



# the Surrey knight



Issue 9 – JUN 2024

# Great Priory

**Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> 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, rose to propose the re-election of Paul Raymond Clement 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 Great Vice-Chancellor was then called upon to read the names of the 137 Knights receiving appointment to, or promotion in, Great Rank and those present were invested by the Grand Master.

It was then announced that R.E.Kt. John Roberts, Provincial Prior for Middlesex, and R.E.Kt. Patrick Peter Crossan, Provincial Prior for Surrey, were to be Appointed, Obligated and Invested as Knights Commander of the United Orders and they were duly presented to 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.

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.



He then praised the work of the King Edward VII Preceptory of Improvement Workshops and presented the two newly qualified Preceptor and Marshal Knights, E.Kt. Edward Lines and E.Kt. Adrian Moseley, with their certificates.

And then we received an update on the work being carried out by the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group, much of which is being done under very difficult circumstances.

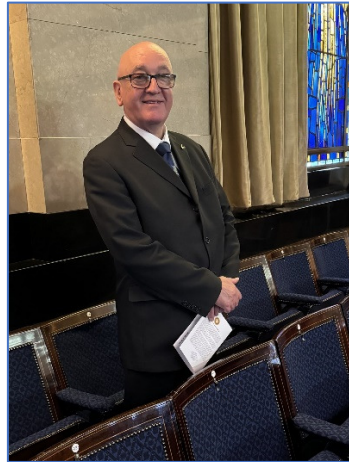
The Grand Master finished by thanking the team at Mark Masons' Hall, the Great Marshal and his team, his Bodyguard, and the staff at Freemasons' Hall, who had all worked tirelessly to ensure the meeting was a success.



In closing, the Grand Master reminded us of our duty to the Craft as Freemasons and the renewed vigour we can direct towards the Royal Arch to ensure that there are a good number of candidates coming through, thereby qualifying them to come and join us in this fabulous Order.

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 meal 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.







A splendid turnout of Surrey Knights to see our Provincial Prior Appointed, Obligated and Invested as a Knight Commander of the United Orders





# The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Provincial Priory of Surrey Have you booked in yet?

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the  
Provincial Priory of Surrey will be held  
on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2024 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.



# Grand Master's Address to Great Priory

Brother Knights, I offer a very warm welcome to all attending Great Priory today and I thank you for your continued support of our wonderful Christian Order. Your presence is most appreciated and, I know, will mean so much to those Brother Knights receiving appointments and promotions. From where I am standing, the room looks nothing less than magnificent and I feel we are building in strength here at Freemasons' Hall and, happily, we still have space for expansion. So, if you have enjoyed the proceedings of the day and the fellowship and camaraderie of your Brother Knights, then tell those in your Preceptories what a great day they are missing and let's build even further on the success of this meeting.

Thank you so much for re-electing me to serve for a further year, your continued confidence is reward in itself, but the real privilege is the knowledge that together we can help to secure the future the Order we all love. This afternoon we have welcomed 2 Brother Knights to the honour and dignity of Knight Commander of the United Orders, and I am sure we would wish to congratulate these Brother Knights on their new roles. R.E.Kt. John Roberts, our Provincial Prior for Middlesex, and R.E.Kt. Patrick Crossan, Provincial Prior for Surrey. Both were installed in 2015 within days of each other and both continue to lead their Provinces with great distinction, and I know we all wish them well.

It has also been a great pleasure today to invest so many Brother Knights with their new ranks in Great Priory. I do hope that these appointments and promotions will inspire you to even greater services to Knight Templar Masonry and will be an encouragement to Knights in your various Preceptories to work as hard as you do. Just over 2 weeks ago, I had the pleasure of installing R.E.Kt. Trevor Gray as Provincial Prior for the Far East and I am so pleased that he is able to be with us today in his new capacity, and I know we all wish him well as he takes up the reigns of that Province.

Last November, I mentioned there was a plan to make the expertise of the King Edward VII Preceptory of Improvement more available in the Provinces. I am delighted to say that this plan has been implemented with Workshops for Preceptory Marshals having been held in Derbyshire, London, and Monmouth and South Wales, with a fourth planned for Lincoln later this year. But to really make this plan work, we need more Knights to pass the examinations to become Instructing Preceptors. Such commitment to the Order's Ritual and the achievement in attaining this status deserves recognition; and I am delighted, for the first time in Great Priory, to present certificates to Eminent Knight Edward Lines and Eminent Knight Adrian Moseley, who passed their tests earlier this year.

Eminent Knight Moseley and Eminent Knight Lines, many congratulations on passing your tests. You join a small band of elite Brother Knights who have proven their knowledge of our Ritual and I trust that you will take this knowledge back to your Provinces and help your Brother Knights in learning and understanding our glorious ceremonies.

I now turn to welcoming our distinguished guests from our Sister Great Pories, Rulers of other Orders and Brother Knights of our own Constitution from Overseas. We are blessed with a goodly number of delegations from Sister Great Pories of Ireland, Scotland, the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA, Great Pories of Greece, Germany, Finland, United Order of France, Benin, Netherlands, Peru, the Great Priory of America CBCS, the Great Priory of Belgium and its Prefectures in Australia, as well as many representative4s from our own Constitution; the Provinces of South East Asia, Sri Lanka, the Transvaal, the Far East, Ivanola Preceptory No.588 St.Lucia, the Preceptory of St. John the Almoner Malta, Kolossi Preceptory No.684 Cyprus; and many Ruler of the other Masonic Orders in England and Wales.

Before closing, I want to bring you up to date with the situation at the Eye Hospital in Jerusalem. As agreed at our November meeting of the Great Priory of Malta, we have transferred £100,000 as a contribution towards the funding of key support staff for the Paediatric department at Jerusalem. Patients as young as a few days old up to twelve years of age are treated by a team of thirteen, providing comprehensive eye care to children suffering from serious and blinding diseases. By supporting this, we are enabling the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group to continue its vital work for children in the Palestinian Territories.

As to the hospital these are turbulent times indeed. The good news is that since 20th April they have been able to provide clinics in Gaza which allows them to do vision screening as well as treatment for eye infections and the dressing of wounds. This is a huge improvement and took over 6 weeks of negotiating with the many relevant powers that be. This is the first part of a three-phase plan to restore a full service in Gaza. The next step will depend on being able to transport refrigerated medication, which will extend services to the prevention of blindness and the treatment of Diabetic Retinopathy. Phase three will be to reopen the hospital which is not expected until the end of the year at the earliest.

Meanwhile, in the rest of the West Bank the level of violence remains considerably higher than before the war started. The clinics there remain busy but the level of operations performed in Jerusalem is at about 75% of what it was, mainly due to movement restrictions. Because of this, a site in Nablus has been purchased and is being fitted to accommodate patients by the end of the year. This is an important step for the hospital group which makes our continued support even more vital. Our association with the Hospital group goes back well over a 100 years and we would appear to be as passionate about it now as I'm sure we were in the early days.

My personal thanks go to the Great Vice-Chancellor and the staff at the Chancery in St James's Street, the Great Marshal and his Deputies, and, of course, as always, the Grand Master's Bodyguard without whom Great Priory would not be the splendid event it always is. Not forgetting E.Kt. John Vasquez and those here at Freemasons' Hall who make us feel so welcome and assist in the smooth running of the day.

Brother Knights, let us go back to our Preceptories with grateful hearts glowing in the privilege we enjoy in being part of this Christian fraternity. Let us cultivate renewed vigour for the Holy Royal Arch which, as well as preparing us spiritually for admission as a Knight, is the essential qualification for membership. We need to encourage our Master Masons to take the important step of becoming Royal Arch Masons in the hope that they will progress to the further commitment of becoming Knights Templar. I thank you all for your attention and I wish you, your families and loved ones, well until we meet again in November.

