Great Priory

of

The United Religious and Military Orders of the Temple and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta in England and Wales and the Dominions and Dependencies of the British Crown.

Lt=Col. John Leighton Byrne O Leicester=Warren, T.D., V.L., G.C.T., Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master

KING EDWARD VII PRECEPTORY OF IMPROVEMENT Under the aegis of the King Edward VII and Empress Preceptories

REPORT ON THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1973

MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATIONS

Eight new affiliations were received during the period under review, which brings the total of affiliated Preceptories to 295.

The new ones are as follows :-

Hereward the Wake, No. 439, of the Province of East Anglia.

Essex No. 441, and Sir Peter de Tany, No. 442, both from the Province of Essex.

Clermont, No. 443, of the Province of Nottinghamshire.

These four Preceptories keep their respective Provinces 100% affiliated.

The next four are particularly pleasing to record for they come from abroad.

Star of the Valley, No. 250, St. John's, No. 305, St. Paul's, No. 397, and Melbourne, No. 437, all from the Province of Victoria (Australia).

The full list of Preceptories is enumerated at the end of the Report and they are distributed as follows:-

24 from London, 22 West Yorkshire, 15 Kent, 14 Cheshire, 13 Queensland, 13 Northumberland & Durham, 11 Essex, 10 Worcestershire, 10 Hertfordshire, 10 Staffordshire & Shropshire, 9 North & East Yorkshire, 9 Surrey, 9 Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, 8 Hampshire and Isle of Wight, 8 East Anglia, 7 Sussex, 7 South Africa, 7 Victoria (Australia), 6 Warwickshire, 6 Somerset, 6 Transvaal, 6 Northampton, Huntingdon and Bedford, 6 New Zealand (North), 5 Lincolnshire, 5 Devonshire and Cornwall, 5 Gloucestershire & Herefordshire, 5 Middlesex, 5 Nottinghamshire, 4 Far East, 4 Dorset and Wiltshire, 4 Leicestershire and Rutland, 4 Derbyshire, 4 Monmouth and South Wales, 4 Unattached, 3 Lancashire, 2 Cevlon, 1 New Zealand (South), 1 City and County of Bristol, 1 Rhodesia, 1 New South Wales and 1 South America.

A further 184 members have enrolled, bringing the total life membership to 2589. The intake of new life members included the Provincial Priors for Cheshire, Western Australia and Victoria (Australia); the last named was particularly well supported by 51 members of his Province; 22 from Melbourne Preceptory, 20 from St. John's Preceptory and 9 from St. Paul's Preceptory. 15 members were enrolled from Baluchistan Preceptory at its first meeting in England since leaving India; 13 from Kyngstun Preceptory (Surrey) on the evening in celebrated the Golden Jubilee; 11 from Bard of Avon Preceptory on the occasion of its Centenary Meeting; 8 Founders of Clermont Preceptory (Nottinghamshire) at the Consecration Meeting; and a further 6 members from Hyde Preceptory (Dorset and Wiltshire) thereby maintaining 100% life membership.

At the regular meetings of the Preceptory of Improvement the highest attendance was 22 and the average for the year was 19.

At the Meeting of Great Priory in May V. Em. Knight H. D. Still, G.C.T., Gt. Marshal, was appointed V. High and Em. Gt. Seneschal. He has been succeeded as Great Marshal by V. Em. Kt. G. L. Galloway, *D.S.O.*, *O.B.E.*, *G.M.*, who by virtue of that office now becomes Chairman of Committee.

In taking leave of V. Em. Knight Still the Committee desires to record its sincere congratulations on the high office he now holds in the Order and also to express its deep appreciation for the interest, advice and wise guidance he always so willingly gave to the affairs of the Preceptory of Improvement. To our new Chairman we extend a warm welcome and under his leadership we shall pursue our aim, which is to be of service to this Great Order.

V. Em. Knight Erskine Simes, G.C.T., has resigned the office of Great Chancellor and has gone to live at Malvern in his native County of Worcester. He is our senior Preceptor, a position he has held since 1949, and although he held high and important offices in many branches of Masonry, such is his devotion to the Order that, until recently when ill health overtook him, he was a most regular attender at Preceptory of Improvement meetings. His kindliness, helpfulness and not least his approachfulness will ever be remembered with gratitude and with affection by all those who worked with him.

V. Em. Knight Erskine Simes has completed his golden jubilee in the Order and now that he will be able to take life a little more leisurely the Committee expresses the wish that he will 'crusade' merrily to achieve the diamond anniversary; a wish they are sure will be shared by Knights Templar throughout the Order

It was recently announced that another of our Preceptors, V. Em. Knight Sir Raph Hone, had been appointed to fill the vacancy as Great Chancellor. The Committee is sure that all members will be delighted to hear of this appointment and will wish to join us in our good wishes to Sir Ralph in his important and responsible office.

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Fixture cards are sent to all affiliated Preceptories; the dates for 1974 are here given:-

Friday, 4th January; Tuesday 26th March; Friday,

7th June: Tuesday, 9th July; Wednesday, 4th Sept-

ember and Thursday, 21st November.

No regalia is required. Belts and swords are supplied. All Knights of the order are welcomed to attend, especially any Knight from Overseas who may be on a visit to this Country. It is hoped that this information regarding our meetings will be printed on the summonses of all Preceptories.

Following the very successful Demonstration given at Chester last year, another Demonstration of the Installation of a Knight into the Order will be given next year. With the sanction of the Grand Master's Council and under the patronage of the Provincial Prior for Leicestershire and Rutland, V. Em. Kt. D. N. Foister, T.D., it will be held at the Masonic Hall, Leicester, on Thursday, the 17th of October 1974. The local arrangements will be in the care of the Provincial Sub Prior, Em. Kt. Derrick Timson, P.Gt.Swd.Br. We are given to understand that accomodation will be limited to 250.

RITUAL

The Committee has had the opportunity to advise on the rubric in the revised edition of the Ritual, which is to be published shortly: the Committee is confident that this revised edition will provide greater help to Eminent Preceptors and Marshals in conducting the ceremonies in strict accordance with the established practises of the Preceptory of Improvement.

Finally, the Committee wishes to express its deep appreciation of the devoted work put in; as always, by our Registrar, V. Em. Knight Wilfred Wickham.

For administrative purposes this report is sent to all Registrars and it is hoped that they will acquaint the members of their Preceptories with the record of the year's work.

Signed by command of the Committee,

WILFRED J. WICKHAM, Registrar.

December 1973.

Affliated Preceptories

Abbey Chapter			 A
Antient York of	Reder	nption	 В
Baldwyn			 С
Mount Calvary			 D
Union or Rouge	mont		 F
Antiquity			 1
Royal Naval			 2
Plains of Rama			 3
Hope			 4
Jerusalem			 5
St. George's	2. bas	10 <u></u> 4	 6
Royal Veterans'			 10

	Faith				13
	Preceptory of St. S	alem			15
	Prudence				16
	Prince Edward				18
	Trinity in Unity				19
	Royal Kent				20
	Salamanca				21
	Royal Sussex	1.1			25
	Faith and Fidelity				26
	Sepulchre				27 . (
	Stuart	1.00			28
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	Royal Gloucester			10	32
	Melita			12.	.37
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	Bladud				40
	Godefroi de Bouill		S		42
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	Richard de Vernon			toonig	52
	Hugh de Payens	~ C ~	S		56
	Calpe	5	New .		60
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	Coteswoid Precepto	ory of St	Augustin		72
	William Stuart	ory or bu			76A
	Royal Edward				76в
69	Victoria				78
	Wulfruna				79
	Royal Plantagenet				80
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	Restormel				90
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	Clermont		9.0.4		443
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In addition to all the London Preceptories being affiliated the following Provinces have all their Preceptories affiliated.

Ceylon

Cheshire

City and County of Bristol Derbyshire Devonshire and Cornwall

Dorset and Wiltshire East Anglia

Essex

Far East

25 ct

Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Hampshire and Isle of Wight Hertfordshire Kent

Leicestershire and Rutizod Lincoloshire Middlesex Monmouth and South Wales New Zeuand (North)

Northampton, funtingdon and Bedford North and East Yorkshire Northumberland and Durham

Nottinghamshire

Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire

Queensland

Somerset

South Africa

Staffordshire and Shropshire

Surrey

Sussex

Transvaal Warwickshire West Yorkshire Worcestershire