

Provincial Priory Address 3rd of July 2021

Dear Brother Knights it is now my privilege to give a short address. I am most grateful to those of you who have joined us today at this our first ever Provincial Priory of Kent Virtual Business Meeting, in particular our distinguished guests for enhancing our proceedings. You are most welcome.

Brother Knights though our Masonic activities continue to be restricted there is good news ahead. Small face to face meetings are now taking place, within the guidelines established by the Great Vice Chancellor and his team. I thank them for their continued support. Members are now taking the opportunity to attend these meetings and the future is much brighter.

It is regrettable that today the Kent Province acknowledges the loss of thirteen Brother Knights to the Grand Lodge above. They will always be remembered in our hearts. I also call on you to support all those knights and their loved ones who are currently suffering illness and hope for their speedy recovery.

Once again our Great Priory meeting to be held in May was abandoned. However all was not lost, The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master produced another stunning video in which he starred and congratulated all the officers he had appointed and promoted. His message was positive and reassuring. The singing by knights around the country was also an improvement. The video is available on the Knight Templar website.

I offer my congratulations to the knights of Kent and other Provinces who received their Great Rank promotions. Well done from all of us.

Progress in the Province has been delayed because of lockdown, however we have much to look forward too especially with 20 new candidates to be Installed which will be a great incentive to the knights of our Preceptories on their return. I have kept in touch with our prospective candidates by writing to them and inviting them to use our Webb Site which they have found useful. Visits to Kent Preceptories and other Provinces have been organised, seminars will be continued to plan and determine the way forward as well as future social events. I am certain that together we can achieve success and confident that we have a bright future.

There has been no recruitment of new knights to the Province since lockdown and with natural wastage our membership has fallen slightly but I anticipate an increase in the coming months. It is our duty to recruit members for Craft and Chapter, however I urge all the knights of Kent to encourage existing Chapter members to join our wonderful order. You will only succeed by talking to them. Members of the Provincial Team are prepared to visit Chapters and give a short talk about our Order if required.

Brother Knights I intend to continue with the three Malta meetings this year. They will take place at The Bodyguard Priory, Richard Plantagenet Priory and Boxley Abbey Priory. Details of attendance will be circulated by the Provincial Vice Chancellor. The Knights have shown a lot of enthusiasm for these events and excellent well attended meetings have ensued.

The Kent Preceptory of Improvement led by E. Kt Ron Pritchard and his team are willing to assist with best practice. Please make full use of our training centres. Details are on the Kent Knight Templar Website. I remind you of the Great Priory of Malta meeting on the 16th

November 2021, to be held at Great Queen Street. We have knights receiving their honours and they need your support. Please make every effort to attend. Details will be circulated.

Although there has only been one physical meeting held during the year virtual business meetings have been conducted which have proved a useful forum and I have no doubt their use will be continued. In addition much work has been carried out administratively especially by the Provincial Vice Chancellor, the Almoner, Registrars and the Knights themselves.

Kt Robyn Murdo – Smith has spent time raising money for the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital by designing and producing Christmas cards. He is currently making statues of knights

and has so far raised a total of £1500. I understand the knights are now being sold in Cyprus. Robyn is also working on other ideas.

E. Kt Kevin Murphy raised £640 from Preceptories for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Knight John Oakshot has been educating the Knights with daily Templar history information posts on the Kent Provincial Face Book Site

Our Web Master E. Kt Alan Sterling continues to regularly update the Kent Web Site with new articles and the Knights achievements.

Preceptories have donated £600

Knight Leslie Frazer conducts a Compline Prayer Session once a month on Zoom for all Knights Templar and it is received worldwide.

Others are joining in their community projects and assisting those in need.

Looking forward we have two Preceptories who will be celebrating their 50th anniversary.

Westwood Preceptory and St. Michaels Preceptory

Our Sub Prior is trying to arrange for our Church Service to take place in December and members will be notified of any progress. Members of our Bodyguard have performed a singing version of the twelve days of Christmas on Zoom. Sadly it has been included on our Web Site.

I congratulate and thank my reappointed active officers for continuing in office as well as those knights appointed and promoted today. I look forward to sojourning with you to our meetings during the ensuing year.

I thank my Vice Chancellor Dennis Dean for the extraordinary effort and support he has given me since he took up office in January 2020. It was an unexpected change for him but he adapted to the role very quickly and has exceeded my expectations.

I thank my Marshal Kelvin Gane for his continued assistance as well as my Bodyguard who I know are looking forward to resuming their very supportive duties.

Brother Knights one of the most called upon officers this year has been my Provincial Almoner, E.Kt Ray Hudson. I cannot express my gratitude enough for the work he has carried out during this difficult time. His reassuring letters, visits and support to the Knights and their families has been well received and appreciated.

Brother Knights we have learned lessons from this pandemic and the most important one is that we need to look after each other. People need people and the burden falls upon each of us to ensure the safety and well being of our friends and their families.

Brother knights I am looking forward to a very bright successful and happy year working together. I thank you for your continued support and I wish you and your families good health and happiness.

Thank you all. Be of one mind and may your God always be with you.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'D' and a long, sweeping underline.

R.E.Kt. David Jordan

Provincial Prior for the Provincial Priory of Kent