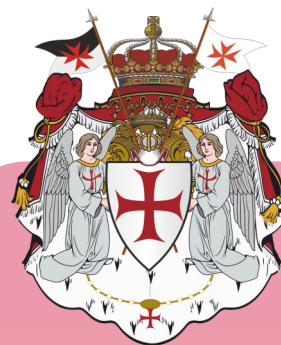


KNIGHTLY NEWS



Christchurch Investiture

Our Spring Investiture on Saturday 31st May 2025, was a huge success where we welcomed FIVE new Chevaliers and Chevalières into the Grand Priory of England. Held at the magnificent Christchurch Priory on the south coast of England, the weekend was truly spectacular and everybody had a wonderful time.

The church service saw the very first singing of a new Templar hymn "Thou Gallant Knights" written by Chev. Dr Robert Webber and sung to Thomas Williams' rousing hymn tune "Truro". Chev Troy Close gave the lead in *Non Nobis Domine* and our Chaplain's sermon was perfect for the occasion.



The Grand Priory would like to thank the Revd. Canon Charles Stewart for allowing us to use such a truly inspiring and wonderful church again for our investiture and we hope to return there in October 2026 for an international event.

After the service, members of the Order gathered at the presumed resting place of Stephen de Stapelbrugge (or Stapelbrige, latterly Stalbridge in Devon), who is believed to have been the last surviving English Templar knight, and who having been tried in England for his membership of the Knights Templar became a monk at the local priory until his death.

NEXT INVESTITURES

The dates for the next investitures are as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 17th October 2025 | St Peter's Church, Whitstable, Kent. |
| 30th May 2026 | All Saints Church, Thorpe Malsor, Kettering, Northants. |
| 17th October 2026 | Christchurch Priory, Dorset (<i>Planned International</i>) |

Inside this issue

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Christchurch Investiture | 1 |
| Next Investitures..... | 1 |
| Grand Prior's Message..... | 2 |
| Chapter Members | 2 |
| Dining..... | 3 |
| Companions of the Temple..... | 3 |
| Ranks and Appointments | 3 |
| A Templar's Creed | 3 |
| Appointments..... | 4 |
| Pilgrimage to Temple Balsall .. | 4 |
| New Ceremonial Items | 5 |
| OSMTH Belgium Investiture .. | 6 |
| A Templar Prayer | 7 |
| Samuel's Charity winners..... | 8 |
| Why do we wear a cross? | 10 |
| Lessons from History..... | 11 |
| International/National Visits .. | 12 |
| Ranks & Appointments..... | 14 |
| Templar Fayre..... | 14 |
| Investiture Dates..... | 14 |
| Prize Crossword | 15 |
| St. Peter's Whitstable..... | 16 |
| Contacts | 16 |

CHAPTER MEMBERS

Grand Prior

H.E. Chevalier. Paul Grant
KGCTJ

Deputy Grand Prior and Grand Treasurer

Chevalier Ian Bates KGCTJ

Grand Secretary:

Chevalier Dr Robert Webber
KGCTJ

Grand Seneschal:

Vacant

Grand Marshal and Master of Ceremonies:

Chevalier Paul Tredgett
KGCTJ

Grand Constable:

Chevalier Danny Gill KGOTJ

Commander of the North and Warden of Benevolence:

Dame Tina Walford-Stretton
DGCTJ

Commander of the South:

Chevalier Troy Close KGCTJ

Commander of London:

Chevalier Bob Blackledge
KCTJ

Commander of Hull:

Chevalier Derek Granger-
Brown KCTJ

Grand Sword Bearer:

Chevalier Nicolai Webber
KCTJ

Quartermaster:

Chevalier Doug Campbell
KOTJ

Warden of Regalia:

Chevalier Mike Caseman-
Jones, TD, KTJ

Chaplain:

Revd Chevalier Les Fraser
KOTJ

Chief Steward:

Chevalier Bill Straub KOTJ

Historian/Archivist:

Chevalier Peter Mellon KOTJ

Grand Prior's Message

Knights, Dames, and Fellow Templars, but most importantly, dear friends, it is with heartfelt joy that I write to you following our recent and highly successful Service of Investiture at Christchurch Priory. We had the pleasure of welcoming new Knights: Chevalière Gail Caseman-Jones, Chevalier Adrian Hill, Chevalier Martin Richards, Chevalier Dean Shaul, and Chevalière Siobahn Wheatley. They are all warmly embraced into our fold.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Reverend Canon Charles Stewart for his graciousness in allowing us to use his magnificent Priory and for his enthusiastic participation in our service.

We also had the honour of welcoming Chevalier Christian Walbe from Hamburg in Germany along with his lovely wife Julia. My thanks go out to Mark Stretton, Tina Walford-Stretton, and Danny Gill for their steadfast dedication in guarding our equipment before the investitures—a commitment I deeply appreciate.

Special thanks are due to Tina Walford-Stretton for organising an excellent raffle benefiting our chosen charity and to Jane Appleton-Lowles for her generous donation of a superb vintage car model for auctioning.

In recent weeks and months, we have been diligently working on creating a set of three Gonfalon—one for each Commandery. Although they were intended to be part of the Christchurch procession, they unfortunately took a rather roundabout journey and arrived just too late. I eagerly anticipate seeing them processed at our next event in Whitstable.

Additionally arrived are shields representing each Preceptory which will also be showcased at Whitstable. My heartfelt thanks go out to Doug and Mark for these contributions.

On your behalf, I continue maintaining regular international communications with esteemed leaders such as the Grand Master; Vice Grand Master; Grand Prior General of France; Grand Prior of Scotland; and Grand Secretary General of the Order. It is gratifying to report that the Grand Priory of England holds high regard internationally.

Lastly, there is one final matter to attend to. On behalf of all the diners at the celebratory dinner following the Christchurch investiture, I wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to the anonymous benefactor who so graciously provided bottles of wine for each table. Your generous gesture was deeply appreciated and brought immense joy to everyone present.



A stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Grant'.

Dining

The tradition of Templars dining together is both historic and well-established, serving as a vital means of fostering camaraderie. It embodies common courtesy and holds particular significance when we welcome new members into our fold. During these meals, we begin with grace before eating, and conclude the main meal with a sung grace. In England, our customary sung grace is *Laudi Spirituali*, reflecting our deep-rooted traditions and shared values.

Companions of the Temple

If you know someone who might want to support us without committing to full membership, they would be warmly welcomed as a Companion of the Temple. This role allows them to participate in all our functions—such as Services of Investiture, dinners, banquets, and social events—without the need to purchase any regalia. For just an annual fee of £24 and the usual dining fees, they can enjoy these gatherings and will also receive an impressive neck-medallion to wear at events. It's a wonderful opportunity for involvement without full membership obligations.

Ranks & Appointments

It's important to clarify the distinction between Ranks and Appointments, as this can often cause confusion among members. A Rank signifies the level of seniority you have attained within the organisation, reflecting your experience and achievements.

On the other hand, an Appointment refers to a specific task or role for which you are responsible. Understanding these differences is crucial for navigating your career path effectively and ensuring you're fully aware of both your status and responsibilities within the team..

A Templar's Creed

Anon.

In olden days when courage soared,
A Templar stood, his faith restored,
With head held high and heart ablaze,
He chose the path of holy ways.

He faced his foe with steadfast gaze,
His heart filled full of joyful praise,
Chastity, his shield of heavenly grace,
Wanting for nought but his Lord's embrace.

With his sword unsheathed and his spirit bold,
He championed Christ through tales untold,
In fast and prayer, his soul refined,
A warrior monk by faith defined.

For every wound that marked his skin,
Was testament of his faith within,
His martyr's heart a blazing flame,
To keep alive Christ's sacred name

So let us learn from his great quest,
Where love and sacrifice were expressed,
To walk as he in truth and light,
And find our strength in heaven's might.

PRECEPTORS

Preceptor of the Axe: Chevalier
Bill Straub KOTJ

Preceptor of the Gauntlet:
Chevalier Zain Carter KTJ

Preceptor of the Helm:
Vacant

Preceptor of the Lance:
Reverend Chevalier Les Fraser
KOTJ

Preceptor of St George:
Vacant

Preceptor of the Shield:
Chevalier Mark Stretton KCTJ

Preceptor of the Spur:
Vacant

Preceptor of the Sword:
Chevalier Mike Shepherd
KCTJ

Preceptor of the Halberd:
Chevalier Nicolai Webber
KCTJ

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Great Sword Bearer: Chevalier
Nicolai Webber KCTJ

Crucifer:
Chevalier Mark Stretton KCTJ

Stewards:
Chevaliers Frank Lloyd-
Murray, KTJ, James
Gautreaux KTJ and John
Mefragata KTJ

Standard Bearers:
Chevaliers Danny Gill KGOT,
Perry Futer KTJ

Pilgrimage to Temple Balsall

Dame Tina Walford-Stretton



The Summer event in the North Commandery this year is a Pilgrimage to one of the named sites on our Pilgrim list, St Mary's Church in Temple Balsall, Fen End Rd W, Knowle, Solihull B93 0AN for their Sunday morning Eucharist Service at 10am.

Meeting up at 6pm in the nearby Haig's Hotel & Mckee's Brasserie, 273 Kenilworth Road, Balsall Common, Nr Coventry. CV7 7EL, on Saturday 19th July, for a 4 course Greek style dinner, overnight stay with breakfast and then a 2.9 mile walking pilgrimage to the Church for the 10am Service. (those not able to walk this far are very welcome to drive)

Then an option to return to the Hotel for Sunday Lunch, or to disperse from the Church after the Service. I am waiting for a reply from the Vicar as to whether we can wear Mantles, and if she can sign or stamp our Pilgrimage sheets.

Costs and Booking Info: <http://www.haigshotel.co.uk/>

Hotel overnight: Basic double room £63, Dog/Cat overnight £15, Breakfast £9.95, Saturday Eve Greek style 4 course dinner £29.50

To book a place please reply to Chev. Tina Walford-Stretton Tel: 07737738018 or email: cdr-north@osmth-england.org to book rooms/meals for you, book your own on Reservations Email: info@haigshotel.co.uk 01676 533004

BOOKINGS NEEDED ASAP as rooms book up quickly for July

New Ceremonial Items for the Grand Priory

Chev. Doug Campbell, our "Q"

During a meeting held at the end of the investiture weekend at Rothley Court in October 2024, it was discussed and agreed that a number of new ceremonial processional items be manufactured for the Order, these included three new Commandery gonfalon flags and poles and Preceptory shields and poles.

As an Order, we are slowly rebuilding and regenerating our equipment, ensuring that we keep things fresh and presentable. This was a relatively big project which took the work of a number of people to complete, from the designing of and creation of the Commandery gonfalon flags by the Grand Secretary Chev. Dr. Robert Webber and the Commander of the South, Chev. Troy Close as well as the preceptory shields and how they would be presented and carried and of course, stored safely.

The Commandery gonfalons were to receive their three-part poles with all of their brass trimmings and the Preceptory shields, well the thought behind them was, that maybe they should look a little bit more "martial" than the Commandery poles.

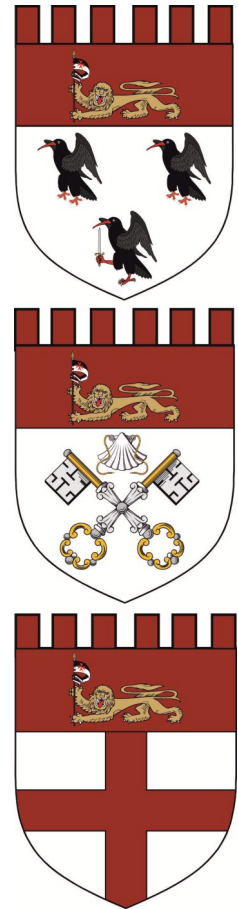
So the idea of handles made to look like ceremonial polearm or axe handles came to mind, with all of the brass pins and hardware which may have accompanied them. Then as the idea developed, the addition of two tassels, one white and one black with a red cross pattée sitting in the middle followed, ensuring that upon these martial staves, was the battle emblem of the Order, the Beaucent.

There was a making weekend arranged, that saw your faithful Quartermaster travelling with his even more faithful and beloved companion Sheree Gibson, up to the Commandery of the North to see the Order's other highly skilled artisan and Preceptor of the Gauntlet, Chev. Mark Stretton - we spent the Friday, Saturday and most of Sunday at the anvil forming, shaping, cutting and finishing components for the Preceptory shields. A massive thank you to Commander of the North, Dame Tina Walford-Stretton, KGCTJ, for her legendary hospitality and for ensuring that we all survived the weekend!

If an opportunity to join a work party arises again, do think about joining us, it is not all work! There is some fantastic company, food, drink and conversation that is had at these gatherings and as the old saying goes, "many hands make for light work".

As a team, utilising the skills that the Order is blessed to have in many people within it, we have been able to produce some amazing items which we can now use with pride within its investitures and elsewhere.

Again, it has been a real pleasure to be involved within the making of this project and of course as Quartermaster, it is lovely to see the Order's ceremonial equipment collection beginning to grow. This will enable us to present ourselves in the manner which we wish to, firstly to our postulants for whom all of this work is to benefit and to the outside world, who may at times be able to get a glimpse of who we are and what we are about on the odd occasions when the general public are within the area of an investiture service.



OSMTH Belgium Investiture on 17th May 2025

Chev Troy Close

Earlier this year, the Grand Prior General of OSMTH Belgium sent an invitation to our Grand Priory, inviting our members to join OSMTH Belgium for their next investiture. Together with Chevaliers Paul Tredgett, Bill Straub and Chevalières Nancy Close, Sally-Ann Hayes, Jane Appleton-Lowles, I was delighted to represent the Grand Priory over the weekend in May.

The hotel was comfortable and in the centre of Ypres, only eleven minutes' walk away to the investiture & dining venue on Saturday and just a six minute' walk to the Menin Gate, which was ideal for me as I needed to carry out another duty on behalf of RBL Whitstable.

We all walked up to the Menin Gate at 19:15, where I laid a wreath at the Last Post Ceremony on behalf of the Royal British Legion Whitstable Branch. After the wreath laying, I meet up with the area Commander of the Belgian Grand Priory and a few other members.

With my wife being from Belgium, the group were so overjoyed and enthusiastic to greet us; we felt so welcomed that it felt like we had known each other for years. After this convivial session, we all went our separate ways, with Nancy and I meeting up with the others who were sitting outside a traditional Belgian café, where we all sampled several traditional Belgian beers.

Saturday morning, after breakfast, we all walked to the school, where we had the initial meet and greet to attend at noon. We went up earlier than intended, carrying our Mantles, and met up with the Belgian Grand Prior General, Chev Bernard Matagne. A surprise visit to the occasion was the Grand Master's attendance. We carried out introductions to all our members with the traditional greeting of a hand over the heart and the mandatory three kisses.

After an exciting tour of the centre of Ypres, we made it back just in time to attend the official meet and greet over a few Belgian refreshments. At the ceremony, we were escorted in by what we call the Chief Steward, who

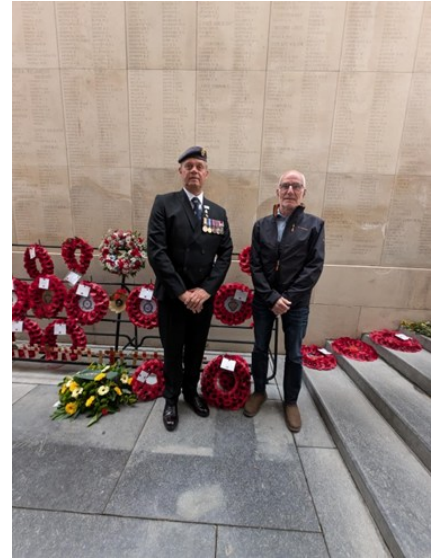


carried a sword and announced us before walking down the aisle and saluting and bowing to the Grand Prior General, then being seated at the front.

The ceremony was longer than the English version, but it incorporated parts of a Vigil with additional elements added in. Firstly, the Postulants were dressed in a tabard with a white cord wrapped around each, featuring the shield of their district.

The remainder of the ceremony consisted of presentations of Bibles and ritual cleansing, followed by the placement of the mantle and cross on the postulant, who was then symbolically shod with a spur. The investiture progressed with the

ceremony of being officially Knighted with the sword by the Grand Prior General. Then, each Preceptor presented the new members with their swords, each of which was different, and I was later advised that a Postulant could purchase a sword of their liking, which would be officially presented to them.



After the group photo, we left the chapel at approximately 16:40 to walk back to the hotel, where we got dressed and prepared for the evening, which included an enjoyable BBQ dinner.

The weather was ideal, with glorious sunshine, which made for a perfect BBQ in the school playground. It was an agreeable experience, and we formed bonds with our Belgian brothers and Sisters, with many becoming so keen and enthusiastic that they asked us if they could attend an OSMTH England investiture soon.

After about an hour, the announcement came that the food was ready. We moved inside the school to what seemed to be the teachers' dining room, where everything was laid out, and we helped ourselves with the food and could sit anywhere we wished. We sat with a family, most of which were Knights Templars. We had an interesting conversation and seemed to become great friends. Of course, I now have twelve Belgian members added to my Facebook page!

Time moved on, and we were enjoying our time there so much that we suddenly noticed that the Grand Master and Grand Prior General were getting up from the table and preparing to leave. Fortunately, I had advised the local Commandeur in the morning that I had a presentation to give to the Belgian Grand Prior General. The Grand Prior General was stopped in his tracks allowing me time to compose myself quickly and carry out a small address on behalf of our Grand Prior and to present The Belgian



Grand Prior General with a figurine of a kneeling Knights Templar carrying a pen disguised as a sword. It was clear the Grand Prior General was overjoyed with the gift. Later that week, he sent me a photo of it, in pride of place under his picture of the first Grand Master, Hugh de Payns.

Afterwards, we left for the hotel but stopped off at a café in the centre of Ypres to partake in a final (few more) Belgian refreshment (beers) and reflected on the whole day, how well and interesting it all was, and how well we all took to each other.

It was, all together, an excellent weekend. We look forward to meeting up with a few of them again at our next Investiture in October.

A Templar Prayer

There is a Templar prayer that reads in Latin:

"Sanctissime Domine, Pater omnipotens. Qui permisisti in terra usum gladii ad reprimendam malitiam iniquorum, et defende iustitiam, fac servum tuum hic coram te, disponens cor suum ad bonum, nunquam utatur hoc gladio vel alio ad nocendum cuilibet iniuste, sed utatur semper ad iustum et ius defendendum."

The prayer translates as:

"Most Holy Lord, Almighty Father. Thou who hast permitted on earth the use of the sword to repress the malice of the wicked and defend justice; cause thy servant here before thee, by disposing his heart to goodness, never to use this sword or another to injure anyone unjustly, but let him use it always to defend the just and the right."

Samuel's Charity Auction Winners have a Great Day at the Forge

by "Q"

As a lot of you may know, during the evening of the banquet of the May 2024 investiture in Rushton, I donated on behalf of the Order a blacksmith experience day to be presented to the representative of Samuel's Charity who was present at the banquet as a guest of the Order for the weekend. This gift was gratefully accepted, and we were informed that it would be auctioned off to the highest bidder in the not too distant future.

On the 14th of June 2024, Samuel's Charity held their Auction, and the blacksmith experience day raised £220 for the charity. There were Officers of the Order present at the auction along with our Deputy Grand Prior Chev. Ian Bates KGCTJ, who was approached by a second person wishing to purchase a day in the forge, which was later agreed and brought our total for the evening to £440.

On Saturday the 7th of June 2025, I was finally able to deliver the final session with the second auction winner booking themselves in for their day. Both participants thoroughly enjoyed their day, and both did very well, making your Quartermaster ever so slightly worried about his position in



the Blacksmithing world. A mixture of items were made during the day and an amount of tea, biscuits and possibly a bit of cake were consumed.

As a professional blacksmith, used to developing and delivering short courses not only privately but for other bodies, such as those which were delivered for The Blacksmiths Guild at sites like Dorchester College and MOD Lyneham on quite a range of topics, it was a pleasure to do this on behalf of the Order for our chosen charity.

I have also independently done the same for the Gurkha's Welfare Trust raising a further £270, although this was not



done on behalf of the Order, I have and hope to develop further relationships with them going forward.

I received a very lovely message from one of the winners and would like to share that with you all below:

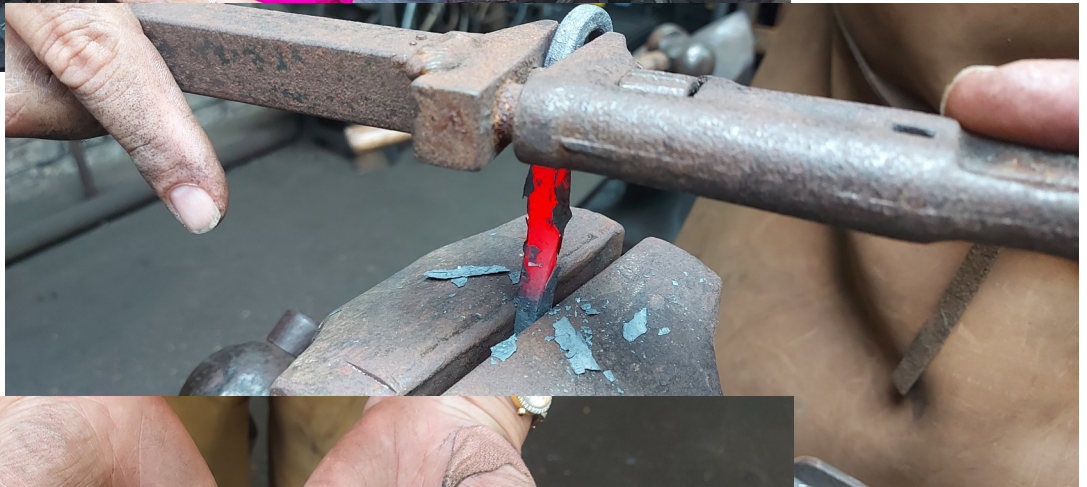
"Hi Doug.

I hope you are well. Thank you so much for your photos and videos – they are brilliant! No need to apologise at all. I got home at 7 and didn't move from the sofa. My husband even made me dinner!

Likewise, it was an absolute pleasure to meet you. I thoroughly enjoyed the day – it exceeded my expectations and then some! I really enjoyed our thoughtful conversations too – I feel like I've known you for years.

I hope to meet you again in the future too."

Continued on next page...



Charity is one of the foundational principles of the Order and it comes in many guises and is not just limited to money, sometimes the most precious of commodities that we all have as human beings is time. Time is what we all most look for in our life, time for work, time for rest, time for our loved ones. Time is precious and to give it to one area takes it away from another, so to give it away truly is a gift for those that need it the most, what time can you give?

I hope to be of service again in the future to assist those that need my time, because as far as I see it, it is time we'll spent.

Why do we wear a Cross?



The cross, the emblem of our order, is a powerful symbol that we proudly display for all to see. We are not alone in this; countless others wear it or place it prominently in their homes—in bedrooms, hallways, and even classrooms. It serves as a Christian badge, a testament to our faith and a reminder of our crucified Lord. It also signals to others the path we have chosen to follow.

In recent times, there have been contentious legal debates about whether employees can wear this cherished symbol. This has sparked significant concern because for many, the right to wear a cross is synonymous with the right to express their Christian identity.

Yet amidst these challenges lies an opportunity for inspiration and resilience. The freedom of thought, conscience, and religion is fundamental—a basic human right that should be celebrated rather than curtailed. While some may attempt to separate internal beliefs from external expressions, let us stand firm in our conviction that what we hold dear inside should shine brightly on the outside too.

To us Templars, the cross stands as a powerful emblem of faith and devotion. Despite its controversies, it remains a profound symbol of hope and salvation.

Let us remember that the cross is not just jewellery or decor; it embodies the heart of our faith—the sacrifice Jesus made for our redemption and His resurrection that promises eternal life.

Today, let us draw inspiration from this enduring symbol. May it inspire us to live with purpose and conviction, embracing its message of love, sacrifice, and ultimate victory over adversity.

If the cross stands for anything, it is undoubtedly a symbol of love. It serves as a profound reminder that God loves you and that you, in turn, love God. Whether adorned with the image of Jesus or standing empty like the tomb on the third day, each cross speaks not only of Jesus' sacrifice but also of his triumphant resurrection.

To our new knights embarking on this noble journey: you're not merely joining a club; you're becoming part of a fraternity united by faith and love. Wearing the cross signifies your commitment to ending suffering, promoting peace, giving generously—and perhaps even sacrificing everything for your beliefs if necessary. As another cherished hymn reminds us, in Christ's death and resurrection we encounter a divine love so profound that it calls upon us to dedicate our soul, life, and all we have in return.

Let this be an inspiration as we proclaim "Christ is risen"—a declaration of triumph over death and everlasting hope for all who believe.



Lessons from History

In 1118, when the first Grand Master, Jacques de Molay, took his venerated position, he ignited the legacy of a chivalric order that endures to this very day. Despite the tragic events of Friday 13th October 1314 in France—when many knights faced martyrdom and were declared heretics by the Pope who seized their wealth—the spirit of our Order remains unbroken. We are their proud successors; though our numbers may be few, we stand strong knowing that across Europe, our Order flourishes with great strength.

During those formative years, as we laid down our foundations, St Bernard of Clairvaux spoke profoundly about our Order:

"This is, I say, a new kind of knighthood and one unknown to the ages gone by. It ceaselessly wages a twofold war both against flesh and blood and against a spiritual army of evil in the heavens. ... The knight of Christ, I say, may strike with confidence and die yet more confidently, for he serves Christ when he strikes, and serves himself when he falls..."



He went on to describe how the Order ordered itself:

"They come and go at the bidding of their superior. They wear what he gives them, and do not presume to wear or to eat anything from another source. Thus, they shun every excess in clothing and food and content themselves with what is necessary. They live as brothers in joyful and sober company, without wives or children. So that their evangelical perfection will lack nothing, they dwell united in one family with no personal property whatever, careful to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. You may say that the whole multitude has but one heart and one soul to the point that nobody follows his own will but rather seeks to follow the commander."

Reflect on these words from a different world; yet within them lies a profound truth about our own lives today. While there are striking differences between then and now, it is truly inspiring to recognise how some core values endure through time—the spirit of unity, selflessness, and shared purpose remains as relevant today as ever before. Let us embrace these timeless principles as we strive for harmony and collective strength in our modern journey together.

Some aspects of our history fill us with hope, while others bring a touch of sadness. Much like monks, Templars took vows and notably remained unmarried in their commitment.

They felt a profound calling, as Jesus described it, to step away from worldly conflicts and family life into a community dedicated to service and sacrifice. In this journey, they were reminded that 'Servants are not greater than their master.'

The Greek term for 'called out' is *ek klesia*—fascinating, isn't it? This is the very name of the church: *ecclesia* in Latin, Greek, Italian; *Église* in French. It signifies being 'called out.'

The essence of the church lies not within the confines of a building but in those who are sent forth. We are called to be sent—sent into the world to fulfil Christ's mission and share the joyous message of salvation.

This understanding liberates us from needing an ecclesiastical structure—there's that word again—because we embody the church. We are the church wherever we find ourselves!

As Templars, our sacred space is wherever we gather—be it a Cathedral, Parish Church, or Chapel... it's about us and our shared purpose beyond any physical walls.

International / National Visits

Chev Ian Bates

FRANCE - JACQUES DE MOLAY CEROMONIES - MARCH, 2025

I was genuinely honoured to represent our Grand Prior, H.E. Chev. Paul Grant, and our Grand Priory in Paris over the weekend of 21st to 23rd March. Together with Rev. Chev. Les Fraser, I had the pleasure of meeting many international members and enjoying their warm hospitality.

The Friday evening event began with a delightful buffet at the Chinagora Hotel, where we shared a table with esteemed colleagues including H.E. Chev. Ron Sinclair, the Grand Prior of Scotland; Chevs Peter McDonald (Grand Marshal), John Fawns (Grand Castellan), and Doug Taylor (Commander); as well as H.E. Chev. Richard Elms, the Grand Prior of Wales.

It was truly heartening to see Great Britain represented by England, Scotland, and Wales.



On this occasion, we brought along the Pilgrims Horseshoe which I presented to the Grand Master for his recognition and also shared it with our Brothers & Sisters from Scotland and Wales. Everyone was impressed by the horseshoe and thought it an excellent idea for recording pilgrimages.



On the morning of Saturday, 22nd March, Les and I embarked on the boat trip, taking the horseshoe to the Jacques De Molay ceremony and memorial at Île de la Cité. This marked our first official pilgrimage event, during which we kept a white rose petal from one of our roses offered to the waters of the Seine for inclusion on the horseshoe.

Following this meaningful journey, we enjoyed a traditional Chinese luncheon at the hotel before travelling by coach to Paris for an afternoon and evening filled with significant events. The Investiture was held at the Temple of Pentemont where a sister and three brothers were invested. This was followed by a splendid Gala Dinner at the National Army Circle.

On Sunday, I represented our Grand Prior at both Association and Grand Chapter meetings and duly reported back to the Magisterium. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to Rev. Chev. Les for his unwavering support and companionship throughout this memorable weekend. I earnestly encourage all members who are able to attend in future years; it is truly an enriching experience not to be missed.

SCOTLAND - CHAPTER MEETING - JUNE, 2025

Chev. Doug Campbell, along with Sheree, Natalya, and I, had the privilege of visiting our Brothers and Sisters in Scotland over the weekend from 20th to 23rd June. During our visit, we explored two pilgrimage sites and participated in the Chapter meeting.

Continued on next page...

Our pilgrimage journey on Saturday morning began with meeting H.E. Chev Ron Sinclair at Rosslyn Chapel, where we were joined by Chevs Peter McDonald and John Fawns. The tour was incredibly fascinating, and we acquired a cherry pip to attach to the horseshoe. Remarkably, this marked my fourth visit to Rosslyn Chapel since my first time some 35 years ago.

Following this enriching experience, we travelled to the home of Chev Arran Waddell (Sword Bearer), where she and her husband John graciously prepared a delightful lunch for us.

In the afternoon, our second pilgrimage took us to Temple Ballentradoch. There we accessed the ruins of the chapel undergoing early reconstruction efforts. We collected a piece of yew bark from an area downstream believed to have been used by Templars for fish pens.



On Sunday, we visited the Order's charming Temple in Lanarkshire. It was wonderful reconnecting with our Scottish Brothers and Sisters there; I again met Chev Jane Corbett (Cleric) and Chev Doug Taylor. I had previously met Jane and Arran at Paris in 2024.

Around twenty knights and guests gathered for both the Festival of St John the Baptist celebration as well as their Chapter meeting—Doug & I were honoured by being asked to participate through readings during their impressive ceremony amidst beautiful surroundings.

I conveyed heartfelt best wishes from our Grand Prior back home towards Scotland's own Grand Prior while also extending warm regards between members across borders.

Upon concluding ceremonial duties came forth an exquisite buffet followed up by national music performed skilfully via trio ensemble—a perfect ending indeed!

My deepest gratitude goes out towards Doug alongside Sheree & Natalya whose support made such interactions possible among English-Scottish brethren alike!

[CANTERBURY - MEDIEVAL PAGEANT SOCIAL GATHERING - JULY, 2025](#)

Under the auspices of the Commander of the South, Chev. Troy Close a visit is planned to enjoy the Medieval Pageant on Saturday 5th July followed by a social gathering at the Chom Chom Asian restaurant in the evening.

[WARWICKSHIRE - TEMPLE BALSHALL - JULY, 2025](#)

Please see page 4 for more details.

[GERMANY - INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER & INVESTITURE - SEPTEMBER, 2024](#)

Six Brothers & Sisters and three guests have booked to attend the International Chapter & Investiture meeting over the weekend 5th to 7th September to be held in Augsburg and look forward to enlarging the circle of knightly friendship.

[WHITSTABLE - INVESTITURE - OCTOBER, 2025](#)

Basic details of our next Investiture are included elsewhere in this magazine and fuller details will be circulated by our Grand Secretary in the near future.

RANKS & APPOINTMENTS

Some members can be confused by the difference between Ranks and Appointments.

A **Rank** is the level of seniority which you have achieved, and an **Appointment** is a task for which you have responsibility, as follows:

RANKS:

- Knight or Dame
- Knight or Dame Officer
- Knight or Dame Commander
- Knight or Dame Grand Officer
- Knight or Dame Grand Cross

APPOINTMENTS:

Grand Prior

Prior

Chancellor

Seneschal

Secretary

Marshal

Treasurer

Chaplain

Warden of Regalia

Area Commander

Preceptor

Steward

Templar Fayre

Chev Dr Robert Webber

Whereas the time of the year governed what people ate in Medieval times, diet wasn't just affected by the seasons - religion also played a part in what people ate. Fridays (and, in the earlier period, Wednesdays and Saturdays) were obligatory weekly fasting or 'fyshe' days, when it was prohibited to eat meat. There were also annual fasts such as Rogation Days, Advent and Lent, which restricted diets. Medieval cooks invented creative recipes for wealthy diners during fast periods – including mock hard-boiled eggs made of coloured almond paste inside blown shells for Lent, when dairy was prohibited! Flowers also played an important part.

ROSE PUDDING (for six)

- Petals of one white rose
- 4 level tbsp rice flour or cornflour
- 275ml milk
- 50g caster sugar
- 3/4 tsp ground cinnamon
- 3/4 tsp ground ginger
- 575ml single cream
- Pinch of salt
- 10 dessert dates, stoned and finely chopped
- 1 tbsp chopped pine nut kernels

Take the petals off the rose one by one. Blanch the petals in boiling water for 2 minutes, then press them between several sheets of soft kitchen paper and put a heavy flat weight on top to squeeze them dry. (They may look depressingly greyish but blending will improve the dish's colour.) Put the rice flour or cornflour in a saucepan, and blend into it enough of the milk to make a smooth cream. Stir in the remaining milk. Place the pan over low heat and stir until the mixture starts to thicken. Put in a (non-medieval!) electric blender, and add the sugar, spices and rose petals. Process until fully blended, then add and blend in the cream and salt. Turn the mixture into a heavy saucepan, and stir over very low heat, below the boil, until it is the consistency of softly whipped cream. Stir in most of the chopped dates and pine nut kernels and stir for 2 more minutes. Turn into a glass or decorative bowl and cool. Stir occasionally while cooling to prevent a skin forming. Chill. Just before serving decorate with the remaining dates and nuts.

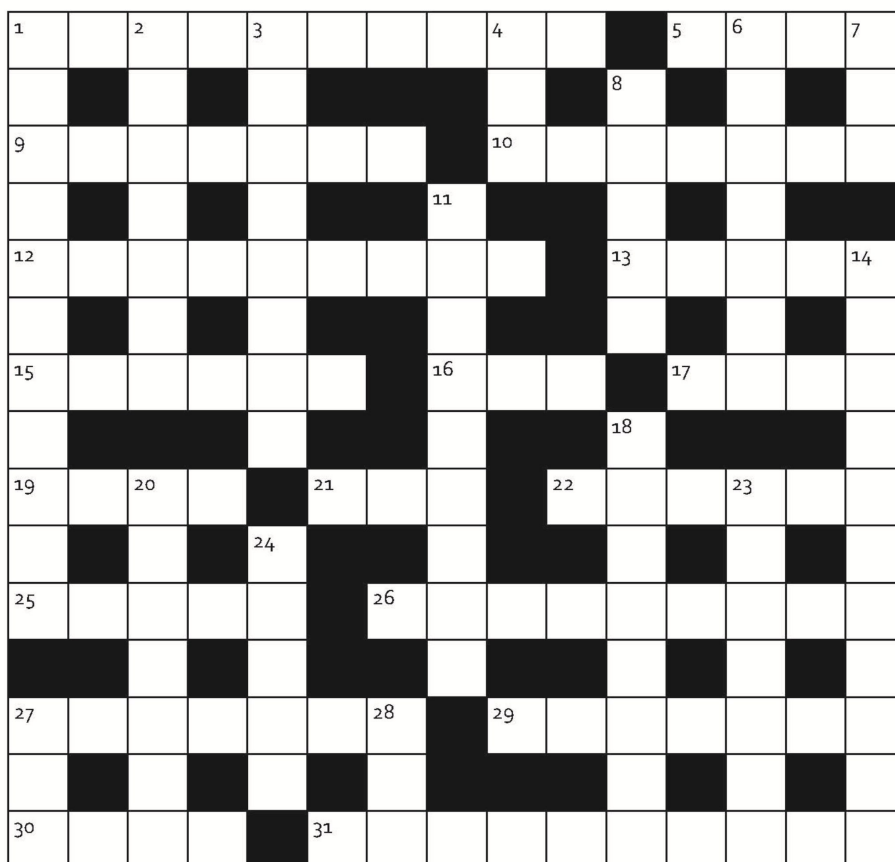
INVESTITURE DATES

Members are reminded that wherever possible our annual investitures are scheduled for weekend following 24th May each year (the anniversary of the death of Hugues de Payen, our first Grand Master) and the weekend immediately after the 13th October (Templar Remembrance Day) to facilitate planning and to maximise attendance.

PLEASE TRY TO KEEP THESE WEEKENDS FREE OF OTHER COMMITMENTS!

The Knightly News Prize Crossword #8

Compiled and © by Chev. Dr. Robert Webber



ACROSS

1. Causing hold-ups for road users. (10)
5. Human spirit. (4)
9. A seed we cooked in Japan. (7)
10. Unworldliness. (7)
12. Laziness shows no decline, sadly. (9)
13. Church convention. (5)
15. Hothouse Brian writes books. (6)
16. Bumbling galoot. (3)
17. Follower of the Gospels. (4)
19. Inclination to be thin. (4)
21. Non verbal agreement. (3)
22. Slain by Achilles. (6)
25. Locally, a German river. (5)
26. Stars as wife of Perseus. (9)
27. Seeking salvation through knowledge. (7)
29. An art folder, perhaps? (7)
30. Ranked highly in Wimbledon. (4)
31. A portable temple can't be real, can it? (10)

DOWN

1. A caring crusader, maybe? (11)
2. Cautious when in custody. (7)
3. No unwanted flora here. (8)
4. First name of former MP who was strictly conservative. (3)
6. Cocaine might be found in unfinished liner. (8)
7. Unordained ministry. (3)
8. European capital on the Svisloch river. (5)
11. In agreement. (9)
14. Regina so confused. (11)
18. Enthusiastic loyalty. (8)
20. Flower, whose name literally means 'Daughter of the Wind' (7)
23. Of, or relating to, Thebes. (7)
24. Bowlines get tangled. (5)
27. Neon or freon? (3)
28. Foreign intelligence in America. (3)

Congratulations to Lilibeth Solajes for winning Crossword #7!

ST PETER'S CHURCH WHITSTABLE

Our next investiture venue

St Peter's Church in Sydenham Street is, notwithstanding its age, one of Whitstable's lesser-known sights. Despite lying just a stone's throw from busy Harbour St, there are many, including residents, who



might have to think for a moment before being able to direct you to it. Those with the eyes - and the mind - to seek it out will find an unexpected architectural treasure and a small oasis of calm and beauty surrounded by its peaceful garden, tucked away from the hurly-burly of twenty-first century life, where the tenets of the Anglo-Catholic faith are practised.

An absolute gem, hidden in the backstreets, this is the finest church building in the town. Designed by George Fellowes-Prynne in the closing years of the nineteenth century, it took 40 years to complete. Apart from the lack of the SW tower, which was never built, it survives as an example of this remarkable man's vision. Red brick with Portland stone dressings, it gives a feeling of space, yet warmth and the way in which arches of different shape and size spring from the walls almost gives an impression of a building that has grown. The furnishings are delightful; including a fine 1960s window in the Lady Chapel and a towering Triptych behind the High Altar which came from the convent at Clewer, Berkshire. The 'beauty of holiness' is an oft-used phrase that truly is applicable to this much-loved building.

The origins of St Peter's began in the 1870s with a mission church to minister as a chapel-of-ease to those people living in the area near the harbour. As resources became available, a new building was gradually constructed, not reaching its final intended shape and size for over fifty years. Parochial status was achieved in 1935, and so now for nearly three-quarters of a century the "back-street" church has stood as a local landmark and constant witness to Christian activity in this busy town.



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