

## **Provincial Priory – 2 June 2018**

### **ADDRESS**

Brother Knights, I do welcome you all to this 2018 meeting of the Provincial Priory of Cheshire and North Wales and I hope you have an enjoyable day.

### **WELCOME TO DISTINGUISHED GUESTS**

Brother Knights, we have already saluted our Distinguished Guests but it is now my pleasure to welcome and introduce them individually. Again this year we have widened our circle of guests by including a number of Provinces who have not had the opportunity to visit Cheshire previously and amongst the 14 Provinces represented today, some of our guests are, therefore here for the first time. On behalf of the Sub-Prior and myself, I wish to thank the Right Eminent Provincial Priors and their teams in all the Provinces we have visited this year for the extremely warm and generous welcome we have received everywhere.

### **From the Province of LANCASHIRE**

We welcome R E Kt David Harry Gallear KCT the Provincial Prior accompanied by his new Sub-Prior E Kt Stuart Hughes and his Chancellor E Kt Mike Beesley. I am sorry I missed your meeting this year but I hope my Sub-prior behaved himself.

### **From the Province of NORTH & EAST YORKSHIRE**

We welcome the R E Kt Paul Martyn Darley BEM KCT the Provincial Prior and he is accompanied by his Sub Prior E Kt Timothy Grant Dillon and his Vice Chancellor E Kt Keith Tonge.

### **From the Province of STAFFORDSHIRE & SHROPSHIRE**

We welcome R E Kt David Gary Read KCT the Provincial Prior. I am delighted to see you looking so well Gary. And also V E Kt Alan Thomas Howls PGtReg the Sub Prior and E Kt John Edward Francis the Vice Chancellor.

### **From the Province of WEST YORKSHIRE**

We welcome R E Kt Paul Crossland Grafton the Provincial Prior, V E Kt Hearl Roger Lenton P Gt Reg, the Sub Prior and V E Kt George Anthony Ryder Wilkinson PGtReg the Vice Chancellor.

### **From the Province of HERTFORDSHIRE**

We welcome R E Kt Anthony Thomas Lapsley the Provincial Prior and E Kt Alistair David White the Vice Chancellor.

### **From the Province of SUSSEX**

We welcome R E Kt William John Thomas (Toby) Pratt the Provincial Prior and E Kt Peter Baker. This is your first visit to us and we thank you for making the long journey today.

### **From the Province of SURREY**

We welcome R E Kt Patrick Crossan the Provincial Prior - again a first time visitor - V e Kt Christopher Craddock PG2ndConst the Sub Prior, and E Kt Peter Brown the Vice Chancellor.

### **From the Province of DURHAM**

We welcome the R E Kt Richard George Scott the Provincial Prior, E Kt Richard Hamlyn Tucker the Sub Prior, and the Vice Chancellor E Kt Stephen James Allen. This time last year Richard you were the "Baby Prior". Today you have five new Priors propping you up on the list.

### **From the Province of NORTHUMBERLAND**

We welcome E Kt Kevin Peter Stannard the Sub Prior and E Kt William Bewick the Vice Chancellor. We now know Kevin that your Prior R E Kt Alan Hume will retire this year. Please send him our best wishes.

### **From the Province of DERBYSHIRE**

We welcome E Kt Simon Peter Gaskin the Sub Prior and E Kt Anthony David Parkinson the Prov. 2nd Constable.

### **From the Province of WORCESTERSHIRE**

We welcome V E Kt Charles Middlebrook Keith Dyer PGt Reg the Past Sub Prior.

### **From GREAT PRIORY**

We are delighted to again welcome the Great Marshal V E Kt Timothy John Wheeler who tells me he is going to keep coming until we get it right!

**From the Province of ESSEX**

We welcome V E Kt David Scott Pinkerton PGtReg the Past Provincial Chancellor and E Kt Clive Purdy the Vice Chancellor. Welcome on your first visit.

**From the Province of EAST ANGLIA**

We welcome E Kt Colin Birkbeck the Provincial Chancellor of Malta; again a first time visitor.  
and

**From the Province of GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND HEREFORDSHIRE**

Where I spent a very happy first visit a few weeks ago, we welcome E Kt Rowland Rogers the Provincial Deputy Marshal and E Kt Peter Johnson the Provincial Treasurer.

Also from our own Province we are delighted to acknowledge the presence of V E Kt Eric Foxwell PGtReg the Past SubPrior.

This Order receives absolutely excellent support from the rulers of other Orders in our Provinces and today we are pleased to welcome

**From the Craft** from Cheshire E Kt Ian Cranston PDPGM, E Kt Alan Glazier PDPGM, E Kt Simon Richardson APGM, and from East Lancashire E Kt Christopher Welton APGM.

**From the Royal Arch** E Kt John Robert Bramley Deputy Grand Superintendent, E Kt Roger Thomas Quayle PDGS, E Kt Rev Barry William Jobber the 3rd PGP and E Kt David Williams APGP.

**From the Mark** E Kt Peter Talbot the PGM of the Mark for North Wales and from Cheshire E Kt Austin Bamber the DPGM, E Kt Glyn Hewitt the APGM.

**From the Ancient & Accepted Rite** E Kt Harry Crook the Inspector General for West Cheshire

**From the Red Cross** E Kt James Munro the Intendant General for Cheshire. E Kt David Williams the Deputy Intendant General

**From the Royal & Select Masters** E Kt Shaun Barry Crutchley the District Grand Master for Cheshire, Shropshire, North Wales & Staffordshire, V E Kt John Lightfoot the Deputy District GM and E Kt Eric Thomason the Past DGM.

**From the Worshipful Society of Freemasons** E Kt Shaun Barry Crutchley the Deputy Grand Master Mason and E Kt Ken Mayer the Deputy Master Mason V° for North Western Counties.

**From the Knight Templar Priests** E Kt Ian Cranston the Grand Superintendent and High Prelate of Cheshire & North Wales District 26.

**From St Thomas of Acon** E Kt James Munro the Grand Preceptor for Cheshire & North Wales  
and

**From The Royal Oder of Scotland** E Kt Graham Kyffin the Provincial Grand Master for North Wales and E Kt Robert Kyffin the Depute PGM

Now Brother Knights please give our guests and rulers a rousing welcome.

Well Brother Knights, today marks the end of my Fifth Year as your Provincial Prior. In the past this would have required me to apply to have my Patent extended but now it is granted at the M E & S Grand Master's pleasure. In the last 168 years there have been eleven Provincial Priors of this old Province with Major Cuthbert Leicester-Warren (the 4th Prior) serving for 31 years and Major George Cornwall Leigh (the 2nd Prior) serving for 26 years. If I emulate Major Leicester-Warren I will be 108.

In managing this Province I have always tried to have a clear plan and a Plan B. At one point this year I was down to Plan D. At this meeting last year E Kt Peter Carroll retired as Vice Chancellor and I was pleased to appointed E Kt Simon Richardson to succeed him. However, in October, I was advised by the Craft Province that Simon was to be an APGM and would have to give up his Provincial role with the KT at short notice. I thank Simon for his efforts and wish him well in his new position. I was able to find a willing replacement in E Kt Peter Butler but this left me short of a Deputy Marshal. Being aware that E Kt Bill Caren, resplendent today in his new regalia as a PGtAdeC, would be retiring I made a mid year appointment to that post but unfortunately my chosen Officer could not take up the appointment due to a very serious family illness. I had already designated the Commander of my Bodyguard, E Kt Anthony Lloyd, as a Deputy Marshal and now promoted his nominated successor, E Kt Mke Steggles to Deputy Marshal leaving me with neither a Commander or Deputy Commander for the Bodyguard. As you will shortly see I have found two very willing volunteers to step up. I rehearse

this situation for you for two reasons. Firstly to demonstrate that if there is a keen and willing KT Mason in the Province, someone else has probably noticed as well. And secondly to thank all those Knights who have willingly, and without hesitation, taken office this year, and in the past, and continued to support me and the Sub Prior in the directing of this Province.

As usual this year the Sub Prior and I have visited all our Preceptories and many other Provinces, separately or together. I would particularly mention Northwich Preceptory No 558 who received me in November; half dressed and with my arm in a sling after having surgery on my broken wrist, and arranged for me to have baby food that I could eat with one hand. In the coming year there will be four Team Visits as indicated on today's Summons, including a Banner Dedication at St David 454 and a visit to Palestine 217 held over from this April after I was unexpectedly required to attend the Grand Lodge Investiture meeting.

We thank all the Officers and members of our Preceptories for their efforts.

In 2011 the Cheshire Bodyguard Preceptory No 578 surrendered its Warrant - a low point in this Province. Since 2013 I have been trying to find a way to bring back a Bodyguard Preceptory. I am delighted to report that in May, with a Dispensation from the Grand Master, I brought back onto the active roll The Preceptory of St George No 318 which had surrendered its Warrant in May 2017, and designated it our Bodyguard Preceptory with an initial membership of 30 Knights. I even managed to get myself elected as its Preceptor! I look forward to it finding an important role in the Province. It will keep its name which seemed to me to be a good one for a Bodyguard until one of my North Wales Knights said "You think so?". Sadly, 48 hours after that happy event I received back the Warrant of the Love & Friendship Preceptory No 272 after struggling for several years. It is currently in my study while I consider the possibility of a Past Preceptors' Daylight Preceptory.

Another unplanned change this coming season will be the venue for our Church Service. Since last July the incumbent at St James Christleton has left his church and his Church Wardens have made it clear that we are not welcome back. We will therefore be going to St Mary Astbury on 3rd July; a church where we have been previously. Provisionally for 2019 we plan to go into new territory at a church in North Wales. I do urge as many members of this Christian Order, together with their families, to attend this service.

The Charity Luncheon will be held here on 22nd July and I thank E Kt Walter Yule for all his work in organising this event in the past and E Kt David Heathcote for taking on the task this year. Application forms have been circulated and are available downstairs.

Following a very interesting talk at the Grand Master's Preceptory in London I decided that the Province would take steps to qualify as a sponsor of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Swift Appeal and I thank all those Preceptories who have already contributed and I encourage those who have not, to consider doing so. The current total raised is just over £2000. It would be good to have the Swift on the table at lunch here in 2019.

In October, at our Provincial Malta meeting, we will Install as a Knight of the Order a Templar Knight from Croes Newydd Preceptory No 603. I am sure that this will again be an excellent occasion and as it will not this year clash with the Craft Tercentenary I expect a very full Temple.

At Great Priory in May I was delighted to see rather more than the usual number of Cheshire & North Wales Knights honoured by the Grand Master.

E Kt Ian Cranston was promoted to Past Great Herald

E Kt Peter Butler, my Vice Chancellor, was appointed Past Deputy Great Sword Bearer

E Kts Bill Caren, Stan Rawcliffe and Eric Porter were appointed Past Great Aides de Camp, and E Kt Graham Kyffin was appointed Past Great Warden of Regalia to mark the

Sesquicentenary of Geoffroy de Bouillon Preceptory No 91.

I congratulate all these Knights and wish them well in their new ranks.

I also at this point thank and congratulate E Kt Fraser Fowlie for his year as Great Sword Bearer which brought great credit on himself and kudos to the Province. On one occasion he even carried the swords of two Grand Masters at the same meeting.

Christian Knight Templar Masonry continues to be a haven in an uncertain and increasingly violent world and I wish you all continuing enjoyment of our wonderful Order in the year to come. God bless you all.

Provincial Vice Chancellor, I will ask you to now read out the names of those Knights I have appointed to and promoted in Provincial Priory, but first I have great pleasure in confirming the continuing appointing my Sub-Prior – Em Kt Alan Pierce.