

## PROVINCIAL PRIORY OF SOUTH ULSTER

High & Very Eminent Prior - Frank R. L. Arnold, K.C.T.

Very Eminent Sub Prior - Alan T. Campbell

Treasurer

R. Em. Sir Kt. Robert J. Kerr, KCT



Registrar

V. Em. Sir Kt. Albert E Price

November 2018.

Dear M.Em & Sup Grand Master

In this my fourth report it gives me great pleasure to say that the Provincial Priory of South Ulster has increased in membership and continues to flourish in all aspects of High Knight Templar masonry.

As is now the custom prior to our March 2018 Provincial Priory Conclave a midday grill was held with 118 brethren partaking, once again numbers exceeded our expectation and resulted in us having to make some other arrangements. We are grateful that local senior brethren continue to support this pre- Conclave function.

At the Conclave we were pleased to welcome some very important visitors including our Past Prior, H&R.Em.Sir Kt S.G.Leathem, BEM, GCT along with the past V.High & R. Em. Great Seneschal, George Field GCT. The H&V.Em Prior of East Ulster, Samuel D. Richardson KCT who was accompanied by his Sub-Prior, V.Em.Sir Kt James Kilpatrick KCT. Other important visitors included H& R.Em.Sir Kt John Trail, GCT, the V.Em.Sub-Prior of West Ulster, R.Em.Sir Kt Vaughan Crooks, KCT and R.Em.Fr Archie Shields, KCT, the Past Provincial Prior of South East Scotland.

We also welcomed a large contingent of visitors that included Great Priory Officers past and present as well as senior members of other disciplines, all were acknowledged with the appropriate salute of honour

Sadly we mourned the passing of our Priory Banner Bearer, Em.Sir Kt Harold Stewart who was also a stalwart member of Ulster Preceptory, also remembered were twelve immediate family members

The highlight of the day was our pleasure in welcoming and receiving The Most Eminent & Supreme Grand Master, Robert G. Quigley, GCT who on being announced was met by the Marshal and Sir Kts with swords at the carry and escorted to the Dais where he was formally welcomed to the Conclave by the H & V.Em.Prior, he accepted the Baton and occupied the Chair after which he was saluted.

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Following words of information and encouragement from the Most Eminent & Supreme Grand Master the minutes of the previous Conclave were presented, agreed, signed and sealed.

As our Conclave fell on St Patrick's Day. R.Em.Sir Kt Rev Charles McCurdy, KCT lead a tribute in prayer to St Patrick that included a passage from St Patrick's Breast Plate.

Before Leaving the Chair the Most Eminent & Supreme Grand Master made a special presentation of a beautiful GCT Baton to H&R.Em.Sir Kt S.Gordon Leathem, BEM, GCT on behalf of the senior officers of the Provincial Priory of South Ulster. H& R.Em.Sir Kt Gordon accepted the Baton with great grace and humility and said he would carry it with great pride.

R.Em.Sir Kt Robert J. Kerr, KCT, Treasurer presented his annual statement of Accounts which indicated that the Provincial Priory continues in a healthy financial state. As stated on other occasions a debt of gratitude is owed to R.Em Sir Kt Kerr for his expertise and diligence over a long number of years.

Twelve brethren attending for the first time were given a very warm welcome by the H&V.Em.Prior and the assembled Sir Kts expressed their pleasure by acclamation.

Main business of the Conclave was to install the Officers for 2018 -2021.

Delight was expressed that the Sub-Prior V.Em.Sir Kt A.T.Campbell was continuing in Office and my pleasure in re-appointing him. V.Em.Sir Kt Campbell was saluted and there followed acclamation.

<b>Constables</b>			
<b>1st Constable</b>	<b>V Em Sir Kt</b>	<b>T (Tom) Gardiner</b>	<b>St John's Preceptory</b>
<b>2nd Constable</b>	<b>V Em Sir Kt</b>	<b>H (Harold) Nicholson</b>	<b>Donard Preceptory</b>

<b>Permanent Officers</b>			
<b>Prelate 1</b>	<b>R. Em Sir Kt</b>	<b>Rev. C McCurdy KCT</b>	<b>Donard Preceptory</b>
<b>Prelate 2</b>	<b>V.Em Sir Kt</b>	<b>Rev. Canon G N Little</b>	<b>St John's Preceptory</b>
<b>Prelate 3</b>	<b>V.Em Sir</b>	<b>S (Samuel) J Irwin</b>	<b>St Patrick's Preceptory</b>

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	Kt		
Treasurer	R Em Sir Kt	Robert J Kerr KCT	St Comgall's Preceptory
Registrar	V Em Sir Kt	Albert E Price	Downshire Preceptory
Marshal	V Em Sir Kt	Ronald G Abbott	Tandragee Preceptory
Herald	Em Sir Kt	R. Wilson Mark	Portadown Preceptory
Ass Treasurer	Em Sir Kt	David R Woodrow	Myra Castle Preceptory
Ass. Registrar	Em Sir Kt	Eric J Williamson	Newry Preceptory
Deputy Marshal	Em Sir Kt	W. Robert Smith	Armagh Preceptory

### Remaining Officers

Std.Br.Beauceant	Em Sir Kt	Alan H Wilson	Heart of Down Preceptory
Std.Br.Vexillum Belli	Em Sir Kt	William A Kilpatrick	Lagan Valley Preceptory
Priory Banner Bearer	Em Sir Kt	Clifford Millar	Albertbridge Preceptory
Prior's Banner Bearer	Em Sir Kt	Arthur G Kerrigan	Iveagh Preceptory
First Aide-de- Camp	Em Sir Kt	John W Montgomery	Tandragee Preceptory
Second Aide-de- Camp	Em Sir Kt	R. John Clarke	Armagh Preceptory
First Captain of Guards	Em Sir Kt	Joe Crawford	Richmond Preceptory
Second Captain of Guards	Em Sir Kt	R. Kenneth Lindsay	Dalaradia Preceptory
Sword Bearer	Em Sir Kt	Roy J. F. Humpheries	Victory & Peace Preceptory
Pursuivant-At- Arms	Em Sir Kt	James Morrow	Belvoir Preceptory
Pursuivant-At- Arms	Em Sir Kt	Robert J Newell	Portadown Preceptory
Pursuivant-At- Arms	Em Sir Kt	Dennis W. Wheavil	Crusaders Preceptory
Pursuivant-At- Arms	Em Sir Kt	Thomas Greenaway	Belvoir Preceptory
Pursuivant-At- Arms	Em Sir Kt	John P.Stevenson	Downshire Preceptory
Officer of the Body Guard	Em Sir Kt	Sam Snodden	St Patrick's Preceptory
Organist	Em Sir Kt	Charles Ruttle	North Down Preceptory

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<b>Medical Support Officer</b>	<b>V.Em.Sir Kt</b>	<b>David Cupples</b>	<b>Armagh Preceptory</b>
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The Outgoing Officers were sincerely thanked, and each presented with a certificate and Badge of Past Rank.

### Charity Collection

A magnificent Charity collection of £918:20 was taken up of which £819:00 was gift aided.

This particular Provincial Priory Conclave will always remain memorable, Firstly it was St Patrick's day, the M.Em& Sup Grand Master was present, we enjoyed wonderful fellowship during the pre- Conclave Grill, the installation and ritual was of our usual standard, yet I feel all of that will be forgotten, and long remembered will be the final 20-minutes of the Rugby International between Ireland and England in the six nations which we managed to view on the big screen in the Club . One of those occasions when you remember where you were!

### Church Services

On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018, The Newry Preceptory held a High Knight Templar thanksgiving service in commemoration of their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian (Non –Subscribing) Church, Newry. The minister Rev.Norman Hutton conducted the service and R.Em.Sir Kt Rev Charles McCurdy, KCT gave the address. The service was very well supported by Sir Knights throughout Provincial Priory and a substantial amount of charity was collected on behalf of the Masonic Benevolent Institutions.

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018 a Provincial Priory contingent was pleased to support a service of Praise and Thanksgiving to celebrate the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St John's Masonic Lodge No.134 Lurgan in Brownlow House Lurgan.

### Provincial Priory Dinner

The annual Provincial Priory Dinner took place in Lisburn Golf Club on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017 when a magnificent near capacity 119 persons that included brethren, wives, partners and friends sat down to Dinner in the presence of the Most Eminent & Supreme Grand Master Robert G. Quigley, GCT accompanied by his wife.

We were also honoured by the presence of the Great Vice-Chancellor, R.Em.Sir Kt M.W.Galbraith GCT and his wife. Also supporting us were our good friends from the Provincial Priory of East Ulster, H&V.Em Sir Kt

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Sam Richarson, KCT and his wife and his Sub-Prior, R.Em.Sir Kt Jim Kilpatrick, KCT.

This was another very happy occasion with everyone enjoying good food, fellowship and some excellent light entertainment

### **Provincial Pories Golf**

As I have been closely involved with the Provincial Pories Golf competition for a long number of years I will presume to speak on its behalf.

To help re-energise the Golf competition the committee decided to change from the traditional Tuesday meeting and instead move the Golf day to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018. This proved to be more popular and received much better support than in recent years. Charities supported in 2018 included Harold McMaster Taggart and the Air Ambulance N.I., each receiving a £2,300 contribution to funds.

The Slemish Sword was won by R.Em.Sir Kt Roy Graham, KCT and his partner, Em.Sir Kt R. Black from the Belfast Preceptory in the Province of East Ulster.

While the Slemish Sword was removed from South Ulster hopefully for only one year, our Province did have some success with Sir Kt Peter Smyth of St Comgall's Preceptory winning the Chalice and Em.Sir Kt Sam Snodden of St Patrick's Preceptory winning the Richmond Cup. Well done to all who took part we are proud of you.

The new Golf committee, Neil Coey (Chair) Raymond Robinson (Vice-Chair) Alastair Thompson (Treasurer) Ken Lindsay (Secretary) Noel Simpson, Alan Ferris and Raymond Eakin all now have a couple of years behind them and are tremendous ambassadors on behalf of our Provincial Pories Golf and deserve all the support we can give them. We cannot forget our stalwart from the previous committee, R.Em.Sir Kt Bryan Dunlop, KCT, who still rolls up his sleeves to help the cause and long may it continue.

Many of you will know at least one committee member, perhaps more, when you meet a committee member please ask the question 'How can I help'!

For our June Conclave we travelled to the Queens Leisure centre in Holywood at the invitation of Ulster Preceptory No.22 celebrating their 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

We sadly observed the passing of brethren who had given many years of unstinting service to our order, V.Em.Sir Kt Cyril McFadden, Em.Sir Kt John Moore, Em.Sir Kt William Noel McLenaghan and Sir Kt Herbert McDowell, together with four immediate family members who were also remembered.

On a much happier note we welcomed our immediate past Prior H&R.Em.Sir Kt S.G.Leathem, BEM, GCT, along with the H&V.Em Prior of East Ulster, Samuel D. Richardson KCT and his Sub-Prior, V.Em.Sir Kt James Kilpatrick KCT along with a long list of local distinguished brethren from other disciplines all of whom received appropriate recognition.

A formal welcome was extended to Provincial Priory by the Em. Preceptor of Ulster Preceptory No.22, Em.Sir Kt Dale L.R.Myles. The first Constable Sir Kt Graham Walker gave a very detailed history of Ulster Preceptory since its constitution in 1843.

Special mention was made regarding the attendance of Em.Sir Kt Morell Murphy who was Eminent Preceptor in 1993 the year of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and at age 95 he is still a regular attendee at all PPSU functions.

Another Ulster Preceptory member proudly present on the evening was Em.Sir Kt John Dickson the R.W.Provincial Grand Master of Antrim who occupied a junior office in the Preceptory during their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Nine brethren attending for the first time were given a very warm welcome with the assembled Sir Kts expressing their support by acclamation.

V.Em.Sir Kt Leslie J. Nixon being in attendance was escorted to the Dais to be presented with his certificate and Past Rank Badge.

The Charity collection was again a superb £727:50, £634:00 of which was gift aided.

Our final Provincial Priory Conclave of the year took us back to the Mount Masonic Centre on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 7:30pm

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Again we sadly observed the passing of brethren who had given unstinting service to our Order. They included Em.Sir Kt William Downes, Billy as he was known to all of us will be keenly missed in

Provincial Priory as he looked after our sound system, a duty he performed for many years quietly and with great dignity. V.Em.Sir Kt Neil Coey who was also part of the team paid a fitting tribute.

Others we sadly remembered were Sir Kt Tom Hewitt, Sir Kt Samuel Johnston, Sir Kt Wilfred McNeill, and Sir Kt Evan Corbett along with Em. Sir Ken Hughes, Em.Sir Kt Wilfred McNeill and a former member Em.Sir Kt Tommy Lawson, also remembered were nine immediate family members. In keeping at all our Conclaves our Prelate, R.Em.Sir Kt Rev Charles McCurdy, KCT led the brethren in prayer and was followed by sacred music.

Again we were pleased that the High &V.Em. Prior of East Ulster Samuel D. Richardson, KCT along with his Sub-Prior, R.Em.Sir Kt Jim Kilpatrick, KCT were able to join us, a warm welcome was extended to them and they along with a large contingent of senior officers from other disciplines were suitably recognised.

It was pleasing that we were able to welcome three brethren attending Provincial Priory for the first time; they received a warm welcome by way of acclamation.

Charity giving was again superb realising £612:35 of which£547:50 was gift aided.

The Prior in his remarks announced that the Franking machine installed in the Mount Office was for the benefit of any Preceptory or Masonic discipline who wished to use the facility, the Provincial Registrar and Assistant Registrar, V.Em.Sir Kt Albert Price and Em.Sir Kt Eric Williamson are the two custodians and all matters should be directed through them. A couple of masonic bodies have come on board and it is anticipated this will reduce postal charges considerably.

Our Classes of instruction continue to flourish and with an eye to the installation season the Preceptory Marshals were large in attendance among the 58 brethren who attended on the opening night. V.Em.Sir Kt Abbott and his team are to be commended for their leadership, diligence and encouragement with nearly every Preceptory represented.

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Worthy of mention in this report are a number of individuals who make a valuable contribution to the smooth running of every P.P.S.U. Conclave, our organist Em.Sir Kt Charles Ruttle and our sound engineer, Em.Sir Kt Ricky Totten who will shortly be joined by his new assistant Sir Kt McDaid along with Em.Sir Kt Jim Morrow and his team of Pursuivants.

Two other brethren very worthy of mention are our assistant registrars in the Great Preceptory of Instruction, V.Em.Sir Kt John Craig and V.Em.Sir Kt Winston Johnston for their tremendous work throughout the Province during the year.

In conclusion I must extend my grateful thanks to the administration team in South Ulster ably led by V.Em.Sir Kt Albert Price and supported by assistant Registrar Em.Sir Kt Eric Williamson.

Our Treasurer R.Em.Sir Kt Robbie Kerr KCT and his new Assistant Em.Sir Kt David R.Woodrow keep all financial matters under control, most importantly everyone in the team perform their tasks in a very harmonious manner.

I am fortunate to have a very knowledgeable, efficient, supportive and courteous Sub-Prior who enjoys the support of the brethren throughout the Province and deservedly will receive the honour and dignity of a KCT at the Great Priory December Conclave

The continued help, guidance and support I receive from the M.Em & Sup Grand Master the V.High & R.Em Great Seneschal and the Great Vice-Chancellor is of enormous help and comfort to me.

Lastly, I must again mention my predecessor High & R.Em.Sir Kt Leathem, BEM, GCT, who remains a great source of guidance, help and friendship enabling me to talk through any matter quietly and without any further comment.

In closing I wish the brethren of South Ulster along with their families a happy and peaceful Christmas and prosperous new year.

Sincerely and fraternally

  
F.R.L.Arnold

Provincial Prior

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