



the Surrey knight



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The Installation Meeting of Emmaus Preceptory



On Monday the 28th of April our Provincial Sub Prior, E.Kt. Dr Miguel Godfrey, was installed as Eminent Preceptor of the Emmaus Preceptory No 446, the Surrey Installed Preceptors Preceptory, by V.E.Kt, Chris Eley, P.Gt.Reg. Present was our Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Patrick P Crossan.



The Preceptory was opened by the Eminent Preceptor, V.E.Kt. Chris Eley, who welcomed everyone, especially the Provincial Prior of Surrey.

After the regular business of the Preceptory had been concluded the Eminent Preceptor installed E.Kt. Dr Migués Godfrey as Preceptor in a very sincere manner.



E.Kt. Miguel appointed his Officers for the year following which he gave a most interesting and enlightening talk entitled, 'The Road to Emmaus'.

After the collection of Alms the Preceptory was closed.

Then followed the installation meeting of Emmaus Priory where E.Kt. Dr Miguel Godfrey was installed as Eminent Prior of Emmaus Priory. E.Kt. Graham McGlashan was invested as Preceptory Marshal, and E.Kt. Angus Rhodes as Deputy Marshal.



After the regular business of the Priory had been completed a ballot was taken for Knights Golden Lambert and Emmanuel Ofuasia of Jim Agnew and Sampson Onoriode Oseha of Croydon Preceptory and Francois De Plessis of Agincourt Preceptory to be installed as Knights of Malta.



This proved in their favour and the Degree of St Paul was conferred on Knights Golden, Emmanuel and Francois. Knights Jim and Sampson entered the Priory and were installed as Knights of Malta in a very sincere manner. They were congratulated by our Provincial Prior.



The Priory was then closed and, after refreshments in the bar, the Brother Knights of Emmaus Preceptory and their guests dined together at the Surbiton Masonic Hall.

Two more Candidates for Suth Seaxe Lodge of Scottish Masters



At the June 2025 meeting of the Suth Seaxe Lodge of Scottish Masters of St Andrew No. 9 in the Grand Priory of Knights Beneficent of the Holy City two candidates, E.Kt. John Charles William Hickman from the Province of Sussex, and E.Kt. Peter Gordon Vossier from the Province of Surrey, took their Fourth Degree Ceremony.



As well as many Surrey and Sussex Knights there were also several Brethren of the Royal Order of Scotland, S.E. Counties, and Knights Templar Priests.

The Ceremony was conducted by the Worshipful Deputy Master, Revd Knight Gordon Leaman, K.B.H.C., the Grand Superintendent of Sussex in the Knights Templar Priests; the Senior and Junior Wardens were Revd Knight Chris Eley,

K.B.H.C., and Revd Knight Colin Dann, K.B.H.C., the Provincial Prior of Sussex in the Knights Templars. The Master of Ceremonies was Squire Novice David Thompson, and the Assistant Master of Ceremonies was Revd Knight Tim Wheeler, Grand Marshal.



At the end of the Ceremony Brothers John and Peter were congratulated by Revd Knight Gordon Leaman, the Worshipful Deputy Master, and our Regional Grand Prefect, R.Revd.Kt. David Jordan.



Revd Knight Chris Eley was declared Worshipful Deputy Master for the ensuing year, and Revd Knight Paul Hollebhone as Treasurer.



After the Lodge was closed, we retired to the bar for refreshments before sitting down to an enjoyable lunch together at the Nutfield Masonic Centre.

Provincial Thanksgiving Service at Guildford Cathedral

The Companion Orders were well represented at the Annual Order of Divine Service held on Sunday the 21st of September 2025. The service was led by the Dean, The Very Reverend Bob Cooper, and the Officiating Officers were W.Bro. Chris Eley, Provincial Grand Chaplain, and W.Bro. Ivan Dias-Cooke, Deputy Provincial Grand Chaplain.



After the processions into the Cathedral, The Very Reverend Bob Cooper, welcomed the Brethren, their families and friends. We sang some well-known hymns led by the Provincial Choir, and listened to readings from the Provincial Craft and Royal Arch Executive. W.Bro. Chris Eley offered the Bidding Prayer, and the Intersessional Prayers were led by W.Bro. Chris Eley and W.Bro. Ivan Dias-Cooke.



At the end of the Service R.W.Bro. Nick Burger, Provincial Grand Master / ME Grand Superintendent, gave the Closing Address where he thanked the Dean and everyone who helped to make the day such a success. Very Rev. Bob Cooper offered the final Prayer and Blessings, before the Clergy, the RW Provincial Grand Master, and honoured guests retired to the Recessional Organ Voluntary played by the Organist, Bro. James Furness-Roe.

We were then invited across to the Seasons Café for refreshments and a chance to catch up with old friends.

We have always had a special relationship with Guildford Cathedral. The middle window bearing the Masonic Province of Surrey crest was donated by Surrey Freemasons at the construction of the Cathedral, and in 1937 the Mark Province of Surrey presented to the Cathedral Church of the Holy Spirit in Guildford an Alms Dish in gold, emblematic of Beneficence and Charity.



Service of Rededication and Thanksgiving



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.

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.



Mission Accomplished – Vive La Normandie

Allow me to explain. In Knights Templar, Farnham, we had a French man, Jean-Pierre Herrer who worked at Frimley Park Hospital as an engineer. He returned to La Belle France and settled in Le Mans. I contacted him when I became the registrar of Whyte Stone 447 and we kept in contact. He was anxious to return regalia which in KT parlance meant some not inconsiderable, valuable bits of kit which I mentioned to our Treasurer. Both of us decided to pay Jean-Pierre a visit and our Eminent Preceptor expressed an interest in going with us.

Middle August was the agreed date and off we went down the A3 to Portsmouth, boarded a new Brittany Ferry, had a lovely lunch and landed in Caen around 22.00 hrs. The following morning, we had a leisurely drive, landing just south of Le Mans around lunch time, not sure how we would be received. No worries. Jean-Pierre is a fine man and mine host soon put us at our ease, fed and watered us and sat down with us and his lady wife to a fine cold lunch.



There was a certain amount of reminiscing between Barrie and Jean-Pierre and then the decision to visit the Le Mans racing museum was decided upon. Jean-Pierre offered to take us there with Barrie, at first unsure as to what side of the road Jean-Pierre should use. The former was a little relaxed after some good wine and must have thought he was back home in Blighty.

When we got there, no museum until yours truly broke out into very old French and was told by a security guard to pop round the other side of the track where they had constructed a temporary museum containing a collection of amazing cars.

They took some time to view and were very, very impressive.

Then came the difficult part. We returned to Jean-Pierre's house and discussed his regalia. He no longer goes to meetings, which are some distance from his beautiful country house. Everything was immaculate. It was all in boxes and as new. It was quite sad to see him gaze wistfully at his Craft and Knight Templar regalia which he had looked after so well. It was laid in the back of the car, and we returned to the house to say farewell to Renee, his lady wife and thank Jean-Pierre for his kindness.



A true Mason in every respect, it was an honour for me to meet such a steadfast brother. Another side of Masonry which I shall never forget. We will keep in touch, maybe WhatsApp will help.



However, we had enough energy to visit the American tank on the hill and go on further up to a very interesting museum and vista. There were stones with very poignant quotations and statues to emphasize the battles that took place there. Fish and chips helped us put it into perspective and allowed us time to process this amazing battle scene. We were a sombre bunch of oldies, each with his own thoughts!

Our next visit was to the American cemetery at Omaha. The beauty and the serenity of the place did a little to raise one's spirits but the sacrifice of all these men and women in such a vast amount was very difficult to bear. We were a quiet threesome. Our respect to the American nation for the care they take on honouring those who gave all was uppermost in our minds. We then passed on to another remarkable museum a couple of clicks away from Omaha.



We then proceeded to Ver-sur-Mer. We were at Juno Beach now. The British Normandy Memorial is a war memorial near the village of Ver-sur-Mer in Normandy, France. It was unveiled on the 6th of June 2021, the 77th anniversary of D-Day. It is dedicated to soldiers who died under British command during the Normandy landings. It is a new commemorative site but nevertheless it was dramatic and beautiful. We were taken by the "Standing with Giants" display, and we felt that on our return we should find a Farnham man who lost his life there and we would honour him with his own metal figure.



The final visitation was to Pegasus Bridge where we were served tea by the daughter of Mme Gondre, the original owner of the cafe and first house to be liberated on the 5th June 1944. Ever since, a toast to D-Day veterans has been held at the precise moment of 23:16 German time that British troops entered the cafe on the 5th of June.

There we took the opportunity to visit the nearby museum which has the old bridge and a copy of the Horsa glider, one of six that landed and took the bridge. The original bridge was removed to make way for modern traffic.

Three beach heads and Pegasus Bridge completed, leaving us with many wonderful

memories. Off to the ferry, a lovely meal on board and home in our beds by 11.30 pm. What memories!

Thanks to Michael Fenech

Our lunchtime venue was Arromanches, Gold Beach. A brand spanking new museum, and boy did my two companions get their fill. I was at university in Caen for a year in the sixties and had visited this area many times and have been back since with Anne on more than one occasion. I had to spend a few euros in a bar to help me pass time as the culture vultures swept up all the information of the largest invasion in history and it's very sad consequences.

