



The Healing, Teaching and Chivalric Order of St. Raphael



www.orderofstaphael.org.uk

Newsletter - Summer 2013

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A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER

Greetings to all the members of our growing Order and I was particularly pleased to see the record attendance at our Annual Meeting in Peterborough last August.



We have for some time now been having doubts about holding the Annual Meeting in the winter when those attending often having to cope with very difficult weather conditions. For this reason, the Grand Council has decided to hold future meetings in the spring and the Annual Meeting for 2014 is now fixed for Saturday May 10th.

It is interesting how the name of our patron saint, St. Raphael [São Rafael in Portuguese] has been associated with a number of great historical events. One interesting example I came across was the first voyage of Vasco da Gama in 1497 when the São Rafael was one of the two ships supplied by the Portuguese King Manuel I, who insisted on them being named after his two favourite archangels, Rafael and Gabriel. The four ships of the fleet set sail on 8th July and its stated mission was to open up the spice trade with Asia, spice being very important as a means of

flavouring food and keeping it palatable for longer, in the days long before fridges and freezers.

The expedition at first followed the route pioneered by Diaz and others down the coast of Africa and then went on further than any of the others to round the Cape of Storms, later euphemistically renamed the Cape of Good Hope, where I have seen the Cross Monument to him. He then went on to land near Calicut on the west coast of India on 20th May 1498 after having sailed over several thousand miles of open ocean, some of it extremely rough, in ships the biggest two [São Rafael and São Gabriel] of which were only 27 metres long carracks of 178 tons. St. Raphael must indeed have been with him.



This voyage paved the way for the Portuguese monopoly of the spice trade and produced cargo 60 times the cost of the expedition. On his return to Portugal, Vasco was showered with honours by a grateful king, although Da Gama had to fight his way back to the coast of Africa in the teeth of a monsoon and this resulted in the São Rafael being badly damaged and having to be scuttled.

Turning to the growth of the Order I am pleased to see the Scottish contingent growing in strength under Chevalier David Starritt's able leadership and I hope to travel up next year to consecrate the new Scottish Conclave.

I would also like to pay tribute to a number of key members without whom the Order would not grow and flourish as it is now doing. First to Chevalier Barry Uttley, out tireless and efficient Grand Secretary, who does so much work behind the scenes to keep the Order running

smoothly. I would also like to thank Chevalier Julian and Dame Margaret Gunnell, who do the detailed arrangements for the Annual Meeting and ensure the regalia is ordered and arrives on time, despite the seeming inevitable glitches one experiences with suppliers. I would also like to commend Chevalier David Haywood for compiling and producing this newsletter and for all the work he puts in to ensure the St. Martin at Sées Conclave remains active and thriving.

I have just returned from a holiday in Cuba where the sun was shining nearly all the time to a grey England where the rain seems to have set in and summer is a long way away. Although the weather may be much better [except for the occasional hurricane!], I have learned first-hand how fortunate we all are to be living in a free society with a whole range of basic benefits most of which are denied to the vast majority of those living in Cuba.

May I conclude by wishing you and your loved ones a very happy Christmas period and I hope the New Year will bring you good fortune and prosperity.

+Howard

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

GRAND CHANCELLOR'S REPORT 2013

This year's Investiture was originally scheduled to take place in January, but was postponed because of heavy snow. Details of postulants and promotions appear at the end of this report.

The Grand Master and all those who attended were delighted to welcome Kay Aslett, Regional Fundraiser from Whizz-Kidz, since Ashley had now left the charity. Kay gave a very passionate talk after lunch, which was well

received by the 42 diners. The raffle raised £200, which was donated to Whizz-Kidz, and this was topped up by a further £500 following discussion at the Grand Council meeting.

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

Grand Treasurer's report

See separate accounts. The Treasurer encouraged more members to take up the option to pay annual subscriptions by standing order.

Charitable donations

It was suggested that the £200 given to Whizz-Kidz was rather low. The Grand Treasurer reported that the previous financial year had generated a surplus of £753.61 and it was agreed that we would distribute £750. A case was put forward by a member of the Order to support a charity called Combat Stress, which supports members of the Special Services who return from tours of duty suffering from extreme stress. It was suggested by the Grand Master, and carried *nem con*, to donate a further £500 to Whizz-Kidz and £250 to Combat Stress.



Regalia Supplies

The Custodian of Insignia reported that the supplier of Mantles and Medals had gone out of business. The GM advised that the dyes belonged to the Order, and authorised her to try and get these back, and to look for an alternative supplier. It was also agreed that we would institute buttons on the St Mark medal to difference the varying grades of membership.

Ecclesiastical Grades

It has been put forward for discussion that our Clerical Ranks are not really appropriate for an Order of Chivalry, and we should consider amending these to fall into line with other Orders. With immediate effect, therefore,

the Clerical ranks in both St Raphael and St Mark will be: Senior Chaplain (equivalent to Knight), Chaplain Commander (Knight Commander), Ecclesiastical Grand Cross (Knight Grand Cross)

Promotion Recommendations

The Grand Master stated that it was difficult for the Grand Chancellor and himself to understand who should be recommended for promotions and awards, and that he was open to receive recommendations from Commanders and members. He stressed that the rank of Knight Commander in the Order of St Raphael is reserved for Commanders of Conclaves and holders of the key Grand Officer roles. The Order of St Mark is available to reward good work by members of the Order, or to those who cannot progress further because of the above restrictions.

Position of St William of Rochester Conclave

There will be a meeting of the members of the above Conclave to see if there is any support for keeping it going, or whether its members should become unattached.

Position of a new Conclave in West London

The Commander designate is to contact all nominated Founder members giving them a firm date to meet and take this Conclave forward.

Position of new Conclave for Scotland

Chevalier David Starritt reported that there were now five members of the Order from North of the Border, and they were holding a barbeque next month to try and attract new members. He said that they would not launch until such time as they had a viable Conclave, and the Grand Master promised to travel North to consecrate the Conclave if it reached the desired numbers.

David Haywood, Commander of the Conclave of St Martin at Sées, gave a brief report of how that Conclave works, and the Grand Master endorsed the comments, saying that the success of the Conclave was testament to the programme that they follow, and should be followed by others.

Any other business

- The Commander of St Martin at Sees reported that two successful events had been held in the Conclave this year. They were looking at holding an event in Dublin in 2014, to which invitations would be sent to all members of the Order.
- The Grand Master said that it was no longer practical to hold the annual Investiture in the winter months. The Grand Steward reported that the only feasible dates available were in March, April and May. The first two of these are susceptible to falling in the Easter weekend, so it was agreed on May. The first and last weekends are Bank Holiday weekends, and the third Saturday clashes with a number of other events. The consensus was to hold the Investiture on the Second Saturday in May, and this was agreed, with the next meeting falling on Saturday 10th May 2014.

The Grand Master closed the Grand Council Meeting at 3.00pm.

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

New members admitted (KSR):

Chevalier Ken Shipman, Chevalier Ian Cameron, Dame Isabella Smith (DSR).



Promotions within The Most Meritorious, Spiritual and Military Order of St. Mark

To *Commander* (CSM) - Chevalier John Goodenough

To *Knight* (KSM) - Rt Rev'd Geoffrey Robinson & Chevalier Trevor Harrison

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

'THE ST RAPHAEL LINK'

Those of you for whom we have a registered email address should have been receiving copies of a regular e-newsletter from our Grand Prior, Rt Rev'd Geoffrey Robinson, which has proved to be a popular and welcome addition to the ways in which we communicate with our membership. If you have not been receiving this, please contact Bishop Geoffrey at gp@orderofstraphael.org.uk so that he can update his mailing list.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2013 were due in the summer, and as always the Grand Treasurer has had problems in collecting these from some members.

Payment by Bank Standing order is 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. Following the Grand Treasurer's efforts last year, a substantial number of members have now moved on to this method of payment, but there are still many to do so. Please contact Major Geoffrey Berry at gt@orderofstraphael.org.uk for further details.

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.

ST MARTIN CONCLAVE VISIT TO CUMBRIA - MAY 2013

For several years it has been the practice of the Conclave to have a short break to enable members to come together away from the pressures of everyday life, and to emphasise the purposes of the Order, namely *Healing, Teaching* and *Chivalric*. This year several members of the Conclave paid a visit to Cumbria for a couple of days.

We met for morning coffee at the Wax Lyrical candle factory at Lindal-in-Furness before travelling in convoy to the nearby Furness Abbey.

The Abbey was founded by Stephen, later King of England, in 1124 and was the first Savigniac monastery in England. As it came into possession of extensive forests and rich agricultural lands, it became one of the richest Cisterian Abbeys in the country over the next 400 years. However, a combination of poor management and the Black Death contributed greatly to its downfall, and it was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1537. The Abbey now lies in ruins but is a popular tourist attraction, managed by English Heritage.



From Furness we went over to The Green, where we were entertained for afternoon tea by the Grand Chancellor, Barry Uttley and Dianne. We had a relaxing time in their beautiful garden, enjoying each others' company amongst the sound of birdsong and the passing stream - heavenly!

Later in the afternoon, Bishop Geoffrey, Grand Prior of the Order, led us in a short contemplative service, finishing with healing oils. To cap off the afternoon, Dianne produced a stunning cake with the Cross of the Order as the centrepiece – delicious, thanks Dianne!



In the evening we all gathered again in the nearby village of Broughton-in-Furness for our evening meal. Such is the local spirit in these parts that the local restaurant, Beswicks, opened especially for us, and we had a lovely evening with great food and drink.

Accommodation for the group was kindly provided by Barry and Dianne, and also by Ken Shipman, who has a large house in the village. We were all grateful to them for their



kindness and generosity in arranging this for us. To maintain the togetherness, we all met up in the local cafe for breakfast, before making our final visit to Conishead Priory, in Ulverston, where we also visited the Manjushri Kadampa Meditation Centre.

All in all we had a wonderful weekend of fellowship and religion and we all learned more about each other as well as some of the history of the area. Many thanks to all those who helped with the arrangements.



UPDATE FROM SCOTLAND - "THE LION RAMPANT CONCLAVE"

Here in Scotland we now have 5 knights. We could also possibly claim to our brother knight in New Orleans.

We shall be holding a BBQ next week, with all five present, plus another group of friends making 18 in all. On that occasion we shall be putting to these guests the opportunity of being admitted to this Order. We are optimistic there will be sufficient interest to enable us to launch our Scottish Conclave before the next meeting in Peterborough.

Our initial plans are to meet twice a year. One will be a social gathering and BBQ, and can double as an AGM should we need one. The other meeting will be a cultural experience of diverse activities, such as trips to Rosslyn Chapel, the theatre, ballet, or maybe even to go and watch Brechin City thump some leather around a field – the options are limited only by our imagination. Through these meetings I hope we shall bind closely together to form an effective Conclave.



Some of our new and potential members are keen that we should have a purpose. The aims of the Order are laid down, and beyond that we shall do something charitable. This is likely to be something local to our area rather than supporting a national charity.

Postscript: Since writing this piece of news, we have had eight people who have confirmed that they would like to become part of our Order. Added to our existing 5 Scottish members, this would make lucky thirteen!, a number large enough to warrant asking the Grand Master to consent to consecrating the Lion Rampant Conclave. We are looking forward to meeting you all in Inverurie.

E Chevalier David Starritt, KCSR, GCSM

UPDATE FROM ST WILLIAM OF ROCHESTER CONCLAVE

As you will have read from the Grand Chancellor's report, a meeting of members was planned to take place early in October to see if there was sufficient interest in keeping the Conclave active. Unfortunately the meeting did not take place but it is hoped to re-arrange before

Christmas. If you want further information please contact the Commander or the Grand Chancellor.

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

Prices are, of course, subject to change as stock is replenished, so please check with Margaret before placing any orders.

THE FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND

Dear Friends,

'The Feeding of the Five Thousand' can be found in St John's Gospel (6:1-15) and begins by telling us that Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee in search of some rest; but a large crowd followed him.

Galilee was a small country, only about fifty miles from north to south and twenty-five miles from east to west. With something like two-hundred towns, it was a densely populated area; not an easy place to find solitude. When Jesus stepped ashore from the boat he was faced with large crowds seeking healing for their sick. Jesus ignored his personal needs, and with tender compassion began ministering to them.

On this occasion, let us put aside the miraculous act which Jesus performed that day and look more closely at his actions:

- 1] Jesus asked for the people to be seated on the grass.
- 2] Then taking the bread and fish he raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing.
- 3] Then breaking the food he asked his disciples to distribute it amongst the crowds.
- 4] All ate and were satisfied.



Now I believe that, time and time again, we come face to face with a truth and a reality which is at the heart of Christianity. It is true that the disciples are helpless without their Lord, but it is also true that the Lord is helpless without his disciples.

So if Jesus wants something done today; if he wants a child taught or a person helped, he has to get a human being to assist. Jesus needs people through whom he can act, and through whom he can speak.

Are you ready to lay aside your personal needs and desires and begin to live and work for the advancement of the Church of God?

+Geoffrey

GRAND PRIOR

THE OBJECTS OF THE ORDER

As we all go about our daily lives, it is sometimes easy to forget about our commitment to the Order, and the following extract from our website serves as a reminder of what we signed up to.

HEALING

The main purpose of the Order has always been to aid the cure of those who are sick in mind and body. We do this by way of prayer. It is our belief, in common with many other bodies, that the greater the volume of prayer towards a specific and worthy end, the more it is likely that the wishes will be granted.

Some members have a belief in, and practice, both Spiritual Healing and Faith Healing. In welcoming such members we stress that this is a matter for the individual and that it is not essential that it be acknowledged in order to be a member. We welcome any members who will join us in our efforts to increase the volume of prayer to affect a reduction in the suffering throughout the world today.

TEACHING

The second purpose of our Order is to preserve knowledge and to pass on such knowledge to others. We are especially concerned with the wisdom of philosophers and men and women of learning.

Throughout the year we organise meetings that any member may attend to hear speakers on various subjects. At local level conclaves arrange their own programme to suit the requirements of their members.

CHIVALRIC

As an Order of Chivalry there is an Annual Investiture when the Grand Master confers the honour of Knighthood on new aspirants and also creates new Dames of the Order. Promotions are also conferred including merit awards within the Order of St. Mark and the whole ceremony is conducted with dignity and purpose.

Local conclaves may raise funds amongst themselves and support whichever local charity they wish. The Order of St. Raphael also contributes to charity on a national basis from time to time.

ORDER ACCOUNTS

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st December 2012

INCOME	2012	2011
Annual Subscriptions	1200.00	755.00
Admission fees	125.00	125.00
Sales of insignia, capes & gift items	501.72	210.00
Donations Received	113.00	
Proceeds of Raffle		
AGM Luncheon	1682.00	
Deposit Interest	0.34	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3622.06	1,090.00
EXPENDITURE		
Printing, postage, stationery & sundries	184.21	70.85
Purchase of regalia	623.02	232.90
Web hosting fee & newsletter	142.22	71.11
AGM lunch	940.00	300.00
AGM lunch refunds		
Donations		150.00
Sundries	78.50	
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	2868.45	824.86
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) for the period	753.61	265.14
BALANCE SHEET as at 31st Dec	2012	2011
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Balance as at 1 st January	2832.25	2179.70
Add Surplus (Deficit) for year	753.61	265.14
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3585.86	4,980.10
Represented by:		
ASSETS		
Insignia stock	645.56	524.26
Ceremonial Cushions, Sword & Gavel	62.00	62.00
Cash at Bank	2823.16	2328.04
Chain of Office	54.80	54.80
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	3585.86	2,969.10

Geoffrey Berry, KSR, Hon Grand Treasurer

KEY CONTACTS

AVAILABLE ONLY 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:

«Title» «Initials» «Surname», «Postnominals»
«Address1»
«Address2»
«Address3»
«Town»
«County»