



Freemasonry@86 News - 20 November 2020



Welcome to your news and information update for the progressive/companion Orders of Freemasonry administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's.

This bulletin is emailed to all 'leaders' in the Provinces, Districts & Divisions and their Secretariats.

Please share this content with your members by forwarding this email or let them know that it's available on the MMH website.

If you don't currently receive this email directly but would like to subscribe please email communications@mmh.org.uk¹

¹<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

Spotlight on the Order of Malta



Tuesday, 17 November, should have been the annual meeting of the Chapter of Great Priory of Malta.

To those who aren't members of the Order of Knights Templar it might not be instantly obvious what this means. The full title of our Knightly Orders is The United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta in England and Wales and Provinces Overseas. As the name suggests, there is a union here of two Orders, that of the Temple and that of St John. The Order of Knights Templar focuses on a ceremony based around the journey undertaken by a Pilgrim on his way to becoming Knight. Once this has been completed the Knight may then progress through the ceremony of a Knight of Malta, which elaborates upon the passage taken by the historic Knights of St John, or Knights Hospitaller as they are often referred to, through the regions of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta (and also Cyprus and Candia, now Crete).

Masonically, the relationship between these two Orders is similar to that of the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner, or the Craft and Royal Arch. There is a separate structure, unique regalia, different Officers' titles, but - differently - meetings of Priories of Malta are held under the Warrant of the Preceptory of Knights Templar, and so no additional membership is required.

Not every Preceptory of Knights Templar performs the Malta ceremony. It is often conferred by those Preceptories which have the necessary equipment to do so; plus at meetings presided over by the Province and, unusually, the ceremony is also conferred, in full, at the annual meeting of Great Priory by the active Great Officers of the Year. Quite a spectacle which, of course, this year we have been deprived of.

If you have wondered about the special bond that exists between the United Orders and their chosen charity, the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital, the answer lies here in the link with the historic Knights of St John, and the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement, Knight Grand Cross of the United Orders, gives further detail about this link in his address to mark Tuesday's scheduled meeting in the video below.



<https://youtu.be/rvXaA1EsQHE>



In addition, the Great Prelate, R.E.Kt. Reverend Fr Malcolm C G Lane, JP, K.C.M., was pleased to send the following message to all Knights of the Order:

In the book of Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 we read that there are many challenges in life and that there are times for mourning or celebrating, there are times to fight or to rejoice, there are times to question or trust, but very importantly there is one thing we must always hold onto and quite simply that is hope.

We all know only too well so much about this pandemic and the devastation it has caused to so many families and friends and continues to do so. We are all so thankful for all the magnificent work carried out by our medical profession and its ancillary staff. We know all about the new restrictions that so many of us face on a daily basis that to discuss it further would not be appropriate here but instead, we as Knights Templar must continue to do all we can to reassure everyone around us, just as did those Templars of old in their faith look to the protection of the weak and the vulnerable pilgrims, so we must continue to look to support family, friends and others as Christian Knights in the knowledge that our hope to end this crisis lies in the hands of the Lord working through the hands of others.

As Christians, it is our knightly obligation to help people to see, that hope in the knowledge that there is light at the end of the dark tunnel of this terrible worldwide pandemic and as Trinitarian Knights Templar we all know that prayer to our Lord and Saviour is fundamental in our lives and so very much a part of the answer in protecting not only us but our families, friends and neighbours to end this terrible illness.

As our Lord said "This is my commandment: Love one another as I have Loved you (John 15 V 12)

In other words Faith, Love and hope are the essential parts of the equation for all of us for if you lose faith and hope, more often or not this will lead to frustration which may lead to a negative feeling that there is no meaning to life at all. When there is hope and belief in God, you can through faith overcome so many things and so many challenges which face us in life.

So as Knights Templar my message of hope and prayer through the Holy Spirit and love of the Lord is very instrumental in shaping our very lives as human beings which in turn will not only uplift us but will inspire us to reach those greater heights.

So, Brother Knights, hope for the future will always give us that inspiration which we so desperately need in any difficult times and especially in these times of Pandemic. No one ever said that life would be easy because there are always fresh challenges which face each and every one of us: but remember that day by day, just like those Templars of old, we must never give up hope in the middle of any challenge and so I ask you that with faith hope and especially with prayer that we will see this difficulty though supporting each other

Remember this Brother Knights that without Christ in your life there is no hope of Salvation.

If you would like to know more about these Knightly Orders there are introductions available from the Brother. Beyond the Craft episode on the Knights Templar



beyond the craft



episode six
knights templar

<https://youtu.be/cah11Yub5Rs>

And the Freemasons Without Borders presentation featuring The Grand Master.



<https://youtu.be/mQ2q2n7Wc40>

We are proud to be supporting the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital with our 20 for 2020 Appeal which, to date, has raised in excess of £35,000.



You can support the Eye Hospital by making a £20 donation. Just Click Here² or use the Text Donate facility below.

100 per cent of donations will be given to St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group to support their vital work. To recognise your generosity and support, The Great Priory of Knights Templar is sending a limited-edition Swift tie/lapel pin to every donor.

The Swift pins are now being posted out but please bear with us as we are only in the office one day per week to carry out this task so some deliveries will take longer than others. Thank you for your patience.

²<http://everydayhero.co.uk/event/KT2042020>



**The Knights Templar
20 for 2020 Appeal**



Text **KT2042020 to **70500** to donate £20**

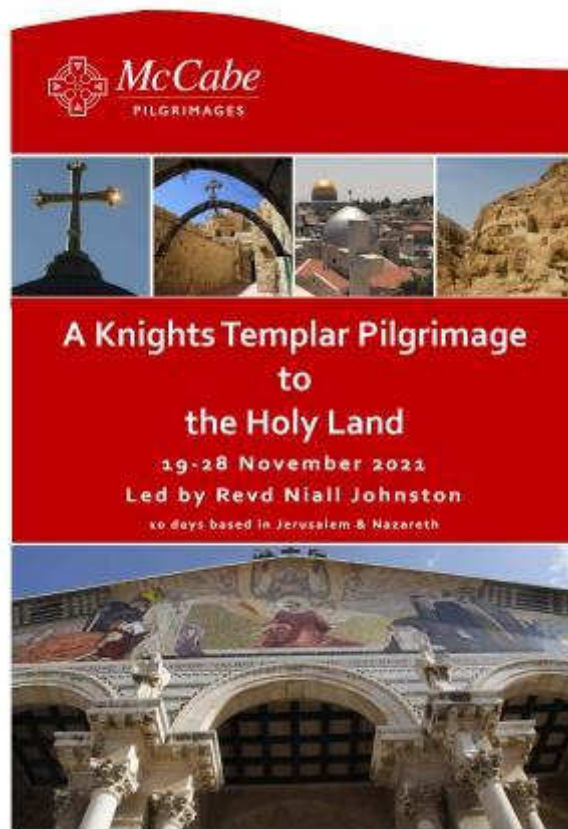
All monies donated to this text number go towards the **The Knights Templar 20 for 2020 Appeal**

For a text donation, you will be charged for one standard text message plus your donation of £20. Always get the bill payer's permission. The Relief Chest will receive 100% of your donation. If you do not want to be contacted by text in the future, add the words NO INFO when texting your donation. All donations are administered by the Relief Chest Scheme (Grand Charity Registered Charity No. 281942). Text donation hotline: 020 3146 3352. Masonic Charitable Foundation Charity No. 1154703. Company No. 09751838

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And lastly, if all of this has whetted your appetite to discover more about Jerusalem and its history, there is an opportunity to join a pilgrimage to the Holy Land led by The Reverend Niall Johnston of the Knights Templar Province of London.

Click Here³ to download the brochure.



³[http://download.mmh.org.uk/KT_Pilgrimage2021\(002\).pdf](http://download.mmh.org.uk/KT_Pilgrimage2021(002).pdf)

"It doesn't get better than the magic of the Mark"



W. Bro. Peter Wreford, P.G.St.B., R.A.M.G.R., born 14 November 1931 was celebrating his 89th birthday at his home in Bognor Regis, West Sussex, on Saturday last when, to his surprise he answered a knock at the door to find Prov.G.M. Roger Richardson there to greet him in person, not only for his birthday but to make two other presentations.

The first was a Grand Certificate to commemorate his achievement of over 50 years continuous service in the Mark Degree and the second, was a certificate from the Mark Province of Sussex, marking his achievement of 50 years plus in the Mark and over 40 years in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner.

W. Bro. Peter was Advanced into Hothampton Mark Lodge No. 703 on 19 November 1969 and Elevated into the Royal Ark Mariner, moored to that Lodge in March 1980. He has given sterling service to both Lodges, now as the Lodge Almoner and for many years as the Director of Ceremonies, keeping a close eye on protocols and the standards of ritual. As a businessman, Peter was well known in and around Bognor as a Master Builder, specialising in property renovation and extension.

Due to the present restrictions on masonic meetings, it has not been possible to make these presentations as we would have preferred in open lodge. However with the help of staff at Mark Masons' Hall, the Grand Certificate was available to be presented on this special day under socially distanced conditions. Peter's wife Pam was in on the surprise and was just as delighted as Peter. Their parting comments were "It doesn't get better than the magic of the Mark".





Charles Herbert Perram Council of Royal and Select Masters No. 66 enjoys high profile attendees



On Wednesday 18 November Charles Herbert Perram Council No. 66 which normally meets at Dunstable in Bedfordshire held a Virtual Business Meeting via Zoom on what would have been their normal meeting night.

A total of 18 Companions joined in the meeting including the District Grand Master R.III.Comp. Martin Wilson, a member of the Council and also R.III.Comp. Tim Hancock, District Grand Master of Oxfordshire, Berkshire & Buckinghamshire, also a member of the Council.

The Presiding officer was V.III.Comp. Russ Howard, TIM and also Prov.G.M. of the Mark degree in Bedfordshire.

The District Grand Master summed up the meeting stating that it was pleasant to see so many members present, and he hoped it would not be too long before they were able to meet again and

enjoy each other's company. He concluded by wishing all present, a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Members of the Council present on the Zoom meeting included:

R Ill Comp Tim Hancock - Dist.G.M. Ox, Berks & Bucks

Ill Comp Graham Dearing – Grand Superintendent Buckinghamshire

Ill Comp Nick Edwards – Inspector General Rose Croix Beds & Herts

Ill Comp Russ Howard – TIM – Prov.G.M. Mark Degree Bedfordshire

Ill Comp Kyle Whitbread – Dep.Prov.G.M. Mark degree Bedfordshire

Comp Robert Curson – Recorder – Deputy Grand Superintendent Bedfordshire

Making Headlines

Two Provincial Newsletters have come our way this week, both highlighting the excellent work that continues during these difficult times when we are unable to meet as we would like.

The first from the Mark Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire

Click Here⁴ to read



And this one from the Mark Province of Durham

Click Here⁵ to read

⁴<https://mailchi.mp/134cc37b6d1a/northants-hunts-mark-masonry?e=6af1cd4231>

⁵[http://download.mmh.org.uk/Durham Newsleter - November 2020 \(002\).pdf](http://download.mmh.org.uk/Durham%20News%20leter%20-%20November%202020%20(002).pdf)



Introducing "Preludes"



As well as receiving an MBF Grant of £4,500 which "will enable the charity to develop this vital support media for children in deprived areas of the City who have suffered a lack of educational input during the Coronavirus pandemic" our friends at Preludes have also been fortunate that Penny Rawlings, Manager of Preludes, The Bristol Ensemble, has been chosen by The National Lottery Promotions Unit as one of 13 individuals from around the British Isles to be rewarded for their contribution to the ARTS throughout the difficult times of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Preludes, the education arm of the Bristol Ensemble, works in areas of Bristol that are experiencing high levels of economic disadvantage and aims to put music at the heart of every child's education.

Manager, Penny Rawlings, is one of a group of dedicated music professionals, who bring enjoyment, confidence, coordination, speech and language skills into children's education.

"Some of the children have special needs and can easily feel like failures because they can't do as much academic work. They can do the music, it's a special place where they can be equal. Music is a great leveller; we make sure that everyone can achieve in music and not just those who are perhaps more academic. The teachers love our music lessons because we are able to level groups up and make sure that those children who are not succeeding in other areas can succeed in music."

Forced to curtail their activities due to lockdown, the group made an incredible number of videos to send to schools using the music teachers who usually taught them. The videos were also put on school online platforms for children at home to access where they had internet. In some schools they were also able to continue teaching some vulnerable children – and in addition there were 45 online recitals with freelance Bristol Ensemble players. Preludes was very fortunate to receive funding from the **Mark Benevolent Fund** to support the creation of these videos during lockdown.

"There can be a lot of vulnerable children in our groups, so if they're not going to school, they might not eat that day or access education. For us, it was trying to keep some of those more vulnerable kids going and giving them something to look forward to," she says.

"We put in a lot of sessions of music for these children, largely in Knowle West and Lawrence Weston, but we had kids coming from other schools coming in as well. We were providing quite a service."

After creating two amazing videos dedicated to the Covid-19 pandemic, one of which is a comic take on the Lockdown experience and the other the Barber Adagio, Penny says the group's latest plan is to reproduce *The Lark Ascending*, a work by Vaughan Williams from exactly 100 years ago. The first performance was held in Shirehampton Village Hall, Bristol in 1920 and it's a wonderful piece of music to introduce to children.

Antient Drama, Modern Production



The Operatives Annual Grand Assembly, is held on the 4th Tuesday of September each year. Part of the activities on that special day is the performance of the Antient Drama, when the retiring 3rd Grand Master Mason loses everything, and his replacement gains his chain of Office. This year we also Installed a new 1st Grand Master Mason.

COVID-19 meant we would have to perform this without the usual audience, which was going to be less than satisfactory. It was decided that the whole ceremony would be filmed by a professional media company, for which we owe a massive debt of thanks to Mark Masons' Hall for providing the location and significant support. This task has now been completed and the 1 hour video is available via a screening service for anyone to witness, members and non-members alike.

<https://vimeo.com/478407105>

password DRAMAS2020

Across Social Media

On Twitter - The aforementioned M.E. & S. Grand Master, Paul Clement, receives 40 Year Certificate from E.Comp. Gerald Rowbottom, the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent in and over South Wales Holy Royal Arch
<http://twitter.com/statuses/1328734409894322176>

On Facebook - The Province of London celebrates 30 Years of Marking Well
The Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Tom Quinn, sent the following message:

Brethren of London, today, Thursday 19 November, is a special Anniversary for us. It is exactly 30 years since the Mark Province of London was formed out of the 160+ Mark and R.A.M. unattached Lodges, which had previously been administered directly by Grand Lodge. The photograph shows the first PGM, RW Bro. Henry de Lerisson Cazenove with our MW Grand Master, taken on that momentous day – 19th November 1990.

Our celebratory dinner, planned for this week, has had to be postponed as you are aware but it is proposed to reschedule this to 8th November 2021. Watch out for details in due course.



Not seeing your news? Join us on Social Media

Social Media is becoming an increasingly important platform for how we get to hear about what is going on further afield in all of our Orders. If your Province/District/Division has a Facebook Page/Group or Twitter Feed, or if you represent a Masonic Club or Society linked to our Orders, please send us an invite to join or follow you.

We can be found at:

Facebook - Mark Secretariat⁶ - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page⁷

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall⁸

Or you can email us at communications@mmh.org.uk⁹

⁶<https://www.facebook.com/mmh.secretariat.3>

⁷<https://www.facebook.com/MarkMasonsHall/>

⁸<https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall>

⁹<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

The Shop@86 is temporarily closed



Due to the new Government Lockdown restrictions for England the Shop@86 will be temporarily closed from Thursday, 5 November but will re-open as soon as circumstances improve.

If you have any urgent enquiries about orders already placed please email ordersinfo@mmh.org.uk¹⁰



¹⁰<mailto:ordersinfo@mmh.org.uk>

MBF Festival 2021



East Lancashire Province, hosts of the **153rd Mark Benevolent Fund Annual Festival in 2021**, have produced a unique **Souvenir Festival Calendar** for the year **2021** and copies are now available.

These large, wall hanging calendars feature twelve contrasting prints of iconic sights in East Lancashire, commencing with the beauty of Pendle Hill in January and ending with Manchester's colourful Christmas Market in December. The 12 original watercolours were painted by Annette Young over the past four years specially for this calendar without cost to the Province. Calendars are priced at £10 each and all proceeds will go to the MBF.

So, let us brighten your kitchen or office wall and at the same time provide much needed support for our Mark Benevolent Fund. Why not purchase several more copies to send to friends and family at Christmas?

Thank you very much for your support.



The calendar measures: 318mm x 228mm folded – 318mm x 456mm open

To order:

By email: eastlancscalendars@gmail.com¹¹ By telephone: 07766731307

Payment by **cheque to East Lancs Mark 2021 Festival** – post to:

¹¹<mailto:eastlancscalendars@gmail.com>

East Lancs Calendars. 47 St Leonards Way, Woore, Crewe. CW3 9SS

Or contact them for electronic payment details

And don't forget, Stewardship, Badge and Festival orders can be places as well.

Click Here¹² for the Stewardship and Festival Badge Form

Click Here¹³ for the complete Festival pack

And you can visit the Province of East Lancashire's website Here¹⁴

Helping to Combat Covid



At the start of Lockdown the Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. Ryan A. Williams, P.G.J.W., shared the COVID Symptom Study¹⁵ app.

As local lockdowns and UK cases increase, with over 4 million users, this app is a useful source of information regarding the situation in your area, as well as being a portal through which people of all ages and backgrounds are joining together to fight COVID, support the NHS, help scientific research and help get us out of lockdown safely.

¹²https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/2021_MBF_Stewardship_Badge_Form.pdf

¹³https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/2021_MBF_Festival_Complete_Forms_Pack.pdf

¹⁴<http://www.wordpress.eastlancsmark.org/?p=11465>

¹⁵<https://covid.joinzoe.com/>

Business as usual for the Staff@86



Staff from the 4th Floor at Mark Masons' Hall may now be decamping to mainly work from home but all departments and teams are available via email and telephone to help and support as usual.



