

The United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the
Temple and of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes
and Malta in England and Wales and Provinces Overseas



MINUTES

of the Chapter of Great Priory of Malta

held under the Banner of the Preceptory of St George No. 6
in the Grand Temple, Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street,
London, WC2B 5AZ, at 12.30 p.m. on

Tuesday, 15 November 2022

A.L. 6022, A.D. 2022, A.O. 904

PRESENT

Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master
PAUL RAYMOND CLEMENT, G.C.M.

At the Pentagonal Table in the East

Great Prior of MaltaR.E.Kt. J. C. Whitaker, *JP*, K.C.M.
Great Captain General V.E.Kt. The Rt Hon. Viscount S. H. M. Gough
as Great Lieutenant General V.E.Kt. Lt Col. J. C. Chambers, P.Gt.Capt.Gen.
Great First Lieutenant..... V.E.Kt. F. Johnston
Great Second Lieutenant..... E.Kt. D. Tuke
Great Sub-Prior of Malta.....V.E.Kt. Kt. S. J. Warwick
as Great PrelateE.Kt. Revd Dr S. A. Thorn

At the Octagonal Table in the West

as Great MareschalE.Kt. D. G. Hiscock, P.Gt.B.
as Great Hospitaller..... E.Kt. Revd A. N. Johnston, P.Gt.Hosp.
Great Admiral.....E.Kt. G. D. Seeman
Great ConservatorE.Kt. G. Craigs
Great Baillie E.Kt. K. M. Evans
Great Turcopolier..... E.Kt. H. A. Busby
as Great Chancellor..... E.Kt. Wg Cdr K. Brackenborough, *RAF (Ret'd)*, P.Gt.B.
as Great TreasurerE.Kt. R. G. Hewitt, P.Gt.2nd.Lt.

Officers of Great Priory

Great Mareschal.....	R.E.Kt. T. J. Wheeler, K.C.M.
Deputy Great Mareschal.....	E.Kt. F. J. Fowlie, <i>JP</i>
Deputy Great Mareschal.....	E.Kt. C. D. Davies
Deputy Great Mareschal.....	E.Kt. T. D'Souza
as Deputy Great Mareschal.....	V.E.Kt. P. A. Norman, P.Gt.1st.Lt.
as Deputy Great Mareschal.....	V.E.Kt. H. J. Randell, P.Gt.1st.Lt.
as Deputy Great Mareschal.....	E.Kt. S. Groeger, P.Dep.Gt.Mar.
as Deputy Great Mareschal.....	E.Kt. K. A. Gane, P.Gt.2nd.Lt.
as Deputy Great Mareschal.....	E.Kt. R. Skinner, P.Dep.Gt.Mar.
Great Banner Bearer.....	E.Kt. G. P. A. Morrice
as Great Sword Bearer.....	E.Kt. I. S. Davies, P.Gt.Swd.B.
Great Captain of Outposts.....	E.Kt. A. J. Lloyd
as Great Captain of Outposts.....	E.Kt. P. K. King, P.Gt.Capt.O.
Great Organist.....	E.Kt. M. Rizzardi, P.G.2nd.Lt.
Deputy Great Organist.....	E.Kt. A. T. Morris, P.Gt.Turc.

Knights Grand Cross

R.E.Kt. M. E. Herbert
R.E.Kt. His Hon. I. D. G. Alexander, *KC*
R.E.Kt. G. L. Flight
R.E.Kt. Dr J. L. W. Wright, *RD*

Knights Commander

R.E.Kt. J. M. Beard
R.E.Kt. T. C. Gulliver
R.E.Kt. G. L. Perkins
R.E.Kt. K. J. Jones
R.E.Kt. E. B. Goodwin
R.E.Kt. Lt Cdr A. P. D. Hannagan, *RD, MStJ*
R.E.Kt. J. R. Collison
R.E.Kt. D. H. Gallear, Prov.Prior for Lancashire
R.E.Kt. J. R. Paternoster
R.E.Kt. A. C. Sweeney
R.E.Kt. R. E. Cochrane
R.E.Kt. Revd M. C. Lane, *JP*
R.E.Kt. R. A. Williams
R.E.Kt. S. C. L. Middleton
R.E.Kt. C. G. Maiden
R.E.Kt. P. G. W. France
R.E.Kt. Dr V. Thomas, *JP*
R.E.Kt. R. S. Edgar
R.E.Kt. A. T. Lapsley
R.E.Kt. A. J. Helliar, Prov.Prior for Essex
R.E.Kt. M. F. Bilton, Prov.Prior for Lincolnshire

Provincial Priors

R.E.Kt. A. J. Padmore, Prov.Prior for Leicestershire and Rutland
R.E.Kt. R. E. Dixon, Prov.Prior for Warwickshire
R.E.Kt. J. Roberts, Prov.Prior for Middlesex
R.E.Kt. P. P. Crossan, Prov.Prior for Surrey
R.E.Kt. D. Jordan, Prov.Prior for Kent
R.E.Kt. Dr P. R. Calderwood, *JP*, Prov.Prior for Monmouth and South Wales
R.E.Kt. R. Scott, Prov.Prior for Durham
R.E.Kt. G. Hutchinson, Prov.Prior for Derbyshire

R.E.Kt. Cdr C. J. Aspinell, *RD, JP*, Prov.Prior for Hampshire and Isle of Wight
 R.E.Kt. B. B. Shegar, Prov.Prior for South East Asia
 R.E.Kt. L. E. Bourne, *JP*, Prov.Prior for Worcestershire
 R.E.Kt. R. C. Wortley, Prov.Prior for Northampton, Huntingdon and Bedford
 R.E.Kt. K. P. Stannard, Prov.Prior for Northumberland
 R.E.Kt. D. J. Thompson, Prov.Prior for London
 R.E.Kt. F. R. Thomas, Prov.Prior for Devonshire and Cornwall
 R.E.Kt. D. W. Phillips, Prov.Prior for Staffordshire and Shropshire
 R.E.Kt. G. J. McGowan-Smyth, Prov.Prior for Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire
 R.E.Kt. D. J. Crossley, Prov.Prior for Nottinghamshire
 R.E.Kt. H. R. Lenton, Prov.Prior for West Yorkshire
 R.E.Kt. T. G. Dillon, Prov.Prior for North and East Yorkshire
 R.E.Kt. R. F. Micklefield, Prov.Prior for Dorset and Wiltshire
 R.E.Kt. A. D. White, Prov.Prior for Hertfordshire
 R.E.Kt. A. Rosengren, Prov.Prior for City and County of Bristol
 R.E.Kt. A. Pierce, Prov.Prior for Cheshire and North Wales
 R.E.Kt. C. Birkbeck, Prov.Prior for East Anglia
 R.E.Kt. P. Burrows, Prov.Prior for Gloucestershire and Herefordshire
 R.E.Kt. C. Dann, Prov.Prior for Sussex
 R.E.Kt. P. J. Davis, Prov.Prior for Somerset

Past Provincial Priors

R.E.Kt. D. F. Coombes (Hampshire and Isle of Wight 2013–2017)
 R.E.Kt. W. J. T. Pratt (Sussex 2013–2022)

Deputation from the Great Priory of the Temple

V.H. & R.E.Kt. Andrew C. Rainbow, G.C.M.
 E.Kt. D. Dean, P.Gt.Consv.
 E.Kt. B. F. Amos, P.Gt.B.
 E.Kt. D. Handley, P.Gt.B.
 E.Kt. S. R. Madoc, P.Gt.Turc.
 E.Kt. C. Bainbridge
 E.Kt. V. E. King

Knights from Overseas

SOUTH EAST ASIA

E.Kt. J. G. Bones, P.Gt.Adm.
 E.Kt. Capt Dr J. C. P. Brown, P.Gt.B.
 E.Kt. Dr B. K. Khoo, P.Gt.B.
 E.Kt. K. N. Nadrianov, P.Gt.Turc.
 E.Kt. K. J. Kuruvilla
 E.Kt. C. H. Moore
 E.Kt. P. P. Subramaniam

Iyanola Preceptory No. 588 (Unattached – St Lucia):
 V.E.Kt. G. L. Gill, *SLMM*, P.Gt.1st Lt.

Deputations from other Great Priors

Great Priory of France:

V.E.Kt. R. Barham, Honorary Great Mareschal
 E.Kt. A. Guest, Honorary Great Captain of Outposts;

Great Priory of the Netherlands:

M.E. & S.Kt. A. G. M. Captijn, Grand Master
 V.H. & R.E.Kt. F. C. J. Poot, Great Seneschal

There were also present many Past Great Officers and Brother Knights.

Report of Proceedings

1. OPENING

By command of the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, a Chapter of the Great Priory of Malta was opened by the Great Prior.

2. IN MEMORIAM

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master referred to the death of Her Majesty the late Queen Elizabeth II as follows:

'Since we last met as a Great Priory in May, it was with the greatest sorrow and sadness that we as a Nation and Commonwealth mourned the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. She was blessed with a long life of faith, duty and service which was, and will continue to be, an example and an inspiration to each one of us. I would like to start our proceedings today by asking the Great Prelate to offer a prayer on our behalf.'

The Great Prelate requested a moment of stillness before leading Great Priory in prayer.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of Great Priory of Malta held on Tuesday, 16 November 2021, which had been circulated with the Summons for the meeting, were taken as read and confirmed.

4. APPOINTMENT AND INVESTITURE OF KNIGHTS COMMANDER OF THE UNITED ORDERS

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master announced that in recognition of service to the Order, he had appointed R.E.Kt. Raymond Ewen Flight, Provincial Prior for Zimbabwe; R.E.Kt. David Frederick Coombes, Past Provincial Prior for Hampshire and Isle of Wight; and R.E.Kt. William John Thomas Pratt, Past Provincial Prior for Sussex, to the honour and dignity of Knight Commander of the United Orders.

Right Eminent Knights Coombes and Pratt being in attendance, the Great Mareschal formed an escort and presented them to the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master who received their homage and proceeded to invest them with their chains of office, and presented to them the batons and their Patents of Appointment.

The new Knights Commander were then proclaimed and saluted under the direction of the Great Mareschal as follows:

Be it known that DAVID FREDERICK COOMBES, Past Junior Grand Deacon in the United Fraternity of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England; Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England; Past Provincial Grand Inspector of Works in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire and Isle of Wight in the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas; Grand Inspector Inquisitor Commander, 31st Degree, in the Ancient and Accepted Rite under the Supreme Council 33rd Degree for England and Wales and its Districts and Chapters Overseas; Past Deputy Grand Mareschal in the Grand Priory of the Knights Beneficent of the Holy City of the Rectified Scottish Rite of England and Wales; Past Provincial Prior for Hampshire and Isle of Wight;

And that WILLIAM JOHN THOMAS PRATT, Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in the United Fraternity of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England; Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England; Past Grand Junior Deacon in the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas and Holder of Grand Rank in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner; Grand Elected Knight Kadosh, 30th Degree, Knight of the Black and White Eagle in

the Ancient and Accepted Rite under the Supreme Council 33rd Degree for England and Wales and its Districts and Chapters Overseas; Past Grand Orator in the Grand Imperial Conclave for England and Wales and its Divisions and Conclaves Overseas of the Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and of St John the Evangelist; Past Grand Captain of the Guard in the Grand Council of the Order of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas; Past Grand Registrar in the Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of England and Wales and Districts and Councils Overseas; Past Grand Visitor in the Grand Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor, or Brotherhood of David and Jonathan, in the British Isles and its Districts and Conclaves Overseas; Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies of the Grand Senatus of the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord in the British Isles and its Districts and Consistories Overseas; A member of the Eighth Degree, Honoris Causa, in the Worshipful Society of Freemasons, Rough Masons, Wallers, Slaters, Paviers, Plaisterers and Bricklayers; Grand Cross of the Priestly Orders in, and Grand Director of Ceremonies of the Grand College of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom; Past Deputy Captain of the Guard of Honour in the Grand Priory of the Knights Beneficent of the Holy City of the Rectified Scottish Rite of England and Wales; Magus Honoris Causa – Ninth Grade, and Director General of Ceremonies in the Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia; Past Provincial Prior for Sussex; etc., etc, have this day been appointed, obligated and invested Knights Commander of the United Orders of the Great Priory of the United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta of England and Wales and its Provinces Overseas; whom may the Most High long preserve.

The new Knights Commander of the United Orders were saluted under the direction of the Great Mareschal and returned thanks.

5. **APPOINTMENT OF THE GREAT PRIOR AND GREAT SUB-PRIOR OF MALTA**
 The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master announced that he had been pleased to re-appoint R.E.Kt. Jonathan Charles Whitaker, *JP*, K.C.M., as Great Prior of Malta. The Great Mareschal presented R.E.Kt. Whitaker to the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master.

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master then announced that he was pleased to re-appoint V.E.Kt. Steven John Warwick as Great Sub-Prior of Malta. The Great Mareschal presented V.E.Kt. Warwick to the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master.

6. **INSTALLATION OF A CANDIDATE AS A KNIGHT OF MALTA – PART I**
 The Great Prior received the report and enquired of the Knights present that the Knight Jonathan Paul Burnell be elected a member of the Order. This being agreed, the Great Prior declared the Knight Burnell duly elected a member of the Order and requested that the Great Sub-Prior, accompanied by the Great Prelate and Deputy Great Mareschal, retire to the Guard room to communicate the Degree of Knight of St Paul.

7. **APPOINTMENT AND INVESTITURE OF GREAT OFFICERS**
 The Great Vice-Chancellor read the names of those Knights whom the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master had appointed to Great Rank in the Great Priory of Malta.

GREAT OFFICERS 2022/2023

Great Captain General	Guy David Alsager Elgood
Great Lieutenant General	Glyn Raymond Goddard
Great Treasurer	John Norman George Howitt, K.C.M.
Great First Lieutenant.....	Raymond Stanley Henry Hussey
Great Second Lieutenant.....	Charles Martin Wilson
Great Prelate	The Revd Malcolm Clifford George Lane, <i>JP</i> , K.C.M.

Great Mareschal	Timothy John Wheeler, K.C.M.
Deputy Great Mareschals	Carl Douglas Davies Kenneth Thomas D'Souza Kelvin Alan Gane
Great Hospitaller	Revd Dr Simon Alexander Thorn
Great Admiral	David Edward Henry Adams
Great Conservator	Michael Vincent Eckley
Great Baillie	Peter Redvers Doust
Great Turcopolier	Alan Howitt
Great Banner Bearer	Norman John Playford
Great Sword Bearer	Paul Anthony Eustace
Great Captains of Outposts	Angus James Rhodes William Herbert Winter
Great Organist	Mario Rizzardi, P.G. 2nd.Lt.
Deputy Great Organist	Andrew Timothy Morris, P.Gt.Turc.
Great Guard	<i>vacant</i>

PROMOTIONS

Past Great Lieutenant General
William Jack Hagger

Past Great First Lieutenant
Richard Edmund Aldridge, *JP*
Michael John Bartels
David Francis Court
Leslie Roy Dear
Christopher Wenham Eley
Keith Leslie Florence
Leslie Harry Fox

Steven Groeger
John Kerslake
John Bedford Linley
Gavin Thomas O'Sullivan
Victor Barry Topliss
Brian Edward Wisbey

Past Great Second Lieutenant
David William Abbott
Stephen James Allen
Philip James Bates
Ian Stuart Davies
Alexander Frank Downie, *OBE*
John Michael Elmont
Brian John Ffrench
Jose Luiz Gambarini
Ian William Grundy
Daniel Mark Heath

Raymond William Hudson
Derek Mersh
Graham John Miles
Leonard John Millings
Michael Riley
Robert Elliot Warren
James Douglas Watson
Mervyn Frank Wilson
George Barry Winter
Charles Roger Wood

Past Great Hospitaller
Revd Ronald Anthony Miller

Past Great Admiral
Clifford David Earp
Glyn David Evans

Allan Robin Young

Past Great Conservator
Malcolm George Fisher, *OSTJ*
David William Kenneth Ford

Ian William Greenwood

Past Great Sword Bearer
John William Anthony White
Nigel Edward Williams

Ronald Maurice Wray

FIRST APPOINTMENTS

Past Great 2nd Lieutenant
Alasdair James Ross

Past Great Hospitaller
Paul Andrew Christodoulou

The Reverend Paul Philip Paterson

Past Great Admiral
Brian Francis McDermott

Past Great Baillie

Michael Harry Andrews
Clive Albert Best
Carl Wilshire Zachary Bethel, *KC*
Stuart Marshall Burrell
Angus Donald Cameron
John David Campbell
Anthony Ronald Chaplin
Geoffrey George Cheshire
Jeffrey Cunningham
Stuart Barker Dick
Geoffrey Downs
Trevor Clive Gray
Raymond John Greatbatch
Michael Rupert Hall
Harry Hambleton
Derek James Hemfrey
Graham Keith Jeffery
Christopher Howard Jones
Rory Jesse Jones

Varghese Mathews
Dean Brian Moore
Stuart Frank Morgan
Martin Murray
Louwrens Nieuwoudt
Graham Charles Penn
Stephen Neil Pope
Stephen Roberts
Colin Sansom
Barrie Stuart Sant
Terence Douglas Sheern
Antony Quentin Marcus Sidoli
Michael Scott Smith
Selby Snaith
David Sodey
Reginald David Spicer
Charles William John Tassell
Geoffrey Michael Watkins
Brian Colin Wright

Past Great Turcopolier

John Acton
Paul Aspinall
Diego Ricardo Canto
Anthony Brian Clapham
Dr Luciano D'Alessandro
Peter Robert Greenhalgh Dudney
John Charles Foster
Brian James Foulkes
Roger Garrett
David Greenhalgh
Neil Kenneth Hougham

David Hudson
Graham David Hurst
Keerikattu John Kuruvilla
John Liddle
Jacob Su Yin Pang
Barry William Slade
Stephen John Smith
James Henry Smith
Paul Pararajasingam Subramaniam
Phillip Andrew Wightman

Past Great Sword Bearer

David Leslie Armstrong
Robert James Ingham Clark, *CStJ*

Richard Evan Jones
Flemming Vitus

Past Great Captain of Outposts

Michael John Lewis

Kenneth Thomas Rowlatt

7a. INSTALLATION OF A CANDIDATE AS A KNIGHT OF MALTA – PART II

The Degree of Knight of St Paul having been conferred upon him by the Great Sub-Prior, Knight Jonathan Paul Burnell was installed as a Knight of Malta by the Great Prior of Malta.

8. ADDRESS BY THE MOST EMINENT AND SUPREME GRAND MASTER

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master addressed Great Priory as follows:

Brother Knights, first, allow me to welcome you all to our annual muster of the Great Priory of Malta, and thank you so much for your support in travelling here today despite the uncertainties we have all experienced with train and underground services. Believe me, from where I am standing you are a magnificent sight and I do hope you are all enjoying the day so far.

Whenever I attend a Knights of Malta ceremony, which is far too infrequent these days, I always think to myself how fortunate we are to be custodians of a ceremony filled with an abundance of colour, drama and Christian truths, which when worked to a standard such as we have been privileged to witness today, cannot possibly fail to leave a lasting impression on our Candidates. And I do, on your behalf, congratulate and thank the Right Eminent Great Prior and all those who assisted him, on the excellence of their work this afternoon. I hope Knight Jonathan Burnell, of the Wynkbourne Preceptory in Mansfield, enjoyed the occasion as much as I think the rest of us have, and I wish him well for the future in that Preceptory and in the Province of Nottinghamshire.

It has been a delight to me today to invest so many Brother Knights with their ranks in the Great Priory of Malta, and I know we all offer them our warmest congratulations. I know how hard you work in your Priors and Provinces to ensure that the Malta ceremony is always executed to the highest possible standard, thus leaving our candidates with a lasting memory and an encouragement to strive to attain similar excellence. The Malta Ritual, as we now practise it, is virtually unchanged since 1863. When at a Grand Conclave meeting in May that year, the Grand Master William Stuart sanctioned the ritual and recommended that it be adopted by all Priors. Seven years later, in 1870, HRH The Prince of Wales witnessed the ceremony, and it was at that meeting he expressed an interest in the Order, and the rest, as they say, is history.

This afternoon, three of our Brother Knights have attained the honour and dignity of Knight Commander of the United Orders, an appointment, which the Statutes remind us, forms part of the Grand Master's exclusive prerogative. We also have a strict limit on the number of Knights Commander that can exist at any given time. The three Brother Knights so honoured have each rendered meritorious service to Great Priory over many years. R.E.Kt. Raymond Ewen Flight has been our Provincial Prior for Zimbabwe since 2010 and has led that Province and its two Preceptories through a difficult and challenging time. Ray was intending to be with us today but, sadly, circumstances dictated otherwise. He nevertheless assumes his new rank from today and I am sure he is thinking of us as we speak. R.E.Kt. David Coombes was installed as Provincial Prior for Hampshire and Isle of Wight in 2013 and served with great distinction in that office until his retirement. I will always be grateful to him for the assistance he gave us in the arrangements for the 2009 Triennial Conference we held at Winchester. Also in 2013, R.E.Kt. William John Thomas Pratt, better known to us Toby, was installed into charge of Sussex. He retired this year, leaving his successor a happy, vibrant and thriving Province. I am sure we would all like to show our appreciation for the work of these three Brother Knights.

This leads me perfectly into welcoming our two new Provincial Priors who are attending a Great Priory meeting for the first time in their new offices. On 10 September, I installed R.E.Kt. Colin Dann into charge of Sussex, and on 26 September, following a very successful Family Service held at Wells Cathedral, I installed R.E.Kt. Paul Davis as Provincial Prior for Somerset. We all wish you both every success as you lead your respective Provinces.

I am so fortunate in this Order to have the support and friendship of the Heads of our companion Masonic Orders and I would now like to welcome them all, and then go on to greeting our guests from sister Great Priories and our own Brother Knights from Provinces Overseas. In the interests of time, perhaps we could restrain our natural desire to applaud until I have completed the list:

From the Order of Mark Master Masons, the Pro Grand Master, V.E.Kt. John Prizeman, P.Gt.Capt.Gen.;

From the Grand College of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom, the Grand High Priest, R.E.Kt. Christopher Maiden, K.C.M.;

From the Red Cross of Constantine, the Grand Sovereign, R.E.Kt. Graham Flight, G.C.M.;

From the Order of Royal and Select Masters, the Grand Master, R.E.Kt. Kessick Jones, K.C.M.;

From the Order of the Secret Monitor, the Grand Supreme Ruler, R.E.Kt. Andrew Sweeney, K.C.M.;

From the Order of the Knights Beneficent of the Holy City, the Grand Master, R.E.Kt. Dr Vivian Thomas, *JP*, K.C.M.;

From the Order of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, the Grand Prior, E.Kt. Revd Dr Simon Thorn, Great Hospitaller;

And from the Worshipful Society of Operative Freemasons, the First Grand Master Mason, E.Kt. Dr Paul Mycock;

From the Great Priory of France, V.E.Kt. Ronald Barham, Honorary Great Mareschal, accompanied by E.Kt. Alan Guest, Honorary Great Captain of Outposts;

From the Great Priory of The Netherlands, the Grand Master M.E. & S.Kt. Loek Captijn, accompanied by the Great Seneschal V.H. & R.E.Kt. Frank Poot.

And now to our Brother Knights of our own Constitution from overseas:

From the Province of South East Asia, R.E.Kt. Dr Brian B. Shegar, Prov.Prior; E.Kt. John Graham Bones, P.Gt.Adm.; E.Kt. Julian Brown, P.Gt.B.; E.Kt. Dr Khoo Boo Khean, P.Gt.B.; E.Kt. Karl Nadrianov, P.Gt.Turc.; E.Kt. John Kuruvilla, P.Gt.Turc. – a recipient today (Observance Preceptory No. 111 – Unattached, Chennai); E.Kt. Paul Subramaniam, P.Gt.Turc. – a recipient today; E.Kt. Christopher Moore; and Kt. Mark Da Costa. What amazing support from this Province.

And from Iyanola Preceptory No. 588 (Unattached – St Lucia), V.E.Kt. G. Llewellyn Gill, *SLMM*, P.Gt.1st Lt.

Brother Knights, please show your appreciation to all these Brother Knights.

A big thank you to all those Brother Knights and members of the Allied Masonic Degrees who are attending the memorial service next Tuesday to honour the life and work of my predecessor, M.E. & S.Kt. Timothy John Lewis. I know Tim's family will be particularly grateful to you. Your attendance today will generate an email inviting you to register to attend that service.

I also want to thank E.Kt. Paul Swinge of the Province of Essex, who has made the very impressive new Orle that is in place on the Octagonal table here today. Have a look at it as you leave. I think you'll agree with me that it really looks splendid.

Before closing, I want to thank the Great Mareschal and through him, his Deputies, those who assist, and of course the members of the Grand Master's Body Guard for producing such a splendid ceremony for us. My thanks also to the Great Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Great Vice-Chancellor and the team in Masonic Support for all their administration.

Three weeks ago, the Great Vice-Chancellor and I made a flying visit to our friends at the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. It really was most rewarding and so encouraging to witness first-hand the improvements they have made over the past five years, many of which your contributions have made possible. I was delighted to be able to open a newly refurbished Children's Ward which was totally funded by us, and I did promise the Chief Executive that I would convey their heartfelt thanks to you for your continued support over the past 106 years.

In a moment, we will have an opportunity to further that support as we will be donating the proceeds of our Alms collection to Hospital Funds. As usual, we will sing Henry Francis Lyte's stirring Hymn, founded on Psalm 103, and it is even more relevant this year, as it was sung in 1947 at the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Philip Mountbatten. What a golden opportunity, while we sing, to reflect on her outstanding service and exemplary dedication to duty, and at the same time to re-dedicate ourselves to the service of our Order and the welfare of our fellow Brother Knights.

I wish you and yours a happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas and I thank you for your attention.

9. ALMS

During the singing of the hymn, 'Praise my Soul, the King of Heaven', alms amounting to £1,348.95 were collected for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Great Vice-Chancellor reported that he had no further business to bring before the Chapter of Great Priory of Malta.

11. CLOSING

By command of the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, the Chapter of Great Priory of Malta was closed by the Great Prior of Malta.