



“Non Nobis Domine”

The Knights Templar Newsletter
for the Province of West Yorkshire



Edition 36

Advent 2023



Right Eminent Knight
Hearl Lenton MBE
Provincial Prior

The dark nights and winter weather are here again and visiting becomes more difficult for some of our more senior knights. Having said that, I have noticed that the level of visiting has increased and I'm sure that there are lifts available should you want to avail yourself of them. The Bodyguard is particularly active in this field and I'm sure that they would happily give you lifts to and from meetings should you need them. If you have a member of the Bodyguard in your Preceptory, or who lives near you, do find out what duties they have and try to come along with them.

I was delighted to see how two of our Preceptories have bounced back positively with increased activity and new members. **Craven Preceptory** has recently appointed Kt David Bamford as their Development Co-Ordinator and he has burst into his new role by producing three new candidates for his Preceptory. This is great news and I'm thrilled that new life is being breathed into our northernmost Preceptory.

King George V Preceptory has recently relocated to Wetherby driven by the enthusiasm of the handful of Knights who were still members. Their first meeting at their new home took place on 15th September and was well attended by well-wishers. The Preceptory was enlivened by news of two joining knights from the locality and I hope that their fortunes continue to improve; any help that you can give them would, I know, be greatly appreciated.



This year, the 13th October fell on a Friday which reminded me of the fateful demise of our Medieval namesakes in 1307. My spirits were lifted when I saw on our Facebook site an interesting post with a picture of their



supposed destruction with a caption saying “Friday 13th October 2023 and still going strong!” It just goes to show how *‘working heartily together’* our Province may help to achieve *“an increasing degree of prosperity”* for the modern Templar Order and all that it stands for!

I hope you have a very merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year

Yours very sincerely in the Bonds of the Order,

Hearl Lenton MBE
Provincial Prior for
the Province of West Yorkshire

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The Primitive Rule; *The Thorny issue of how to treat women!*
Bohemond’s Book – The Grail Quest

Around the Province

When you take this oath, never break it!



Plains of Mamre Preceptory
Kt Geoffrey Smith



Kts Les & Robert Turnock
Craven Preceptory



Kt James Lee



De Ros Preceptory
Kts Bateson & Gray



Chantry Preceptory
Kts King, Fellows & Roberts



To all the Knights new to our Province



Wharfedale Preceptory
Kt David Gaunt



Salamanca Preceptory
Kt John Collins



Faith Preceptory
Kt Trevor Jones

Be Loyal, Brave and True



Long Service Certificates for distinguished Knights across the Province
Congratulations to the Knights of our Province who have been awarded Certificates to acknowledge their long and faithful service to the Province and our Order



E. Kt Maxwell Armitage
Fearnley Preceptory
50 Years



V.E. Kt Frank Johnston
Temple Preceptory
40 Years



E.Kt Robin Gregson
Wharfedale Preceptory
50 Years

Around the Province

Relocation of King George V Preceptory

“Like a Phoenix from the Ashes”

The 15th September 2023 saw the first meeting of King George V Preceptory at their new home at Wetherby Masonic hall.

The six remaining members of the Preceptory had worked hard to encourage visitors to come along and support them, as well as borrowing and assembling Temple furniture from a number of other Preceptories.

The evening was a wonderfully relaxed meeting with the Provincial Prior on hand to lead the Preceptory back to health.

The R.E. Provincial Prior's Bodyguard were out in force and one of the Provincial Deputy Marshals, E. Kt Peter Osler ably led the proceedings.

The main agenda item was a talk from E. Kt Paul Eustace about the medieval Templars' battle tactics and training which had been specially compiled for the evening. With replica swords and evocative stories about the hardship the Knights had to endure, those assembled were treated to a fascinating glimpse into what our namesakes had go through to prove that they were worthy of the accolade of 'A poor fellow soldier of Christ'.

The evening was not without its own drama as one of the Bodyguard was taken ill and had to be driven home to nearby Harrogate. Thankfully after about a week his condition was successfully diagnosed and he is now fully back to fighting fitness.



*The R.E. Provincial Prior and
EP, E.Kt Matthew Sims
Congratulate each other in
front of a Picture of Lord
Lascelles*

The Preceptory's second meeting at Wetherby was their Installation which took place on Thursday 28th November.

To everyone's delight, two joining Knights were welcomed into the Preceptory and three more were proposed. If you would like to join them, please let the Registrar know.

One is reminded of a famous hymn which talks of uncertainty and faith.....

***“Through the night of doubt and sorrow,
onward goes the pilgrim band;brother
clasps the hand of brother, marching to the
promised land”***

Well done to the Brother Knights of King George V Preceptory, may you continue to prosper!

The Christmas Toast & Observance;

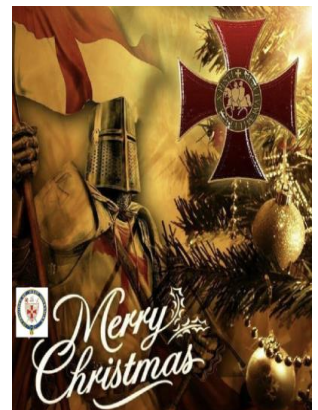
Our Provincial Prelate, E Kt Paul Christodoulou extends a warm and heartfelt invitation to join him, the Provincial Prior and many Brother Knights in a brief Zoom Observance & Toast at 5pm on Christmas Day. It is simple to join, just follow the link below to join your brother knights and be magically transported to Festive Fellowship with all those knights that you know so well around the Province.

Christmas Joy!

Topic: WYKT Christmas Day Observance 2024

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87610927389?pwd=TjVYcDc5L1haSGdKcjU3R3Z4Wnc4UT09>

Meeting ID: 876 1092 7389
Passcode: 323785



Come and
join us.....



You'll be VERY
Welcome!



**Preceptory meetings
to be held
during
Epiphany 2024**



Preceptory	Date	Place
<i>Fidelity Preceptory 114</i>	Friday 9 th January	Castle Grove Leeds
<i>Airedale Preceptory 230</i>	Friday 26 th January	Charles Street, Bingley, BD16 4LG
<i>Plains of Rama Preceptory</i>	Tuesday 30 th January	12 Cooke Street, Keighley BD21 3NN
Gilbert de Lacy Preceptory 710	Monday 31 th January	1 Ackworth Rd, Pontefract, WF8 3PA
De Ros Preceptory 213 (installation of 2 knights)	Wednesday 7 th February	Station Avenue, Harrogate, HG1 5NE
Amphibious Preceptory 158	Thursday 8 th February	Market Street, Heckmondwike, WF16 0JU
<i>Integrity Preceptory 205</i>	Monday 12 th February	Thornfield House, Bruntcliffe Rd, Morley, LS27 0QG
Trafalgar Preceptory 259	Monday 12 th February	Blenheim House, Batley Filed Hill, Batley, WF17 0BG
Greyfriars Preceptory 265	Monday 12 th February	Priory Place, Doncaster, DN1 1BZ
King George V Preceptory 199	Tuesday 13 th February	Deighton Road, Wetherby, LS22 7SZ
<i>Craven Preceptory 390</i>	Wsdays 14 th February	Sackville Street, Skipton, BD23 2PB
<i>Hope Preceptory 4 (Installation)</i>	Friday 16 th February	Greenhead Road, Huddersfield, HD1 4BN
Chantry Preceptory 214	Monday 19 th February	Zetland Street, Wakefield, WF1 1QT
<i>St Laurence Preceptory 298</i>	Monday 26 th February	Church Lane, Pudsey, LS28 7RF
Prince Edward Preceptory 18	Monday 26 th February	White Hart Fold, Todmorden, OL14 7BD
<i>Fearnley Preceptory 39 (Installation)</i>	Thursday 7 th March (Transferred)	Savile House, Lees House Rd, Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury WF12 9BP
<i>Provincial Priory of Malta</i>	Thursday 29 th February	Castle Grove, Headingley, Leeds, LS6 4BP

If you'd like to attend one of these meetings, consult the Rubine Red Year-Book, call the Registrar, book yourself in and look forward to a great evening.

Templar Battle Fighting Tactics

Based upon an essay by the Historian Terry McMahon

The Knights Templar are widely regarded as a very driven group of warrior monks who exercised tight discipline and struck fear into their enemies. But what were their battle fighting tactics? And were they effective?.

One thing we do know is that they were a unique military proposition combining monk and soldier. They emerged just as a new order of monks, the Cistercians, were also launching. And the two organisations had a lot in common.

Templars linked to a new order of monks

The spiritual mentor of the Knights Templar, and their biggest advocate in western Christendom, was Saint Bernard of Clairvaux. Like many of the early Templars, Bernard was born into the Burgundian nobility but turned his back on earthly comforts from an early age. Becoming a monk, he joined a growing number who felt that the Benedictines, the most prolific monastic order of the time, were insufficiently ascetic.



The new Knight-Monk army marching to battle with the Cross of Jesus ahead of them

Bernard yearned for a return to the spirit of self-denial and rejection of worldly goods that had characterised the earliest Christian monks. His own brutal self-punishing regime caused periods of ill-health. He was often seen kneeling in church with a sick bucket at his side. But he was undaunted. And in the Knights Templar, he saw the military expression of his severe approach to monasticism.

Bernard presided over a growing band of monks at the abbey of Cîteaux which broke away decisively from the Benedictines electing to wear white habits instead of the Benedictine black. Together with the first Templar Grand Master Hugh de Payens, Bernard developed the Latin Rule, which determined how Templars would conduct themselves.

Both the Cistercians and Templars grew in tandem with a very similar outlook. The only differences were practical, such as the level of fasting. Knights were allowed a more lenient regime on account of having to fight in battle. A hungry, dizzy knight was going to be no match for a well fed Saracen.

The Rule Book

At the very beginning, the Knights Templar chose to be governed by the long established Rule of Saint Augustine. They would be Knights who took the monastic vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Then, under the guidance of Saint Bernard, the Templar rule book was established. This was as much about moral conduct as battle tactics - though the two were intertwined.



The Brotherhood of the Sword; a Templar Knight – armed with spiritual might!

The Templar approach to battle wasn't just about armour and weapons but also an ethos and demeanour. ***These Knights were celibate and eschewed lustful thoughts.*** They were forbidden to be boastful or gossip. Laughter was discouraged.

Unlike Secular Knights, they were not to engage in hunting, gambling, whoring, or keeping bad company. In short, there were none of the psychological releases that a secular knight enjoyed. Instead, ***outside of battle, the day was punctuated with prayer.***

Saint Bernard preached that by taking the cross, crusaders were wiping away sin and smoothing the path to their own heavenly glory. In war, they would commit the act of homicide - which one might assume contravened the Ten Commandments. Thou shalt not kill. And many observers certainly felt uneasy at the thought of killer monks. But ***Bernard reasoned that these Templars were committing 'malecide' - the killing of evil as opposed to human beings.*** This was slaughter in the name of God. And therefore acceptable.

Was all this theological stuff necessary to create a battle-ready Knight?

As any battle commander will tell you - great armies are forged not just by their hardware but by their *esprit de corps*. What goes on in a soldier's mind is as important as what they do physically. If they believe their cause is just, then they will fight with greater vigour and effectiveness.

As Saint Bernard put it, the Templars would go into combat with the "breastplate of faith".

Templars charging in unison



There was a strong Templar collective spirit. Knights were to act in concert in battle and not seek individual glory. They were a cohesive, indivisible unit. The Templars looked out for each other and were prepared for the ultimate act of self-sacrifice to protect their comrades. And they were required to look after those injured or sick.

One of their most distinguishing hallmarks was their cavalry charge in battle where the Knights would gallop forward in close formation. Contemporary commentators reported that this struck terror into the Saracens. While many Templars had been Knights beforehand and learned basic battle skills, this kind of tactic must have been picked up after joining the order. Secular Knights didn't charge in quite such a tight-knit manner.

Arms - keeping it simple

When it came to their weapons and other equipment, the Templars were all about simplicity. No fancy gold or silver ornamentation, twiddly designs, or elaborate coverings for shields and lances. This echoed Saint Bernard's contempt for bibles that were ostentatiously illuminated or churches stuffed with gargoyles and no-expenses-spared sculptures. Again, a military expression of his strict monasticism.

The Knights were allocated three or four horses and a squire to assist. There would be two destriers (warhorses); a palfrey (riding horse); and a roncín (packhorse). Some knights might have ridden a mule instead of a palfrey. I've talked about the size of warhorses in previous essays but just to reiterate that a Templar warhorse would have been quite short by today's standards. So erase any thoughts of a gigantic stallion.

If a horse was killed in battle or equipment lost then the Templar Knight had to explain himself to an official, called the 'draper', acting for the Master, who would then decide whether to replace these things.



A Templar Knight, fighting against the odds to retain his horse and equipment

So what did a Templar knight wear for battle?

- ❖ Knights wore a padded jerkin close to their body offering additional protection
- ❖ Over the jerkin, there was a long-sleeved chain mail cover known as a 'hauberk'
- ❖ Over the head a chain mail hood called a 'coif'
- ❖ A helmet over the coif which was open-faced in the 12th century and enclosed later on
- ❖ Chain mail leggings or 'chausses'
- ❖ Over the chain mail a white surcoat
- ❖ A kite-shaped shield with black and white design
- ❖ Three knives: dagger, bread knife, small knife
- ❖ A thirteen foot long wooden lance
- ❖ A Turkish mace



Templar Infantry drawn up in battle order

Initially, they seem to have worn a monastic-style cloak that restricted arm movement in battle and this was replaced by an arm-less surcoat. It seems odd to us but the Pope got involved in discussions about battle dress even though the supreme pontiff didn't go to battle himself.

The importance of uniform

For the enemy in battle, the appearance of the Knights Templar must have been chilling. Here was a group of knights with an easily recognisable uniform. Their white mantles symbolising purity and a rejection of sin with a hint of martyrdom. On the left breast of the white mantle was the distinctive red cross. Almost an early example of modern branding. Everybody in the medieval era was familiar with the Templar logo.

One has to imagine what it was like for those fighting the crusaders to see these well disciplined Knights, their white mantles billowing in the wind, charging towards them. And knowing that they had no fear of death.

TEMPLAR TIT-BITS



This little gem was found at Thorpe Park Retail Centre in East Leeds. It can't claim to be old enough to be a Templar buildingbut.....can anyone find out why it has been named after our Medieval forebears?

YouTube is a fantastic source of what appears to be items of historical interest and information. But **BEWARE** false or fake history. The Editor is making no judgement about this particular historical information.....just use your own judgement and knowledge of our Templar history before accepting anything on Social Media at face value. Enjoy watching this one!



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A Medieval monk recording contemporaneous Templar history

Several of our Knights have already taken, and passed with Distinction, a correspondence course on Knights Templar history, much to their own credit and that of our Province. This newly released video course is, perhaps a gentler way to study Templar History and makes the ideal Christmas present for the Knight who 'has everything'. Tell your loved ones about it and the chap in the Red Suit might well oblige!

The True Meaning of Christmas



By E Kt Paul Christodoulou
Provincial Prelate



In our secular age it can be very difficult to discover the true meaning of Christmas. At this time of year, we see decorated trees, mistletoe, presents, Santa and reindeer everywhere. We send and receive Christmas cards. We sing “Chestnuts roasting on an open fire”. We watch Christmas films on the TV. But what does all that have to do with Christmas? To be honest, absolutely nothing!

Have you ever stripped away all the cultural trappings and traditions related to Christmas to see what the true meaning is all about? As Christians we know that God sent his Son into the World. Everywhere we turn in the Gospel of St John, we read about the Father sending the Son. The real question we need to ask to understand the true meaning of Christmas is “why did the Father send the Son into the world”? “Why did Jesus come”?

One of the most remarkable stories of Christmas comes from one of the darkest moments of modern history. World War One ravaged a continent, leaving destruction and debris in its wake. The human cost, well in the millions, staggers us. But from the midst of this dark conflict comes the story of the Christmas Truce of 1914. The western front, only a few months into the war was a deplorable scene of devastation. Perhaps as if to give the combatants one day to breathe again, a truce was called from Christmas Eve to Christmas Day.

As darkness settled over the front like a blanket, the sound of exploding shells and the rat-tat-tat of machine guns faded, faint carols in French or English from one side and in German voices from the other, rose to fill the silence of the night.

By morning, soldiers, at first hesitantly, began filing out of the maze of trenches into the dreaded and parched soil of No-Man’s-Land. There was more singing. Gifts of rations and cigarettes were exchanged. Family photos were passed around. Soccer balls appeared. Up and down the Western Front soldiers, who only hours before had been locked in deadly combat, now faced-off in soccer games.

For one brief but entirely remarkable day, there was peace on earth. Some have called the Christmas Truce of 1914 “the Miracle of the Western front”

Anxious to print some good news, The Times of London reported on the events of the Christmas Truce. Soldiers recorded the day in letters home and in diaries. Some of those lines made it to newspapers, while others remained unknown until later brought to light. Here’s one such line from the diary of a German Infantryman:

“The English brought a football from the trenches, and pretty soon a lively game ensued. How marvellously wonderful, yet how strange it was. The English Officers felt the same way about it. Thus Christmas, the celebration of Love, managed to bring mortal enemies together as friends for a time”



Fritz and Tommy in
friendly
sportsmanship
on Christmas Day 1914



“Friends for a time”, “the celebration of Love”, “peace on earth” – this is the meaning of Christmas. But these celebrations, these truces, don’t last, After Christmas Day the footballs and the soldiers went back into the trenches. The Christmas Carols subsided and the war carried on. And even though World War 1 eventually ended, a few decades later, Europe’s countryside and cities became the field of battle once again as did Africa and the Pacific in World War 2.

Events like the Christmas Truce are worth celebrating. But they lack something. They lack permanence. Such impermanent peace is what we often find in our quest for the real meaning of Christmas. If we are looking for permanent and ultimate goodwill, love, and peace, we must look beyond our gift-giving, get-togethers, and parties. We must look to no other place than to a manger.

We must look to a baby born not with fanfare, pomp, and circumstance, but to poor parents in desperate times. Joseph and Mary, and the Baby Jesus for that matter, were real historical figures. But in a way, Joseph and Mary extend beyond themselves, beyond their particular place and time. They represent all of us. We are all poor and living in desperate times, especially during this year in some respect, at war with Coronavirus. So many have died, so many are, or remain very poorly. The impacts on employment and the economy overall, the restrictions we have had to accept, the inability to meet our families, our friends, and our fellow Knights. Some of us are better than others at camouflaging it. Nevertheless, we are all poor and desperate, so we all need the promise bound up in that baby.

We are in need of a way out of our poverty of soul and the desperate state of our human condition. We find it in this child lying in a manger, who was and is Jesus Christ, the long-promised Messiah, Redeemer, and King.

The birth of Jesus so many centuries ago might have been a slightly-out-of-the-ordinary birth. Even in ancient times, stalls didn't typically double as birthing rooms, and mangers didn't typically double as cribs for new-born babies. And that new-born baby was very much out of the ordinary. Of course, in some respects, He was perfectly ordinary. He was a human being, a baby. He got hungry. He got thirsty. He got tired. When He was born, He was wrapped in swaddling clothes.

An infant. Helpless, hungry, cold, and tired.

Yet, this child was the Son of God incarnate. He was Immanuel, which translated means "God with us." According to the Apostle Paul's account, this infant created all things. This infant created His own manger. And this infant, this King, the Son that The Father sent to us, brings peace on earth. Ultimate and permanent peace.



I send you all my love, my prayers and my hope that you, your families and friends will all have a very Merry Christmas, and a peaceful and prosperous New Year. A New Year that we hope and pray, that we can meet together again, in friendship and in the bonds of the Order.

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” Luke 2:14

E.Kt. Paul Christodoulou
Provincial Prelate

Templar Captivity at Newark

From an Article by E.Kt Adrian Crampton of Pilgrim Preceptory Nottinghamshire; originally printed in Freemasonry Today



At the west gate to Newark-on-Trent stands the 12th Century remains of a castle built on an earlier Saxon settlement by Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln. As his primary residence it was a testament to his wealth and power. This stately edifice had remained intact until the mid-seventeenth century when, following the end of the civil war and after managing to survive three sieges, Parliament ordered it made indefensible and much was dismantled.

Due to its central location in the country as well as its splendour, Newark castle has welcomed many prestigious visitors throughout history amongst who, most notably, was King John, who rested there the night before his death, having eaten poisoned fish during his journey the previous day. The castle was a prominent building in the area and also served as a judicial hub. To this end, four dungeons were sunk beneath its flagstones. Of the two beneath the north-west tower, one is of a beehive shape, the other a square design and are known locally as oubliettes, a name derived from the French word 'to forget'. From a bolted trap door high in the dungeon prisoners were lowered by rope, or thrown, into the cell below, probably injured in the process, naked and forgotten, relying on the charity of friends to bring them food. Considering injury, hunger, disease and extreme unsanitary conditions life expectancy was little more than 5 weeks.

And it was here that following the Papal Bull of 1307 which ordered the arrest of all Knights Templar under accusations of various heresies and the seizure

of their properties on behalf of the Church that the local Knights Templar were incarcerated for up to three years awaiting trial at Lincoln for heresy. Some of those held at Lincoln were kept in the Chapter House of the Cathedral, which ironically is used today for Masonic Templar ceremonies.

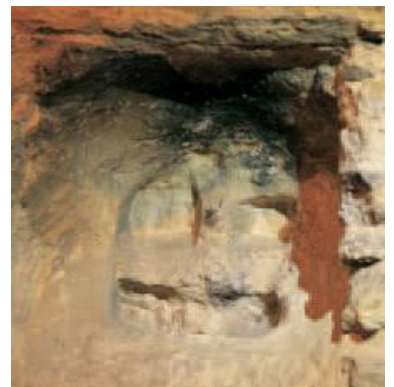
The Knights Templar,

The Knights of the Order of the Temple a monastic Order of warrior monks, had been established in Jerusalem around 1119, their core purpose being to offer protection to pilgrims travelling in the Holy Land. The Order increased its wealth over time in part due to their members having taken an oath of poverty and often donating their property on admission, and also through successful banking systems. Their membership and influence increased throughout Christendom and after their expulsion from the Holy Land, along with all other crusaders, following the fall of Acre in 1291, this formidable and independent army became a cause for concern especially to the King of France, who had taken substantial loans to fund his ongoing territorial campaigns against England and envied their financial resources. On 13 October 1307 all the Templars in France were arrested and imprisoned and their property seized. Philip was supported reluctantly by the newly elected pope, Clement V, who had been Philip's candidate for that office.

The Templars were tortured to extract confessions and over sixty died as a result. Despite the harsh imprisonment, resistance to these charges continued. By March 1310 a total of 597 Templars had come to the Order's defence but this resistance was broken when in May that year, on the orders of the Archbishop of Sens, fifty-four Templars were summarily taken from their cells and burned to death outside Paris.



The ruins of Newark Castle



One of the alcoves containing an embossed cross in one of the northwest tower dungeons. Candle soot is still visible at the top

The Order of the Temple was abolished by Papal Decree on March 22, 1312.



Carved cross, heart and roundel in a second dungeon in the northwest tower

The English Arrests;

The last Grand Master and the Preceptor of Normandy were burned to death in Paris, 11 March 1314. The English Arrests In England, the Papal Bull was initially disregarded by Edward II who refused to countenance the accusations, but after pressure from the Pope and also his father-in-law, the king of France, coupled with evidence of confessions writs were issued to arrest all members of the Order in Great Britain and to make inventories of their goods. The English Templars were taken primarily to the central castle of the county and when full, to outlying strongholds, awaiting trials to be heard in London, Lincoln and York. However, in contrast to

the conditions of contemporary residents in the dungeons, their imprisonment was far from strict. William de la More, Grand Preceptor of England, based at nearby Temple Breuer and two of his Brother Knights, were given 'beds, robes and silver vessels, and allowed to go outside the city at will without a guard'.

Moreover, while the King, Edward II, held the Templar lands, each Knight was given a daily subsistence of six pence to be paid from its income, with de la More receiving an additional two shillings due to his rank. It is worthy of note from the carvings at Newark that the Templars were allowed tools with which to carve, and candles to light their cells. When word of this leniency reached the Pope instructions were sent to Edward to guard the prisoners more securely and to include the use of torture to extract a confession. Initially refusing as under the English judiciary system the use of torture was banned.



In a passage to the dungeons in the northwest tower are two incised ships and a name carved at a later date

Edward eventually issued permission for the same to be employed provided that **'this should not involve mutilation, perpetual disablement of any member, or effusion of blood'**. In June 1311, Knight Stephen de Stapelbrigg of London was taken to the Tower to be interrogated under torture and confessed all that was required of him. Following this capitulation other Templars in the Southern region were offered clemency on confession and were happily received back into the Church. In Lincoln and York the courts dealt more leniently with the Templars and torture was not employed and, 'being repeatedly exhorted that they should leave the Order, answering that they would rather die', were absolved of their sins on confession and sent to do penance in various monasteries or to join the Order of St John to whom, in time, the Templar lands were given; none of the British Knights were put to death.

A visit to the dungeons;

It was on a cold wet November morning that Newark Castle Ranger and archaeologist, Rene Mouraille, kindly conducted a tour around the castle: three of its four dungeons carry carvings which are considered to be Templar. The smallest is in the south-west tower lit by one narrow window which carries various carvings including an eagle, crosses and a rotunda, generally similar to those found in Chinon Castle, France, where Templars were also imprisoned.

The second is a bottle shaped dungeon in the north-west tower. About its circumference are small carved cubic recesses, each containing an embossed red cross on its innermost face. These were used to support candles; traces of soot are still evident 800 years on.

The third dungeon, also in the northwest tower, measures fourteen by eleven feet and is just over twelve feet deep. It is thought that this housed a prominent Templar since it contains a carved relief of a calvary cross, a heart and a roundel in its eastern wall.

When the castle became disused after the civil war this dungeon became a meat store and was at some point brick lined. Interestingly, the only bricks since removed are exactly over the Templar relief, suggesting that someone knew of its existence.

Rene Mouraille conducts tours by appointment which can be arranged through the Gilstrap Centre, Newark, on 01636 655 765. For more information please visit <http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk>

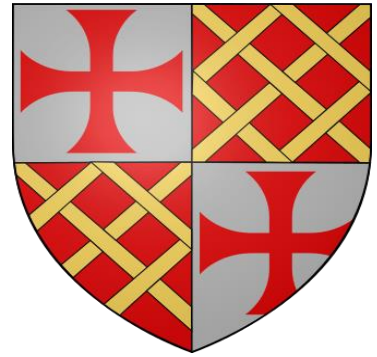


The bottle-shaped dungeon

The thirteenth Grand Master

Phillippe de Plessis

1165-1209



The Arms of Plessis-Mace

Phillippe du Plessis (1165 – 12 November 1209) a contemporary of Simon de Montfort, was the 13th Grand Master of the Knights Templar. He is known to have been born in the fortress of Plessis-Macé Anjou (in modern France) although the exact date is not recorded. Anjou, being part of the Angevin Imperial lands was often in conflict with neighbours and training as a knight was expected of anyone who was born into even the most minor of noble families.

In 1189 he joined the Third Crusade as a simple knight following in the steps of his overlord Richard of Anjou (later called the Lionheart)

Whilst on crusade he discovered the Order of the Temple in the Holy land.. After the death of Gilbert de Horal in 1200, he became Grand Master of the Order. He helped uphold the treaty between Richard the Lionheart and Salah-al-Din (Saladin).

In the renewal of this treaty in 1208 he suggested that the Teutonic Order of German Knights and the Hospitallers should make a new peace treaty offer with Malek-Al-Din

Malek-Al-Din was the brother of Saladin and known to the Templars as Saphadin and was the fourth Sultan of Egypt and Syria

The newly suggested accord was criticised by Pope Innocent III as being unduly lenient towards the Infidel.

There were few military actions during Phillippe's rule; he applied himself more to negotiating peace and building up the influence and fortunes of the Templars in Europe.

The Fourth Crusade never arrived in the Holy Land. The King of Armenia was in opposition to the Knights Templar over control of the Gastein stronghold. Because of the dispute, the Templars were initially expelled from Armenia, but the pope intervened in the dispute and had them restored to their former holdings in that country.

Despite Phillippe's attempts at fostering co-operation with other Orders, relations with the Hospitallers especially were tense.

However, despite these setbacks, during his rule the Templar Order reached its greatest height in Europe.

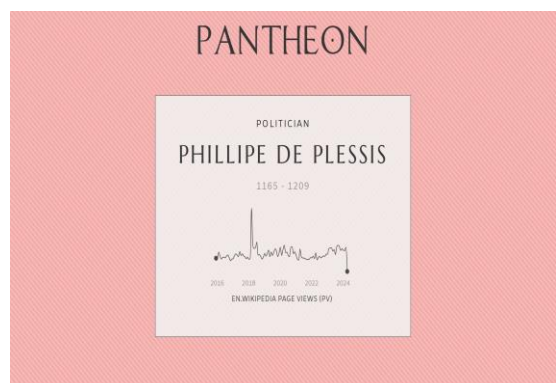
Phillippe's name is last documented on the 12th November 1209 and historians have taken this as his date of death.



An internal view of part of the updated remains of the chateau de Plessis-Macé



The character 'De Plessis' from the 'Assassins Creed'



Purporting to be a biography of Phillippe, this very small volume is really just a list of dates of his life and what happened to other famous figures at that time.

In Praise of the new Knighthood

This time the Rule deals with the thorny issue of the temptation caused by women and how the knights were advised to avoid the wiles of this devilish temptation.

Read, mark, learn and inwardly digest.....for the health of your immortal soul!



HERE CONTINUETH THE RULE OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE POOR KNIGHTS OF THE HOLY CITY

On Married Brothers

69. If married men ask to be admitted to the Fraternity, benefice and devotions of the house, we permit you to receive them on the following conditions: that after their death they leave you a part of their estate and all that they have obtained henceforth. Meanwhile, they should lead honest lives and endeavour to act well towards the brothers. But they should not wear white habits or cloaks; moreover, if the lord should die before his lady, the brothers should take part of his estate and let the lady have the rest to support her during her lifetime; for it does not seem right to us that such *confrères* should live in a house with brothers who have promised chastity to God.

On Sisters

70. ***The company of women is a dangerous thing, for by it the old devil has led many from the straight path to Paradise.*** Henceforth, let not ladies be admitted as sisters into the house of the Temple; that is why, very dear Brothers, henceforth it is not fitting to follow this custom, that the flower of chastity is always maintained among you.

Let Them Not Have Familiarity with Women

71. We believe it to be ***a dangerous thing for any religious to look too much upon the face of woman.*** For this reason none of you may presume to kiss a woman, be it widow, young girl, mother, sister, aunt or any other; and henceforth the Knighthood of Jesus Christ ***should avoid at all costs the embraces of women,*** by which men have perished many times, so that they may remain eternally before the face of God with a pure conscience and sure life.

Not Being Godfathers

72. We forbid all brothers henceforth to dare to raise children over the font and none should be ashamed to refuse to be godfathers or godmothers; this shame brings more glory than sin!

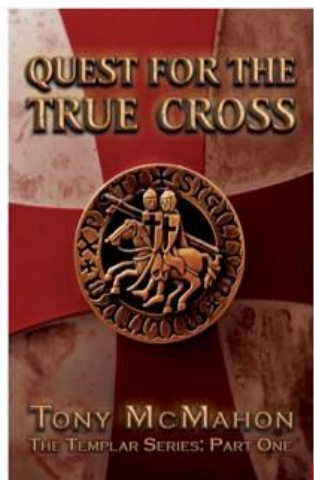


Michael Palin, as a Templar Knight, strays from the sacred rule of the Order!



Bohemond's Book

A Grail Quest Book for our Christmas edition as the Indiana Jones film is bound to be on TV over the holiday! Tony McMahon, not to be confused with Terry McMahon quoted earlier in this edition, is a well-known historical author and has crafted a rollicking good story for your entertainment!



The horrors of the Crusades have left their mark on Templar William de Mandeville, but in returning home to England he only encounters more woe when he finds his father and older brother have blackened the family name.

Determined to set things right, William saves a peasant boy from his sadistic brother's clutches and flees to Portugal. From here he plans to once again fight alongside his Christian brothers in the hopes of retrieving the holy cross of Christ, which the Saracens have stolen. Surely, such an act will restore his good name. But can he overcome his past failings as a warrior and survive long enough to find the sacred relic amid the burning city of Al-Usbuna? *Quest for the True Cross* plunges headlong into the religious and political pandemonium of the twelfth-century, cleverly depicting both sides of the Crusades in a way that doesn't set one above the other.



"Non Nobis Domine"

The Knights Templar Newsletter
for the Province of West Yorkshire



Don't forget The Christmas Toast & Observance;

Our Provincial Prelate, E Kt Paul Christodoulou extends a warm and heartfelt invitation to join him, the Provincial Prior and many Brother Knights in a brief *Zoom* Observance & Toast at 5pm on Christmas Day.

It is simple to join, just follow the link on page 3 to join your brother knights and be magically transported to Festive Fellowship with all those knights that you know so well around the Province.

[Christmas Joy!](#)



The Editorial Team is always on the lookout for material to be included in our Newsletter – so if you have any news about your Preceptory or articles that we may use then please let the Editor know. The Newsletter is produced by the Prior's Council Membership Working Group.

And, once more, Brother Knights, our toast is:

"To all Knights Templar wheresoever dispersed over the face of earth or water"

E Kt Paul Eustace
Editor