



# the Surrey knight



Issue 21 JULY 2026

## Provincial Priory of Surrey Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Priory of Surrey was held on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 2026 at the Croydon Masonic Centre in Oakfield Road, Croydon. E.Kt. Brian and the team did a sterling job of ensuring everyone could get in the car park.



The Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Graham McGlashen, his Deputies, and the team were busy rehearsing in the Temple while the rest of us were enjoying coffee and bacon butties downstairs.











By 10.45 we were all gathered in the Temple. The Brother Knights were called to Order by the Provincial Marshal to receive the Provincial Prelate, E.Kt. Chris Cradock. He was preceded by the Provincial Cross Bearer and accompanied by the Provincial Almoner, E.Kt. John Coleman. Then followed the Delegation of Knights of Malta.





R.E Knights and other Distinguished Guests, then entered the Temple in procession. The Provincial Prior entered the Temple preceded by the Provincial Sword Bearer and followed by the Provincial Banner Bearer.



Provincial Priory was opened in due form, and the Provincial Prior was saluted with seven under direction of the Provincial Marshal. R.E.Kt. Patrick responded accordingly

The Provincial Prior called on the Provincial Vice-Chancellor to read the names of the Brother Knights of the Provincial Priory who had passed to the Holy City during the past twelve months.

The Provincial Prelate delivered a requiem on behalf of those called to higher service, which was followed by a period of silent reflection and prayer in their memory.

The Provincial Prior thanked everybody for attending the meeting and extended a special welcome to our honoured guests from other Provinces, as well as heads of other Surrey Orders.



The Provincial Prior called on the Provincial Registrar to call the roll of Preceptories. Under the direction of the Provincial Marshal the Banner Bearers formed in procession with their respective banners. Banners were paraded and as each was raised in the East and the Preceptory name announced the members of that Preceptory stood. The Provincial Registrar noted that all Preceptories were well represented. The Banner Bearers returned their banners and resumed their seats.

After the regular business of Provincial Priory had been concluded, the Provincial Prior presented several donations from the Provincial Charity Account: St John Eye Hospital, £1,000; Cherry Trees, £300; and Woking Strokeability, £200





The Provincial Prior thanked E.Kt. Dr Miguel Godfrey for his support as Provincial Sub Prior over the past year and said he had much pleasure in re-appointing him as Provincial Sub Prior, He was then Proclaimed and saluted with five. E.Kt. Miguel responded accordingly.

The Provincial Prior then appointed and invested his Provincial Officers, following which he re-appointed E.Kt. David Olliver as Commander, E.Kts. Mark Carter as Deputy Commander, and Stephen Barney as Registrar of his Bodyguard. He thanked the members of the Bodyguard for supporting him on his Official Visits.



E.Kt. Steve Jones, Provincial Warden of Regalia, presented the Provincial Prior with a donation towards the Provincial Benevolent Fund from the sale of new and pre-loved regalia over the past year.

The Provincial Prior addressed Provincial Priory. In his Address he greeted all those attending with warmth and a hearty welcome and said how pleased he was to see so many Brother Knights, and guests from other Provinces and Orders attending.

He spoke about the need to look after others, both within and without our Order, as one of the Precepts of our Order.

He congratulated all those Knights he had appointed or promoted this day wishing them a happy year to enjoy their honour.

R.E. Knight Pat ended by thanking all those who worked so hard and contributed to the success of the meeting.





He then asked the Provincial Marshal to escort E.Kt. Steve Jones to him.

He said he had much pleasure in presenting E.Kt. Steve with a Certificate of Recognition for the outstanding and Dedicated service to the Masonic Orders of the Knights Templar and Knights of Malta within the Provincial Priory of Surrey

Provincial Priory was closed in due form and the R.E. Provincial Prior retired in procession, accompanied by the Provincial Sub-Prior, Officers of Great Priory, guests of the Province, and the Provincial Officers of the year, greeting his Honoured Guests as they retired from the Temple.



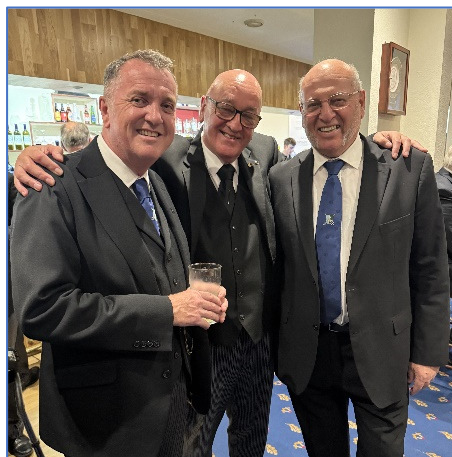
A big thank you to our good friend R.E.Kt. Trevor Gulliver, KCT, Past Provincial Prior for Hampshire and Isle of Wight for once again planning the Organ for us.







We then retired to the bar where we were joined by Nick Burger, the Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent of the Craft and Royal Arch Provinces of Surrey.







We then went into the dining room to enjoy a lovely meal together with our guests.



During the meal our Provincial Prior went round the tables greeting our Brother Knights and our guests.





After the meal our Provincial Prior was pleased to make a donation to R.W.Bro. Nick Burger, Provincials Grand Master/Grand Superintendent of the Craft/Royal Arch Province of Surrey, towards his 2030 MCF Festival. This was gratefully received. Also, a big thank you to Gary Billington of the Croydon and District Masonic Hall, as well as Mandy and the team for looking after us so well.



We all agreed that it was a very successful and most enjoyable day.





# Provincial Prior's Address to Provincial Priory

**Brother Knights, it is my pleasure to have this opportunity to address you as your Provincial Prior.**

A few days ago I received a call from a Corporal Jones, a member of the Dad's Army Preceptory, requesting that I model my address to you on the famous 'Gettysburg Address'. Historians amongst you will know that the 'Gettysburg Address' is assumed to have been a lengthy monologue which took a long time to deliver. In reality, the address lasted 3 minutes and contained 275 words. Sadly, I had to respond to the request, advising Corporal Jones that my Address would last approximately 30 minutes and contain 2750 words. Naturally Corporal Jones was very disappointed at my response. How am I doing Jonesey? too short/too long?



On a more serious note, occasionally a new Knight of the Province may pose a question about the purpose of the Provincial Meeting? Aside from locking him up for asking such a question, it is important to respond with positive comments that stand up to scrutiny.

I believe the Provincial Meeting is essential for the following reasons:

- it is an opportunity as knight templars to gather under our provincial banner.
- preceptories respond to the roll call and parade their banner, raising it in the east and members proclaiming their presence.
- to support brother knights who are to be appointed or promoted.
- to meet other knights of the province.
- an opportunity to inform brother knights of events and progress in developing the order in the previous year.
- setting out opportunities and challenges for the future.
- extending a warm and knightly welcome to visitors to the province.
- lastly, to demonstrate support to the Provincial Prior and leaders in the Province.

Allow me to share and update you on some facts and figures pertaining to the Province:

- there are 17 preceptories in the Province.
- We have 273 members. A total of 353 (dual membership).

Some Preceptories are strong in numbers. why? Several are very vulnerable in numbers. why? Commentators will offer reasons for what may appear to be a paradox but, if we are to encourage and retain membership a more radical approach has to be adopted. Following lengthy discussions with members of the Executive and senior members of the order, I initiated a project known as the three R's. Recruitment – retention – resignation, of Knights in the Province.

The project is being led by the Provincial Sub- Prior, assisted by a team comprising, a knight from each preceptory. The project team meets monthly with the 3R group of preceptory development officers to share good practices in recruitment; develop creative ideas for attracting members; produce monthly reports to track progress; update and refresh promotional material. They are working with each preceptory to build local recruitment momentum. In addition to this challenge the 3R group have organised a BBQ to be held on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> of July. Posters are displayed on all doors around the centre featuring, a QR code that links you to the booking page. Or just let somebody know you are coming along. There is no entry fee, free beer, free food, free soft drinks. There will be stalls, face painting, free raffle, and the Provincial Prior in the stocks!

Provincial Sub-Prior, thank you for the energy and commitment you have given to leading the project. We are already seeing signs of improvement in all areas appertaining to the 3R's. A special 'thank you' to Kt Bill Clayton and the team for the BBQ.

Sadly, we have lost a number of knights during the past year and to them we paid tribute today. I must pay tribute to the members of my Bodyguard who have supported me magnificently during my visits around the Province. Not only have they performed those duties, but they have assisted Preceptories by performing a role in an office, at short notice. Trust me Brother Knights, standards I expect from the Bodyguard is of the highest order. For commitment to their rehearsals, deportment, conduct, I congratulate them. To the Commander, Deputy Commander, Registrar, Bursar, and all the members of the Bodyguard, I offer a simple but sincere, 'thank you', for all the support you give me.

I offer my thanks and congratulations to the team who organised all the detailed aspects and planning for today. To my Vice-Chancellor, thank you all that you do and especially in dealing with the abstract challenges I present to you from time to time. well, maybe all the time. I would like to thank the Provincial Marshal for taking time out to visit the headquarters of the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards to receive refresher training in your role as Marshal. I have written a letter of thanks to the Commanding Officer. Seriously, thank you for your commitment, time and energy in the role, and to your Deputies I offer the same tribute.

Brother knights, in many ways, the ceremonies we participate remind us of our Christian faith. It is an obvious statement to make; it is most important we endeavour to understand and interpret the ritual in a modest and learning environment. We must endeavour to learn the ritual and communicate the important aspects to candidates. In the absence of a candidate, it is easy to replace a ceremony with a 'talk', which may be very interesting but if it becomes common practise, we will simply dilute the ceremonies through lack of knowledge. My plea to you is to consider a rehearsal instead of a talk. Rehearsals do not need to be perfect but, in a situation where there is a candidate, 'knowledge is power' and that power can be transmitted to the candidate during the ceremony.

Brother Knights, take care of your health, look after your family, enjoy the summer, try and do good deeds whenever you can, and enjoy the membership of your Preceptory and the Province of Surrey. Please allow me to finish by saying how honoured I am to be your Provincial Prior. May God bless you all and your families. You are all good people who do good things

***R.E.Knight Patrick P Crossan, KCT, Provincial Prior.***

***11 July 2026***