



Annual General Report of the Provincial Priory of West Ulster For the year ending 31st October 2018

Dear M E & S G M,

It is very appropriate to commence my Annual Report of the PPWU with the Installation of Officers of Great Priory, when we as Templar Masons on the 7th March witnessed the installation of M E S Knt Robert Quigley as our newly installed M E & S G M. May I once again on behalf of the Sub-Prior, Officers and Sir Knights of the PPWU congratulate you and your choice of V H & R E S Knt Michael Costello as Great Seneschal. In turn V E S Knt Richard Adair of St Columbs Preceptory 640 was installed Great Constable.

At the June Conclave of Great Priory, V H & R E S Knt Michael Costello was installed in the office of Great Seneschal and was conferred the Honour and Dignity of Knight Grand Cross. V E S Knt Terence Hamilton, Treasurer of the PPWU was installed as Great Captain of Guards. The Nuremore Hotel was the venue for the October conclave of Great Priory, when R E S Knt Rev Warren Porter was conferred the Rank of Knight Commander of the Temple, for his outstanding service as Prelate at Great Priory, PPWU and Chaplain of Bellaghy Preceptory; V E S Knt Noel Drain from St Columbs Preceptory received Honorary Past Great Constable, acknowledging particularly his service to Craft Masonry; and E S Knt Tom Bratton from Omagh Preceptory was nominated to progressive office in Great Priory for 2019.

Despite a hectic schedule we were delighted to receive the M E & S G M to the installation of officers at our Provincial Priory on the 28th March in Bishop Street. We welcomed to Progressive Office E S Knt David McNeill from Abbey of Boyle

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Preceptory as Sword Bearer and E S Knt Stephen Bell, Treasurer of Bellaghy Preceptory as Pursuivant-at-Arms. E S Knt Stephan Bell was also installed in the inaugural office of Medical Support Officer preceding our defibrillator induction course on the 26th April, where 10 brethren attended. I had the pleasure of announcing that the sister of our Sub-Prior R E S Knt Vaughan Crooks received the honour of an MBE from Her Majesty the Queen.

The June Conclave of Provincial Priory was hosted by Coleraine Preceptory and we were welcomed by S Knt Richard Campbell the 1st Constable. The Preceptor E S Knt Don Brockerton had a more important duty to perform in celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary. However he did miss the opportunity of an exceptional Conclave when we were privileged and honoured to receive the M E & S G M, M E S Knt Robert Quigley accompanied by the Past M E S G M, M E S Knt Brian Bradshaw. They indicated that they enjoyed the Conclave; I know that we in the Provincial Priory had the pleasure of their company. When making the Priors comments I was pleased to relate the good news that V E S Knt Jim Kilpatrick of PPEU and administer of the Harold McMaster Taggart Fund, was recovering exceptionally well following transplant surgery, his medication now limited to anti-rejection drugs.

V E S Knt Derick Rainey obligingly made the Temple in Omagh available to a few senior officers of the Provincial Priory to review the Bye-Laws so it was very satisfying to revisit Omagh when they hosted the Provincial Priory on the 24th of October. The Preceptor was unable to attend the Conclave, although S Knt Jim Moore deputised for him in the welcome to Omagh. We were more than pleased to have H&V E S Knt Frank Arnold, Prior of PPSU visiting as we were to have V E S Knt Nevil Houston the Deputy Great Marshal of Great Priory. In the Conclave of the Chapter E S Knt David Bratton from Aberfoyle Preceptory was elected Sword Bearer and E S Knt Frank McKee from Tyrone and Fermanagh Preceptory was elected Pursuivant-at-Arms.

A "Class of Instruction" has not been held in the PPWU, so it was with a little trepidation that the Sub-Prior R E S Knt Vaughan Crooks and V E S Knt Ivan Meldrum held a class in Enniskillen on the 19th October. They were delighted with

the successful result when 33 enthusiastic brethren attended showing a great interest, some making a 100 mile round trip, so it was rightly considered that they would have another class in the New Year. Perhaps it will lead to greater challenges!

Over the past few years we have had a problem in receiving articles for the PPWU website and in the lack of interest in visiting the site. I had stressed the importance of using the facility otherwise there was little point in maintaining it at a cost to the Provincial Priory. At the BOGP in the June conclave, chaired by the Sub-Prior, he requested the representatives to make a diligent enquiry at their Preceptories regarding the website and to report back at the October meeting and as no great interest was shown; it was concluded that we should at this time close the site, perhaps renewing an interest at a later time.

During the visits to the Preceptories at their Installations, the responses by those senior brethren who by their support and attendance at their Conclaves over the past years, not necessarily promoting themselves to higher office, but gave of their time and talent; received acknowledgment from the M E & S G M. I would like to thank the Chancellor, not only on "keeping the ball rolling" but also in the design and despatch of the certificates. I would commend the other Priors to take advantage of this Certificate as it may be a small consideration to make but a thought greatly appreciated by the recipients.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the V E Sub-Prior R E S Knt Vaughan Crooks, V E S Knt Ivan Meldrum, the Officers and Brethren of the Provincial Priory for their support which is greatly appreciated and I wish everyone in the fraternity the Season's Greetings. Should anyone require my assistance, I am always available.

Jack Harrison GCT

PRIOR [PPWU]