



the Surrey knight



Issue 18 – MAY 2026

Great Priory



Wednesday, the 20th of May 2026 saw an excellent turnout of Knights Templar, along with many visitors from overseas, to 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.



The Grand Master then announced he would appoint R.E.Kt. Kessick John Jones, K.C.T. to the honour and dignity of Knight Grand Cross of the Temple and he was duly presented to the Grand Master. It was then announced that R.E.Kt. Richard Scott, Provincial Prior for Durham and R.E.Kt. Graeme Hutchinson, Provincial Prior for Derbyshire were to be appointed, invested and



proclaimed 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 151 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.

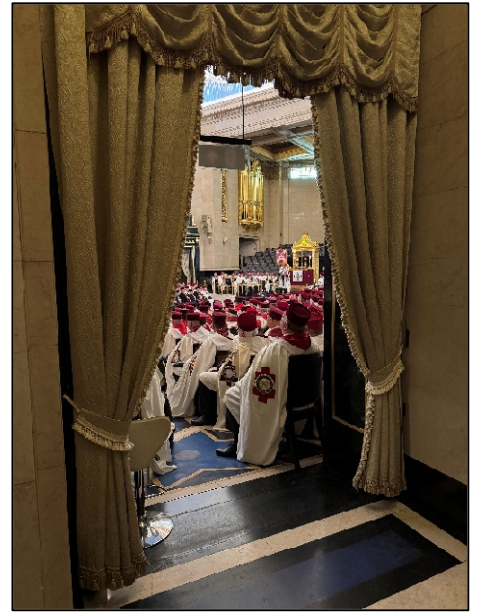
He then congratulated the new Knights Grand Cross and Knight's Commander of the United Orders on their preferment, and all the Brother Knights receiving appointment to or promotion in Great Rank. He described how difficult life is for the Eye Hospital given the current status of the region. And he reminded Brother Knights that the date of the Annual Meeting of the Great Priory of Malta has been moved to a new date of the second Monday in November, which will be Monday, 9 November 2026.

A warm welcome was then extended to visitors from foreign Constitutions, our own Knights from Provinces and Preceptories overseas, and the Heads of other Masonic Orders.

The Grand Master finished by thanking the team at Mark Masons' Hall, the Great Marshal and his team, his Bodyguard, and the staff at Freemasons' Hall, who had all worked tirelessly to ensure the meeting was a success.



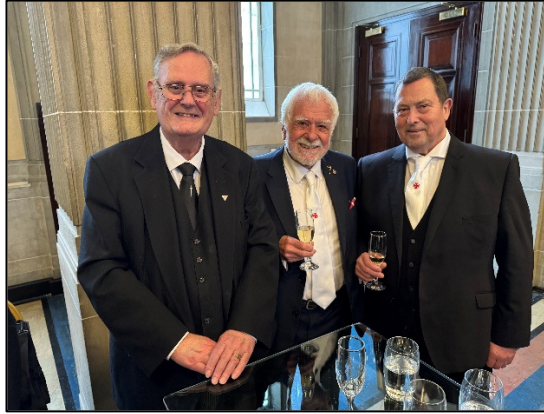




With no other business to conduct, Alms were collected and the Knights retired from the Temple, many joining the Grand Master and Great Officers for the after proceedings that followed.



Our congratulations go to all those who received preferment this year, along with our thanks to all who attended and helped make this such a day to remember.





St Saviour's Preceptory



On Friday the 27th of March the Knights of St Saviour's Preceptory rehearsed part of the Ceremony of Installation of a Knight Templar in readiness for their May meeting when they will have a Candidate for Installation.

The Preceptory was opened by the Acting Eminent Preceptor, E.Kt. Roger Stride, who welcomed everyone especially all the visitors who came along to support the Preceptory.



After the regular business of the Preceptory had been concluded V.E.Kt. Chris Eley was invited to present a Great Priory Certificate to Kt. Steve Bignell, which he did in a very informative way.



The Brother Knights then rehearsed part of the Ceremony of Installation of a new Knight. The Preceptory was closed and the Brother Knights of St Saviour's Preceptory and their guests retired for refreshments before sitting down to a very enjoyable meal together at the Sutton Masonic Hall.



The 2026 Annual Meeting of the Provincial Priory of Surrey Have you booked in yet?

The 2026 Annual Meeting of the
Provincial Priory of Surrey will be held on
Saturday the 11th of July 2026 at the
Croydon Masonic Hall.

The meeting will commence at 11.00 a.m.
and will be followed by lunch at 1.30 p.m.



Provincial Priory of Surrey
web site:



<https://www.surreycompanionorders.com/welcome-knights-templar>



A Candidate for the Preceptory of Croydon



The Regular Muster of the Preceptory of Croydon No.196 was held at Croydon Masonic Hall on Monday the 9th of March 2026. The Eminent Preceptor, .Kt. Mark Carter, having requested the Marshal to ascertain that the approaches were properly guarded and that none were present but true Brethren of the Temple announced the Preceptory open in due form and the Warrant of the Preceptory was displayed.

The Muster Roll was called by the Registrar and the Eminent Preceptor welcomed the Provincial Prelate into the Preceptory. The Acting Marshal then called the Bro. Knights to salute the V.E. Provincial Prelate, V.E. Kt. Christopher Cradock with five. The Provincial Prelate thanked the Eminent Preceptor for his warm welcome and greeted him heartily and well.

A ballot was held for Companion Johannes Francis Rodgers, Raised in Purley Lodge and Exalted in George Price Chapter. Following a successful ballot, Comp. Johannes Rodgers was installed as a member of the order.

The candidate was admitted and completed his 14 years as a Novice. He was then invited to leave the Preceptory for a moment of reflection and meditation, and he was then re-admitted enjoying the cup of memory, the final trial, and be welcomed and honoured as a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre.

The ceremony was delivered in a superb manner by the Eminent Preceptor E.Kt. Mark Carter. The Charge to the Novice next to the Sepulchre was delivered by E.Kt. Garth Blanchard and the Symbols of the Order were delivered by E.Kt. Andrew Milton, both in an excellent manner.



The Eminent Preceptor then welcomed the new knight into the Preceptory and wished him many years of enjoyment in the order. The Eminent Preceptor concluded the installation of the new Knight by thanking those Bro. Knights who had assisted in the ceremony.

The V.E. Provincial Prelate gave a most interesting and comprehensive explanation of the KT Certificate to Kt. James Wong and he duly signed it at the Registrar's table.

The Eminent Preceptor declared E.Kt. Garth Blanchard as Eminent Preceptor and E.Kt. Brian Pulley as Treasurer for the ensuing year.

It was agreed to donate £150 to three groups, Sutton Food Bank, and the Eye Hospital in Jerusalem.



The ROYAL
MARSDEN
Cancer Charity



St John of Jerusalem
Eye Hospital Group

There being no further business the Preceptory was closed, and after refreshments the Brother Knights of Croydon Preceptory dined together at the Croydon Masonic Hall.

Thanks to Brian Hunter



A Candidate for St Saviour's Preceptory



On Friday the 8th of May St Saviour's Preceptory installed a new Knight into our Order, Companion Mario Lopez of Rutlish Lodge and Chapter. V.E.Kt. Chris Eley, P.G.Reg., acted as Chaplain. This was very special for V.E. Knight Chris as he is an Honorary Member of Rutlish Lodge and Chapter and has been involved in all Mario's ceremonies since he joined Freemasonry, including Raising him in the Craft and Exalting him into the Holy Royal Arch.



The Preceptory was opened by the Eminent Preceptor, E.Kt. Simon Triptree, who welcomed everyone, especially all the visitors who were standing in office, some at the last minute.

After the regular business of the Preceptory had been concluded a ballot was taken for Companion Jorge Mario Lopez as a Knight Templar. This proved in his favour and Companion Mario was installed as Knights Templar in an excellent manner. Afterwards Knight Mario was congratulated by the Eminent Preceptor, and his friend V.E.Kt. Chris, who both wished him many enjoyable years in our Order.



The Preceptory Guard, E.Kt. Simon Banister, was also tiling for a Craft Lodge upstairs....

Knight Richard Wileman was declared Eminent Preceptor for the ensuing year. It seems like only two years ago that Knight Richard was Installed into St Saviour's Preceptory....

The Preceptory was closed and, after photographs, the Brother Knights of St Saviour's Preceptory and their guests retired for refreshments before sitting down to a very convivial meal at the Sutton Masonic Hall.

