

United Religious Military and Masonic Order of the Temple  
and of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine Rhodes and Malta  
of England and Wales and Provinces Overseas.

## Provincial Priory of Kent



**Provincial Prior**  
**R.E.Kt. David Jordan**

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### Provincial Prior's Message 2020

Brother Knights

At this time you will be fully aware of the unexpected disruption caused to Freemasonry in general and in particular Knights Templar as well as other Companion Orders, by the Coronavirus Pandemic from which we are all at risk. The Government, Media, NHS and our own Heads of Orders together with the Grand Secretary, Craft, as well as the Great Vice Chancellor at St James's, have done much to keep us advised of the dangers and changes necessary to keep us safe and well that we may be able to provide for and support our families and friends. They, as well as their staff are to be congratulated for their hard work in continuing to keep us apprised of current changes and events affecting Freemasonry.

Brother Knights, I thank you and congratulate you for the important role you have played by regularly communicating with and caring for your Brother Knights and others, ensuring that they are safe and well, either by media, phone or even zoom. Many of you are assisting and carrying out charitable work to assist those in need in these unprecedented and difficult times. It highlights that Freemasonry has an important role to play within any community.

I will miss our Kent Provincial muster on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> July. Like so many other ceremonies and events it has had to be abandoned as well as our Church Service in April. Hopefully we are now moving towards normality and shall soon return to our meetings. Our Superiors are currently working on an exit strategy that we may soon meet again.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, before lockdown together with Provincial Officers I visited other Provinces where we were made most welcome. In addition we visited our own Preceptories and enjoyed their work and hospitality. Sadly during the year we lost ten of our members who have been called to Higher Service. Our thoughts are with their families and they will be remembered in our hearts.

There has not been a General suspension of Masonic activity since 6<sup>th</sup> September 1939 and sadly because of lockdown Great Priory on 20<sup>th</sup> May was abandoned. All was not lost, The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master produced and circulated an excellent video in which he starred and passed on his message, finishing with a rousing rendition of the Templar Hymn, ably assisted by the Templar Choir consisting of many well known Knights Templar.

The Grand Master has installed 4 new Provincial Priors this year. Officers receiving first appointments to Great Rank and those promoted to higher rank were to assume their given ranks from the 20<sup>th</sup> May. The Grand Master personally phoned every officer receiving honours at home and abroad to congratulate them. Kent had 4 first appointments to Great Rank and one promotion. Greg Dunham, Graham Mitchell, Eddie Senior, Bob Jones and Graham Higgs. Well deserved and congratulations to them for their hard work in the past and in the future.

In January this year I had the pleasure of dedicating a New Banner to Temple Ewell Preceptory Number 325, very ably assisted by the Provincial Team and my Bodyguard. At the same meeting, I Installed a New Sub Prior, Pieter Jan Swinge, previously Provincial Vice Chancellor of Kent. Pieter is a very experienced Freemason with over 30 years as a Knight Templar.

Dennis Dean has been promoted to Provincial Vice Chancellor, a very demanding role which he has already got to grips with. Dennis was previously Commander of the Bodyguard. An office in which he excelled. I thank them both for their previous work and wish them well in their new roles. I intend that Pieter and Dennis will remain in office for the ensuing year.

Officers to be promoted to Provincial Rank and those receiving further Promotion this year will assume their new ranks from the 4<sup>th</sup> July. I congratulate you all and look forward to working with you in your new ranks in the future. My only regret is that I cannot confer them on you in person. At the same time I take this opportunity to thank all the officers who assisted me during this year.

I would also like to thank Knight Terry Bowler who in May of this year reached 50 years as a Knight Templar. Terry is a member of West Kent Preceptory 371 and others within Kent. Sadly we could not be with him because of Lockdown but members of 371 did visit him at his address. Terry is well known and has 50 years of membership in several degrees. During those years he has reached high rank in nearly all of them. Terry did receive a phone call from the Grand Master to congratulate him on this fantastic achievement. He is a valid member in all orders and still participates in the ritual. Well done Terry and congratulations from all of us.

I thank my Marshal Kelvin Gane who continues to carry out his duties in a very professional manner as well as my Bodyguard, for their dedication and devotion to serving me and the Province in all our undertakings. Well done. We now have a new Bodyguard Commander Steve Hyland, Deputy Commander Chris Hudson and Registrar David Hope. Congratulations and I look forward to working with them in the future.

To our Provincial Treasurer Graham Higgs, thank you and congratulations on your well deserved promotion to Great Herald. Also to Colin Smith who will continue as Provincial Registrar. Colin has also taken on board the new role of Retention and Relocation Officer.

This has been a busy time for the Provincial Almoner Ray Hudson who has very ably assisted Province and has continually liaised with Preceptory Almoners on sensitive issues and assisted as necessary. Thank you Ray.

Brother Knights all, I must congratulate you on the outstanding donations you have made to the Jerusalem Eye Hospital so far this year £3500. You are aware of their continued financial difficulties. Your support helps them continue their wonderful work. In addition you have given your support to the Grand Masters 20 for 2020 Swift Appeal.

This unprecedented situation has stifled our progress for the time being, I am positive that we will overcome this temporary setback albeit we are reliant on our peers to authorise an exit strategy to reassemble. It is important therefore that we all continue to act sensibly, look after the well being of our families and friends, care for one and other within our communities with charitable deeds.

I urge you to continue when and where possible to recruit new members to join this wonderful Knight Templar Order. It will give us and the candidates something to look forward to. On a positive note the following are up and coming events. If permitted In November 2020 the Great Priory Malta Meeting. The provincial Church Service will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Both Westwood Preceptory and St. Michaels Preceptory will be preparing to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries. The Provincial Priory Meeting will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021. The Banner Preceptory will be Temple Ewell Preceptory 325.

I thank you all for your continued support and look forward to sojourning amongst you when circumstances permit. Stay safe and may your God be with you.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order,



R.E.Kt. David Jordan  
Provincial Prior for the Provincial Priory of Kent