



THE HOSPITALLER

The official Newsletter of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem
 — Knights Hospitaller HM King Peter II Constitution
 — Grand Master HRH Prince Karl Vladimir Karadjordjevic of Yugoslavia GCSJ



The Grand Master and
HRH Princess Brigitta.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in St John,

Once more we prepare to celebrate the great and wonderful nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. If we accept the accounts in Rome from 336AD, we see that Christmas has been celebrated for over a millennium and a half! Of course, the customs and styles with which this extremely solemn and holy event have been marked over the years have changed quite a bit, but we Christians try very hard to keep the true meaning of Christmastide at the forefront of the celebrations each year.

Like many millions of Christians around the globe, I am very much aware of a strong undercurrent which has, over quite a few years now, seemingly seen many people veer away from the core meaning of Christmas. The quickening pace of commercial life has only added to this undercurrent, as have various political and other religious inputs. For us Christians then, it has become even more of a duty for us to carry the true message of Christmas proudly on our shoulders and maybe help others to truly enjoy the full atmosphere of this holy event.

One very positive element of the so-called modern Christmas spirit is the association with charity. It is not easy to pinpoint exactly when or where this very close relationship occurred. Some believe that it was connected to the changing character of the figure of "Father Christmas" who was, before the Victorian age, very much associated with adult feasting and merry-making. It is believed by many that only through the Victorian era did the "Father Christmas" figure become the child-centric present-bringer we all know today. Through this newly-found benevolence of Father Christmas it is thought that the many acts of charity followed. As Grand Master of our glorious Order I am extremely proud of the many Dames and Knights who are constantly

involved in acts of charity throughout the year and not just centred around Christmastide; I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Of course, the very sad truth is that across the globe this Christmastide, the suffering and misery experienced by so many unfortunate souls will not suddenly disappear and if our glorious Order's many works of charity cannot help these people in any way, let us remember them in our prayers and in our thoughts and let us double our efforts in the coming year to try and assist more people who desperately need our help in any way. Our hearts also go out to the various members of our Order who have lost loved ones over this past year as we also remember the members of the Order who are no longer with us.

As 2018 comes closer to its close, I am very optimistic that our glorious Order will play an ever more special part for humanity in the future. An extremely vital part of this optimism is the quality and very hard work of the members of our Order and I look forward to watching our membership grow in the coming year as it has this year.

As you all be aware, in October 2019 the Order has its Sovereign Council Meeting, which once again will be held on the beautiful shores of Australia. I am confident that this occasion will also be another golden opportunity to steer our Order towards the betterment of humanity under the guidance of our beloved Saint John.

In closing, Brigitta and I would like to wish you, and all your loved ones, a most wonderful blessed and peaceful Christmas 2018 and a very Happy New Year 2019! May God bless us all!

Yours ever in the service of St John,



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A MESSAGE HE CONV REDPATH

Your Excellencies and Dear Brothers and Sisters in St John, Welcome to the second issue of The Hospitaller under the editorship of the Prior of Scotland, Chev. Jim Wylie GCSJ. In the first issue (Vol 4, Issue 1: July 2018) I opened with a reflection on the passing of my dear friend the late Conv Bailiff Fred Maestrelli GCSJ CMSJ MSSJ, and in this edition you will read of the passing of another friend and colleague, the late Chev. Robin Drawwater, former Chamberlain of the Priory of England.

The thoughtful and touching obituary by the Prior of England, HE Grand Dame Elizabeth Carey-Sheill GDSJ MMSJ, calls to mind Robin's service and commitment to his Priory, and to the Order generally. Robin was a great character: never afraid to speak his mind, and a staunch supporter of the Order and of the Faith, never shirking his responsibilities and always prepared to put himself out. Nobody, of course, is perfect, and perhaps Robin's capacity for suffering fools was never measured in pints, but then his work required deftness, precision and common sense: skills perhaps not always readily apparent or even present in us all!

Skilled people who work with their hands and with apprentices, work best with those who can anticipate their needs, whether it be to hand up a setting maul or indeed simply to make themselves absent!

Our calling to serve mankind and to protect the Faith frequently requires us to sublimate those of our personality traits which might have a tendency to disturb the harmony of our Order, and whilst maintaining our own character, harness our strengths and abilities and indeed recognise our weaknesses, in order to do good in the world. Thus, we must always bear in mind and act in accordance with the Rule and the ideals of our Christian Chivalric Order.



GE FROM ENTUAL BAILIFF ALASTAIR -STEVENS GCSJ CMSJ



The Parties to the signing of the Act of Integration in Glasgow.



Over the past year it has been a privilege to welcome many new members, including those whose units have been integrated into the Order from other organizations.

Thus, on the 18th of August in Glasgow, The Grand Master, Grand Councillor and I signed an Act of Integration with the 2006 Unified Ordre de Saint Jean de Jérusalem and the Sovereign Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem.

On the 21st September I travelled to Oslo to officiate at the Norwegian Investiture and was particularly pleased to present the Grand Master's Medal of Merit to Grand Dame Gunn S. Hagen GDSJ MSSJ MMSJ.

On the 4th of October in Helsinki, The Grand Master, Grand Councillor and I together with HE Bailiff Dag van Schantz GCSJ, signed an Act of Integration with the Grand Priory of Finland – St. Henrik (now our Order's Priory of Finland) and on the 5th of October, again in

Helsinki, we signed a similar Act with the Order of Saint John – Knights Hospitaller Baltic Priory.

These further steps towards integration and reunification are, of course, very welcome but there remains much work to be done, and I am certain that next year will see further positive developments.

In closing may I thank you all for everything you have done in the name of the Order and wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Yours in St John,

Alastair

HE Conv. Bailiff Alastair Redpath-Stevens GCSJ CMSJ



INTRODUCING...

HE CONV. BAILIFF POUL HEILE PEDERSEN GCSJ MSSJ GRAND MARSHAL

HE Conv. Bailiff Poul H Pedersen was born, raised and educated in Aalborg in the northern part of Jutland, Denmark.

After leaving school, Poul started as a shipbuilding trainee at the shipyard in Aalborg.

However, in 1966 he was involved in a bad accident when a 3 tons metal machine base fell from a crane and Poul was injured. He had to stop working at the shipyard, and was subsequently employed by Volkswagen carrying out assembly work in the motorcar industry. In 1970 Poul began working at the Aalborg Portland cement factory as a machine service mechanic, and in 1973 he became a leader of production.

As a result of the accident in the shipyard in 1966, and following 5 operations to repair slipped discs, in 1993 Poul was very reluctantly faced with having to accept early retirement. At that time he, his wife and two children were living in a small village well known for having the biggest horse fair in northern Europe and, surprisingly perhaps, that was actually the beginning of his involvement with the Order of Saint John.

During his work at the horse fair Poul met up with a nurse named Ragnhild Petersen (who, in 1990, had established the charity "White Cross International") and she invited Poul to join her at the charity, working for the poor and the sick around the globe. At that time, the charity was providing support in Georgia and Sudan, using equipment donated from many Danish hospitals, and shipped out to where it was needed in 40-foot containers.



HE Poul Heile Pedersen and his wife, Dame of Grace, Liss Ravn.

In 1993 Poul was asked to become a member of the board, and in 1994, he was elected Vice-President.

The community in Aalborg provided White Cross International with a large storage unit and the Danish Military donated two big military lorries. The medical equipment, was collected from the various hospitals in the large lorries and taken to the storeroom to be repaired and cleaned. Between 1993 and 2015 more than 200 of the 40 foot containers were shipped to Georgia, Sudan, Iraq and Afghanistan. Much of it with the help and cooperation of the Danish Military.

Ragnhild Petersen was a Dame Commander of Grace in the Danish Order of Saint John. In 2002, she introduced Poul into the Order and he was invested as a Knight of Honour in April of that year. In April 2008, Poul

left the Danish Order of Saint John, and joined the OSJ-KH.

On 26 April 2008 Poul was elected Chamberlain of the Priory of Denmark, and 30 May 2008 he was promoted to Knight of Grace. In June 2009 he was elected as Vice Chancellor. On 22 October 2009 he was promoted to Knight of Justice, and was elected Prior of Denmark.

Poul was promoted to Knight Commander of Justice on 1 January 2011, Knight Grand Cross of Justice on 30 of May 2013 and, on 1 November 2014, he was appointed Grand Prior of the Grand Priory of Scandinavia.

Poul was elected a Bailiff of the Order in May 2015 and subsequently, at the Sovereign Council Meeting in Nice on 14 October 2016 he was elected a Conventual Bailiff and Grand Marshal.



HE CONV. BAILIFF PETER J SHILTON GCSJ OMSJ GRAND HOSPITALLER

Peter Shilton was born and raised in Sydney, Australia. After completing his education, he commenced employment with Qantas Airways, where he worked for the next 37 years. He was mainly based in Sydney although, in the late sixties and early seventies, he was posted to New York.

Peter is married to Dame Dr Susan Shilton DCSJ and, in December 1991 he left employment with Qantas to take over the running and development of Susan's medical services business, a company which supplies medical services to a large number of major hotels and international airlines in Sydney.

Peter was appointed as a part time Consultant to the Australian Government in February 1992, a position which he continues to hold to this day. For many years Peter has been heavily involved with many Community, Charity and Business organisations. He is President of the Australian American Association, Chairman of the Sydney, San Francisco Sister City Association, the Opera Foundation, Friends of St George's and Descendants of The Knights of the Garter, to name but a few.

Peter was introduced to the Order of St John by the late Sir Ian McFarlane and



HE Conv. Bailiff Peter J Shilton GCSJ OMSJ
and his wife Dame Dr. Susan Shilton DCSJ.

was invested into the Order in 2006. He was appointed Hospitaller of the Priory after a year and was later elected Vice Prior and then Prior for a period of 3 years. Subsequently he was elevated to Bailiff and thereafter Lt. Grand Hospitaller. Following the sad and untimely death of HE Conventual Bailiff Fred Maestrelli, Peter was appointed Grand Hospitaller in 2017.

Peter is currently involved in making detailed arrangements for the Sovereign Council Meeting, which is being held in Sydney, from 16 – 20 October 2019. Registration documentation and

information will be sent to all Priors in January 2019. The venue for the event is the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel (NSW Masonic Club) and a programme of events is being arranged for accompanying partners.

Peter, together with Schon Condon, Prior of NSW, and all members of the Priory of NSW look forward to welcoming everyone to Sydney in 2019.



HE CONV. BAILIFF HARALD LØVHEIM GCSJ CMSJ MSSJ GRAND COUNCILLOR



HE Conv. Bailiff Harald Løvheim

HE Conv. Bailiff Harald Løvheim was raised and educated in Kristiansand, a town in the southern part of Norway. Having passed the appropriate examinations at the Economic High School in Kristiansand he was accepted as a student at the University of Kiel in Germany, which would ultimately lead to him graduating with a degree in Economics. However, prior to commencing his degree course at Kiel University in September, and having completed his high school education in late May, he signed on as a deckboy on a cargo ship for a three month return trip to the East Coast of the USA, to arrive back just in time to start his studies at university.

However, when his ship was in US waters, another of the shipping lines's vessels, which was due to embark on a voyage between the West Coast of the

USA and the Far East, was destroyed by fire, and the ship Harald was on was instructed to take over the route from the USA to the Far East, instead of returning to Norway as planned. The ship's Captain refused to release Harald and allow him to return home, since his contract stipulated that he could only sign off in a Norwegian port.

Harald therefore became a seaman and, after three years at sea, he joined the Norwegian navy and was educated as a navy officer. After completing his naval education Harald served as an officer and commander of a motor torpedo boat. Subsequent to his Norwegian naval service, he joined the Norwegian merchant marine, and served as an Officer, and later Captain on various vessels, mainly cruise vessels owned by Fred Olsen Lines, The Norwegian America Line and Royal Viking Line.

At this time Harald was married with two children, a son and a daughter, and Harald therefore gave up his career at sea, and started studying law at the University of Oslo. After graduating, he specialised in Marine Law at the Nordic Academy in Oslo, and thereafter at Tullaine Law School in Louisiana, USA.

Harald then was appointed to the Norwegian Department of Coast as the Managing Director's secretary and adviser. He was a member of several departmental groups and committees such as the Committee for the

evaluation of need, type and automation of all Norwegian lighthouses. He prepared the Group's Reports and had responsibility for officially handling, realising and implementing the Group's findings. He was a member and secretary of the Norwegian Navigation Counsel and its working committee, which had responsibility for Norwegian navigation policy and, on behalf of the Norwegian Authorities was in charge of both military and civil navigational policy.

Harald was subsequently offered a job as a marine lawyer in the P&I club SKULD with world wide responsibilities representing both Norwegian and foreign shipping companies, and he was later head hunted to be General Manager of Fred Olsen Brokers AS with offices both in Oslo and London with responsibility for all insurances, marine, non marine, off shore, aviation and life and personal insurance world wide, including the Timex or Waterbury Clock Company. Harald was also a member of the Board in SKULD P&I Club (Bermuda), and also a board member of a Swedish Finance Company and a Swiss Management Company. Additionally he was Chairman of the Board of Delta Marine AS, a marine technical company representing international shipyards, taking care of Shipowners need for their vessels' repairs, dockings and equipment etc. He is currently CEO and owner of Løvheim Shipping ANS, which also controls Able Shipping AS in Manila.

Harald was invested into the Danish Order of St. John, in 2001 ultimately becoming Prior of Norway and then Grand Prior of Dacia before becoming becoming a member of OSJ-KH in 2008.



PRIORY OF NORWAY



Priory Members at the Christmas Meeting Ceremony.



The Procession at the Christmas Meeting Ceremony.



Priory members enjoying the meal following the Christmas Meeting Ceremony

The Priory of Norway has had a busy autumn this year, including a Ceremonial meeting in Ila Church in September for the Installation of the new Prior and his Council, conducted by the Grand Commander, and we pleased to also have a visitor from Denmark.

The Priory has re-established the group "Johanniterhjelpen", which takes care of the daily management of the chivalric work in the Priory, all very well handled by the former Prior Chev. Øivind Olsen GCSJ. The group have been active in several projects this summer/autumn, such as helping the Church-community in Ila with establishing a "Herbal Garden", cleaning the area around the Church and serving coffee and refreshments after a "Lightening-Mass" at the beginning of December.

The different local groups in the Order of St. John have also been active in their local charity projects. In the southern part they have donated money to a local group organising Christmas celebrations for people in need. In Sandefjord they have continued their work of visiting elderly sick people, and supporting the local Salvation Army by standing guard at their "Collection-Pot" in the city of

Sandfjord all through December. In addition to all this we also sent necessities to Greece, to help lonely mothers who are mainly refugees in desperate need.

On Saturday, 1st December the Priory held our traditional "Christmas-meeting" with a Ceremony in the Catholic Church in Sandefjord, followed by a meal and a lottery for charity work. The income of the lottery will be presented to the local Salvation Army in Sandefjord, as a follow up to our support there. The Prior gave a short speech at dinner, updating the members on his attendance at the Investiture in London in October, and his private trip to Montenegro where he was happy to visit The Monastery in Cetinje to see the Relics of The Order.

The members of The Priory of Norway – Sct. Hallvard, sends their warmest Greetings to all Brothers and Sisters in The Order, and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and Peaceful New Year.

John Sundseth KSJ
Prior of Norway

Currently the Priory's diary for 2019 is as follows:

9th February: Ceremonial Priory-meeting in Ila Church, Oslo, and simple meal with an informative brief for invited and interested new people (possible new members).

6th April: Ceremonial Priory-meeting in Ila Church, Oslo, and simple meal with an informative brief by a Chivalric Organisation, "Help us to Help", who we want to cooperate with and support in the future.

25th May: Ceremonial Priory-meeting, venue to be confirmed, but possibly in Rygge Church outside Moss, combined with a visit to the ruins of the Monastery in Værne, the domicile of The Order of St. John in Norway back in the years 1150 – 1400.

The Priory of Norway will also be represented at the planned Investiture in Finland in June, and at the Sovereign Council in Sydney in October. The Priory-meetings in the Autumn are not yet settled.



PRIORY OF FINLAND



Baltic Priory Vice-Prior Chevalier Ralf Sundgren, KSJ and Prior, HE Bailiff, Vesa V. Viitaniemi, GCSJ.

ACT OF INTEGRATION

In Helsinki on 5 October 2018, in the presence of Grand Commander HE Conventual Bailiff Alastair Redpath-Stevens GCSJ CMSJ and Grand Councillor HE Conventual Bailiff Harald Løvheim GCSJ CMSJ MSSJ, the Prior HE Bailiff Vesa V. Viitaniemi GCSJ and Vice-Prior Chevalier Ralf Sundgren KSJ of the Baltic Priory signed an Act of Integration aligning the Priory with OSJ-KH. The OSJ Baltic Priory consists of 30 members originating from the Hospitaller Order of Saint John (HOSJ) and has two Commanderies, Pohjanmaa (Northland) in old capitol Turku and Uusimaa (Newland) in Helsinki.

Together with what was formerly the SOSJ Saint Henrik Priory in Tampere, OSJ-KH now has almost 80 members in Finland.

INVESTITURE – Saturday 1 July 2019

We are pleased to announce inaugural OSJ-KH Investiture to be held in Turku, Finland on Saturday 1 June 2019 with the expected presence of Grandmaster HRH Prince Karl Vladimir Karadjordjevic together with HRH Princess Birgitta. We warmly invite all OSJ members to the Investiture in Turku in 2019. An official Letter of Invitation to the Investiture will be issued at the beginning of February 2019.

HE Bailiff Vesa V Viitaniemi GCSJ
Prior of Finland

PRIORY OF DACIA

Since the merger in Denmark of OSJ and OSJ-KH in May, there has been great deal of activity in the Priory of Dacia. A number of matters needed to be dealt with as the majority of Knights and Dames in Denmark came from OSJ Dacia. Several meetings of both new and existing elected Officers were held during the summer months, but ultimately a longer get-together was deemed necessary. A meeting was therefore arranged in Northern Jutland for the weekend of the 10th and 11th November to deal with various outstanding matters which remained to be clarified. All Commanders and senior members of the Order met up and had a couple of wonderful and very productive days. Everyone attending had the opportunity to express and exchange views, ideas and visions, and this led to a strategic plan being prepared which deals with the recruitment of new members in addition to religious aspects and the humanitarian relief efforts.

The get-together led to a lively debate concerning best practice for gathering members from the various branches of the Order following the merger. This further led to a shared vision for a uniform design across all areas, in which we interact with the public; such as websites, business cards, brochures, letter heads etc. It was also agreed that each year, around midsummer, there will be a Convention in Fensmark in Zealand and a Convention in Northern Jutland around Christmastime.

In terms of humanitarian relief, our efforts are currently made up of three aspects which support the local, national and international efforts. These are “Knight Woof”, which supports vulnerable families locally; “Dannebrogsvalmuen” which raises funds for military and civil veterans and “White Cross International” – an organisation which offers relief work in Eastern Europe and the Third World.

We believe we are very well prepared to meet the future of the Order in Dacia and it is very satisfying to know that we are all in agreement and are pulling in the same direction.

Chevalier Per Michael Østergaard KSJ
Grand Herald



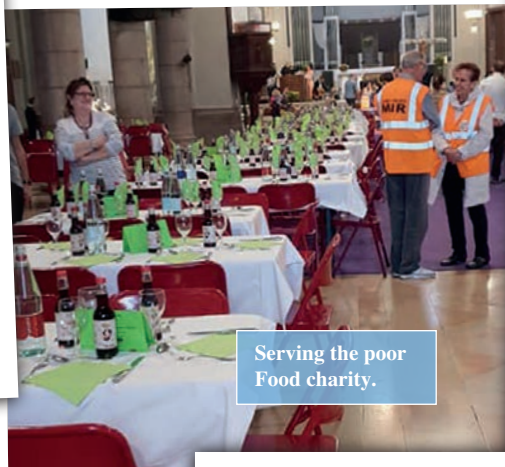
PHOTOS FROM THE PRIORY OF FRANCE



Priory Street Workers.



Prior of France HE Bailiff Alain Colorado GCSJ addresses the Chapter Meeting.



Serving the poor Food charity.



Helping Madagascar.



Bergemon Carpentry donated by OSJ-KH.



Bergemon Carpentry donated by OSJ-KH.

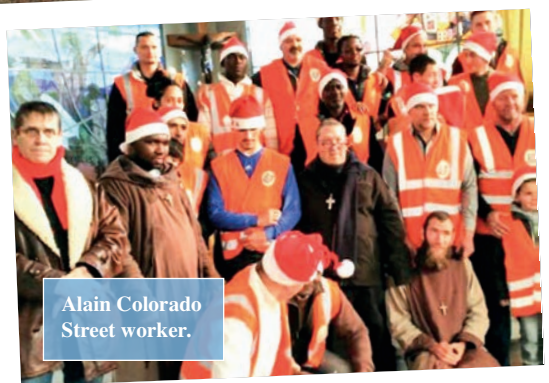


Helping Madagascar.

Gifts for the children at Hospital San Salvador.



Bergemon Carpentry donated by OSJ-KH.



Alain Colorado Street worker.



COMMANDERY OF MONACO-ITALY



The Knights and Dames of the Commandery of Monaco-Italy, together with their Commander, Dame Jacqueline Marschner von Helmreich, are committed to their Oath, given to the Order of St John, of giving their time, despite their many occupations, to help the poor and needy.

Each week for the past three years or so many of us have been involved in giving French lessons and French conversation lessons to Iraqi and Syrian refugees, welcomed into the Principality of Monaco, having fled their country as a result of being persecuted because of their Christian Faith.

Psychological support and comfort is

helpful to these men and women who have suffered and often witnessed atrocities even within their own families. Some of the refugees do not hesitate to offer assistance when the Commandery participates in specific projects in the Principality ("Oeuvre" de Soeur Marie, collecting food and toys etc.). Our Syrian friend Ilias is particularly keen at getting involved and the Commandery provided him with an intensive course in French that he actively followed, without missing a single lesson, which allowed him to make excellent progress in conversational French.

The Commandery has launched a Project to collect unwanted spectacles and at the Annual General Meeting on December

10 (this meeting is fixed annually by legal statutes in force in the Principality) each member will be encouraged to participate in this Project by collecting as many spectacles as possible to enable us to fill a container for Madagascar.

Dame Martine, Dame Jacqueline and Brother Martin collectively worked and animated the two themes of the last Chapter meeting organised at "Notre Dame des Grâces" in Vallauris (France), at the request of the Prior of France, Brother Alain Colorado. The Spiritual tone of the occasion, which was in accordance with well-practiced tradition, was presented to 25 Knights and Dames. We all shared in the deep spiritual solemnity of the moment by standing,



Photographs taken at the Chapter Meeting at "Notre Dame des Grâces".

right hand on the heart, for both selected themes : "Charity" and "Saint John the Baptist".

The Commander of the Commandery of Monaco-Italy, is in regular contact with the priest of Bargemon who also very much involved with the Christian refugees in Bargemon, particularly at this time of year, by distributing toys to the children of the refugees who have been welcomed into the French Parish of the Department of Var.

In Monaco, in mid-November, there will be drive to collect as many toys as possible over a three day period. The toys will then be distributed to Monegasque associations helping and

supporting children and children in difficulty. The Commandery of Monaco/Italy is at the top of the list to receive these toys and, on 16 December will be involved with 300 disabled children at the San Salvador Hospital of Hyères (Var) with our Brothers and Sisters of the Priory of France. It is particularly moving to be involved with the organisers of these very important Monegasque collections and we will give them our fervent support. Some Members of our Commandery will be on the ground to collect toys on 15 November.

The next Annual General Meeting of the Commandery will take place on Tuesday 10 December at which the Members will

receive a report of the past year together with the Financial Accounts and will discuss actions to be taken going forward. The Dames and Brothers will be invited to talk about their commitment and availability for the coming year. Any Member not able to attend will follow the meeting on Skype.

Dame Jacqueline and Brother Martin attended the Priory of England's Investiture in London, on Saturday 20 October, and were particularly impressed by the spiritual depth of the ceremony.

Dame Jacqueline Marschner von Helmreich DSJ
Commander of the Commandery of Monaco-Italy



PRIORY OF NSW



I am proud to bring tidings to all from the Priory of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory as we wind down this calendar year and prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. In conjunction with the preparation of this annual update, we have just forwarded our annual message of loyalty to the Grand Master, His Royal Highness Prince Karl Vladimir Karadjordjevic, and his wife, Her Royal Highness Princess Brigitta acknowledging their support to the Order and the work they, and we all, do.

The year of Our Lord 2018 has been a somewhat slower year for the Order in NSW as we have dealt with increasing workloads for many of our member as well as a regrettable, but factual, significant increase in ill health by many of our Brother's and Sister's, many with hospitalisation of varying lengths. We close out the year with all on steady roads to recovery and look forward to 2019 being a far more productive and active year for all. Too those still recovering our prayers to St John continue to aid you on your way to better health.

Our work continues with efforts to support the Order Internationally and this has been done around the needs of the Priory locally, as well as the Members other civil, professional and family commitments. Our involvement

here is best summarised as follows:-

- › Bailiff Peter Shilton's Chairmanship of the Petit Conseil over two separate appointments.
- › Chevalier Derek Robson's appointment to the role of Lieutenant grand Hospitaller as Peter's assistant
- › Dame Carmen Maestrelli's authorisation from the Grand Master to conduct Investitures, whilst remaining very active as the Vice Prior of NSW.
- › Continued development of the website which saw the replacement of our external developer/web adviser late in the year. This process will soon advance rapidly in the first quarter of 2019. Watch out for the barrage of emails to come!
- › The establishment of an Order specific electronic storage facility that is not 'cloud' based which has been provided to the Order by a generous donor.
- › Ongoing work by the Commander of the ACT Commandery to support the updating and proper documenting of our procedures manuals and rules.

Fortunately, we have not had any deaths within the Priory or the Commandery during this calendar year; we have however made up for that in other ways. Notwithstanding the absence of

Conventual Bailiff Fred Maestrelli, his memory remains significant within the Priory, and his significant efforts remain in awe. It has proven to be a very significant pair of shoes to fill. Carmen's ongoing work and support remains an inspiration to all.

Another addition to the Order (in its broadest sense) was the birth of Lincoln Henry Hitch to Serving Sister (and sometime Hospitaller extraordinaire) Hayley Hitch and Serving Brother Rohan Hitch. A wonderful addition to the future of the Priory. Young Lincoln really put his Mum to the test leaving Hayley with significant hospitalisation post birth. It is wonderful to see Hayley steadily on the road to full recovery and we look forward to her return to, at least partially to some Hospitaller duties in the future.

Notwithstanding all the above we have managed to conduct a very successful series of events during 2018. The key activities have been:

- › Investiture in Canberra
- › Investiture in Sydney, coinciding with the feast of St John,
- › Siege of Malta Event, Parramatta
- › Church Service in December
- › Various Chapter Meetings in Sydney



Our Sydney investiture was graced by the presence of Chevalier Andrew von Zeppelin, Prior of Queensland as well as Bailiff Shane and Dame Sally Hough also from the Queensland. They truly enjoyed our camaraderie, and brought much genuine warmth to our proceedings. It was truly wonderful to see how easily genuine people from all over this country can truly bond and grow. Our past is well and truly behind us.

At the June Investiture we invested Chevalier Martin Scarpino, a Business Consultant who, being a former Swiss national, is also CEO of the Swiss-Australian Chamber of Commerce. Another significant gain by the Priory.

In addition to the formal activities above we have also had a number of successful gatherings, including: a Social night in Sydney, music recitals in Canberra, a Live Theatre attendance at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre in Penrith and various informal gatherings amongst those available in Sydney, Parramatta, and Canberra and its environs. Plans are well underway for our Family Day in August aboard the Nepean Belle and for the Siege of Malta function in September.

Whilst attendances at the events in 2018 have been down, all have been wonderful warm occasions that have generated funds for the Charities that the

Order in NSW and the ACT have supported this year. We look forward to improvements in this area in 2019.

The most notable event for 2019 will be the Sovereign Counsel Meeting that will be held in October. Plans are well underway for this and are being overseen by the Prior Schon Condon and Bailiff Peter Shilton. More will be announced early in the New Year so please look out as the more detailed information is made available. The Priory is certainly planning on making it a very memorable event for all. We will be including some activities for Members of the Order not directly involved in, and not wishing to attend, the actual Meeting, as well as activities for non-Members of the Order.

Again we were blessed with a visit from Chevalier Jim Wylie from the Priory of Scotland who took time out to visit the Prior and other members of the Order. I hope that for future visits we will be able to tempt Jim to pack some slightly more formal attire so that he can be an active participant in our activities when they and his visit coincide. (As someone who lives in a suit, I appreciate his desire to holiday without one! – The Prior)

We continue to work within our Community to provide support to those that need it, most recently with the homeless through Mission Parramatta,

the Police-Citizens Youth Clubs, Little Wings, as well as local Hospitals. Additionally Members of Members of the Priory assist some significant organisations where the members play roles in the leadership and guidance of these organisations including Kids West, the Salvation Army, The Bravery Institute and many more.

It is also appropriate that we obtain a proper perspective from our Nation's Capital and thus I have asked the Commander of the ACT to proffer some wise words for inclusion in this issue of the Hospitaller and these will be found under the separate ACT Commandery Report below.

In closing I would like to personally thank and congratulate the following members of the priory and Commandery for their efforts during the year. Firstly, Dame Carmen and Bailiff Peter for their continued guidance and support to me as Prior. Chevaliers Geoff Bartels and Shane Burette for their work in the Vice Chancellery, Chevaliers Bernie and Morris McKinnon for their efforts in maintaining our finances, and finally Chevalier Derek Robson for his efforts leading the ACT Commandery. Without their continued support our work could not continue.

**Chev. Schon Condon GCSJ
Prior of New South Wales**





THE ACT COMMANDERY



The ACT Commandery continues its commitment to the ideals and tenets of the Order.

As a group, we continue to meet regularly to discuss ways in which to enhance the Order, build on our standing in our community, and generally reflect on each others well-being.

Our official activities, while perhaps few and far between this year, remain a source of much goodwill and camaraderie. These took the form of:

- › A lunchtime gathering at Ray Newcombe's Gundaroo property. With pre-lunch drinks in Caroline's beautiful Rose Garden, lunch around the Grand Piano, an afternoon fundraising concert at St Marks Historical Church in the local village with a wonderful hour and a half of songs and music from around the world, gifted to us by two male tenors and a female trio on Piano, Violin and Cello, followed by afternoon tea back at the property, we all enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of friendship;
- › A Christmas gathering with attendance at the Church of St John the Baptist in Canberra, followed by a very impressive lunch at Rydges Pavilion Hotel, and a visit from our own Santa Claus atop the traditional Fire Engine. With the usual seafood array, roasts with all the trimmings, some

magnificent Australian wines and priceless conversation – we do it tough in the Nation's Capital;

- › We enjoyed our Order's planned Community Day, which conveniently fell on Mother's Day, by collecting and distributing over 200 long stemmed roses and gifting them to the eligible Mum's as they went by in the Canberra Centre, our City's main shopping centre; and of course;
- › Our annual Investiture is the most important event on our calendar and with a wonderful Investiture Ceremony held in the ANZAC Memorial Chapel of St Paul in the grounds of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, our three candidates must have been impressed. We were treated to a most dignified and very professionally conducted ceremony led by the Venerable Dr Royce Thompson, and then honoured to welcome Grand Dame Carmen Maestrelli to conduct the Investiture and offered the Accolade to our three candidates, on behalf of our Grand Master. With our new Knight and Dame couple bringing eight guests, and our other local new Knight having ten guests, we were assured of creating further interest in our activities, and it was great to field their many questions throughout the day. I think everyone thoroughly enjoyed this very enjoyable and most impressive Ceremony, and we can all look forward to a bright future;

› The Celebratory lunch that followed, was held at the Commonwealth Club, and once again, we all enjoyed the newly renovated facilities and attentive staff. Following an enjoyable lunch, appropriate reflections on the Order and presentations of certificates and other memorabilia, we concluded a most wonderful day of camaraderie and unity, promising to gather again at the earliest opportunity to continue our fellowship. This day among friends certainly added considerable lustre to our annual program.

We are happy to note that our next Investiture will be held on 30 March 2018 at The ANZAC Chapel of St Paul, Duntroon, where we look forward to welcoming a new Knight and Dame, and two serving sisters.

Our members take considerable pride in our activities. Likewise, we are committed to supporting our NSW Priory through continuing attendance at our regular Executive meetings and the programs which it encourages.

We remain committed to our ideals. Our principled support for the work of St Johns Care, which supports all those less fortunate, be it from ongoing illness, lack of opportunity or the pressures of a modern society; the Australian Road Safety and Trauma Commissions, and their awareness campaigns; and our broad support for all those Medical Professionals who give so much of themselves, and care so much for us. Our principles are reflected in these wonderful Australians.

Finally, we give thanks to the historical work of St John and as always, each of us in the ACT Commandery freely offers our expression of loyalty and respect to our Grand Master, Grand Commander and Prior.

Derek J Robson AM KCSJ
Commander of the ACT Commandery



PRIORY OF CENTRAL EUROPE



HE Bailiff Kurt Schaller (in the centre wearing black robe) and Order members at the Investiture in Nice.

What changes have occurred in 2018! 2017 was a "horribilis" year because of the embarrassment of most SOSJ leaders who no longer behaved as Knights / Dames and thereby distorted the SOSJ Order.

After unsuccessful attempts to remedy the situation internally, the Priors of Europe as a whole took the initiative to dissociate themselves. Finally and following intense discussions, we had the privilege to join the Branch OSJ-KH of the Order, branch which has as Grand Master the grandson of our founder, the late King Peter II of Yugoslavia, HRH Prince Karl Vladimir. Since May 3, 2018 we, Central Europe, have been admitted to this Order. We here again wish to thank His Royal Highness and all the members of this, our, Order of the warm welcome which has been given to us.

We have finally arrived at port.

I also wanted to thank here especially our Brother Grand Prior Bailiff Martin Marschner von Helmreich for all his actions without which it would not have been possible and also Brother Grand Commander Alastair Redpath-Stevens who was his benevolent interlocutor.

Brother Martin, accomplished work, handed me the charge of the Priory of Central Europe as it had been planned for a long time but delayed only because of the conflict situation in the « old Order » SOSJ. I would like here again, and on behalf of all of you, to thank Brother Martin for the wonderful work of renewal accomplished within our Order. I know he will continue to work for the Order and the Chivalry ideal in his new assignments.

Of course all these conflicts and changes have a little paralysed our daily actions in the Order, so it took our energies. By cons, now restructured we are planning a great year 2019.

But that does not mean that in 2018 we have been completely inactive ! No, our actions continued and I travelled to London twice as an illustration. A first time for an exploratory meeting of restoration with our Brothers of the last remaining branch OSJ-Malta, effort that we will continue in order to make disappear this iniquitous situation of bicephalous within the same Order.

The second time I was accompanied by the largest delegation of our Brothers of

Central Europe to an Investiture, that of 20 October 2018 in London. We received in our Priory 6 Brothers and Dames besides promotions which included myself. I wanted to thank the Petit Conseil and our Grand Master for their kindness to us.

Meanwhile, with our Brother Bailiff Prior Alain Colorado of France, we are preparing the next Investiture to be held in Nice from March 7 to 9, 2019 where we will have the pleasure of receiving new Brothers and Dames in our Order and especially in our Priory. This shows the new vitality that we have found integrating OSJ-KH. And of course, we will do everything to translate it into the field, equal to the actions of our Brothers both past and present.

Looking forward to these actions for 2019 which we will talk about again soon, I wish you all a happy Christmas and a "Guten Rutsch ins neue Jahr".

**HE Bailiff Kurt Schaller GCSJ
Prior of Central Europe**



PRIORY OF VICTORIA NORTHERN COMMANDERY



The late Chev. Geoffrey Evans KCSJ, Sister Florence Jennings, Dame Giuseppina De Marchi and Chev. Dino De Marchi, at the 12th July 2018 Commemorative Service at the site of the Memorial for Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop AC OBE GCSJ in St Kilda Road Melbourne.



June 2018 Investiture Queen's College; Members of the Northern Commandery Chev. Geoffrey Evans KCSJ, Commander, Chev. Dino De Marchi RFD KCSJ, Dame Maria Carboni DSJ, Friend of the Order Mr Barry Nunn, Chev. Fred Cullen OAM KCSJ, Chev John Horan KCSJ and Dame Giuseppina De Marchi DSJ.

Members of the Priory and Commandery gathered for the last meeting of 2018 on 3 December, at the Graduate Union in Carlton. Once again Christmas brought the opportunity to contribute to charitable works and the members of the Priory and Northern Commandery contributed unwrapped gifts for children in refuges over the Christmas period. These gifts were later delivered to the Melbourne City Mission for delivery to the parents. A heartfelt 'thank you' to all who made the generous contributions.

On 7 September 2018, the Priory and Northern Commandery, convened at the President's Room

in the RACV Club in Melbourne for its Great Siege of Malta Dinner. Aside from a luxurious dinner and toasts to our valiant fallen Knights, we also undertook a successful silent auction for our charities.

The Priory was joined by many guests including the former Mayor of Bayside, Chev James Long KCSJ and Partner Cheryl Long, who together with long standing friend of the Order, Sonia Castelli were admitted as Sisters in the Order. Also admitted as a sister was Ms Catarina Russo, the Granddaughter of our recently invested Chev. Antonino Comand KCSJ.



A group photograph at the Mother and Child Fund Raiser in University House, The University of Melbourne.



The Toast to the Grand Master delivered by Chev. Anthony Clarke KCSJ JP.



Friend of the Order, Mrs Rosemarie Spano, being Admitted as a Sister in the Priory Of Victoria and being presented with her Neck insignia by the Vice Chancellor Chev Dino De Marchi RFD KCSJ.



In April 2018, some 20 members of the Priory and Northern Commandery attended University House, University of Melbourne, for a spectacular fundraising Mother and Child gala dinner complete with auction both live and silent and an incredibly rich raffle.

The opportunity arose to admit three new serving brothers and three Serving Sisters. The Ceremony was conducted by Anglican Father Tony Poole, who was also presented with a commemorative bible and made a friend of the Order.

Chevalier Dino De Marchi RFD KCSJ
Commander of the Northern Commandery





PRIORY OF QUEENSLAND



Investees robed up.



From L-R: Chevalier Dr Chris Cuneen KSJ; Chevalier Dean Goodlock KSJ; Prior of Queensland Chevalier Andre, The Baron von Zeppelin GCSJ; Grand Hospitaller HE Conventual Bailiff Peter Shilton GCSJ OMSJ; Grand Chancellor HE Conventual Bailiff Shane Hough GCSJ CMSJ; Chevalier Richard Taylor KSJ; Chevalier Robert Tolmie KSJ.



At the Investiture Banquet.

INVESTITURE

The Priory of Queensland marked an auspicious occasion on Friday, 1 June 2018 when it held its inaugural Service of Investiture on Queensland's beautiful Gold Coast.

HE Conventual Bailiff Peter Shilton, GCSJ OMSJ presided over the ceremony and Invested four new Knights into the Order in the surrounds of the stunning Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Clear Island Waters.

The assembled audience of over 60 Knights, Dames, family, friends and guests from Queensland and interstate watched the ceremony unfold in what Prior of Queensland Chevalier Andre, The Baron von Zeppelin, GCSJ described as the "pinnacle event to date in the Priory's continued growth".

Celebrations continued with the Investiture Banquet held at The Sofitel Hotel, on the Gold Coast's famous Broadbeach Boulevard. A private dining area was superbly decorated with the Orders' symbols, flags and banners ensuring the evening was imbued with chivalric spirit. Toasts and elevations were announced by Master of Ceremonies HE Conventual Bailiff Shane Hough, GCSJ CMSJ who expressed delight with the success of the evening. Banquet attendees were pleased to hear two more Queensland Investees would be welcomed into the Order at the forthcoming Investiture Service of the Priory of New South Wales. Conventual Bailiff Shane described this spirit of Christian fellowship and co-operation within Australian Priors as ushering in an era of consolidation and strength for the Order in Australia.



FUNDRAISING

SUPPORT FOR ST. JOHN'S CRISIS CENTRE



2018 saw the Priory of Queensland continue its charitable endeavours by helping the Lord's sick and the poor.

Thanks to the generosity of Priory members earlier in the year, over A\$500 was donated towards the ongoing provision of emergency food, necessities and accommodation for those in desperate need of help.

Pictured above is Dame Suzie Douglas, DSJ presenting a cheque on behalf of the Priory to the Centre Co-ordinator Rev. Jon Brook. Dame Suzie is a volunteer at the Centre and helps make a difference to so many whose lives are affected by homelessness and poverty.

Our support for the Centre was further evidenced by the generosity of Knights and Dames at our Priory Christmas Party where members donated cash, food vouchers and "hamper" products to help make Christmas a little more special for our friends at the St. John's Crisis Centre.

THE GOLD COAST PROJECT FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

Thanks to Dame Moira Lockhart, DSJ for making a recent presentation to the Gold Coast Project for Homeless Youth. On behalf of the Priory Fundraising Committee, Dame Moira presented 10 Gift Vouchers which will be put to immediate use in an area which is sadly all too prevalent in modern day society, even in "the lucky country".



THE INSTITUTE FOR GLYCOMICS AT GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

Priory Members had an enjoyable evening at the Glycomics Gala Ball held in October at RACV Royal Pines Resort, home of the Australian PGA Golf Championship. The Resort provided a magnificent venue and Knights and Dames were delighted to catch up with Institute Director, Chevalier Professor Mark von Itzstein, KSJ and his team of world leading research scientists.

The work of the Institute and the support provided by the Priory of Queensland has been acknowledged in past years by both the State Governor and Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

As the year draws to a close, members attending the Priory Christmas Party helped raise over A\$600 which will be earmarked as part of a larger contribution to the Institute for Glycomics in the New Year.

**HE Conv. Bailiff Shane Hough GCSJ CMSJ
Grand Chancellor**



PRIORY OF ENGLAND

Members and guests begin to assemble at Petyt Hall following the Priory of England Investiture.



The table decorations at the Banquet.



The Grand Master addressing members and guests at the Banquet.



The three wise priests: Chev the Revd Canon Victor Bullock KCSJ; Chev the Revd Canon Andrew Stevens GCSJ, Priory Chaplain; Chev the Rt Revd Bishop Paul Hendricks GCSJ, Prelate.



Flowers by Sophie Hanna.



Chelsea old Church.



The Priory of England was shaken to the core in April 2018 by the death of its much-loved Chamberlain, Chev Robin Drawwater KCSJ. Numerous members attended the funeral on 26 April at St Luke's Church, Kingston in full Order Regalia by kind permission of the Grand Master. The Grand Commander carried Robin's robe and regalia behind the cortege to the parish boundary where members paid their

final respects before retiring to a local hostelry to share fond memories.

On the 23 June the Priory held its Patronal Feast Day and Investiture at St Cuthbert's Church, Philbeach Gardens in the presence of the Grand Master.

The Church is a glorious Arts and Crafts building, the architecture of which was apparently described by the

late Sir John Betjeman as "Nouveau Viking"! It made a splendid venue for a superb occasion, and the Priory is grateful to the parish priest, Fr. Paul, for kindly allowing the Priory the use of the Church.

St Cuthbert's was also the venue for the Grand Magisterium and Priory of England Investiture on 20 October 2018, held in the presence of the Grand



The family photograph taken at the Investiture.



Chev Christopher Roulette K SJ and Ms Cher Chevalier.



A portrait in oils painted by Mr Neville Sinclair.



Mr Neville Sinclair entertains.

Master and HRH Princess Brigitta of Yugoslavia.

Members attended from all over Great Britain and mainland Europe including from those units which had recently integrated with the Order.

The Investiture was opened with the Norwegian ritual of the lighting of the candles in a translation by the Grand

Commander and the Priory Chaplain, Chev. the Revd Canon Andrew Stevens GCSJ.

The Grand Master invested 5 new Knights and 1 Dame from the Priory of Central Europe and also elevated 11 members including Chev. Robert Spiteri de Barro from the Priory of England (Knight Grand Cross of Justice), and two new bailiffs: HE

Bailiff Kurt Schaller GCSJ Prior of Central Europe and HE Bailiff Vesa Viitaniemi GCSJ Prior of the Baltic.

The service was greatly enhanced by the organ playing of the Priory Organist, Chev. David Roberts-Jones K SJ and the choir, led by the Church's Director of Music, Mr Quintin Beer. The music included William Byrd's Ave Verum; Tomás Luis de Victoria's



The Grand Master in Discussion with the Priory Chaplain: you can never have too many waiters.

O Quam Gloriosum; Ludovico Grossi da Viadana's Exultate Justi; and Hans Leo Haßler's Dixit Maria.

Chev. the Revd Canon Victor Bullock KSJ delivered a powerful and moving homily.

Members and guests repaired to the west end of the Church for drinks and nibbles and were entertained by Mr Neville Sinclair at one of the Church's three grand pianos!

The Investiture Banquet was held at the glorious Petyt Hall adjacent to Chelsea Old Church which dates back to 1157, and which was beautifully lit and opened up for members to visit. The South Chapel of the Church, originally built c. 1325, was redesigned in 1528 as the private Chapel of Sir Thomas More.

A champagne reception, sponsored by Distinction Fine Armagnac, was followed by a superb dinner catered by celebrity chef Gilly Kings. The members dined on Salmon Filet Tolstoy with caviar, boned quail with black truffle, and lemon tarte partnered with superb vintage wines from Nethergate Wines and a lemoncello cocktail with the pudding. It all made for a very fine evening, enjoyed by all.

I am delighted to report that the Investiture made such an impression that a number of the guests may soon be joining the Priory.

In closing, may I wish you all a very Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Grand Dame Elizabeth Carey-Sheill GDSJ MMSJ
Prior of England**

Canon Victor Bullock's homily as delivered at the Priory of England's Investiture

In the year of Our Lord, One thousand and ninety-nine, Blessed Gerard Thom became the founder and first Grand Master of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem and under his successor Raymond du Puy, who succeeded Gerard as Master of the Hospital in 1118, a militia came to be organised from the order's members, which divided the order into three ranks: knights, men at arms, and chaplains.

And with that solid foundation both men instinctively knew what it would mean when from the beginning the Cross was adopted as the symbol to be worn by members of their Order.

Not merely the sign of a religion battling in the name of Christ for the soul of the Holy Land – but a deeper meaning yet.

And it was this – that all service given by men under the banner of that Cross and in its name, must live by way of the Cross. Only in total and unreserved self giving could those who proudly wore it upon their mantles and surcoats, emulate him who died for all on the wood of the Rood.

Bearing a white Cross to distinguish themselves from the other hospitallers of the time, those early knights of Saint John, nevertheless shared with their fellow brethren the understanding that the arms of the Cross that they wore so proudly, represented the Christ-like virtues of prudence, temperance and fortitude. And they sought to steadfastly emulate their Lord.

And it was Grand Master Jean Parisot de Valette, who around the year 1567 gave to



the Order the plain eight pointed Cross that we still bear today.

Representing as it does, the virtues which we are to inculcate and foster within our Hospitaller community and within ourselves – Tranquility of Faith, Life without Malice, Contrition for Sin, Patience in Adversity – Love of Justice, Mercy and Sincerity, Purity of Heart and Endurance under Persecution.

Now I realize that faithfulness to a pursuit of such virtues is never easy. Faithfulness itself is a habit which is not as common as it ought to be in our world of today.

Maybe we are moving too fast these days – everything changing so rapidly. People find themselves constantly changing jobs and careers. Increased mobility means that people aren't as rooted as they once were.

Science throws up discovery after discovery.

And while all this progress no doubt is good after its own fashion – it does make it all the harder to be consistent and faithful.

And the temptation then is to lose the importance of fidelity to the basic building blocks of life and human society, such as the truths of faith and our traditions and customs.

So the wearing of the mantle and that white eight pointed Cross is therefore far from some ritualistic trip down memory lane.

They are symbols of a band of men and women united together in the faithful pursuit of a common purpose which draws its strength and inspiration from the faith that we share.

So given all this, how do we interpret this way of life to which we have been called as members together of the

Hospitaller Order of Saint John? How should we live out and respond to the work to which we are so called?

As in other aspects and areas of our lives we need, once again, to remember the one who has called us. Success or failure is never determined by the quality of the work we do but by the quality of our faith.

First and foremost we need to pray for, and about, the work we endeavor to carry out for God's glory within our Order.

Praying shows that we recognize that it is indeed **His work** that we do – that we are merely his instruments, and that through entering into the process of prayer it will become for us the stepping stone to greater endeavor and service.

And we should take pleasure and joy in the fact that God is willing to use us to carry out a task that needs doing rather than worry at what has yet to be done. For we can never fully know in this life what God is achieving through us and our service to Him and to those we seek to serve through our charitable endeavors.

Like any task, our own vocation as a member of this Order will of course ebb and flow over the years. Sometimes we will be filled with enthusiasm for what we do, sometimes we will find ourselves doubting that we have the time or the strength to commit to what we should.

Of course, even here – how we handle our doubt, enthusiasm or personal adversity very much determines how far we go with God.

So if I leave you with little else – take this to heart – Never doubt that if we are faithful to the ideals of our Order, what it represents and what it seeks to do for those who are in need; for their

dependents and for those who minister to them – **The Lord will always give us as much faith as he can trust us with.**

So it is up to us gathered here as his chaplains, knights and dames, as those new to the Order and those of us who are old hands, so to speak – to make ourselves usable to God.

And we could do no better than call to mind the words of Saint John Henry Newman and apply them to our work – for once after much prayer he wrote:

God has created me to do Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me, which He has not committed to another ... I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good. I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place while not intending it – if I do but keep His commandments. Therefore I will trust Him.

Let us indeed trust Him and dedicate ourselves anew to be faithful to our work together.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



PRIORY OF SCOTLAND

Investiture - 18 August 2018



A group photograph taken inside the Sherbrooke Mosspark Church.



A few Priory members enjoying the warm sun after the Patronal Feast Day Service.

The Investiture Service on 18 August was once again held in the beautiful and spiritual setting of Sherbrooke Mosspark Church (formerly Sherbrooke St. Gilbert's Church), Glasgow on the afternoon of Saturday 18 August 2018 when members of the Priory were delighted to welcome four new Knights and Dames into the Order of St. John. The Aspirants were delighted to be invested into the Order of St. John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, as Knights and Dames of Honour, by the Grand Master HRH Prince Karl Vladimir Karadjordjevic who presided over the ceremony.

The very meaningful and moving Service was conducted by Prelate, Chevalier Revd. David Mill GCSJ ably assisted by our Chaplain Chevalier Revd. Tom Pollock KSJ, at this, his home church. The wonderful spiritual tone of the occasion was set right from the start when the 30 Knights, Dames and Aspirants processed into the church to the Anthem, "Zadok, the Priest" being sung quite amazingly by the Sherbrooke Mosspark's Church choir, under the leadership and guidance of John Gormley, organist and choirmaster.



Grand Master HRH Prince Karl Vladimir and HRH Princess Brigitta with Prior Jim Wylie and the four newly invested Knights and Dames.

The weekend commenced with a "Meet the Aspirants" informal drinks reception and dinner, held in the Holiday Inn Theatreland, on the evening of Friday 17 August when members and the Aspirants had an opportunity to become better acquainted and the Priory members and our visitors from overseas were able to meet old and new friends. During the evening we were entertained by the excellent brass quintet, "Aura Brass".



Enjoying lunch at the Sherbrooke Hotel.



The "Brats & Callets" Choir performing at the Gala Dinner.

The Gala Dinner, which followed the Investiture service, was held in the magnificent Trades Hall, home to The Trades House of Glasgow and its 14 Incorporated Crafts and, apart from the medieval cathedral, is the oldest building in Glasgow still used for its original purpose. During the evening the assembled gathering enjoyed some wonderful singing by three wonderful young tenors who sang some popular operatic arias and were also entertained to the singing talents of the superb Brats & Callets Choir from Strathaven who provided their services absolutely free of charge.

On Sunday 1 July the members of the Priory celebrated our Patronal Feast Day at, what has now become our home church, Sherbrooke Mossspark Parish Church. We once again enjoyed the uplifting experience of listening to the wonderful Sherbrooke Mossspark Church Choir and the moving and spiritual Service conducted by Chevaliers Revd. David Mill GCSJ and Revd. Tom Pollock KSJ. The members of the Priory and their guests then retired to the Sherbrooke Hotel for an excellent lunch.

Charitable Donations

The Preshal trust

During 2018 the Priory has donated £5,545 to the "Preshal Trust", a charity which works to improve the lives of people who believe they have no hope and no future.

Night Ministry

The Priory also donated £3,000 to "Night Ministry", a Scottish Registered Charity based in Dundee. It is an established ecumenical Christian body with the objectives of providing humanitarian support and pastoral care in order to save and improve lives, maintain human dignity through practical help, improving the lives of homeless persons, in particular rough sleepers throughout Scotland, and the advancement of the Christian religion by sharing the Christian Gospel.

Starter Packs, Glasgow

The Priory donated the sum of £3,000 to Starter packs, Glasgow, a charity which, as its name indicates, provides a starter pack for homeless individuals and families who are moving into their first Housing Association tenancy and who have no money to buy the essentials such as pots and pans, crockery, bedding and even toiletries.

Chevalier Jim Wylie GCSJ Prior of Scotland



CHEVALIER ROBIN DRAWWATER KCSJ

OBITUARY

Our late Brother, Robin Drawwater was born into a farming family in Spalding, Lincolnshire on 19 December 1945. At that time Robin was very much expected to follow in the family tradition of farming, but he preferred to become a carpenter and, after training, was able to follow his ambition. Having served his apprenticeship and working as a fully trained craftsman in a joinery workshop, he eventually set up his own business in 1988.

In September 2017, Robin and his wife Marilyn fulfilled their long held dream of retiring to the Island of Crete, where they had spent many happy holidays and had many long-standing friends: they even harboured hopes of ultimately being able to host an OSJ-KH function on Crete.

I, and the members of the Priory of England, were greatly saddened therefore, to learn of Robin's death on 7 April, earlier this year. He and Marilyn had returned to the UK to spend the Easter holiday with their family and, sadly, while in the UK, Robin had collapsed and been admitted to hospital. Regrettably, the news was not good and Robin passed away on 7 April 2018, surrounded by his family.

Robin was invested into the Order on 1 June, 2003 with Marilyn being invested three years later. From the very beginning, the support given by Robin and Marilyn to

the Priory of England was immense, and we were sorry when they decided the time was right for them to retire from office, but we were delighted that they decided to remain as members of the Order. Both Robin and Marilyn had made very valuable contribution to the life of the Priory with Robin having served as Chamberlain and Marilyn as Vice-Chancellor. They were also well known within the Order worldwide since they attended many functions, both in the UK and overseas, including the Sovereign Council meetings, which were held in Sydney, Australia and Nice, France, where they met up with and made many friends.

Chevalier Robin Drawwater KCSJ was an Anglo-Catholic who expressed his faith through his service to the Church. His love for the Order of St John was another expression of his deep faith and he served our Order with loyalty, steadfastness and complete dedication. Robin rose through the ranks steadily, taking his various roles very seriously and Council still misses his steady support and forthright advice. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

**HE Grand Dame Elizabeth Carey-Sheill GDSJ
MMSJ
Grand Bailiff
Prior of England**



DAME RAGNHILD PETERSEN DCSJ (Founder of White Cross International)

OBITUARY



It was with great sadness that, on 25th October this year, I was informed that Dame Ragnild Petersen DCSJ, my dear friend and founder of White Cross International, had passed away. Her remains were interred in the grave for the unknown in the graveyard of the church of Nørre Sundby, near Aalborg, in Denmark.

Our late sister, Dame Ragnild was a Nurse by Profession and a very caring Christian. Following the end of the Cold War, Ragnild had travelled extensively in Eastern Europe with her late husband, a former Major in the Danish army, and during that time she saw the miserable conditions of the hospitals in Poland, Georgia and in the Sudan in Africa. She decided there and then that she was going to make a difference and, in 1990, she established White Cross International with the purpose of improving the hospitals in these countries.

Ragnild negotiated with most of the hospitals in Denmark and came to an arrangement with them that, when the Danish hospitals bought new equipment, they would donate all their old, used equipment to her to use in the hospitals in these countries.

Due to her contacts in the Danish Army she also received a donation of two large lorries to enable equipment to be collected and stored in a big warehouse in Aalborg where the equipment was cleaned and repaired before being shipped to the hospitals in Eastern Europe.

From 1990 to 2015, more than 200 large containers containing ambulances, x-ray equipment, beds, and many other items were shipped to the needy hospitals in these countries and, for example, in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, a large building near the university was totally refurbished and converted to a university hospital. Everything inside the hospital was renewed with Danish equipment delivered by White Cross Int.

In Sudan, for example, there is a large hospital which is now named the Ragnild Hospital in her memory.

**H.E. Conv. Bailiff Poul Heile Pedersen GCSJ MSSJ
Grand Marshal**



A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MARSHAL

Dear fellow members of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller.

Following the recent unifications within the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, may I wish our newest members a hearty welcome to our new united Order.

I do feel, however, the need to bring to your attention the Manual of our Order, which is our guide, and which must be followed.

From seeing a number photographs and also whilst attending various meetings, I have noticed that some members of the order appear to be displaying decorations, braid and markings which are not in accordance with their rank or grade. Indeed, it appears that some may even be wearing decorations which do not rightly belong to our Order.

By a decision of the Sovereign Council in 1989 (p.16, item (vii)), the Riband Sash was reserved to the Grand Master and Bailiffs of the Order: it is not to be worn by other holders of the Grand Cross. The Riband Sash is worn, without Neck Decoration, for ceremonial occasions but is removed and changed to the Neck Decoration for any banquet or other such event.

I sincerely request that all Priors and Commanders ensure that the members of their units are dressed and decorated, on all occasions, strictly in accordance with the Manual.

Yours in the service of the Order of Saint John

H. E Conventual Bailiff
Poul Heile Pedersen
Grand Marshal

CHRIST THE EVERLASTING LORD

We may sometimes wish that God would leave us alone – get off our backs, we want nothing to do with Him! But the Baptist and Forerunner John - our Patron - and all the saints and prophets tell us that this is the worst thing God could do. Left to ourselves we get lost, we are deluded, we follow whatever desire we might have for possessions, for money or for just a comfortable, quiet life. Do we still hoard our possessions and close our hearts to those in need, although we have plenty? Do we benefit from, or at least approve of, the excessive charges and bonuses big businesses award themselves? And, as John the Baptist noted, there are many people in all kinds of powerful positions who do not mind corrupting themselves for the sake of getting more.

But we may also face the challenge of changing even though our lives may be happy and normal. We may be deaf to the call of God to serve in a more demanding way. John the Baptist still points to a deeper freedom beyond the enticement of comfort or possessions. His is a word of judgement which makes us ready to receive Christ. And it is a word of judgement that leads to the good news of salvation. And this is why today we rejoice because we know that beyond the pain and inconvenience of change we can rejoice in Christ's presence as He comes to us this Christmas. "Be happy," says St Paul, "the Lord is very near."

What were our expectations as we celebrated the season of Advent in preparation for Christmas? Did we expect to celebrate Christ's birth with familiar stories, carols and traditions? Or are we open to being touched anew by the poignancy of God coming among us as a vulnerable baby? And how would we expect Jesus to behave if He were living among us now? Would we expect to see Him with the homeless in shelters or on the streets? Spending time with lonely, isolated and forgotten people? Visiting prisoners who've committed monstrous crimes that we think are beyond forgiveness? Speaking out against self-righteousness and hypocrisy among those who claim to be His followers?

What about our expectations of Christ returning in glory "to judge the living and the dead"? Or is that something we tuck away in the back of our minds because we don't really think it will happen? So many questions. Perhaps today, more than ever, we need to listen to John the Baptist calling us to prepare for the coming of one who will be more powerful, more holy and more gloriously loving than we can imagine. For if we are prepared, when Christ does come again we won't need to ask, "Are you the one who is to come?" Our hearts will know that He is indeed that one and we will worship Him who is Christ the everlasting Lord.

Chev. The Revd Canon Andrew Stevens GCSJ

THE HOSPITALLER

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