



# the Surrey knight



Issue 2 – OCTOBER 2023

## The 2022 Annual Meeting of the Provincial Priory of Surrey



In July 2022 the Provincial Priory of Surrey Annual Meeting was held under the Banner of the St George at Stoneleigh Preceptory No 364.



A team of volunteers gathered at Oakfield Road early that morning to man the desks and finalise the preparations for the Annual Meeting.

As the Knights of the Province and guests were arriving and checking-in coffee and bacon butties were available in the bar. In the meantime, rehearsals were going on in the Temple for the processions and the parading of the Banners.

Just after 11.40 am the Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Tim Ford, assisted by the Provincial Deputy Marshal, briefed the Brother Knights in the Temple.

The Knights were called to order to receive the Provincial Prelate accompanied by the Processional Cross and the Provincial Almoner,







Followed by a deputation from the Order of the Knights of Malta, and distinguished guests from other Provinces.

Finally, the meeting was called to order by E.Kt. Tim Ford, the Provincial Marshal, to receive the Provincial Officers of the year accompanying the Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Patrick Crossan, and the Provincial Sub Prior, E.Kt. Peter Brown, led by the Provincial Sword Bearer and followed by the Provincial Banner Bearer.

After a brief welcome to all those present, the banners of the Preceptories were paraded into the Temple.

The Provincial Prior opened a Chapter of the Provincial Priory of Surrey at 11.00 am. He was then proclaimed by the Provincial 1<sup>st</sup> Herald, E.Kt. Ian Keen and saluted by all those present.

A requiem led by the Provincial Prelate, E.Kt. Rev. Leonard Moreton, was conducted in

memory of the Brother Knights from the Province of Surrey who have passed to the Holy City during the past 12 months.

The Provincial Prior warmly welcomed the many distinguished guests from other Provinces, together with representatives of many of the other Masonic Orders in Surrey. He personally thanked R.E.Kt. Trevor Gulliver, K.C.T. for kindly playing the organ at our Provincial Meeting.



The Roll of Officers of Provincial Priory was called by the Provincial Registrar. The Provincial Vice-Chancellor presented the Minutes of last year's annual meeting and his report of the Province during the preceding year. Both were accepted and approved and E.Kt. Miguel was thanked for all his efforts during the year.



The accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 were presented and approved.

The Provincial Prior- proposed donations to charity including £1,000 to the St John Eye Hospital; £500 to the Prostate Cancer Project; £500 to Smile; £500 to Shannon Court; and £500 to Switches.

E.Kt. Steve Jones, Provincial Warden of Regalia, was conducted to the Provincial Prior and presented him with a cheque for £1,242 from sales of regalia.

In recognition for all Steve's fund raising over several years the Provincial Prior made a field appointment of E.Kt. Steve Jones to Past Provincial Registrar.





The Provincial Prior announced that he was pleased to re-appoint E.Kt. Peter Brown as the Provincial Sub Prior. He was then proclaimed by the Provincial 2<sup>nd</sup> Herald, E.Kt. Robin Tomson and saluted by the Knights of Surrey.

The Provincial Vice-Chancellor then called out the names of those Knights who the Provincial Prior had appointed to hold Provincial Office in the coming year. Each Knight was conducted to the Provincial Prior who invested him with the authority of that Office.

The Provincial Prior re-appointed E.Kt. Alan Carroll as Commander and E.Kt. Charles Hoad as Deputy Commander of the Bodyguard. Under the direction of the Deputy Commander, the Bodyguard formed up for inspection by the Provincial Prior who thanked all members for their unstinting service during the past year.



The Provincial Prior then addressed Provincial Priory. This was followed by thanks to the Knights of St George at Stoneleigh Preceptory for all their hard work as Banner Preceptory for this year's meeting and the Provincial Prior gladly accepted the offer of St John at Stoneleigh Preceptory to perform the same task next year.

After the regular business of the Priory had been completed the Right Eminent Provincial Prior closed the Chapter of Provincial Priory and the National Anthem was sung.



The Right Eminent Provincial Prior, accompanied by the Provincial Sub-Prior, Right Eminent Knights, Very Eminent Knights and other Distinguished Guests of the Province retired in procession under the direction of the Provincial Marshal.







After the meeting the Provincial Prior received his guests in the Temple adjacent to the dining room.



The Knights of the Province of Surrey and their guests then sat down to a most convivial luncheon in the Croydon Masonic Hall.



We were pleased to welcome at lunch the Provincial Grand Summus of the Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey, R.Dist.Comp. Arnold Long.

The toast to the Provincial Prior was given by the Provincial Sub Prior E.Kt. Peter Brown. In his response the Provincial Prior said how pleased he was to be back at Croydon after two years of Virtual Business Meetings and thanked everyone for attending and making this a very special meeting.



The Provincial Prior then retired from the festive board thanking everyone personally on their way out.





# The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Provincial Priory of Middlesex

In July 2022, the Provincial Priory of Middlesex celebrated its 50-year anniversary at Mark Masons' Hall. In fact, it was 52 years as, due to Covid-19, the anniversary meeting could not be held in 2020.

Present at the meeting was the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master,

Paul Raymond Clement, G.C.T., with a team of Great Officers.



Representing the Province of Surrey were Very Eminent Knights Ian Smith and Chris Eley.



The Provincial Prior of Middlesex, R.E.Kt John Roberts, entered in procession accompanied by his Provincial Officers and opened Provincial Priory. He was saluted with seven under the direction of the Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Tom D'Souza, Dep.Gt.Mar.



The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement, G.C.T., entered in procession and was warmly welcomed by the Provincial Prior of Middlesex to this special meeting.

The Grand Master said how glad he was to be able to join the Knights of Middlesex and celebrate with them their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He was saluted with eleven under the direction of the Great Marshal, R.E.Kt. Tim Wheeler.

The Provincial Prior welcomed all the honoured guests and visitors and, after the regular business of Provincial Priory had been concluded, the Preceptory Banners were paraded into Provincial Priory by the Preceptory Banner Bearers attended by the Eminent Preceptors.





In his Address the Provincial Prior thanked everyone for attending and looked back at what life was like in 1970 when the Provincial Priory of Middlesex was created. Since then, there have been six Provincial Priors, including himself, and he has had the privilege of serving under four of them. He was so pleased that one of them, R.E.Kt. William John Redpath, was able to attend that day to join in the celebrations. John was Provincial Prior from 1993 to 2003.

The Provincial Sub Prior, V.E.Kt, Silverio Ostrowski, then gave a very interesting talk on the history of each Preceptory, and the history of the Province.

The Provincial Prior had much pleasure in re-appointing V.E.Kt. Silverio Ostrowski as Provincial Sub Prior, and the Provincial Officers for 2022-23 were then appointed and invested.



He encouraged everyone to look to the future and wished whoever is sitting in his chair in 50 years time good luck and God speed, and hoped that his term of office will be as enjoyable as his is. After the collection of Alms, the Grand Master retired from Provincial Priory.



Provincial Priory was closed in due form and the Provincial Prior, the Provincial Officers of the year, and honoured guest retired in procession under an Arch of Steel.

After some refreshments in the bar, we retired to the dining room where we were treated to a splendid lunch at Mark Masons' Hall with the Knights of the Provincial Priory of Middlesex and their guests from other Provinces.





# A new Grand Master for the K.B.H.C.



Arriving at Mark Masons' Hall on Thursday, 8 September 2022, no one could have foreseen what a momentous day this would become.



Before news of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had been announced, Knights of the Order of Knights Beneficent of the Holy City had gathered in the Grand Temple, not only to enjoy the Installation of the new Most Eminent and Reverend Grand Master, Dr Vivian Thomas, *JP*, but also to say a fond farewell to the outgoing Grand Master, Michael Edward Herbert, Presiding Officer, who was retiring after 11 years at the helm of this small and select Christian Order of Freemasonry.



M.Em. & Revd. Kt. Herbert opened the meeting and took care of the first items of administrative business before investing with the Honour and Dignity of Knight Grand Cross of the Holy City, Robert Anthony Henry Morrow, Grand Herald; and Knight Commander of the Holy City, Graham Leslie Flight, Grand Treasurer.



M.Em. & Revd. Kt. Herbert then delivered a valedictory address, giving some historical insight into the origins of the Order and the English Constitution, before paying tribute to those he has enjoyed working closely with over the past 11 years.



He saved his final remarks to give a forecast about his successor, saying we will be "led by a first-class Grand Master who will be supported by a superb team. This will ensure that the Order prospers, and happiness will shine throughout the Order.

The address was received by a standing ovation and lengthy applause.

The Installation then commenced and Dr Vivian Thomas, JP, was placed in the Chair as the new Most Eminent and Reverend Grand Master. He thanked M.Em. & Revd. Kt. Herbert for the way in which he had been Installed and his many years of service and devotion to our Order.



Few could have failed to be impressed by the dignity with which M.Em. & Revd. Kt. Herbert then processed out of the Grand Temple, unaccompanied, but to tremendous applause. As the doors closed behind him M.Em. & Revd. Kt. Thomas commented that this way of bidding farewell to a Past Ruler is one of great poignancy and emotion.



However, as is the way, it was straight back down to business and we then moved to the appointment and investiture of the Grand Officers of the Year, Promotions in, and First Appointments to, Grand Rank. In his closing address, the Grand Master paid tribute to his predecessor and set out some of his plans for the future of the Order.

The Knights then retired to the dining room to enjoy the after proceedings, before the terrible news of the passing of Her Majesty broke later that afternoon.



# A New Provincial Prior for Sussex



On the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2022, V.E.Kt. Colin Dann was installed as the Provincial Prior for the Province of Sussex by the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement, G.C.T.

Brethren of the Province of Sussex and their guests started arriving at the Sussex Masonic Centre, Brighton, from 8.30 a.m.

There were many guests from other Provinces....



...as well as other Masonic Orders in Sussex.



On arrival we were greeted with coffee and bacon butties in true Sussex hospitality. Meanwhile, up the Temple rehearsals were underway for the installation of a new Provincial Prior.



The installation ceremony was conducted by the Most Eminent & Supreme Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement, G.C.T., in a very sincere manner. He was most ably assisted by his team of Great Officers, including the Great Marshal, Tim Wheeler.



The Installing Officer and his Assisting Officers entered in procession under an Arch of Steel.



The Installing Officer ascended his throne, appointed his Officers, opened a Chapter of Provincial Priory, and was saluted under the direction of the Great Marshal. The banners of the Preceptories were paraded and the Roll of Preceptories called.







The Installing Officer then addressed the Knights on the purpose of the Meeting. The Great Marshal informed the Installing Officer that the Provincial Prior nominate, V.E.Kt. Colin Dann, **P.Gt.Reg.**, was in attendance and requested to be Installed.

The Great Marshal formed an escort, and the Provincial Prior nominate was introduced into the Chapter room under an Arch of Steel, preceded by the escort bearing the regalia on cushions.



The Installing Officer addressed the Provincial Prior nominate and enquired if he was ready and willing to undertake the duties of the Office. The Great Prelate offered a prayer and the Provincial Prior nominate knelt and recited his Obligation. The Provincial Prior nominate knelt and paid due homage to the M.E. & Supreme Grand Master, following which he was Invested and Installed.

The Provincial Prior then obligated, invested and installed E.Kt. Antony Craig (Tan) Rusby, **P.Gt.A.-de-C.**, as Provincial Sub Prior.

The Right Eminent Provincial Prior addressed the Installing Officer thanking him and his team for such a wonderful ceremony. The Templars Hymn was sung while Alms were collected in aid of the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital.

After the regular business of Provincial Priory had been concluded the Right Eminent Provincial Prior closed the Chapter of Provincial Priory and the first verse of the National Anthem was sung.

The Right Eminent Provincial Prior retired in procession under an Arch of Steel and greeted the honoured guests as they retired.

Several Knights from Surrey were these to witness this very special day for Colin and the Provincial Priory of Sussex.

Well done to the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard who did an excellent job.

We then retired for refreshments before sitting down to a most convivial meal at the Sussex Masonic Centre.

The Grand Master wished the Provincial Prior and the Province of Sussex every success in the future.

In his reply the Provincial Prior thanked the Grand Master and his team for a very special day and presented him and the Great Marshal with a small token of appreciation and said how much he appreciated the support from the Heads of Other Orders in Sussex.





# The Provincial Priory of London Annual Meeting



The Provincial Priory of London Annual Meeting was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 at Mark Masons' Hall under the Banner of Mount Calvary Preceptory 'D' with R.E.Kt. David James Thompson, Provincial Prior, presiding.



Present at the meeting were many honoured guests from London and other Provinces.



As well as the Great Marshal, R.E.Kt. Tim Wheeler, KCT.



The Brother Knights were called to order to receive the visiting Provincial Priors and Knights Commander of the Temple



The Provincial Prior of London, R.E.Kt David Thompson entered in procession through an Arch of Steel accompanied by his Provincial Officers.

A Chapter of Provincial Priory was opened, and the Provincial Prior was saluted with seven under the direction of the Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Keith Florence.

A period of reflection for Her Late Majesty the Queen was observed, following which the memory of Knights who had passed to the Holy City was honoured.







E.Kt. Angus Rhodes was then presented with a ***Vote of Thanks*** from the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem by E.Kt. Jamie Ingham Clark, Trustee of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. This very special award was presented to E.Kt. Angus for all his hard work in raising funds for the Eye Hospital.

The visiting Knights were warmly welcomed by the Provincial Prior and saluted under the direction of the Provincial Marshal. After the Muster Roll of Provincial Officers was called the Preceptory Banners were paraded and the Roll of Preceptories was called.

The Provincial Prior appointed and invested his Officers and then received the members of his Bodyguard, before addressing the assembled Knights.



A Chapter of Provincial Priory was closed and the Provincial Prior, Provincial Sub Prior, and distinguished visitors retired from Provincial Priory.

The Surrey delegation got together afterwards for a group photo with our Provincial Prior.



After some refreshments in the bar we retired to the dining room where we were treated to a splendid lunch at Mark Masons' Hall with Knights of the Provincial Priory of London and their guests from other Provinces.