



A BEAUCEANT!!

NO 14

A little Knight Templar news does you good Staying in touch

Dear Brother Knights

In several different ways this has been a special week, illuminated by chinks of light. The first piece of good news was the government confirmation that we can all break out of the five mile zone around our home – and I know that many will have taken the welcome opportunity. I am sure that we all have a long list of places that we want to go to and things that we want to do but once you have worked your way through them it might be interesting to visit in addition places in Wales and nearby that have a Templar or Hospitaller connection.

On his travels E Kt Paul Jenkins PProv Second



Constable came across just such a site - as you will discover on page two of this issue.

If you have similar good fortune during the course of the summer why not send me a few photos and notes about what you have found. It could make a most interesting article for September.

(Google is a great help in tracking down such places).

Another piece of good news that arrived over recent days was a Proposal Form for someone who wants to join our Order and two more forms are expected shortly.

And to top off such joyful news came a delivery from a regalia manufacturer ,enclosing the newly-created Banner for Brecknock Castle Preceptory - for which a Dedication ceremony will of course be arranged.

So, in a number of ways, we now have much to look forward to.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order
R.E.Kt. Paul Calderwood

This week's Quiz

1. Where was the photo below (of a fine Templar building) taken? It shows one of the few remaining KT buildings in England - granted to the Knights in 1137
2. Where is the word **TEMPLAR** derived from?
3. Who in our province is the newest and longest recorded member of the Knights Templar?



This Quiz was devised by E Kt Derek Hemfrey Provincial Registrar.

Your own questions (and the answers too) would be very welcome. Please send them to provprior@kt-msw.org



The Church of St Michael

Garway church in the Monnow Valley is in the southernmost part of an ancient kingdom called Archenfield. It was into this remote and beautiful setting that the Knights Templar came in about 1180. They had been given all the land in Langarewi by Henry II. There was already a Saxon church at Garway of which no trace now remains. The Templars built a church on the then normal Templar plan of a round nave with a square chancel, an example of which can be seen still in the Temple Church in London.



They built the detached tower in the early thirteenth-century. It is thought that this massive tower was used as a refuge against the Welsh just across the River Monnow and that in later years it was used as a parish prison.

The Templars built their Commandery near the church on the site where Church Farm now stands. Manors such as Garway produced revenue which helped pay for the Crusades and also housed sick and aged Templars. James de Molay, who was Grand Master, visited Garway in 1294.

After the Order of the Knights Templar was destroyed in 1308, the Commandery of Garway was given to the Knights of St John, the Hospitallers, and was attached to the preceptory at Dinmore.

The Hospitallers repaired the dovecot (pictured on the right) in 1326 and they would have been responsible for the construction of the present nave during the fifteenth century when it is thought that subsidence made the round nave too difficult to repair. The Hospitallers continued to own the manor until the dissolution of the monasteries in the sixteenth century.



The Knights Templar and the Hospitallers held a unique position in the realm inasmuch as they were not liable to pay any of the normal taxes of the land to the King nor did they pay ecclesiastical taxes. Their only allegiance was to the Pope.

One of their privileges was the right of sanctuary. Those who safely claimed sanctuary had the option of standing trial or of leaving the realm. In the latter choice they were afforded safe conduct to the nearest port, with heavy penalties against anyone who dared interfere. The law of sanctuary was inviolate regardless of the gravity of the crime. In 1536, the Prior fled to the sanctuary of Garway. Unfortunately for him Henry had also seized the property of the Hospitallers!

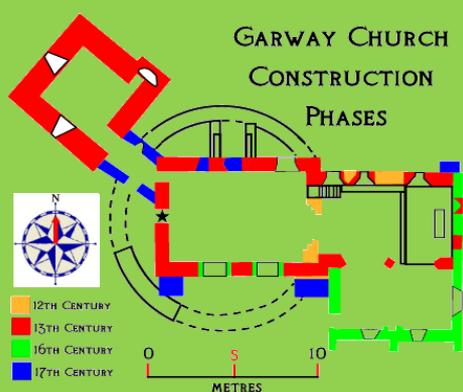
The Bishop of Hereford paid a triennial visitation to Garway and in 1397 he complained that the priest was unable to maintain the care of the souls of his parishoners as he could not speak Welsh and most of his parishoners could not speak English.

Garway church has a special atmosphere of tranquillity and simplicity. There is a very fine Norman chancel arch with deeply toothed pattern and a beautiful Early

English arcade of three arches leading into the Templar Chapel.

The strange carved stones, crosses and incised figures both inside and outside the church lend an air of mystery and indicate an oriental influence.

It was not until 1927 that the foundations of the round nave of the Templar church was discovered and the history of this architectural gem began to unfold.



The above article by Joan Fleming-Yates is an extract from the Church Guide Book

Relics — an article by R.E.Kt Dr Vivian Thomas

Rest assured, Bro Kts, this is not an article about the older members of our Fraternity. Were that so, I would, of course, have to include myself. Mind you, come to think of it, both my sons might well agree!

Those who have visited cathedrals, especially the oldest and grandest, or wandered around some ancient but richly decorated village church will have seen some references to a reliquary or casket containing “the genuine” portion of some revered saint. It is a fascinating, albeit somewhat morbid subject, this drive of the ancient church authorities to locate, retrieve and ultimately boast about a finger, an arm bone, some artefact of a long-dead worthy. The associated publicity would draw crowds in their fervency and pilgrimage, and, only of minor interest, a great deal of money would be collected in alms.



I strongly suspect that if all the bones of supposed saints were gathered together, several skeletons of the same person would be the result. Of all the relics, those associated with Jesus, His family and followers, were by far the most sought after. Thus, one hears of slivers of the Cross, a thorn from the Crown of Thorns, a nail from the Crucifixion, even to drops of the Holy Blood, kept for posterity in sealed glass vials. Regardless of how unlikely these collections are, in times gone by, and to the present time, people believe fervently in them. I have witnessed personally someone fainting before the place in Turin Cathedral where the Shroud said to have been that which wrapped the body of Christ was kept. That this material has been carbon-dated to the 13th Century is not important, rather it is the belief that is overwhelming.

The Templars were said to be collectors of relics including a portion of the True Cross, which, tragically was captured by the Saracens at the Battle of the Horns of Hattin in 1187. Legend has it, of course, that the templars also had possession of the Holy Grail, the subject of many learned tomes. However, my main concern in this short piece is the subject of “preserved heads”. During their trials and tortures much importance has been attached to the alleged veneration of the head of John the Baptist, kept by the Kts. Again, one must query the logic of this, as, historically, John the Baptist must have had several heads.

But, the specific allegation levelled at the Templars was that their head had a name-Baphomet. Over the years, certainly since the 19th Century, this word has carried suggestions of sorcery, black magic etc, with a design by the occultist Eliphas Levi, of a human body with a head of a goat. There is, actually, a statue to this effect in Arkansas. During their torture, the Inquisitors would be able to extract anything they wished and “Baphomet” was fairly constant revelation. However, there was no “demonic” link here. We are now all familiar with the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Nag Hammadi library and so on and work on the ciphers used in these writings reveals a code, which, when applied to the word “Baphomet” revealed the word “Sophia”-meaning Wisdom. Much has been made about the supposed “treasures” found by the Templars, but probably their greatest discovery was some ancient wisdom and this was certainly related to their veneration of someone quite unexpected-Mary Magdalene.There’s more!

Answers to the Quiz on the front page:

1. **Crossing Temple Barns (you can view an online video tour by clicking here <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=temple+crossing+barns+video&docid=607999354179946555&mid=417751A4AC8675760CD8417751A4AC8675760CD8&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>)**
2. **From the early Temple Mount Headquarters building, near Solomon’s Temple**
3. **Kt Paul Deenik, with 3 months, and E Kt Royston William Jones, with nearly 47 years’ membership**