincial Officers of the year, and honoured guest retired in procession under an Arch of Steel.







After some group photographs and refreshments in the bar, we retired to the dining room where we were treated to a splendid lunch with Knights of the Provincial Priory of Middlesex and their guests.



It was another enjoyable day with the Brother Knights of the Provincial Priory of Middlesex.