



A BEAUCEANT!!

NO 25

A little Knight Templar news does you good

Staying in touch



Dear Brother Knights

The roll out of the Covid vaccination programme has brought about a rising sense of optimism and a looking forward to the return of happier days.

Lockdown of course continues for the present - but better news is that much closer.

The sadness of losing treasured friends and relatives during the past year has been especially painful - as indeed has the illness of others struck down by a number of different health problems. For the latter the warmest good wishes go out from all the Brother Knights of the Province and our prayers for a rapid recovery.

As Captain Tom reminded us: "Tomorrow can be a better day".

Yours in the bonds of the Order

R E Kt Paul Calderwood

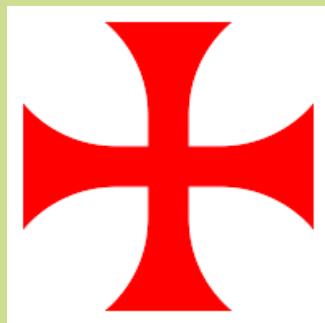
VIRTUAL BUSINESS MEETINGS

The new year has seen a welcome rush of applications for Dispensations to hold Virtual Business Meetings online.

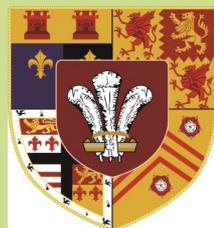
Last week saw Sant Madoc Preceptory hold a VBM at which the Eminent Preceptor E Kt Norry Tetzlaff dealt with a raft of business – including the approval of the Accounts, a donation to the Hospital and the good news that he is serving a second year in office, having been unable to preside at a physical meeting since he was Installed 12 months ago.

Gwent Preceptory is also holding a VBM, using Zoom next Saturday, and Fforest Preceptory has organised a VBM for Monday 15th February.

Such meetings enable important business to be transacted, the life of the Preceptory to be expressed and a happy opportunity to stay in touch and to see fellow Knights.



Appointments and Promotions



It is a great pleasure to announce that the following Provincial Officers (who were appointed in May last year) will be re-appointed for a second year on 26th May 2021.

Provincial Prelate	R.E.Kt.Malcolm C.G. Lane K.C.T <i>JP</i>
Provincial Chancellor	E.Kt John Everett
Provincial First Constable	E.Kt. Terry Jones
Provincial Second Constable	E.Kt. Charles McBride
Provincial Treasurer	E.Kt. Richard Phillips
Provincial Registrar	E.Kt. Derek Hemfrey
Provincial Vice-Chancellor	E.Kt. Nigel E. Williams
Provincial Marshal	E.Kt. Carl Davies
Deputy Provincial Marshal	E.Kt. Roger Thompson
Provincial Almoner	E.Kt. Tony Jones
Provincial Herald	E.Kt. T R Eirian Jones
Provincial Herald	E.Kt. James Ross
Provincial Herald	E.Kt. Henry Barnes
Provincial Standard Bearer (B)	E.Kt. John Bamsey
Provincial Standard Bearer (VB)	E.Kt. John Prior
Provincial Banner Bearer	E.Kt. Vic Watkins
Provincial Sword Bearer	E.Kt. Tony Marno
Provincial Aide-de-Camp	E.Kt. Nigel Angell
Provincial Aide-de-Camp	E.Kt. Mark Nicholls
Provincial Aide-de-Camp	E.Kt. Ralph Powell
Provincial Warden of Regalia	E.Kt. Peter Vincent
Provincial Chamberlain	E.Kt. Clive Tranter
Provincial Captain of Guards	E.Kt. Adrian Daniels
Provincial Organist	Kt. Terry Price
Provincial Guard	E.Kt. Mark Reynolds

Past Rank promotions

Past Provincial Registrar	E.Kt. Denver Rees
Past Provincial Standard Bearer (VB)	E.Kt. Roy Morris
Past Provincial Standard Bearer (VB)	E.Kt. Simon Daniel

Congratulations to all of the above-mentioned
and we all look forward to seeing them out and about
on duty later this year.

1307 and beyond



We left off at that part of our traditional history which mentions the death of our Grand Master, Jacques de Molay and the loss of such a person could not fail to have had a major impact on many levels of society. After all, the Templars had held sway as the richest and most powerful group for nearly 200 years. There would have been social tremors across the whole of Europe. We know, of course, that the main protagonists, Philip le Bel, King of France and Pope Clement, would both die within the year, an eerie fulfilment of the curse said to have been uttered by de Molay shortly before he died.

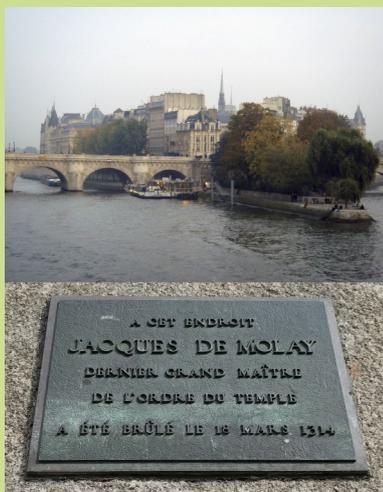
However, before we move beyond the fateful year of 1314 and the death of de Molay, we need to be made aware of a most unusual document. In Sept 2001, Barbara Frale, an Italian researcher at the Vatican archives, discovered a document, the Chinon Parchment, which was dated 13 Aug 1308 and had been prepared by three Cardinals working under the authority of the Pope. Their task had been to interrogate many of the more senior Templars, including de Molay, all of whom should have been delivered directly to the Pope for questioning by His Holiness himself. However, they were too unwell to make the journey, which, perhaps, may not be too surprising, recognising that they had been in the hands of the Inquisition since their arrest in the previous October. There is considerable evidence that they had been subjected to “vigorous” questioning and there are records which suggest that de Molay himself had been particularly severely dealt with.

At Chinon Castle, some 60 miles from Poitiers, all the charges associated with their supposed heretical practices were posed to the Templars. They accepted that “kisses” were common but exchanged purely as signs of fraternal respect and friendship. Those of us who have the pleasure of meeting with our Brethren from the Continent will readily recognise that such greetings are still very much used!! The more heinous of the accusations were denied most emphatically.

The outcome of the investigations at Chinon Castle and the ultimate conclusion by the Pope was that the Knights could be absolved of all the activities and charges laid against them. There is little doubt if the recommendations of the Pope had been accepted by Philip le Bel, the Templars would not have disappeared from history after 1314, when Jacques de Molay was burnt at the stake.

But did they disappear, or did they simply mutate into another guise? After all, the Knights were very widespread, and it is entirely unlikely that all were physically broken by the Inquisitors. The King of Portugal welcomed them into a new Order, the Knights of Christ, and, strangely, in 1309, were recognised by a new Pope as being a revival of the Templars and proceeded to bless them! You will undoubtedly recall that the Templar Cross Pattee on the sails of Columbus’s ships. In Spain, the Knights were absorbed into a number of military orders, amongst which was the Order of Santiago, originally formed to protect pilgrims on their journey to Santiago de Compostela, the legendary shrine of the Apostle James and still the site of many pilgrimages. In Germany, the Teutonic Knights were active, and it is likely that Templars were absorbed there also.

Following the dissolution of the Templar organisation, a great deal of their property was gifted to the rival Order, The Hospitallers, including the Templar HQ in London, known simply as The Temple, the Temple Church now being the only remnant of that structure. There are, of course, tombstones bearing the effigies of knights, as also are found in Scotland, which raises the question of what they did there, besides burying the Holy Grail !!!





**St John of Jerusalem
Eye Hospital Group**

Mobile Outreach Programme

**Report to the Knights Templar
December 2020**

It gives us great pleasure to update you on the work of the Mobile Outreach Programme. Each year the outreach programme allows us to help the most marginalised communities in the Palestinian territories by bringing our care to communities. Last year it reached over 10,000 people and despite the disruption that COVID-19 caused, has helped over 4,000 people to date.

The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group is the only charitable provider of expert eye care in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. It has been treating patients regardless of their ethnicity, religion or ability to pay for almost 140 years and employs 268 people.

Its flagship hospital in East Jerusalem supports almost 50,000 patients and performs over 3,600 major operations each year. People travel from all over the country to access its services.

Along with this we have hospitals in Hebron and Gaza, together with clinics in Anabta and Muristan. The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group's vision is to transform lives by saving people's sight in a region that has faced decades of conflict and inequality.

The Mobile Outreach Programme works in some of the most isolated communities in the Palestinian territories to bring quality eye care. In 2019 it reached over 10,000 people. The programme is made up of two teams, one in the West Bank and one in Gaza, each delivering essential screening with specialists to diagnose existing or potential eye conditions completely free of charge. Those with acute diagnoses are referred to our hospital in Jerusalem for further treatment or surgery.



Why mobile outreach?

People in the occupied Palestinian territories are ten times more likely to go blind than in the West. The politics of the region means that isolated communities are often left behind when it comes to medical care.

We've found that there are three principal contributing factors for such a high incidence of poor eye care:

- **Poverty:** Poverty is both a cause and consequence of blindness, but by helping restore people's sight we are potentially improving the lives of individuals and their families which in turn can promote the stability and economy of the region.
- **Geographic isolation:** The physical and economic isolation and frequent outbreaks of conflict in the Palestinian territories have all led to high levels of poverty. Over the last decade, internal and external barriers have caused significant constraints in economic growth and business investment. This in turn has resulted in high rates of unemployment.
- **Accessibility:** Access to quality eye care is vital for everyone but obtaining treatment in the Palestinian territories can be a complicated process. It's not uncommon for patients to have to navigate numerous movement restrictions such as the Separation Wall, the permit system or poor transport access – not to mention the restrictions imposed because of COVID-19 lockdowns this year which are in full effect as we write.

Continued on the next page.....

.....There is also another contributing factor. Genetics plays a devastating part in potential eye problems in this region. The need to preserve cultural traditions and retain property within the family has led to almost half of all marriages in the Palestinian territories being intrafamilial. Unfortunately intrafamilial marriages increase the risk of a number of eye conditions such as cataracts caused by a genetic fault inherited from parents causing the lens to develop abnormally.

As a charity we are committed to extending our care to communities that would otherwise be unable to benefit from our services, and ultimately this is the reason we provide the Mobile Outreach Programme for those that live in the West Bank and Gaza areas.

Delivering essential services

The Mobile Outreach Programme is made up of two teams, one in Gaza and the other in the West Bank. Each delivers specialist screening to diagnose existing or potential eye conditions completely free of charge. Up to 2018 we had two teams in the West Bank but due to the ending of USAID funding in 2018, coupled with the physical restrictions caused by the COVID lockdown we have scaled back operations to one van.

This is the van that the Knights Templar's funding helped us purchase.

Additional treatment for people in these hard-to-reach regions is either subsidised or completely waived. This is made possible by the way we channel fees generated by private patients at the Jerusalem Hospital to create a financial surplus which funds our charitable activities.

Currently we provide four days a week outreach clinics, two of which are run at Kofur Aqab Clinic, twenty kilometres north of Jerusalem. The Mobile Outreach Programme also provides a Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Programme which addresses damage to the blood vessels of the light-sensitive tissue in the retina. There is no cure for this condition but the sooner the condition is diagnosed the easier it is to treat.

Bringing primary care treatment to those in need

High standards of healthcare is a fundamental human right, yet today there remains a significant disparity between the healthcare systems in Israel and the Palestinian territories. Established in 1982, the Mobile Outreach Service brings free medical aid to these remote and disadvantaged communities, and provides essential screening, health education treatment and referrals. Inequality significantly affects these communities and creates an on-going burden of health care problems.

For more information and to read the full report please go to the Provincial website. The document is featured in the Charity section of the website at kt-msw.org

THE TEMPLAR QUIZ

Where are our Templar Quizmasters? In this issue there is no Quiz—as you can see.

Throwing down the gauntlet was reputedly a habit of knights of old.....

Perhaps someone will rise to the challenge and set us some brain-teasers for next

time. If so - please send them to paulcalderwood@live.com

