

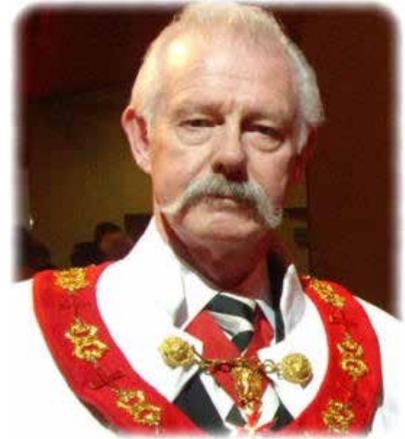


# Knighly News

No 25

August 2019

## GRAND PRIOR'S LETTER TO THE TROOPS



I am very aware that it may seem to the membership at large that not much is happening, but I assure you that those responsible for planning and administration have been very busy indeed, with our small team beavering away in the back room and much burning of midnight oil, but it has paid-off in producing several new membership applications, all of which are in the process of being vetted and approved. One such is from as far afield as Malaysia, but also several from UK.

I am in regular communication with most members of Chapter and almost daily communication with the Grand Secretary and others on a wide variety of subjects, ranging from recruitment, appointments, promotions, establishing or re-establishing Preceptories and Commanderies, uniform, regalia and insignia and a whole host of other important matters.

Looking forward we are in communication with both Chester and Lincoln Cathedrals forward planning for next year (2020) and of course we have a great social event planned for Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020 with a dinner in the magnificent setting of the RAF Club in London, with thanks to the Preceptor of the Sword, Chevalier Alan Warman. Please ensure that you have this date firmly saved in your diaries now.

You do not have a diary??? Ask someone to buy you one for Christmas as you will need it.

I am very much looking forward to a well-supported Advent Carol Service with multiple investitures at that time and which will be our final event of the year. **Please make every effort to be there in support.**

## LOST AND FOUND:

It is a sad fact of life that when attending events, certain items can become lost, in particular, small items such as gloves. I cannot tell you how many pairs of gloves I have gone through and my newest white gloves with a Maltese cross embroidered on them disappeared two or three events ago.

When sorting out a stack of assorted regalia following the Enfield investiture, I was delighted to discover what I thought were my lost gloves, until I noted a name written on the cuff... TESS, and the last time I looked my name was not Tess and neither do I know anyone in our Grand Priory by that name. Perhaps someone can advise me and maybe Tess can be reunited with her gloves.

# Templar Sermon by Revd Dr Gordon Giles, Grand Chaplain

*(adapted from the sermon preached at the investiture on March 13th 2019  
in St Mary Magdalene's Enfield.)*

*Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us; but unto thy Name be ascribed all honour and glory. Amen.*

**I**wonder what you look like? Do you know what you look like? Have a look in a mirror! We look in a mirror every day, and we may not like what we see. Or we might stand on the scales and hear those every present Biblical words uttered to King Nebuchadnezzar – ‘thou are weighed in the balance and found wanting!’ Yet we take mirrors for granted. In St Paul’s time they did not have mirrors like ours. They were Roman metallic mirrors, and when we hear in his letter to the Corinthians in that famous reading ‘we see in a mirror dimly’, we forget that the mirror Paul is using is very blurred indeed.

We see darkly, but we are seen perfectly by God. And what God sees is not perfect for sure. But it is clear. As the psalmist says in Psalm 139:

*O Lord, you have searched me and known me.  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.  
You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.*

It is good to reflect on our own imperfections – to own and admit them and to both repent and seek to do and be better.: Not unto us O Lord, but only unto thy name be the greater glory’, as our signature hymn puts it.

I wonder what we look like as Templars? A bit blurred perhaps? Fuzzy round the edges? Resplendent in our robes, no doubt!

Whatever we do look like – and some people taking the name of Templar get themselves a bad reputation by practice or association – whatever we do look like, St Paul gives us a vision – albeit blurred in a mirror – of what we might aspire to be like, as an order and as individuals within it. For the Christian life of service and moral honour and duty is characterised by these famous word of St Paul:

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. (I Cor 13:12-13)

Faith, Hope and Charity are key words for us as Templars.

Firstly, Faith: Faith in the death and resurrection and saving power of our Lord Jesus Christ. For Jesus Christ, whose cross we wear, is our captain, our saviour, and our faith is in Christ alone.

And he is our Hope. Hope. Hope that whatever falls the world, there is something beyond, which can make not only the future better, but also the here and now. Hope of heaven, hope of healing, hope of peace. Without hope we are hopeless. Yet we are not, for we have the cross – the banner of hope, which we raise in faith, and hope.

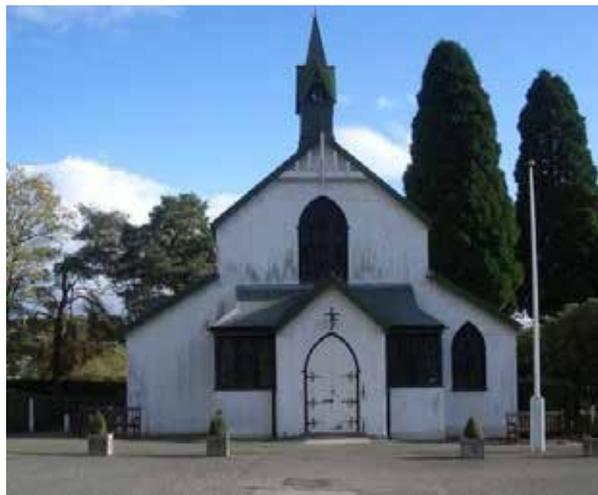
And love. Or Charity, as the old version puts it. In Greek there are several words which we translate as ‘love’. and St Paul was writing in Greek. πίστις, ἐλπίς, ἀγάπη ~ *pistis, elpis* and *agape*. Agape is different

to philia – brotherhood, fraternal love and it is different to eros – passionate love and it is different to storge – parental love. Agape is a distinctively Christian form of love, which St Thomas Aquinas said was to ‘will the good of another’. Charity – caritas. As templars we might well want to embrace all these forms of love, brotherhood, of course. But add Caritas – charity, and that makes us Christian, spiritually and morally.

Of course we think of charity as relating to what we commonly call charity, and we are charitable for sure. Charitable with money yes, but also in that deeper meaning of willing the good of others. We are on their side, as well as our own. And that’s what it is to be in God’s side.

May we always be so, whatever we look like. For he sees us in a mirror clearly and he sees us as we truly are.

*So, not unto us, not unto us; but unto his Holy Name be ascribed all honour and glory. Amen.*



## **The Garrison Church of Saint Barbara, Deepcut**



Over the years we have used several churches in which to hold our Services of Investiture, and above is one such church. The Garrison Church of St. Barbara in Deepcut, Surrey.

An Anglican church, it was built in 1901 to serve the units stationed at Deepcut and Blackdown camps, at that time two infantry regiments and the Royal Field Artillery. The church was a pre-fabricated kit, possibly supplied by manufacturers Humphreys.

A short opening service was held in March 1901, and a dedication festival in September on St Michael and All Angels’ day, after whom the church was initially named. It was not until the closure of Hulsea Barracks in the 1960s that the church was re-dedicated to St Barbara, the Patron Saint of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC) whose operations and training were moved to Deepcut in the 1940s. The RAOC was amalgamated into the newly created Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) in 1993.

In 1905 an acre of land surrounding the church was gifted by the Crown and a burial ground was consecrated.

Eagle-eyed readers may recognise this church as the place where Colin Firth met his end in the first *Kingsman* film.

We are most fortunate to now be welcome in the beautiful church of St. Mary Magdalene in Enfield, North London where our Grand Chaplain is the Vicar and in the past, we have also used the following churches: Hull Minster in Hull, St. Vedast alias Foster in the City of London, All Hallows by the Tower, St Andrew by the Wardrobe, St Etheldreda’s and St Stephen Wallbrook, all in the City of London as well as several other churches in various parts of the country. Currently we are in communication with Lincoln Cathedral and Chester Cathedral for future-planning purposes.

## Why I joined the Knights Templar ... or Some things are meant to be

*This has been previously published but is being re-posted for the benefit of new members.*

**M**any, many years ago, long before the dawn of time as we know it and when mobile phones and computer-games were not even a figment of our imagination, I had the great good fortune to work in the bustling metropolis of Middlesbrough. I say “Great good fortune to work” as I was probably one of the very few who had a job, and one Sunday lunch-time I was in my usual position, propping up the bar in a local hostelry known as The Gables. The bar was almost empty as most good citizens were in Middlesbrough Cathedral praying for the ICI chemical plant to re-open....or British Steel to come back from the dead, or the Transporter Bridge to have something to transport and the only others in the bar that day were three old men in cloth-caps and clogs who were playing dominoes. (OK, I may be exaggerating about the clogs)

They were muttering quietly between themselves, chewing on clay pipes and occasionally slapping a domino down on the brown, lino-topped table and wisps of their conversation drifted gently on the pipe-smoke in my direction, from which I was surprised to hear the words Knights Templar mentioned more than once.

Being an avid historian, I was well aware of the Templars history and I also knew that they had been purged and destroyed even before I had left school and so I, rather rudely, attuned my antenna to better hear their mutterings. Again, I heard Knights Templar mentioned and ranks such as Commander and Grand Officer and so, intrigued, I slid off my bar-stool and made my way across the sawdust-covered floorboards towards the old men who were sitting in the bay window and catching the warmth of the noonday sunshine.

Introducing myself, I apologised for having overheard their conversation and told them that I must have mis-heard what they had said as it sounded like they were talking about a long extinct organisation as if it was still alive.

There was a short pause while they pondered why a total stranger should have the temerity to even ask such a leading question but, having regained their composure, one of them replied that the Templars were indeed alive and well and living in Middlesbrough, and Manchester, and London and anywhere else where human beings may be found. I offered to buy them a beer at which point I was welcomed with much aplomb like the Prodigal Son and was invited to sit with them (after I had been to the bar to fetch the beer) and they told me about how the Templars had in the main escaped the clutches of King Philip of France and that the Templar Fleet had disappeared, taking with it all the Templar treasure, never to be seen again. How the Order had gone underground to avoid persecution but had continued and maintained its traditions, to re-emerge after the French Revolution at which time they were recognised as a legitimate Order by Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte.

Even more intrigued, I asked how one may join and they wrote a name and a telephone number down on a piece of paper. I noted that the area code was closer to Liverpool than Middlesbrough which is across the other side of the country but even mores surprisingly, the name was one which I knew. Ted Moore. This was beyond coincidental as Ted Moore and I had been friends for many years in another organisation, the Legion of Frontiersmen. That evening I called the number, half expecting it to be a different Ted Moore but sure enough, there was my old friend on the other end of the line. I told him what had happened in the bar and asked if he really was a Knight Templar. “Yes” came his reply. I then asked him why he had never told me that he was a Knight Templar and he replied....”You never asked” “Well, I am asking now,” I said, and so the wheels were set in motion and a few days later I received my application form, which, duly completed and returned resulted in my being invited to attend for investiture at a future date. That was about thirty years ago, and I am delighted to say that I am still here and enjoying my membership immensely.

Next episode....I am a naughty boy – and get promoted.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Members are reminded of the following events:

### **Advent Carol Service and Investitures on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

at St Mary Magdalene, Enfield,

by kind invitation of the Grand Chaplain, Revd Dr Gordon Giles.

This will be our final event for this year, with several new members to be invested and so maximum attendance is anticipated.

### **Social event:**

### **Dinner at the RAF Club in London on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020,**

which will be our first event of next year to get is off to a great start.

**PLEASE PUT THESE DATES INTO YOUR DIARIES NOW.**

## DRESS CODE

**A**s an ancient and Chivalric Order with international standing in high places and which conducts high ceremonial, it is important that we have a Dress Code which maintains the dignity of the occasion when we meet. That said, it is fully understood that full evening dress (White Tie and Tail Coat) is an expensive item which most members will never need other than for our own ceremonials.

It is also understood that Black Tie and Dinner Jacket is not required by some and so it is necessary to allow flexibility of dress as follows:

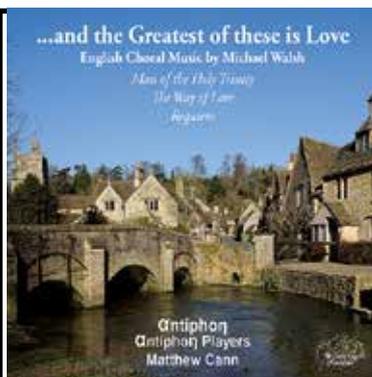
**Full Evening Dress** will be worn by senior officers attending our most prestigious events. Other members who own this form of dress are encouraged to wear it.

**Black Tie (Dinner Jacket or Tuxedo)** may be worn for all other events where we are dining after the service.

Those male members who do not have either of the above forms of dress are asked to wear a dark suit with a white shirt and KT tie, or other sober tie, with regimental or club ties being perfectly acceptable.

Military uniform is permitted for those authorised to wear it.

Female members are asked to dress according to the occasion.



### *...and the Greatest of these is Love*

English Choral music by Michael Walsh

The CD of music composed by our own Master of Music has received some excellent reviews in the UK and the US.

*'... perhaps I was in the mood for Requiems, but I listened to Walsh's composition three times in a row'* (American Record Review)

*'This is magnificent, almost Angelic music which I play often and most especially if I am stressed and need to relax'* (Chev Paul Grant)

CDs can be ordered direct from Michael at [betterbook@mac.com](mailto:betterbook@mac.com)  
and payment (£12 including p&p) via [paypal.me/amdgwalsh](https://www.paypal.me/amdgwalsh)

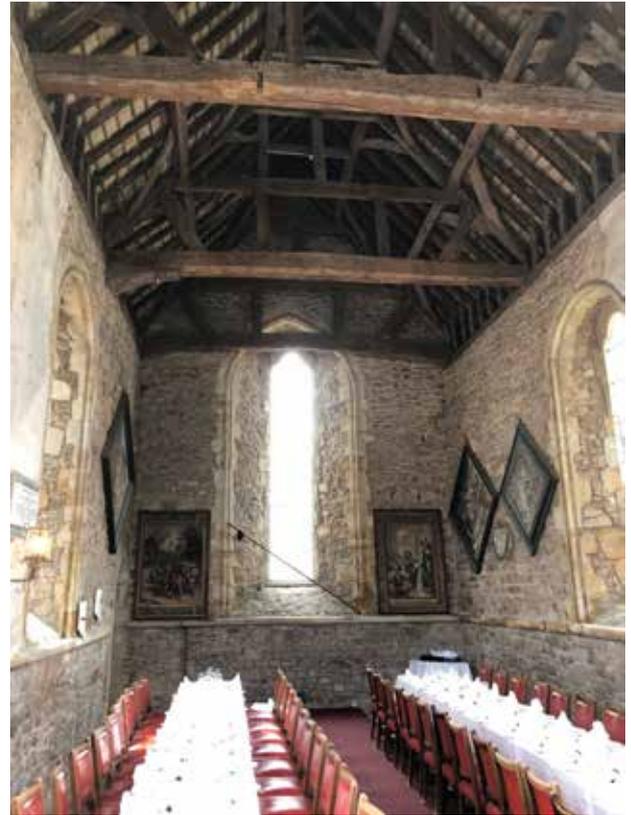
## Rothley Court Hotel and Templar Chapel

Recently, the Grand Prior and Grand Herald (Information) made a visit to Rothley Court Hotel in Leicestershire where we hope to hold events in the not too distant future. Here are some photos we took during our visit.

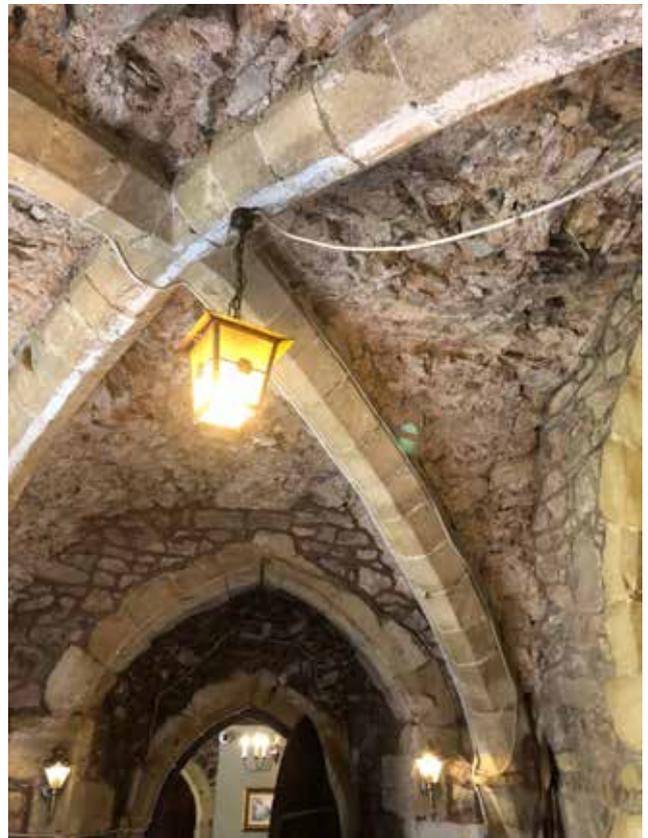


The front elevation of the hotel with the chapel on the right. There is quite a lot of colourful Victorian stained glass in the main building, some of which is rather fanciful in its accuracy!





When we visited, the Chapel had been laid out for a wedding breakfast, but as you can see is a most impressive 14th century building. It has an altar and, despite quite a few cobwebs (no doubt for 'authenticity') it will make a splendid venue for us on a future occasion.



You can find more information on their website  
[www.greeneking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/leicestershire/rothley-court-hotel/](http://www.greeneking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/leicestershire/rothley-court-hotel/)

# OSMTJ England ~ Officers of the Chapter

for the benefit of our new members, the Chapter of our Order is as follows :

GRAND PRIOR.....	H.E. Chev. P Grant
GRAND CHANCELLOR.....	Chev. J Garbutt
GRAND SENESCHAL .....	Chev. J Cox
GRAND SECRETARY.....	Chev. R Webber
GRAND CONSTABLE.....	Chev. D Gill
GRAND MARSHAL.....	Chev. P Tredgett
GRAND TREASURER.....	Chev. I Bates
GRAND CHAPLAIN .....	Revd. Chev. G Giles
MASTER-AT-ARMS.....	Chev. M Hunt
GRAND HERALD ( <i>Information</i> ) .....	Chev. M Walsh
JUSTICIAR.....	Chev. S McIlwaine
HISTORIAN & ARCHVIST .....	Chev. A Smith
COMMANDER OF THE SOUTH .....	Chev. Sir Robert Worcester KBE DL

## MAGISTERIUM

Chair – Grand Prior

*Members:*

Grand Seneschal

Grand Secretary

Grand Treasurer

*In the absence of the Grand Prior,*

*the Grand Seneschal will take the chair.*

**Our web-page is as follows: [www.knightstemplar-england.org.uk](http://www.knightstemplar-england.org.uk)**



H.E. Chevalier Paul Grant, KGCTJ  
Grand Prior of England



Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani  
THE SUPREME MILITARY ORDER OF THE TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM  
The Grand Priory of England of the Knights Templar