

# Freemasonry@86 News - 19 May 2023



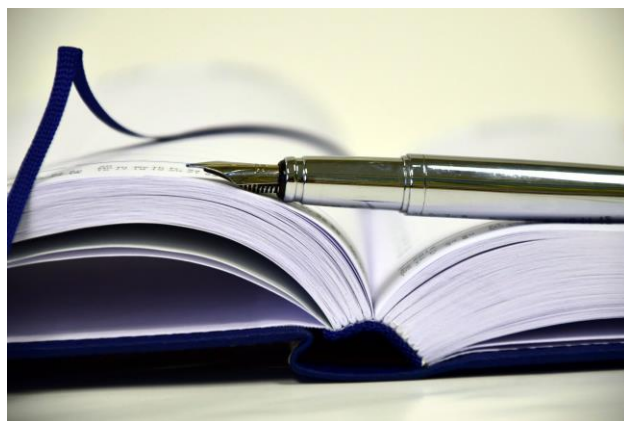
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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## Companion Orders Diary



**Below are some upcoming dates of events for our Grand teams in their respective Orders.**

You can find the calendar of the regular annual meetings of our Orders further down this newsletter.

**Tuesday, 13 June - Mark** Grand Lodge June Investiture meeting, Freemasons' Hall - [Click Here](#) for more info

**Saturday, 24 June - Mark** Installation of W.Bro. John David Sowerby, P.A.G.D.C., as Provincial Grand Master for Northampton, Huntingdon & Bedford

**Saturday, 1 July - MBF** Festival 2023 West Yorkshire - Harrogate

**Saturday 1 July - R.C.C.** Installation of V.III.Kt. Joseph Ebenezer Sudhakar, P.G.H.Alm., as Intendant-General for Cumbria

**Tuesday, 4 July - R.C.C.** Grand Imperial Conclave, Freemasons' Hall - [Click Here](#) for more info

**Thursday, 13 July - S.C.** Consecration of Vale of Pickering Consistory No. 144, Province of North and East Yorkshire

**Tuesday, 5 September - S.C.** Consecration of King Arthur Consistory No. 143, Province of Somerset and Dorset

**Tuesday, 3 October - R.S.M.** Celebratory meeting of the Sesquicentenary of Grand Council, Freemasons' Hall

## Knights Templar Chapter of Great Priory 2023



Wednesday saw Knights Templar from around the world arrive at Freemasons' Hall for the Annual Chapter of Great Priory and, while this meeting is always well supported, this year appeared to be particularly well attended.

After the initial business items had been dealt with the Very High and Right Eminent Great Seneschal, Andrew Christopher Rainbow rose and delivered a very thoughtfully crafted proposition of the re-election of our Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement, G.C.T. The Great Seneschal drew upon the recent Coronation of King Charles III as inspiration, noting that at the heart of that event had been the focus upon service to others and to one's own duty of service, before turning this same theme towards the service of our Grand Master and his devotion to our Order and our Brother

Knights. This met with acclamation from the assembled Brother Knights and the Grand Master was duly proclaimed.

The Grand Master was then very pleased to re-appoint Andrew Christopher Rainbow as the Very High and Right Eminent Great Seneschal.

There then came the appointment and investiture of two Knights Grand Cross of the United Orders: R.E.Kt. Ryan Andrew Williams, *OstJ*, Great Vice-Chancellor; and R.E.Kt. Timothy John Wheeler, Great Marshal.



This was followed by the appointment and investiture of two Knights Commander of the United Orders: R.E.Kt. Adrian John Padmore, Provincial Prior for Leicestershire & Rutland; and R.E.Kt. Roger Edward Dixon, Provincial Prior for Warwickshire.

No fewer that 150 recipients of appointment to, or promotion in, Great Rank were then announced by the Great Vice-Chancellor, with those present being invested by the Grand Master.

The remaining items of business having been completed, the Grand Master then rose to address Great Priory as follows:

"Brother Knights, first, a very warm and hearty welcome to everyone attending this Chapter of Great Priory today. It's a wonderful sight from where I am standing, believe me, and I feel we are so fortunate to be able to use, and enjoy these palatial surroundings for our musters. The main focus of the

proceedings of this meeting has been on rewarding those Brother Knights who were honoured with Great Priory ranks, and it was an absolute delight to be able to invest those present. This is your day of recognition and, indeed, celebration. Enjoy your new ranks in the satisfaction of feeling that they have been well earned and richly deserved. But, please consider your elevated station an encouragement to even greater services to your Provinces, your Preceptories and to your fellow Brother Knights.

Statute 25 is my monition and constant reminder as to the exclusivity and high importance of the appointments of Knights Grand Cross and Knights Commander. Both Right Eminent Knights Ryan Williams and Tim Wheeler serve me and the Order on a daily basis and it was a great pleasure to be able to confer on them the honour and dignity of Knight Grand Cross of the United Orders in the hope that they will both be blessed with many more years to enjoy these new ranks and to continue to discharge the duties which they perform so admirably. I have always been conscious of the debt of gratitude we owe to our Provincial Priors for the expert and caring manner they tend to the needs of their Brother Knights in their respective Provinces. This has been particularly evident during the past three years and is undoubtedly one of several reasons that we have survived the trials and tribulations with which we have been faced, in such a remarkable way. Today, it is my pleasure to have conferred the rank of Knight Commander of the United Orders on R.E.Kt. Adrian Padmore, Provincial Prior for Leicestershire and Rutland, and R.E.Kt. Roger Dixon of Warwickshire. I was present in 2014 when both these Right Eminent Knights were installed and they both continue to serve their Provinces and their Brother Knights with great distinction, and I am sure we wish them both well as they assume their new ranks.

Since we last met for Great Priory in November, in fact only last Thursday, I installed a new Provincial Prior for the Province of Essex, and it's a great pleasure to welcome R.E.Kt. Roger Langdon Smith at this meeting and offer him our congratulations. Also, if you read the report of the Grand Master's Council, you will have learned of the retirement of two of our longest serving Provincial Priors. R.E.Kt. Henry Malin Goonetilleke, who was appointed Provincial Prior for Sri Lanka in 2003, retired in November last year having served the Order faithfully for 19 years and R.E.Kt. Prof. Edward Guy Charlesworth retired as Provincial Prior for The Transvaal after almost 17 years' service. Along with the R.E.Kt. John Helliard, from Essex, who has also recently retired, and on your behalf, I thank them for their valuable service and wish them well in retirement from active office. I'm sure we all send our best wishes to our new Provincial Priors R.E.Kt. Mahendra Kantilal Perera in Sri Lanka and R.E.Kt. Brian Francis McDermott in The Transvaal. I look forward to visiting them both in the future.

As far as our membership is concerned, our recovery post-Covid continues, and I am pleased to report that our headcount and membership numbers, though down slightly on last year, show a very positive underlying trend such that we are almost at the turning point of making net gains in both areas. Our biggest challenge still appears to be Resignations, not just for the Companion Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall, but also for the Craft, Royal Arch, and all other mainstream Masonic Orders. The data we have points to those choosing to leave us, coming from those members who have been in the Order less than five years, and the reason for their decision to leave is invariably because they don't feel they belong. This must surely be a call to arms for us all to make an extra special effort, not just to recruit new members to the Order, but to ensure that, once they have joined our ranks, we continue to shepherd their familiarisation with the rituals and ceremonial, and members of the Unit they have joined, and not just leave them on the back benches to spectate. Making every new Brother Knight feel welcome, included, and valued, must be the goal we now all strive to achieve consistently, because if we

can deliver this experience for new Knights then we stand a very real chance of the Order making consistent net gains year by year.

Let us never lose sight of the fact that we derive our membership from the Royal Arch. We therefore, as members of this Order, have a responsibility and an obligation to ensure that we support the Royal Arch in every possible way.

One of the highlights of this year will be the 12th International Synod of Great Priories to be hosted by the Great Priory of Greece in Rhodes between 28th September and 1st October. I am delighted that so many of you have already registered to attend this event and take the opportunity to learn more about our Order and foster new and stronger relations with Brother Knights from sister Constitutions."

This led seamlessly into the Grand Master welcoming the representatives from 14 independent Great Priories; visitors from our own Provinces and Preceptories overseas; and the Rulers of other Masonic Orders. The Grand Master then thanked the Great Vice-Chancellor and the team at Mark Masons' Hall for their administration of the day's meeting. And the Great Marshal, his Deputies and the Grand Master's Bodyguard who had taken such good care of the ceremonial proceedings.



*1 - The delegations from: the Great Priory of Scotland*



*2 - Germany*



*3 - and Peru*

Before the singing of the Templars Hymn and the Alms collection, to be donated to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group, the Grand Master continued:

"In recent months we have all become aware of the very fragile security situation in Jerusalem, yet despite these challenges the staff at the Jerusalem hospital and its satellite centres have continued their invaluable work helping those in need of sight saving treatment.

Last November, I led a small delegation from Great Priory to the Holy Land to view what your donations have delivered for the staff and patients of the Eye Hospital Group, and I am sure many of you will have seen the articles that subsequently appeared in the Mark Masons' Hall weekly newsletter in particular featuring the official opening of the newly refurbished paediatric ward. That, Brother Knights, was totally down to you.

I am aware of the magnificent efforts of fund raising which are taking place in Provinces at this time and I congratulate you on the marvellous work you are doing and the levels you are achieving.

We are taught in Scripture that 'whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap'. With Brother Knights displaying such a passion for helping those in need, regardless of Religion or creed, when I see the dedication and commitment you have to your Preceptories, and most importantly, the enjoyment you clearly derive from giving of your time and efforts, I really feel that we will, as an Order, reap a harvest of support and goodwill which will ensure the future of this glorious Christian Order, until time shall be no more .

Brother Knights I thank you for your attention."

Great priory was then closed and two verses of the National Anthem were sung with great vigour before the Brother Knights retired to refreshment and to continue to enjoy each other's company before making their various ways home.

We look forward to being back at Freemasons' Hall in November for the Annual Chapter of the Great Priory of Malta.

You can view a gallery of photographs from this meeting, courtesy of V.E.Kt. Chris Eley, P.Gt.Reg. by [Clicking Here](#)



## Turning to the West



Whilst the focus was quite rightly on the Installation in Cornwall, two Provinces, turning to the west, enjoyed the Masonic light in the Isle of Man.

On Friday, 12 May, the Province of the Isle of Man, held their AGM at Douglas Masonic Hall, and welcomed a strong contingent from both the contiguous Provinces of Cheshire, and Cumberland and Westmorland.

The warmth of the earlier summer weather was only surpassed by the warmth of the Manx welcome, which continued into the evening, at a local seafront hotel.

This was followed by a Blue Table Festive Board to allow Craft Brethren to join us to once again fly the flag of the Mark Degree and possibly cultivate a few new candidates. Being only made up of three Mark Lodges and one R.A.M. Lodge the Isle of Man is a very small Province but always happy to receive visitors to not only visit our Lodges but to take in our unique Island and its beautiful scenery.

*With thanks to W.Bro. Colin Lias, P.A.G.D.C., Prov.G.D.C., Isle of Man; and W.Bro. John Miller, A.Prov.G.M., Cheshire*







## The Five Minute Mark



The latest 'The Five Minute Mark' podcast by the Province of Essex can be found on the link below. It is the first of a two-part podcast outlining our themed Lodges. Please feel free to share far and wide. [Click Here to listen](#)

*With thanks to W.Bro. David Todd, P.Prov.G.Stwd.*

## A morning of companionship at Chief of the Builders R.A.M. Lodge



Chief of the Builders Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No. 1806 held its Annual Installation meeting at Dunston on Friday, 12 May. It was a special day encompassing the Craft and many Companion Orders.

The meeting commenced with the Durham Craft Prov.G.M., John Paul Thompson, being proposed for membership. The ballot proved favourable (pew) and it is planned for Bro. Thompson to be Elevated at the next regular meeting on 8 December.

The Worshipful Commander, John L Webster (P.A.Prov.G.M. of the Craft) then installed Peter Athen Smith (Durham K.T. Provincial Chancellor, Past 3rdProv.G.P.) as Commander.

The incoming Wardens were Kevin P Stannard (Prov Prior for Northumberland K.T., Dep.Prov.G.M. (Northumberland Craft)) and Richard G Scott (Prov Prior for Durham K.T.).

During the risings a £500 donation from the Lodge was agreed and presented to the Mark Prov.G.M., David N Hanson and Durham 2029 MBF festival Chairman John D Watts (A.Prov.G.M., Craft).

A R.A.M. membership Certificate was presented with a full explanation by the Dep.Prov.G.M. to last meeting's elevatee, Michael S Shaw (Inspector General, Rose Croix and Deputy Grand Superintendent, Durham Provincial Chapter).

All this was done in the presence of the Prov.G.M. David Hanson; Dep.Prov.G.M. Trevor Lynn; and A.Prov.G.M. Michael Wilkinson of Durham Mark Master Masons, as well as the R.A.M. Prov.G.S.W. N Eric Heaviside (Past Prov.G.M., Craft), and Past Dep.Prov.G.M. Danny Guy (A.M.D. District Grand Prefect).

A convivial lunch followed at the Masonic Hall where several Durham 2029 Festival Steward Jewels were purchased and the Festival merchandising manager (and Lodge Secretary) Graham Wharton sold out of Festival pens. It was heartening to see so many Companion Orders represented and involved in the proceedings. With thanks to Prov Comms Officer David Battensby for the article and photographs.

*Pictured, top, Festival Chairman John Watts and Prov.G.M. David Hanson receiving a MBF Festival donation from Worshipful Commander Peter Smith*



*4 - L-R Trevor Lynn Dep.Prov.G.M.; Kevin Stannard S.W.; Peter Smith, Commander; Richard Scott J.W.; David Hanson, Prov.G.M.; Michael Wilkinson A.Prov.G.M.*



5 - Michael Shaw receiving his R.A.M. certificate from Dep. Prov. G.M. Trevor Lynn



# St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Newsletter



## Welcome to your June Newsletter

We are so grateful for the support you have shown to us – particularly those of you who have undertaken fundraising initiatives and supported us with donations.

We always keen to know what you are up to with your fundraising and answer any questions you may have; you can contact us on: [Info@stjohnseyehospital.org](mailto:Info@stjohnseyehospital.org)

## Inside This Newsletter

- Hospital Update
- Fundraising Corner
- Events Calendar
- Challenge Events
- Ways to Support Us
- Merchandise

To tie in with this week's Great priory meeting, we have received the June edition of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Newsletter.

You can download a copy [Here](#)

## Hospital Update

Since January 2023, there has been a noticeable escalation in the level of violence in Jerusalem, the West Bank and to a lesser extent in Gaza. As a result, some 100 Palestinians and 19 Israelis were killed in the past few months alone.

Sadly, due to increased security risks, we were forced to cancel some outreach visits over the past few months. The escalation was fuelled by Israeli police raiding the Aqsa Mosque during Ramadan. The Israeli Army struck targets for Hamas in both Gaza and southern Lebanon after dozens of rockets were fired into Israeli Territory. Although this exchange of fire was short-lived and resulted in no serious casualties, the situation on the ground remains tense.

In terms of Hospital Group activity, we are generally on target in almost all clinical settings and are projected to achieve our planned annual clinical activities for 2023. Between January and March this year, we conducted almost 35,000 patient visits, which is a 3% rise compared to the same period of 2022. As for major surgeries, almost 1,700 surgeries were performed at the Group which is almost 10% more than the same period of 2022.



In terms of training at the Hospital Group, fifteen students have successfully completed our Ophthalmic Nurse assistant training, a six-month course based in Gaza. This short course is sponsored by Love Must Act Foundation and delivered by our Nurse Manager, Fadi Ejleh, and the Head of the School of Nursing, Nasrallah Khalila.

Students on our one-year, hands-on Post Graduate Ophthalmic Nursing Diploma commenced their training in September 2022 in Jerusalem, and will complete the course at the end of May 2023.

Photo left: Fadi Ejleh delivering a lecture to students in Gaza.

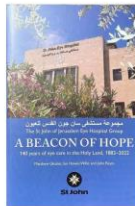
We opened the doors to our Kufur Aqab clinic on a full-time basis in October 2022 and so far, in the first quarter of 2023, 1,450 patients have been seen at the clinic and 395 of these patients were referred to the main Hospital for further diagnostic procedures and surgery. Based on these figures, the clinic is on target to treat 6,000 to 7,000 patients by the end of the year. Due to the increased demand for subspecialty services, we will commence paediatric/orthoptic clinics once every fortnight at the Kufur Aqab clinic.

## Historical Photos of the Hospital

These interesting photos were taken during the build and early development of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital from when it was established in 1882.

If you are interested in the history of the Eye Hospital and would like to find out more, we have an excellent book called 'A Beacon of Hope: 140 years of eye care in the Holy Land', written by Matthew Glozier, Ian Howie-Willis, and John Pearm. This book tells the story of the Hospital and its staff over the past 140 years of its unique existence and is available to purchase (RRP £36) via sending a cheque to the office or online here:

[St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group Shop \(stjohnseyehospital.org\)](https://www.stjohnseyehospital.org)



## Fundraising Corner

### Recipes Required!

Lyn Hunter, Hospitaller for Cheshire County Priory Group, is compiling a recipe book to sell in aid of St John Eye Hospital and is on the lookout for contributions. If you would like to be involved and contribute a recipe, please contact Lyn on [Lyn.Hunter@sja.org.uk](mailto:Lyn.Hunter@sja.org.uk).



### SJEHG Shopping List Scheme

Rev'd Niall Johnston, the Deputy Great Almoner and Provincial Prelate of London, has worked with the Jerusalem team to create a fantastic initiative in order to raise much needed funds for St John Eye Hospital Group. Niall has put together a 'shopping list' of items currently needed at our hospitals, which includes anything from patient blankets to benches for the Muristan Garden. Our most recent supporters of the shopping list scheme are the Bard of Avon Preceptory. Niall's mother Preceptory, who have sponsored a garden bench in recognition of their 150 years celebration. If you would like to find out more about our Shopping List Scheme, please contact Niall at: [masonic@nialljohnston.org](mailto:masonic@nialljohnston.org).



### What can my donations to SJEHG do?

- £7.00 / US\$ 8.50 could fund an initial eye consultation.
- £25.00 / US\$ 30 could provide eye drops (which are typically the main treatment for conditions such as glaucoma).
- £70.00 / US\$ 85 could pay for diabetic-related eye treatments.
- £250.00 / US\$ 300 could pay for cataract treatment for one person.
- £250.00 / US\$ 300 could provide an operation to correct a child's squint.
- £500.00 / US\$ 600 could fund urgent eye surgery.



## 2023 Challenge Events

Want to do a sponsored physical event to fundraise for us? Maybe you'd like to raise £250 to correct a child's squint but don't know how? How about joining one of our challenge events?

This year, we are putting on four challenge events for you to choose from! These events are sponsored runs and take place throughout 2023. If you would like to get involved, you can sign up via our website here: <https://www.stjohnseyehospital.org/fundraise-for-us/>

Any questions, please contact: [Info@stjohnseyehospital.org](mailto:Info@stjohnseyehospital.org)

### How we'll support you:

- FREE running vest!
- Training Plan.
- Support emails and lots of running tips.
- Souvenir Certificate.



### 9<sup>th</sup> July – ASICS London 10K

Entry fee: £25

Suggested Sponsorship: £250

Join thousands of runners taking part in this atmospheric 10km fun run! You'll run past some of central London's top landmarks including, St James' Palace, Westminster Bridge and Big Ben to the sound of live bands, DJs and cheers.

This flat route is perfect for beginners as well as regular runners aiming for a PB! Whatever your ability, sign up to raise £250 which can pay for life-changing a cataract treatment for one person.

[Run For Charity - Event Registration Page](#)



## 2023 Challenge Events



### 8<sup>th</sup> October – Royal Parks Half Marathon

Entry fee: £35

Suggested Sponsorship: £300

Why not join us for one of the most scenic half marathons in London? The legendary Royal Parks Half Marathon takes participants on closed roads around four of the capital's Royal Parks – Hyde Park, Green Park, St James' Park and Kensington Gardens.

Sign up now to help us raise vital funds for our amazing charity!

[Run For Charity - Event Registration Page](#)

If you'd like to organise your own event or need any assistance with fundraising, please let us know and we'd love to help you! You can contact the London Fundraising Office by emails: [Info@stjohnseyehospital.org](mailto:Info@stjohnseyehospital.org)

## Regular Giving

Would you like to support us regularly? A monthly donation is the most effective way to support our work. Just £7 a month would fund an initial eye consultation for one person.

Regular gifts allow us to plan our work – donating this way enables us to know how much income we'll likely have in the future. It also allows you to plan your giving and every time you hear about our work, you'll know how important your contribution was.

If you are interested in finding out more, please email:

[Info@stjohnseyehospital.org](mailto:Info@stjohnseyehospital.org)



## Ways to support us...

If you would like to make a one-off donation or set up a direct debit, you can do so by visiting our website at: [www.stjohnseyehospital.org](http://www.stjohnseyehospital.org).

To stay in touch and keep up to date, you can subscribe to our Jerusalem Scene newsletter via our website or by calling the office on

0207 553 6963 or emailing [Info@stjohnseyehospital.org](mailto:Info@stjohnseyehospital.org).

**If you would like to fundraise for us, please get in touch! We have many fundraising resources available to download from our website, including how-to guides, posters, and leaflets.**



Here at St John Eye Hospital Group, we rely on donations to help support our vital work. The funds you raise help support us in a variety of ways from helping us purchase blankets for patients to carrying out sight-saving surgeries.

### Fundraising Ideas:

- Bake Sale
- Dress down day
- Sponsored activity
- Donations instead of presents for your birthday
- Quiz
- Open house/ garden
- Sponsored walk
- Golf day

If you are organising a fundraiser, please do let us know as we would love to send some resources to help. Below is a list of items we have available.

### Resources Available (loan basis):

- Pop up banners
- Collection boxes
- Collection buckets
- Tabards



\*Please note, if you would like to borrow any resources on a loan basis, we would need at least one month's notice from the event date and we would need to receive the items back within two weeks of the event taking place.

### Resources Available (to keep):

- Leaflets
- Jerusalem Scene
- Posters





## Merchandise

We have a variety of merchandise available to buy through our website here:

[St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group Shop \(stjohnseyehospital.org\)](http://StJohnofJerusalemEyeHospitalGroupShop(stjohnseyehospital.org))

You can also send a cheque with a note of the items you'd like to purchase to our office address.



St John Eye Hospital  
Silk Tie  
£25



'A Beacon of Hope: 140  
years of eye care in the Holy  
Land: 1882 -2022' Paperback  
£36



SJEHG Pen  
£5



Swift Tree Cards (pack  
of 5, blank inside)  
£5



Cream Tote Bag  
£3.50



'Treasures' by Tom Foakes  
£50



Unisex SJEH Tshirt  
(White) S/M/L available  
£15



Unisex SJEH Tshirt  
(Gold) S/M/L available  
£15



Lapel Pin Badge  
£5



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## The Grand Master's Bodyguard Preceptory go back in time



On Tuesday, 16 May the Grand Master's Bodyguard Preceptory welcomed a demonstration team made up entirely of Knights of the Vision Beautiful. The Team provided an abridged demonstration of the 12th to 14th century ceremony of reception of new Templars.

It was noted that the life and strictures of the original Order were far harsher than our modern one and, as pictured, the headgear was a tad sillier...

In thanking the Team, the Preceptory provided a donation totalling £240 to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital.

If you would be interested in receiving a demonstration at your Preceptory you are welcome to contact: [Knights.of.the.Vision@gmail.com](mailto:Knights.of.the.Vision@gmail.com)

### **And a new Knight for Empress Preceptory**



The previous week, a group of Knights of the Vision Beautiful gathered to welcome a new Knight Templar. Young Fergus (second from left in the picture) had joined the Team in 2021 and been installed as a Knight of the Red Cross of Constantine and Appendant Orders.

He has now been installed as a Knight Templar in Empress Preceptory in a ceremony he thoroughly enjoyed and had been looking forward to for years.

Thanks to the generosity of the Eminent Preceptor, Andrew Bodnar (pictured on the right), the four other Knights, all Knights of the Vision Beautiful, were permitted to split the Preceptor's work between them to welcome their Teammate.

Young Fergus has already taken part in twenty-four hour, forty-eight hour and three day relays for the Knights of the Vision Beautiful, raising money for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. He is looking forward to completing their Monopoly Board Challenge for the same excellent cause on Saturday 22nd July 2023.

If you would like to join the Team and take part in this or other Challenges, please contact their Captain via: [Knights.of.the.Vision@gmail.com](mailto:Knights.of.the.Vision@gmail.com)

You can also follow their events on Twitter: @KnightsVision

Instagram: @KnightsOfTheVision

Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/Knights-of-the-Vision-Beautiful](https://www.Facebook.com/Knights-of-the-Vision-Beautiful)

And to donate via their appeal for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital, to save the sight of vulnerable patients and change their lives for the better (always ensuring it is without detriment to yourself or connections), please visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/team/Vision-Beautiful>

Postscript: it was fantastic to see E.Kt. Andrew of Empress Preceptory become the Great Sword Bearer at Great Priory on Wednesday.



**The Knights & Dames  
of the Vision Beautiful**

**MONOPOLY  
Board  
Challenge**



**For the St John of  
Jerusalem Eye Hospital**



## A superb ceremony at Gwent Preceptory No. 115 by the last minute “stand-in” Eminent Preceptor



At the meeting of the Gwent Preceptory No. 115 at the Newport Masonic Hall on Friday, 10 February 2023, the acting Installing Preceptor was E.Kt. Roger Thompson P.Gt.Capt.Gds, Prov.Dep.Mar, who performed the two Installation Ceremonies in the presence of Right Eminent Knight Dr Paul Calderwood, Provincial Prior for the Province of Monmouth and South Wales, and a number of Great Priory Officers, Provincial Officers and Brother Knights.

Roger - who displayed his expert talents and depth of knowledge by conducting faultless Installation Ceremonies - was assisted by the Deputy Marshal, E.Kt. Gerald Williams, who acted as Preceptory Marshal, in installing Knight Timothy Parr as Eminent Preceptor and later as Eminent Prior.



The Provincial Prior commented on the fact that it was good to see so many members meeting again and was extremely pleased to give an explanation of the Great Priory certificate to two new Knights before congratulating them.

The after-proceedings were held in the main dining room of the Masonic Hall and those present were treated to the usual excellent repast for which the Newport Masonic Hall is noted.



In his response to his toast, the Provincial Prior congratulated the Installing Preceptor and Officers of the Gwent Preceptory No. 115 (which is the oldest in the Province, being over 150 years old) and

commented that the Preceptory has a bright and growing future, with 3 Candidates and 2 joining members for the next meeting. He also congratulated several Members - R.E.Kt. Malcolm Lane on being re-appointed Great Prelate and Provincial Prelate; E.Kt. Roger Thompson on being re-appointed Provincial Deputy Marshal; E.Kt. Terry Price on being re-appointed as Provincial Organist; and also Kt. Luke Stokes, who will shortly become the Commander of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard.

*with thanks to E.Kt. Chris Mugford, Prov.Swd.B.*









## St Cadoc Conclave No. 413 elects Member of Divisional Sepulchre Guard as Sovereign for 2023/4.



At the Regular Assembly of the St Cadoc Conclave No. 413 at Barry Masonic Hall on Saturday 13 May 2023, led by the Sovereign, Puissant Knight Shaun Cuddihy, and held in the presence of R.III.Kt. Nigel Angell (pictured above), Intendant-General for South Wales and Monmouthshire Division of the Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine, the members elected a long-serving member of the Divisional Sepulchre Guard, W.Kt. Chris Mugford, as their Sovereign for the forthcoming year.

The Members attending the Meeting also included Ill.Kt. Dr Akram Baig (pictured below, an Assistant Provincial Grand Master in the Craft Province of South Wales), Ill.Kt. John Taylor (who is a Past M.E. Grand Superintendent of the Provincial Grand Chapter of South Wales) plus a number of Grand Officers, Provincial Grand Officers and Past Sovereigns.

*With thanks to W.Kt. Chris Mugford, Div.Stwd. Div.Sep.Gd.*



## A day at the seaside



The 2023 Annual Meeting of the District Grand Council of Essex in the Allied Masonic Degrees took place on Saturday, 13 May at the Southend Masonic Centre, Saxon Hall, in Southend-on-Sea. An excellent venue with a beautiful Temple.

On arrival, Brethren were well provided for with tea, coffee and bacon rolls.



There were honoured guests from many Districts, seen here with the District Grand Prefect for Essex, R.W.Bro. Jeffrey Lionel Conway.



There were also representatives from other Masonic Orders in Essex.



Brethren took their places in the Temple to receive the Right Worshipful Brethren.



And the Past District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. Ray Clare.



The District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. Jeffrey Conway, led by the District Grand Sword Bearer, and followed by the District Grand Standard Bearer entered in procession.



District Grand Council was opened in due form by the District Grand Prefect, who was saluted under the direction of the District Grand Director of Ceremonies. The District Grand Prefect was pleased to welcome the many representatives of other Districts and Masonic Orders, thanking them for their support for Essex District Grand Council.

After the regular business of District Grand Council had been completed, he announced the re-appointment of W.Bro. Tony Edwards, P.G.S.D., as Deputy District Grand Prefect thanking him for his support over the past year.

After appointing or promoting the Officers of District Grand Council for the ensuing year the District Grand Prefect addressed District Grand Council. In his Address he said he wanted to thank all those who have worked like Trojans to prepare and run this meeting, and who helped to make it a success. He said it was an honour to be the head of this Order and reminded everyone of the importance of the Mark Degree.

The meeting was then called to order and closed in due form. The District Grand Prefect, the Deputy District Grand Prefect, together with members of the Past Executive, honoured guests and Provincial Officers then left the Temple in procession.



After greeting their guests on the way out the District team gathered for a group photo.



As did the Surrey and Kent delegations.





The Brethren of the District of Essex and their guests then retired to the bar.



After refreshments the Brethren of the District of Essex and their guests sat down to a most convivial meal at the Saxon Hall.







In replying to his Toast, the District Grand Prefect thanked everyone for attending, and proposed the toast to the visiting Brethren.



After a most enjoyable meal we all made out way home to our Districts. Fortunately, the traffic was not too bad considering the rail strike.

*Article and photos by W.Bro. Chris Eley, Dist.G.S.W., Surrey*

*You can find the full gallery of photographs from the day [Here](#)*

## Two grand, two Companion Orders working in harmony



On Thursday, 18 May Rulers of the O.S.M. Province of Durham and Scarlet Cord Province of Durham and Northumberland attended the HQ of regional charity CHUF in Gateshead, Tyne & Wear.

Alicia Clovis-Mothalib, CHUF Corporate & Trusts Fundraising Manager greeted the visitors and over a breakfast of coffee and pastries delivered a fascinating presentation on the work the charity does to support babies, children and families, some of whom have to live for many years in the heart unit at Newcastle's Freeman Hospital whilst awaiting a "gift of life" from an organ donor.

The Freeman and London's Great Ormond Street are the only two Hospitals in the UK that are worldwide centres of excellence and accredited to perform paediatric heart transplants so Heart Hero families come to Newcastle from far and wide.

Additional support to these families is provided by the charity which for many years has received donations from various Freemasons organisations.

It was therefore decided at the 2022 Scarlet Cord AGM to donate to CHUF all of the annual meeting collection which was enhanced by Provincial funds to £1,000

The Conclave of Friendship meeting in Gateshead also decided to donate £250 from their charity collections which was matched by the Order of the Secret Monitor, Province of Durham, and further matched by £500 from the Grand Conclave O.S.M. Benevolent Fund, another £1,000.

The charity will use this donation to purchase home monitoring equipment. These monitors at a cost of £550 each and not available on the NHS can enable some children to spend time at home whilst awaiting transplants and be remotely monitored by expert medical staff on the ward.

Those attending and pictured were,

Kenneth Embleton, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler O.S.M., supported by Peter Ray, Provincial Grand Treasurer, and Michael Jacques, Provincial Grand Summus S.C., supported by Gary Taylor, Dep.Prov.G.S.

The Conclave of Friendship was represented by its Treasurer John Watts, S.C. Provincial Grand Recorder who was behind the camera and for whom we are grateful for the article.

For more information about CHUF visit <http://chuf.org.uk/>



## Sats Monitors

### Sats Monitors

Babies are being discharged home with a home monitoring programme, which includes daily monitoring of their oxygen levels. Handheld pulse oximeters allow close monitoring of saturation levels whilst remotely supporting parents and families in their own homes.

This equipment has proved invaluable in providing reassurances to both parents and the cardiac team in detecting subtle changes in condition, which may require the child to be admitted to hospital and prevent further deterioration. It allows freedom of mobility on a day-to-day basis allowing the children to leave the ward with their parents or nursing staff without cumbersome equipment.

Each monitor costs £550 and to date Chuf have funded 19 monitors.

## Join us on Social Media

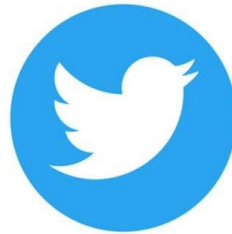
Social Media is becoming an increasingly important platform for how we get to hear about what is going on further afield in all of our Orders, and how we share the most up-to-date information with members. If your Province/District/Division has a Facebook Page/Group or Twitter Feed, or if you represent 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 Secretariat](#) - This is the contact account for the [Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page](#)

Twitter - [@MarkMasonsHall](#)

Or you can email us at [communications@mmh.org.uk](mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk)



## Calendar of Annual Meetings

### Grand Meetings Calendar 2023 - All Orders

Please note **all** timings are approximate. Refer to the Summons for confirmation.

Order	Meeting	Date	To be held at	Rehearsal Time	Meeting Starts	Meeting Ends	Dining Starts	Annual Einish
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 7 March 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	12:00 AM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council - Limited Capacity	Tuesday, 18 April 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	1:30 PM	3:00 PM
SC	Grand Senatus	Thursday, 4 May 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:00 PM
KT	Great Priory	Wednesday, 17 May 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Active & 1st	Tuesday, 13 June 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	1:00 PM	3:15 PM	4:15 PM	5:45 PM
RCC	Grand Imperial Conclave	Tuesday, 4 July 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Non-Active	Tuesday, 12 September 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
KBHC	Grand Priory	Thursday, 14 September 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council - 130 Celebration	Tuesday, 9 October 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM
AMD	Grand Council	Tuesday, 24 October 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:15 PM	3:00 PM	4:30 PM
OSM	Grand Conclave	Thursday, 9 November 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:45 PM	4:15 PM
KT - Malta	Great Priory of Malta	Tuesday, 21 November 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RAM	Annual Assembly	Monday, 11 December 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM

Please be seated 15 minutes before published start time

06/10/2023

[Click Here](#) to download a PDF copy of the Calendar

## Additional support for earthquake rescue efforts



Further to last week's announcement that the MBF had made an emergency grant of £50,000 to help with the Türkiye/Syria earthquakes rescue efforts, we have been inundated with requests to make it possible for Brethren, Lodges and Provinces to make donations to directly support the work of our trusted partners at the ShelterBox charity.

It has been agreed that we will accept donations in to our MCF Relief Chest.

The donations will be channelled through our trusted partners at the ShelterBox charity reg no. 1096479 and will also count towards MBF honorifics.

Donations for Türkiye (formerly Turkey) and Northern Syria should be sent using the following details:

MARK EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

MMM 185622

For Individual donations - Please add your **Surname** and the reference **Turkiye**

For Lodge donations – use the **Order** with **Lodge number** and the reference **Turkiye**

For Provincial donations – use the **Order** with **Province** and the reference **Turkiye**

To make a donation you can

- **use the QR Code below**
- [Click Here](#) to go to the donation page
- [Click Here](#) to download a Credit/Debit Card donation Form
- [Click Here](#) to download a Cheque/Chirty Voucher donation form

**Mark Emergency Relief Fund  
MMM185622**

**To make a donation**  
scan with phone camera to open  
or visit URL

**<https://gtap.uk/mmm185622>**



Please share with your Brethren and if you have any queries or concerns please contact the Charities Department at Mark Masons' Hall.

We thank you all for your generosity.

You can find out more by [Clicking Here](#) to read the latest ShelterBox update and there is additional info in the images below.

You can visit ShelterBox on their various media outlets:

<https://shelterbox.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ShelterBox>

[ShelterBox](#)



## **£50,000 donated to ShelterBox**

On Monday, 6 February 2023 a series of powerful earthquakes devastated southern Türkiye (formerly Turkey) and northern Syria. The Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund were quick to act and by the close of business on Tuesday 7, had approved an emergency grant of £50,000 to help with the rescue efforts in association with our trusted partners at the ShelterBox charity. The charity is sending an emergency response team to carry out crucial assessments and establish how best their help can be deployed. Their international assessment team will arrive in Türkiye in a few days and will be liaising with contacts on the ground to establish how best to proceed.

The humanitarian need in Türkiye and Syria is immense and growing – it is the most devastating earthquake to hit the region in 100 years and could become the worst. The death toll is likely to rise significantly, and thousands of buildings have been destroyed in both countries leaving people homeless, with nowhere to sleep, in the middle of a bitter winter.

ShelterBox provides different combinations of emergency shelter aid and essential household items during its responses depending on what is needed. This could be sending tents and shelter kits, stoves, thermal blankets and clothing to keep people warm through the freezing winter nights. It could be cash to help people buy what they need to survive. Or it could solar lights that help people when there is no electricity. Getting aid into countries and on to where it's needed after a disaster of this scale presents huge challenges especially with damage to infrastructure and supply routes. That's why ShelterBox strategically pre-positions aid around the world, including in Syria.

This donation of £50,000 from the Mark Benevolent Fund will allow ShelterBox to act quickly, adapting how they work to best support people affected by the earthquakes and allowing them to tailor aid packages to what is needed. There are currently no plans to set up a central fund from Mark Masons' Hall.

This is what the grant will be used for by the ShelterBox charity (information taken from the ShelterBox website):

#### SHELTERBOX TENT - £350

When disaster strikes, families need shelter to feel safe again. When they can't start rebuilding their homes immediately, durable tents can make them feel safe and protected. Depending on the weather and the place, the shelter needs of families differ. That's why we're committed to providing families with the best possible solutions that suit their needs. From padded tents that can safely accommodate a stove, to medium-sized tents that fit in small spaces and ones that can last years if needed, families can feel at home again.



#### SHELTER KITS - £60

We provide shelter kits which include a selection of hardware tools and materials that are customised to suit the needs of each community.

The tools and materials we send provide the essentials families need to start rebuilding homes straight away, ranging from tough tarpaulin and timber to corrugated sheeting and even room dividers.

The versatile tools we provide help with everything from clearing rubble to building shelters and even tending crops. Our tools can also be used to build furniture, cut firewood and make repairs.





#### BLANKETS - £7

Blankets, groundsheets and mattresses not only provide vital warmth, but comfort too when families are recovering from disaster. These simple items can be used in a variety of ways, from bedding to room dividers, and help turn a shelter into a home.



#### SOLAR LIGHTS - £11

Our solar lights can last up to 24 hours on just one charge on the lowest setting. They are lightweight and waterproof, making them easy to carry in any situation. Because they are so safe, cheap and easy to use, families use solar lights in different ways – for work, education, family activities, or simply moving around at night. They are more than just light – they can provide comfort and allow families to regain their livelihoods.



Find out more about the work of ShelterBox



<https://shelterbox.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/ShelterBox>



@ShelterBox



**Mark Emergency Relief Fund**

At the meeting of Mark Grand Lodge at Freemasons' Hall on Tuesday, the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Raymond John Smith, announced that the Mark Benevolent Fund would be donating £25,000 to the Mark Inspectorate of Romania who have been working proactively in many ways to provide support and relief to their neighbours in Ukraine.

This tremendous endeavour has touched Freemasons across the Constitution and many of our Brethren are keen to add their own support by making a donation.

We have set up a Relief Chest with the M.C.F. under the name of the **Mark Emergency Relief Fund** and you can now make donations in a variety of ways.

**We know that there is enormous support for this already. To make the administration of donations as smooth as possible, enabling funds to be transferred efficiently to where they are needed most, we ask that you note the following advice regarding donations:**

**For individual donations of less than £100** - please make arrangements with your Mark Lodge for these to be collected centrally and then for the Lodge to make one consolidated donation into the Fund. These consolidated donations will count toward the Lodge's M.B.F. honorifics, rather than each individuals.

**Donations of £100 or more may be made by individuals directly into the fund** and will count towards the Brother's M.B.F. Honorifics

In all correspondence please ensure you are donating to:

**Mark Emergency Relief Fund**

Relief Chest No.: **MMM185622**

The quickest and easiest way to donate is by scanning the QR code below or following this [Link](#).

**Mark Emergency Relief Fund**  
**MMM185622**

**To make a donation**  
scan with phone camera to open  
or visit URL

**<https://gtap.uk/mmm185622>**



For a Credit Card Donation Form [Click Here](#) - remembering to use your **Craft Lodge name and number**, not your Mark Lodge.

For a Single Donation Form [Click Here](#) - remembering to use your **Craft Lodge name and number**, not your Mark Lodge.

If you would like more information about the ways in which you can donate using the digital options above, you can read the Digital Donations Guide by [Clicking Here](#)

And if you, or your Lodge, already hold a Relief Chest from which you would like to donate funds, there is a further, specific guide available by [Clicking Here](#) and a simple transfer guide available by [Clicking Here](#)

## Swift pins still available



For those who may not have been able to get their hands on one of the K.T. £20 for 2020 Appeal Swift Pins, there are still some available.

Provinces can order in bulk, or individuals can purchase single pins, by contacting Linda Read, Charities Finance Manager at M.M.H. at [L.Read@mmh.org.uk](mailto:L.Read@mmh.org.uk)

Pins are £20 each and funds raised will go to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital.

## Social Media Guidelines



**With our relatively new Pro Grand Masters in both the Craft and the Mark, we are continuing our close working relationship with our Brethren at Freemasons' Hall.**

**While we enjoy and encourage our members' enthusiasm for our Orders, it's important that we are mindful where and how we share our passion for Freemasonry.**

**Please ensure that any posts on social media about the Companion Orders are either restricted to groups, pages and websites that are open to all Orders or, if destined for Craft specific areas, are posted via a moderator to ensure they are a welcome additions to the news feed.**

## The Shop@86

[Click Here](#) to visit the Shop@86 website



## MBF Festival Stewardship Jewels

The new-look MBF Stewardship Jewels have now been designed for the following Festivals:

[2023 West Yorkshire](#)

[2024 Cheshire](#)

[2025 Oxfordshire](#)

[2026 Hampshire & IOW](#)

[2027 Warwickshire](#)

[2028 Somerset](#)

[2029 Durham](#)

[2030 Essex](#)

We have added the bank account name to all the forms so please use the latest form and details as found in the links above.

The 2029 Festival Stewardship Jewel for Durham is now in stock and available for delivery.



















We reported recently that the new style MBF Festival Stewardship is aimed principally, but not exclusively, at members of each host Festival Province.

In return for a qualifying donation of £100, each Steward will be entitled to:

- A distinctive Stewards' breast jewel, year bar and pocket jewel holder.
- Inclusion of their name in the Festival Stewards' Roll of Honour in the Festival booklet

- And for individuals making their first donation under the scheme, qualification as a Life Governor of the Mark Benevolent Fund – the first step on the ladder of honorifics.

Monies raised by the take-up of Festival Stewardships will, of course, be included in each respective Festival total.

## Admin Departments @86



All departments and teams at Mark Masons' Hall are available via email and telephone to help and support members and visitors.

Most communication for Masonic Administration should go via the Provincial Secretary, or equivalent, and they will know who to contact here at M.M.H. if they are unable to answer the query themselves.

Published by the Communications Team at Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1PL

Find us here [///prefer.status.sharp](http://prefer.status.sharp)