



The Healing, Teaching and Chivalric Order of St. Raphael



www.orderofstaphael.org.uk

Newsletter - Summer 2012

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A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER

I recently came across this remarkable picture of our patron Saint Raphael, whose name means "God heals." He is the third of the four archangels and in the apocryphal Book of Enoch he is said to cure the blind and to have healed the earth when it was defiled by the sins of the fallen angels.



As well as being the patron saint of the blind he is also the patron saint of happy meetings and therefore must have been greatly in evidence at our Annual Investiture last January when I was delighted to feel the warmth of the friendship and commitment to the Order, as well as welcoming some new members. I am particularly pleased to see the progress of the proposed Conclave in Scotland, as this will not only be a worthy addition to our Order but will mean that we shall have a strong link back to the Teutonic Knights who were our forebears.

This year has, of course, been characterised by a gloomy economic situation but this has to a great extent been temporarily offset by the Jubilee celebrations, which are valuable to us because they enable us to show our appreciation of the tireless work of our Sovereign and give us a

sense of continuity. In like manner I believe that one of the great virtues of our Order is the continuity of that spirit which Orders such as ours teach of contributing to the community rather than simply living for ourselves.

St. Raphael is, of course, also the patron saint of travellers and one of the highlights of the year for me was going to the cathedral at Amalfi and seeing the tomb of St. Andrew which is in the Crypt, still being venerated by a steady stream of faithful visitors. It dates from the time when it was one of the first of the Italian maritime republics and was described “as the most prosperous Lombard city, the most noble, and the most illustrious for its conditions, the most wealthy and opulent. The territory of Amalfi borders that of Naples; a beautiful city, but less important than Amalfi.” They had to have a really well-known patron saint to match and therefore transported the remains of St. Andrew to grace their city. This is fairly similar to the origins of the Order of Saint Mark, originally awarded to those knights who stole the body of that saint to adorn the new Cathedral of San Marco in Venice.

Finally, I look forward to meeting you all again for our next happy meeting on Saturday January 19th next year. In the meantime, as St. Raphael’s Feast Day is celebrated on September 29th, let us join together at 5.00 pm on that day and drink a toast to his memory and to our Order.

+Howard

M.E. The Chevalier Howard F Doe, GCSR, GCSM,
Baron St Raphael, Grand Master

GRAND CHANCELLOR’S REPORT 2012

The Annual Investiture this year, held at Peterborough on 28th January was again a great success. The meeting started with a few minutes silence in memory of Chevalier Ian Burnett, Grand Almoner, who had recently passed away.

At this investiture the Grand Master promoted the Rt. Rev’d. Geoffrey Robinson to Senior Chaplain and then proceeded to install him as the new Grand Prior of the Order; Chevalier Clive Warham was appointed to succeed Geoffrey as Grand Director of Music.

The investiture this year took on a very international flavour, we had 4 candidates. Elaine McLellan from Tarland, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, was made a Dame of the Order; Grahame John Smith from Stirling, Scotland and Paul Michael Boxall from London were both made Knights of the Order. In addition, a very rare event took place; Professor Hugh Robertson from New Orleans, USA., who is a physician and professor of radiology, was made a Knight of the Order, *in absentia*. This rare event was sanctioned by the Grand Master because Professor Robertson is a member of the Ordo Militaris Teutonicus, our mother Order.. His certificate was presented to Chevalier Dr. David Starritt, formerly H.E. The Surgeon Commander of the Ordo Militaris Teutonicus who was to meet Professor Robertson in America later in the year.

After the investiture of our 4 new members, Chevalier Alan Blackstone was promoted to Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Raphael (GCSR).

Outstanding certificates from previous investitures were presented as follows:-

Dr. David Starritt – Knight Commander St. Raphael (KCSR)

Rt. Rev'd. Geoffrey Robinson – Commander Order of St. Mark (CSM)

Dame Pamela Robinson – Commander Order of St. Mark (CSM)

Unfortunately this year, the conclave of St. William of Rochester has ceased to operate but the good news is that the proposed new conclave for Putney, London is well on the way to being formed under the experienced guidance of Chevalier Norman Offield and also the new conclave in Aberdeenshire, Scotland led by Chevalier Dr. David Starritt, to be called 'Lion Rampant Conclave', is also proceeding.

During the year I received a communication from Dame Helen Neaves-Wilde who has kindly offered to take on the job of Grand Almoner to replace Chevalier Ian Burnett. I am very grateful to Helen and needless to say her kind offer has been accepted.

Following the resignation of Chevalier Charles Holloway earlier in the year, the Grand Council agreed that Chevalier Leslie Grout should take Charles' place as Grand Sword Bearer.

I am pleased to report that the Order is in good health with the St. Martin at Sées Conclave meeting regularly under the leadership of Chevalier David Haywood.

We already have 4 more candidates waiting to join our ranks and hopefully they will be invested at our next annual investiture at Peterborough on Saturday, 19th January 2013.

R.E. Chevalier Barry Uttley, GCSR, GCSM,
Grand Chancellor
Deputy Grand Master Order of St. Mark

'GO AND DO LIKEWISE'

By Bishop Geoffrey, Prior

I have always thought of myself as being a fairly observant sort of person. So it was the other day, as I was strolling along in Southport that I noticed some newly installed stainless-steel benches around the various ponds and fountains in the vicinity of Lord Street. Modern design, modern material and functional, but do they complement what is essentially a Victorian sea-side town in West Lancashire.



Well, I suppose the result of a survey would reveal that some people would like them, whilst others would prefer the more traditional variety, which still exist alongside their modern counterparts.

With such thoughts going through my head, I stopped to read one or two small plaques fixed to the back rests of the seats which read: 'Given by the Family of John Smith 1924-2000. Much loved husband, father and grandfather'. Another read: 'Given to Sefton Council in 1984 for the use of Southport residents and visitors by Faith, Hope and Charity Limited, Solicitors.'

But it was then that I saw it! - A small plaque lettered in cream stating: 'We are here to care – Telephone the Samaritans on 626424'. The plaque

was identical to all the others, but for some reason, the simplicity of that statement 'We are here to care', jumped out and made me take notice. Then I began to wonder just how many homeless and desperate folk have been encouraged to ring for help of one kind or another.

I'm sure that most, if not all members of our Order will know the story of the Good Samaritan in St. Luke's Gospel. I love the opening words: 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of brigands'. What a lovely phrase that is, describing thieves and robbers as 'brigands'. Yet, they were exactly that - more than simply thieves and robbers, for they beat the traveller and left him half-dead.



Jesus, as always, knew the mischief which was in the heart of the lawyer in the story when he asked the question: 'What must I do to inherit eternal life?' As we know, both a priest and Levite turned their backs and passed by on the other side of the road. It took a Samaritan, a foreigner to spring into action and offer the help which was so badly needed.

Perhaps you and I will never encounter anyone laying half-dead at the side of the road; but that does not mean that we are 'off the hook'. We only have to open our eyes and look around to see people in need; and when we do, will we act like the priest and Levite or the Samaritan? It was Jesus who asked the lawyer the question: 'Which of these three do you think proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the Brigand's hands?' We all know the answer to that question was of course the Samaritan who took pity that day.

Well, for those of us who try to uphold the chivalric principles of the healing and teaching Order of St Raphael; Jesus' message is as clear as that inscription written on the bench plaque in Southport.

Without question, we should 'Go and do likewise!'



SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2012 are now due, and you should have received communication from the Grand Treasurer requesting your co-operation in changing your payment to bank standing order.

Standing orders are an excellent way of keeping the Order's affairs in good standing, for there is no need to chase members for outstanding payments. With a standing order, no personal information is given to the payee, and the member remains in full control of the payment with his bank.

The annual subscription for members is £20, this amount having been agreed in 2008. £12 of this goes towards the running costs of the Conclave/Order, with £8 being a donation towards the Order's nominated charity, which is currently Whizz-Kidz.

There are a number of Life members of the Order, who made a one-off payment to the Order when it was being set up, to enable the purchase of various items of equipment for which we had no funds. Such members will continue to enjoy the benefits of full membership of the Order in return for their payment, but of course they will not be making the charitable donation that other members now make. We are therefore asking all Life Members to consider setting up a standing order of £8 per annum for this purpose. This will not be enforced, but your co-operation would be most appreciated.

ANNUAL INVESTITURE AT PETERBOROUGH

Much of the detail has already been covered in the Grand Chancellor's report.

The Grand Master and all those who attended were delighted to once again receive our honoured guest, Ashley Westpfel, Regional Fundraising Manager for Whizz-Kidz, which is the charitable focus for the Order. During the dinner, the Grand Herald also spoke to members about the website and newsletter, and gave out business cards and brochures to help publicise the Order.

If you were unable to attend the AGM and would like to make a donation to Whizz-Kidz, you can contact Ashley on 0207 798 6138, or mobile number 07788 554906, or email him: a.westpfel@whizz-kidz.org.uk If you are a taxpayer, do please Gift-Aid your donation.

Following the splendid luncheon, The Grand Master opened the Grand Council meeting. Items discussed were as follows:

Apologies were received from Chevaliers Simon McIlwaine and Howard Beber, and Bishop Gerard Crane.

Appointment of Grand Prior

During the Investiture Ceremony, the Grand Master had been delighted to appoint the Rt Rev'd Geoffrey Robinson, previously Grand Director of Music, as Grand Prior, and to promote him to Senior Chaplain. Chevalier Clive Warham was appointed to succeed Geoffrey as Grand Director of Music.

Future Financial Arrangements

The Grand Master announced that Chevalier Geoffrey Berry had been appointed as Grand Treasurer last year, but for personal and banking reasons there had been delays in transferring the bank account and in settling outstanding creditors. The Grand Treasurer gave assurances that these problems had now been resolved, and he produced accounts for the Order for six months to the end of December. It was also confirmed that standing order mandates would be issued to all members to pay their 2012 oblations.

Regalia Supplies

The Grand Custodian of Insignia expressed concern that some members were obtaining insignia from outside suppliers, and it was agreed by the meeting that ALL Insignia for the Order must in future be purchased only from the Grand Custodian.

St William of Rochester Conclave

The Grand Master expressed his concern that this Conclave had not been meeting as regularly as he had hoped, and that it was likely to be closed.

Consecration of a new Conclave in West London

The Grand Master stated that no further progress had yet been made with this new Conclave, which is proposed to be centred on Putney. The Grand Master would take the matter up again with Chevalier Richard Thomas, and if no progress could be made within six months he would ask Chevalier Norman Offield to take charge of setting it up.

New Conclave for Scotland

Chevalier Dr David Starritt had sought permission to form a new Conclave for Scotland, to be known as the Lion Rampant Conclave. The Grand Master has agreed to this, and it is likely that the new Conclave will be consecrated in the next one to two years.

Proposed expansion of the Order in the USA

The Grand Chancellor had received proposals to form a Conclave in the USA. However, the Grand Master said that the Order had no plans to make such a move, where we would have little control of who was invested, and that a suitable response be sent.

Any other business

- The Grand Steward expressed concern that many members failed to respond to the invitation to the Annual Investiture, whilst others left replies to the last minute. We have already made a ruling that meals will not be reserved unless prior payment is received, and all members are urged to respond promptly to invitations.
- It was agreed that any member failing to pay subscriptions for two consecutive years would cease to be an Active member of the Order and would be removed from the mailing list.
- Following the resignation of Chevalier Charles Holloway, it was agreed that Chevalier Leslie Grout would be appointed as Sword Bearer
- It was later confirmed that the next meeting will be held on Saturday 19th January 2013

The Grand Master closed the Grand Council Meeting at 4.00pm.

Photographs of the event can be viewed in the Gallery on the website.

ST MARTIN AT SÉES INVESTITURE AT WILLASTON

It was with great pleasure that the Conclave was able to host its first local Investiture Service for many years on Saturday 30th July 2011 at Willaston, Cheshire, when the Grand Master was in attendance.

The service of Investiture was held at Christ Church, Willaston, in the presence of 24 members and guests. Two new members were invested into the Order, Chevalier Brian Keane, as KSR, and Dame Mary Dalton, as DSR.



Following the service, we had luncheon at the nearby Wheatsheaf Hotel, following drinks in the sunshine in the wonderful beer garden. After the meal, it was revealed that overnight the War Memorial outside the church had been vandalised, and the brass plaques stolen.



Following discussions between the Commander and Grand Master, it was agreed that the Conclave and the Order would contribute £150 towards the repairs, much to the delight of the vicar.

Also following the dinner, the Grand Master revealed that following the success of the service, he would be appointing Chevalier Geoffrey Robinson as Grand Prior, and Chevalier Clive Warham as Grand Director of Music at the forthcoming Investiture at Peterborough.

Many thanks to all those members that travelled to the North West for this wonderful occasion.

ST MARTIN AT SÉES ANNUAL LECTURE 2012

On 9th June, several members of the Conclave and their guests were present for our annual lecture, this year held at Willaston, Cheshire.

The talk was given by the Order's new Grand Prior, Rt Rev'd Geoffrey Robinson, and in the spirit of the objectives of the Order, was on the

subject of Spiritual Healing. At the end of the talk, Bishop Geoffrey moved throughout the audience, anointing them with holy oils.



A splendid lunch followed, allowing members to meet around the table in an informal atmosphere, and coffee in the lounge rounded off a splendid day.

Our thanks to Chevalier John Goodenough for making the local arrangements, and to Bishop Geoffrey for a most interesting talk.

INSIGNIA

Margaret Gunnell reminds members that a variety of gifts and insignia is in stock, and that orders are now being taken. The price list appears below, and pictures of the various items appear on the website. Margaret's details can be found near the end of this newsletter.

Regalia

Breast Star		£40.00
Collarette & Jewel	(KSR)	£34.00
Bow & Jewel	(Dame)	£38.00
Collarette	(KSR)	£10.00
Collarette	(KCSR)	£18.00
Collarette & Jewel	(KCSR)	£40.00
Bow only	(DCSR)	£20.00
Miniature Jewel (Mark & Raphael)		£18.00 (Ladies bow also)
St Mark Breast Medal		£20.00
Rosette with flashes (Silver)		£ 2.00
Mantle Cross		£20.00
Mantle (Direct order from suppliers)		£117.50 inc. VAT

Miscellaneous

Cuff links	£15.00
Lapel Pins	£ 3.50
Tie of the Order	£16.00
Paper weight	£15.00

ORDER ACCOUNTS

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st December 2011

INCOME	2011 (Jul – Dec)	2011(yr to 30/6)
Annual Subscriptions	755.00	278.00
Admission fees	125.00	152.00
Sales of insignia, capes & gift items	210.00	1195.50
Donations Received		532.00
Proceeds of Raffle		211.00
AGM Luncheon		1072.50
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,090.00	3,441.00
 EXPENDITURE		
Printing, postage, stationery & sundries	70.85	25.25
Purchase of regalia	232.90	1487.56
Web hosting fee	71.11	
AGM lunch	300.00	1017.50
AGM lunch refunds		55.00
Donations	150.00	500.00
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	824.86	3085.31
 SURPLUS (DEFICIT) for the period	265.14	355.69
 BALANCE SHEET as at 31st Dec 2011	2011	30/6/2011
ACCUMULATED FUNDS	Stock reval	
Balance as at 1 st July	524.26	
Add Surplus (Deficit) for year	2179.70	1824.01
	265.14	355.69
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,969.10	2179.70
 Represented by:		
ASSETS		
Insignia stock	524.26	
Ceremonial Cushions, Sword & Gavel	62.00	62.00
Cash at Bank	2328.04	2062.90
Chain of Office	54.80	54.80
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	2,969.10	2,179.70
 LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	0.00	0.00
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	1824.01	2854.66
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Geoffrey Berry, KSR, Hon Grand Treasurer

KEY CONTACTS

ONLY AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

The Healing, Teaching and Chivalric Order of St. Raphael

The Order is not an Order of Merit, but a stateless International Order of Chivalry. It exists for the express purpose of healing the sick, giving spiritual refreshment to those who suffer, the protection of the Wisdom Religion of the Ages and the creation of a Nobility of Spiritually Enlightened men and women to work for Universal Brotherhood.

All communications should be addressed to the Grand Herald, details as above: