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A MESSAGE FROM OUR GRAND MASTER

JULIAN K GUNNELL GCSR, GCSM

Dear Knights, Dames & friends,

At this time of year our thoughts turn to the Festive Season and quite rightly there is much excitement about welcoming relatives and friends into our homes. There's a special pleasure in having friends round on Christmas Day or just simply relaxing quietly in front of the fire, whatever suits you best. However, let us not forget those less fortunate than us. Those that do not have friends or family to support them, those struggling financially and last but by no means least, those fighting illness and disease. As a member of our Christian Healing Order, I ask you to spare a little time on Christmas Day, say at 5 p.m., find somewhere tranquil and offer up a short prayer for these unfortunate people. If we are able to do this, the combined outpouring of love cannot fail to be heard by our Lord. Never underestimate the power of prayer!

Finally, Margaret and I wish you all a very Happy & Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order and with the Blessings of St Raphael,

Julian Gunnell, Grand Master,



OBITUARIES

Patricia (Patti) Dorothy Ansell 1933-2017



On Thursday, 9th November 2017, Dianne and I attended the funeral of **Dame Patti Ansell DGCSR** at The Fenland Crematorium, March, Cambridgeshire. Also present was our Grand Master Julian Gunnell and his wife Margaret.

The funeral ceremony, conducted by Gemma Christina, was extremely dignified and started with the film theme *Somewhere in Time* by the John Barry Orchestra. We were all welcomed by Gemma who then invited Beverley Ansell, Patti's daughter-in-law to recite the poem *Death is nothing at All* by Canon Henry Scott Holland (1847-1918). The recital was followed by a eulogy and life story of Patti prepared and read by Chris Ansell, Patti's son; it was a thoughtful tribute and much appreciated by all present. After a few moments silence we recited the Lord's Prayer and then listened to the Choir of York Minster singing *Abide with Me*. Gemma Christina then read a few words of comfort and the proceedings were concluded by Cat Stevens singing *Morning Has Broken*. Donations were readily given for Parkinson's UK. We then retired to the Oliver Cromwell Hotel, March for refreshments.

Patti was a long-standing and enthusiastic supporter of The Healing, Teaching and Chivalric Order of St. Raphael and she fully supported her husband Keith. Keith was the Grand Chancellor of The Order for many years until he passed away 11 years ago. In the early years of The Order most new candidates had their mantles made privately and Patti made many of these mantles before we approached regalia manufacturers in recent times. For her work in this area and her loyalty to The Order, Patti received the accolade of honorary Dame Grand Cross of St. Raphael.

It was an Honour to have known Dame **Patti Ansell**.

Chevalier Barry Uttley, Deputy Grand Master Emeritus

Margaret and I were privileged to be able to attend the funeral and celebration of the life of Dame Patti Ansell, DGCSR, late of our Order. The service took place 9th. November 2017 at Fenland Crematorium, Cambridgeshire. The setting was lovely and very conducive to saying one's farewell with dignity. Barry & Diane Uttley, long term friends of the family travelled down and also represented the Order with us. Her son, Chris Ansell, gave a detailed and slightly humorous eulogy to his mother and the obvious fun they had growing up. The service was a moving tribute to Patti and her very full life, from her years travelling the world with Keith her husband who was in the RAF at the time and also a former Chancellor of this Order; her time in Yorkshire, then March in Cambridgeshire and her devotion to her family throughout all that time.

Patti's health eventually failed her and she needed care from 2015, and it was whilst in the Care Home she slipped away on 24th October 2017. She will be sadly missed, a true stalwart both of life and of our Order.

Julian Gunnell, Grand Master

ANNUAL INVESTITURE 2017

This year's meeting again took place at the Masonic Hall, Peterborough on 13th May. The Grand Master opened the meeting and the Grand Chancellor read out the apologies.

There were three postulants this year – Chevalier Brian Everett, Dame Olive Ward and the Rt Rev'd Michael Ward, and we welcome them all to the Order. Prior to the Investiture Ceremony, a short vigil was introduced this year for the postulants, led by the Grand Prior, to focus the postulants' minds on the step that they are about to take.

There was just one St Raphael promotion this year, with Chevalier David Starritt promoted to Knight Grand Cross, and the Grand Prior was invested with the newly created decoration of Ecclesiastical Grand Cross. The Grand Master then had great pleasure in making a number of awards in the Order of St Mark.

The Grand Master then appointed E Dame Pamela Robinson as Commander of the Conclave of St Martin at Sées – the first female to achieve this in our Order. This being his first Investiture as GM, certificates were presented to all Grand Officers present. The full list of Grand Officers can be found on the website.

After the service, the usual convivial meal took place, attended by 26 members and guests.

The Grand Council meeting took place after lunch, and items discussed were as follows:

- The Grand Chancellor announced that although a few minor changes to the Constitution and Statutes were approved last year, several further changes were now proposed and had been circulated to members of the Grand Council by email. These were approved unanimously and a copy of the revised document can be found on the Order's website.
- At the beginning of the morning service, the Grand Chancellor had announced that we were using a temporary Ritual booklet since changes needed to be made following the change of GM. The Grand Prior now explained that we had introduced some extra items into the service, namely a Bible Reading, short intercessions, and a short section allowing those who wished to receive healing oils. There were no objections from members and so these will be introduced into the Ritual on a permanent basis.
- The Grand Prior went on to say that he had produced a St Raphael Prayer book to enable Conclaves, especially those with no ordained Prior, to have something to use at local meetings, with prayers and blessings that can be said by a lay person. It can also be used by members to assist with prayer, and covers various eventualities when prayer may be required. At the moment it is still a work in progress, but copies have been initially given to Conclaves to use and provide feedback.
- The Grand Chancellor said that a lot of positive reports were received following the service at Rugeley, and in order to build on this suggested an annual Service of Thanksgiving in the autumn of each year at Rugeley, but with a more informal lunch. This would give members of the Order an extra opportunity to meet, and it would not matter too much if the response was not huge. The Grand Prior confirmed that we could use the Cathedral at any time we wished. Full details and application forms will be sent out later in the summer. The date now set is Saturday 7th October, at 11am.
- The Grand Treasurer circulated a copy of the accounts to 31st December 2015, which showed a deficit for the year of £524.66, due mainly to the extra cost incurred in the Installation of the Grand Master and new Chains of Office and Batons. Only one member is now in arrears with subscriptions, and it is reported that he is very poorly. The accounts had been independently examined by Dame Rhoda Ross. The accounts were accepted by the meeting and thanks given to David and Rhoda for their work. David went on to say that he is stepping down as Treasurer at the end of the year, and the GM has appointed Chevalier Brian Everett to take over at that time.

- The GT went on to add that following today's raffle, and with membership donations and donations from Conclaves we had around £600 to distribute to our nominated Charities. The Grand Master said that he wished to change our distribution process and split this between the Conclaves to enable them to choose and distribute to local charities. Not only will this ensure that the money goes to small worthy charities, but the publicity opportunity is also much greater, and it is hoped that all Conclaves will make the most of this. The only criteria are that the charity must have a "human healing" aspect to it, and that details of any charities chosen must be submitted to the Grand Hospitaller and Grand Chancellor for approval before the cheques are issued by the Grand Treasurer. Commanders are to invite the local press and radio to any donations to ensure a photo opportunity.

If the press does not attend, it is the Commander's responsibility to ensure photos are taken and the copy written for the press. Photos and the "written copy" are to be sent to the Grand Hospitaller and Grand Chancellor for inclusion in the newsletter, Facebook and the website.

- Each of the three Conclave Commanders gave brief reports of their activities, and it is pleasing that we now have three active Conclaves. Copies of the reports or events can be found on the website.
- Chevalier Steven Turner spoke about a new organisation of which he is a founder. The Grand Master of the International Order of St Stanislas thought that it was about time that the *alleged* illegitimate or unrecognised Orders had their own association. He therefore created the International Confederation of Chivalric Orders (ICCO) and has sent invitations to various Orders around the World inviting them to join. At the moment and for the next few Years there will be no Fees and all costs will be met by St Stanislas; when sufficient Orders have joined a Council will be formed with each Order having representation. All Orders will remain independent as the purpose of the ICCO is to create strength in numbers and to allow exchange of ideas and possibly members.
A discussion then took place amongst the Grand Council as to whether or not we should join. There was a small number against but the majority agreed that we should give it a try and the Order of St Raphael will therefore join the ICCO for an initial period of three years.
- Steven Turner talked about the benefits of "*easyfundraising*", which enables people shopping or searching on the internet to have a small amount donated to their charitable cause. It was agreed that each Conclave should set up its own "*easyfundraising*" page and accrue the donations received in its own Conclave account for distribution in due course.

The Grand Master closed the Grand Council Meeting at 3.30pm.

The date for the 2018 Investiture is Saturday 12th May. @ 11am.

New members admitted:

Chevalier Brian Everett, MBE (KSR)
 Dame Olive Ward (DSR)
 Rt Rev'd Michael Ward (SchSR)

St Mark Awards:

RE Dame Margaret Gunnell (DGCSM)
 E Steven Turner (KCSM)
 Dame Dianne Uttley (DCSM)
 Chevalier Ian Cameron (OSM)
 Dame Susan Austin (MSM)
 Chevalier Mike Boxall (MSM)

Promotions:

E Chevalier David Starritt (GCSR)

Photographs of the event can be viewed in the Gallery on the website.
www.orderofstraphael.org.uk

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING - SATURDAY 7TH. OCTOBER 2017

Cathedral of the Old Catholic Church UK, Rugeley

Members of the Order, some travelling from Scotland, Darlington and London, gathered at the Cathedral for the first of what is hoped to be a regular annual event. The old cathedral is a beautiful building and the ambiance was magnificent. The service was led by the Great Prior, Right. Rev'd. Geoffrey Robinson with reading from Pamela Robinson, David Haywood and me. We also had the Archbishop, Most Rev'd John Lycett with three visiting priests to join us.

It was a very pleasant event and afterwards we went to a local pub for lunch. This turned out to be a very pleasant indeed as it was "Buy 1 Get 1 Free"! A perfect ending to a perfect day! Next year we hope that more will come along.



I am indebted to Geoffrey & David for the work they put in organising the event, to Geoffrey for writing the service and to the Archbishop, John Lycett, for allowing us the use of the cathedral.

Julian Gunnell GCSR GCSM, Grand Master

SOME PERIODIC RAMBLINGS OF THE PRIOR

June 2017 (Issue 30)

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. I have also reprinted Issue 30 as I feel it is a message we should not allow to dim in our daily thoughts and actions

Dear Members

As Christians, we need to play a very important role in society these days, when social structures are collapsing, family life breaking up and everyone appears to be only concerned about pleasing themselves. But there are still those people who look to Christians to provide the answers, and we can only help society find the right solutions, when we set a good example ourselves. So, as followers of Christ, our lives should be an example of true Christian teaching. Any conduct falling short of this will only invite criticism and will inevitably further restrict the growth of the Church.

The example of Christ should be central to our life and faith so that our minds are characterised by the self-giving attitude of Christ, the Good Shepherd. In Biblical times the Shepherd cared for his sheep, called them by name, led them to pasture and water, found shelter for them during inclement weather, defended them against bandits and wolves, and willingly laid down his life for them. Unfortunately, this image of the Good Shepherd does not move us as it did the people of Israel, and the early Christians. But if we really want to understand the Scriptures and to know our true relationship with God, we must understand the image of the Shepherd and his sheep. Shepherds and sheep are not very common or relevant in today's high tech, computerized world. And we do not like to think of ourselves as dumb, submissive animals.

We are sophisticated human beings, or so we think! We have an intellect and a free will, to go where we please and do what we want. And we don't like sheep dogs yapping and snapping at our feet. But perhaps we are more like sheep than we really care to admit: Because, like sheep we seem to be oblivious of everything

except the plot of grass that surrounds us here and now. We spend all of our time feathering our little nest here, as if it will go on forever.

Just like sheep, we are not conscious of the ravenous wolves that surround us in the counter-culture in which we live – though we really should be. To say nothing of the wolves that come to us in sheep's clothing. And just like sheep, we always think that the grass is greener on the other side, so we stray from the flock. Now, whether we appreciate it or not, the image of the Good Shepherd and his sheep is enshrined forever in the Bible and in Christianity. In very truth it fits every generation, even our own. So, what a great blessing it is for us Christians, to follow Jesus and his Apostles with great joy and confidence, wherever they may lead us. Amen.

+Geoffrey

Around the Conclaves - News & Events

CONCLAVE OF MARTIN AT SEES

The Conclave Commander is E. Dame Pamela Robinson, DCSR, CSM

You can contact Helen at csm@orderofstraphael.org.uk

Recently Dame Pamela Robinson presented a cheque of £310.00 to 'Autism Ventures' who were founded in the early 1970s in the Merseyside region, Autism Initiatives remains a parent-led charity. They are a founder member of the Autism Alliance and connected with regional and national autism networks and strategy groups.



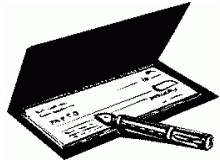
Pictured on the right is the presentation of the cheque to "Sam" and Cathy from Autism Ventures in Southport.



LION RAMPANT CONCLAVE

The Commander is E Chevalier David Starritt, KCSR, GCSM

You can contact David at clr@orderofstraphael.org.uk



I am very proud to report that virtually all members of the Lion Rampant Conclave turned out this morning for the visit to St James's Court, for the presentation of a cheque for £400 to Inspire, and for the draw for Melanie's lucky square. We were shown the sensory area that we helped equip last year, and the donation today will help equip it further...

Pictured on the right is the winner of the Lucky draw, our latest new postulant, Mrs Moira Scott, which was drawn by one of the staff from "INSPIRE" at St. James House in Inverurie, Aberdeenshire.

R.E. David R. Starritt GCSR GCSM and Melanie McLellan, who organized the Lucky Draw, are pictured presenting the prize of a basket of Fruit & flowers to Mrs Moira Scott alongside Hon. Almoner Ross McLellan and Vice Chancellor Dame Elaine Starritt.



Since winning the Lucky Draw, Moira has joined the Order of St. Raphael at our Meeting in August in the Masonic Temple, Inverurie, along with her husband Richard Scott, who were both inducted into the Conclave by the Grand Chancellor.

Abbreviated Minutes of our Meeting held at Mosseye Steading, Oldmeldrum, 25th June 2017

Matters arising: It was agreed that we would invite Albert Thomson and other members of the Confraternity of Knights of the Most Holy Trinity to our AGM in September. DS will do this. It was agreed to repeat Melanie's lucky square fundraiser. The squares will be £1 each, that each member will be given 13 numbers to sell, and would each contribute £5 to the cost of the prize, a Christmas hamper. The draw will take place in December at the same time as the donation. Ian Cameron is still trying to get us a bag packing slot at M&S, Inverurie, but it is uncertain whether the application will be successful. He will now attempt to get the same at Morrison's, Inverurie.

Treasurer's report: Gordon Wackett presented a summary of the present state of the accounts. These were accepted. The bank balance stands at £305. It was agreed that we again donate to Inspire, amount to be decided at the AGM.

"Easy fundraising" is up and going, but we have not seen yet any money coming through to us. everyone was reminded to try and make use of this. **Members** were

encouraged to pay their oblations in good time as this increases the amount that comes back to us from the main Order. Standing Orders were encouraged. The Order used to give hefty donations to national causes once a year. They have changed this, and will send money through to the Conclaves for us to use locally. We can expect to receive £250 for this purpose.

Fund-raising: Moira and Anne offered to raise money through a tea party in a village hall. This was welcomed. We shall await the details.

Recruitment and retention: We are a small group and must gain new members, and endeavor to at least get back to our original number of 16 members. Each member was encouraged to try to recruit suitable people. Though not yet members, Richard and Moira were also encouraged to try to enroll new members.

Promotions: Within the Order, Chevalier Ian Cameron has been promoted to the rank of Officer of the Order of St. Mark (OSM) and has also been made Grand Herald. David has been promoted to GCSR, will be standing down as Grand Treasurer, and will take up Grand Registrar as Elaine wishes to relinquish this duty.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be scheduled for Sunday 24th September. This will be opened and closed in full ritualistic form. We have two for admission to the Order. We may work a ceremony of admission, or perhaps the Grand Master will attend and undertake this plus the conferring of knighthood. This will be held at the Masonic Lodge, Inverurie, at 10:30, followed by lunch at the Kintore Arms.

AOCB: It was suggested that the Order might consider applying for Charitable status. Donations then could be Gift Aided. DS will pass this on. This was followed by a wonderful spread, thanks to Sabina, good company and good conversation.

Grace was given by our Chaplain, Chevalier Michael Stephen KSR OSM.

Annual General Meeting – 24th September 2017



Today we had our AGM. We had a visit by the Deputy Grand Master, and we admitted two new members to our Order. Good company, good food, what more could you ask for!

**Dame Moira Scott, Grand Chancellor, R.E.
Chevalier David Haywood, and Chevalier
Richard Scott**



*A Happy bunch o' Quines & Loons.
Or
Mony a mickle maks a muckle*

Loons are Boys or Young Men
~ **Quines** are Girls or Young Women ~ **Mony** is Many and
Mickle is Small/little whilst
Muckle is Big / Large

Morrison Bag Pack We have now fixed our date for the bag pack as the 20th December 2017, we have at present 5 volunteers and hopefully we can persuade some family members to assist.

And finally: The new date for the **FIZZY TEA PARTY** is Saturday 3rd February. 2018, Members, Friends, Family are all welcome to what should be a fun day for all.

CONCLAVE OF ST THOMAS BECKET – MARTYR

The Conclave Commander is **E. Chevalier Lawrence Day**, CStJ, KCSR

You can contact Alan at ctb@orderofstraphael.org.uk or telephone: 0208 3904642

St Thomas Becket – Martyr - Annual General Meeting 2016

At the previous meeting and at the Grand meeting in Peterborough as well as by email correspondence members of the St William of Rochester Conclave had decided that it would be sensible to place the Conclave into abeyance and transfer into St Thomas Becket – Martyr. Following a brief discussion at which the Kent members present had voiced their agreement with this view and following a proposal from Penny Bell-Wright seconded by Peter Robins, the members of St Thomas Becket – Martyr voted unanimously to accept the Kent members. A general discussed then ensued and it was agreed that all members should be encouraged to attend and that those who did not generally respond should be telephoned.

It was agreed that a Conclave meeting would be held in Kent, probably at Dartford, on a date to be decided. It was also agreed that a Dinner would be held on the Friday before the 29th September each Year, three courses excluding drinks. To encourage members to become more active, 3 or 4 activities per year would also be arranged. The following initial suggestions were put forward, a tour of Windsor Castle, to be arranged with Leslie Grout, renowned expert, a trip on the London Eye and a trip down the River to Greenwich, possibly with a meal in the O2.



CHEVALIER BRIAN EVERETT, GRAND TREASURER

MBE, KSR, BA, FRAeS, FIMgt, FCIPS, MCIT, MSOE, MIRTE

Brian's first career started in the Royal Air Force following National Service in the 1950's and after a brief spell working as a civil servant, he returned to the RAF in 1958. In the subsequent years he served in many parts of the world and held a number of senior operational and staff appointments. In 1972, he was awarded the MBE for military operations in the Middle East.

There then followed a variety of positions in the Ministry of Defence during which he was appointed MOD Escort Officer to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, accompanying them on many of their official overseas visits throughout the late 1970s.

In 1985, he decided to leave the RAF whilst there was still time to develop a second career and to exercise management skills in a more commercially competitive environment. Initially, becoming Assistant Director of Planning and Transportation for the City of Westminster and nominal Chief of Staff for six other divisions. It was during this period that he successfully absorbed many of the tasks, previously carried out by the Greater London Council, with no additional resources and against an almost impossible time-scale. Once this was achieved he was given the task of implementing "Privatisation Reviews" and setting each of the identified areas on a fully commercial basis before becoming Director of Commercial Operations with responsibility for moving these businesses into the private sector.

Having successfully completed this task, he left to set up his own business. In the years that followed he became Chairman and Chief Executive of the Capital Group, a group of companies involved in the design, implementation and operation of city centre parking schemes throughout Europe. He worked on many projects both at home and overseas, the including major schemes in Spain, Mexico, Malta, Africa and the Far East. The Group was eventually sold to a French multi-national in 1991, Six months later he was invited to join London Transport to take on the role of contracts management and eventually, in conjunction with the Department of Transport and others, he played a major role in the successful privatisation of London Buses. Subsequently, he was appointed a main board director, assuming the regulatory and contracting role as Procurement and Infrastructure Director for London Bus Services Limited and London River Services Limited, with an annual budget of almost £1 billion (1993 values). The work included the introduction and development of the bus and river networks for London, the procurement of bus and boat services and infrastructure. He was made a Freeman of the City of London in 2001.

When he retired from London Transport, as well as taking on voluntary roles, he became a director of one of the London Bus operating companies, helping them to restructure and putting their company on a more solid financial footing. In addition to owning and running a country house hotel in the Scottish Borders he also created and managed Translink Consultancy, a company operating in a several specialist areas including transportation, parking, finance, procurement, contract management, infrastructure and engineering.

In the years that followed, he became a non-executive director of NHS Darlington Primary Care Trust, Chairman of NHS County Durham & Darlington Community Health Services, Chairman of the South Durham U3A, Church Warden and President of British Gymnastics. Having been an international athlete, he takes an active interest in all sport. Over the past 17 years he has been involved in fund raising for many charities; climbed many of the world’s major mountains and competitively walked, run and cycled many thousands of miles in the process



Charity Challenge 2017



Simulated walk across the American Continent (or the equivalent of completing the Tour de France)

For over 17 years I’ve been undertaking a number of challenges for different charities. These range from climbing mountains and volcanoes in Europe, Africa, Asia and South America, at altitudes up to 21,000 ft; long distance walks across the UK and Africa; and long-distance cycle rides in excess of 1,000 miles, averaging 72 miles a day. In the process I have raised over £150,000 for various charities.

This year I’m supporting a different charity and you could say, at the age of 82, I’m investing in the future! As I have many other commitments, I can’t afford to be away for almost a year whilst transiting America so I’m doing the equivalent mileage where ever and whenever I can. Some days 5 miles and on others up to 25 miles. Since the first of January this year I’ve completed 1182 miles, reached the equivalent height of 30,090 ft and in the process burned off 474,607 calories, so I’m on target, slightly ahead if I’m crossing America; slightly behind if it’s the Tour de France.

As in previous years, I will be paying all my own expenses, so that every penny raised goes to the charity concerned.. Donations can be made, through either the web page which is www.justgiving.com/Brian-Everett2017 which is then paid directly to the charity or forward it to the charity (quoting Brian Everett’s Fund Raising) or send it to me at the address below. If you are a UK tax payer you can Gift Aid your contribution at no extra cost to yourself but make sure you give your address and a statement to that effect.

Brian D.Everett, MBE,
4, Mowden Hall Drive,
Darlington, DL3 9BJ
Tel: 01325-360423 or Mob: 07508-595960
bd.everett@ntlworld.com

EVENTS / OCCASIONS

Annual outings are one which many of our members enjoy, as it enables them to get to know each other better in informal surroundings, whilst at the same time allowing us to participate in the Order’s objectives of Healing and Teaching, and to raise a small amount of money for the Order’s charity.

Please advise on any events planned for this year or next year. Also I can include in the section below any members you wish to include?

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with you.		
Name	Reason for prayers	Submitted by

Accounts ~ The Order of St. Raphael ~ 2016

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Subscriptions	£1260.00	£1020.00
Admission Fees	£100.00	£50.00
Sales of Regalia	£108.00	£358.00
Donations	£377.00	£435.81
Dining Fees	£775.00	£1792.00
Interest	£0.37	£0.12
	<u>£2620.37</u>	<u>£3655.93</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
To Conclaves	£100.00	£190.00
Regalia	£38.84	£1376.89
Donations	£633.00	£700.00
Catering	£950.00	£1857.00
Bank Charges	£0.00	£0.00
Postage & Stationery	£0.00	£64.70
Website & Newsletter	£222.83	£0.00
	<u>£1944.67</u>	<u>£4188.59</u>
Drop in Value of Stock	£347.00	£-8.00
Surplus (Deficit) for the period	£327.80	£-524.66

Balance Sheet as at 31st. December

Balances as at 1st. January	Current. a/c	£1065.34	£3313.51
	Deposit a/c.	£1701.82	£202.19
	Cash	£34.00	£0.00
	Float	£87.41	£48.57
	Assets	£2856.80	£2509.80
Add surplus (deficit) for year		£328.80	£-524.66
		<u>£6074.07</u>	<u>£5549.41</u>

Represented by Assets

Insignia Stock	£2393.00	££2401.00
Ceremonial Cushions /Sword & Gavel.	£62.00	£62.00
Chains of Office	£54.80	£750.80
Closing Balance	Current a/c	£3313.51
	Deposit a/c.	£202.19
	Cash	£0.00
	Float	£48.57
		<u>£6074.07</u>
		<u>£5549.41</u>

I, the undersigned submit this statement of accounts as a true and accurate record of the accounts of the Order for the year ending 31st. December 2016: E. Chevalier David R. Starritt, KCSR, GCSM., Grand Treasurer.

Examiners Report: I have examined the books and vouchers of these accounts and am satisfied that the above is a true record of the accounts and funds for the year ending 31st. December 2016:

Dame Rhoda W. Ross, DSR, Examiner of Books

Dated: 21st. February 2017

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND TREASURER

I am pleased to report that our finances are sound and in order to secure those funds and to improve our charitable works we have three methods by which members can pay their oblation (subscription) for the current year.

- 1) **On-line banking, Pay Order Bank Account – State your name on payment (A.N. Other ~ Sub/2018)**
- 2) **Standing order ~ ask me for an STO form and give it to your bank.**
- 3) **OR ~ Send a Cheque to the address detailed below**

E. Chevalier Brian Everett, MBE, KSR, 4 Mowden Hall Drive, Darlington, DL3 9BJ.

Cheques payable to: "Order of Saint Raphael" ~ Sort Code:30-98-74 ~ Acct. No: 03007698

ABSTRACT RAMBLINGS FROM THE GRAND HERALD

As the Grand Herald for the Order of St. Raphael. I said I would attempt to bring new and interesting items and articles along with thought-provoking content to the Order of St. Raphael Newsletter. Also, if you feel that there is some aspect of your Conclave that helps promote the Order or have some ideas on this newsletter and its format, please contact myself in the first instance, either by Telephone or e-mail and I will be more than happy to review your comments or suggestions.

- (a) **It is important that we know our members throughout the Order and that's what I think the newsletter is intended to promote and broadcast. So, please let me know of your Interests, thoughts and Aspirations for yourselves and the Order in General.**

*I personally have embarked on a restoration project for a two-wheeled tractor unit (Howard Clifford 700). I also do quite a bit of Landscaping at our Converted Farm Steading including Dry Stone Walling and Fencing. We also have chickens (Fresh Eggs) and Grandchildren (Laughter & tears) here on the Steading so life is always full on, I am also a Member of the Local **MENS SHED** and Secretary/Scribe / Recorder of 3 Masonic Organisations and an Office Bearer in 3 more Local and Provincial Orders along with being an active member in 2 other Non-Masonic Organisations which all raise considerable amounts of money for good causes.*

- (b) **New Members are the life blood of any organisation, let us know how you think that we can encourage likeminded Individuals to become part of our organisation**

I have two applicants in mind for joining, but it is important that we ensure applicants have the inclination to participate in our Orders with both Philosophical and practical efforts on behalf of our fellow human beings. I have taken a slow but sure approach with invitations to our events and promoting our ideals. Hopefully, this will inspire them to take further participation in our order as I sometimes believe we are too quick to ask people to join without ensuring that their own personal circumstances and beliefs match our Orders ideals.

- (c) **Raising money for our charitable donations is a very worthwhile aspiration, how we do it is more problematical. New ideas based on new technologies like EASY FUND RAISING is one way we can improve our contributions to charity, old ideas are just as important, they bring together our members and possible new members who have similar interests. The dissemination of these ideas is one of the benefits of our Newsletter and I would therefore encourage you to share those ideas with our members through this newsletter.**

*One of our youngest members brought up the idea of a Raffle board, a simple but most effective way of raising money and has been very successful in raising funds for our Local Charitable Causes. This came about because we engaged with the young adults and responded positively to their ideas. The moral of this story is: Listen & Learn as you are never too old to learn new tricks I also am using “**easy Fundraising**” it does not cost me anything and sends the contribution direct to **The Order of St. Raphael Lion Rampant Conclave** If we all used this system, we could raise Hundreds of Pounds without any effort on our parts.*

*Other ideas like Bag packing days at local supermarkets can raise Hundreds of Pounds and are fairly easy to organise, Contact the Supermarkets Customer Service and they will put in touch with their Local Champion (They will then advise you on dates available and also what criteria you need to meet to operate in their shops, (Some only do registered Charities) I’ve managed this year to sort a day at **MORRISONS SUPERMARKETS**. If we are successful we should hopefully raise £200 – £300 and also raise the profile of our Group locally*

You will need the following to be successful:

- 1 Plastic Tubs / buckets with your organisation and who you raise money for clearly visible.
- 2 Enthusiastic Bag Packers with personality to chat to customers as you are packing.
- 3 1 Spare person to enable others to take breaks ~ no more than ½ hour packing is advisable.
- 4 A Table display is good way of publicising your organisation and having a spare collection bucket on the table helps increase donations from shoppers who just want to help your charity.

OUR ORDERS AIMS & BELIEFS - WHAT ARE WE ABOUT?

PRAYER

The main purpose of our Order has always been to aid the cure of those who are sick in mind or body. We do this by way of PRAYER. It is our belief, in common with many other religions, that God listens to prayer, and that the greater the volume of prayer towards any specific end, the more likely that it will be granted. Therefore, we pray for the sick, in our homes and at our meetings. It was to fulfil this purpose that the Order was instituted by a Charter dated 1st January 1953, by the Pope of the Catholic Apostolic Church. Before this the Order had existed on a less formal basis.

ECUMENICAL We are an Ecumenical Order, and admit both men and women on an equal basis. Any CHRISTIAN may join provided he or she signs a Declaration of Faith which forms part of the application form. Some members have a belief in, and practise, 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 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.

KNOWLEDGE: The second purpose of our Order is to acquire and preserve esoteric knowledge, and to pass on such knowledge to others. We are especially concerned the wisdom of philosophers and teachers, past and present, should not be lost to Mankind. How many of us have read the writings of, or are even conversant with the works of early and erudite teachers, such as Ignatius? How many have read the words of those whose thoughts did not find favour with the authorities of their times? Even those who were not Christian often had a message of importance, and deserve to be studied. We encourage members to read and study such teachers of all disciplines, in the belief that the work of all great thinkers deserves to be considered and discussed. It must be stressed that not everything that is considered is accepted. We wish to broaden our educational horizons, and the discussion of all topics widens our understanding of the conditions that created such ideas.

MEETINGS Throughout the year we organise meetings that any member may attend to hear speakers on various subjects. At the local level Conclaves arrange their own programme, to suit the requirements of the members. Typically, this consists of three meetings a year at dates acceptable to its members - usually a social occasion, a learning occasion and an Investiture to welcome and admit new members. There are opportunities to unite with other Orders to learn their aims and objectives.

Our aims are best summarised in the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy:

1~Feed the hungry ~ 2~ Give drink to the thirsty ~ 3~Clothe the naked with a garment ~ 4~Visit and ransom the captives, 5~Shelter the homeless ~ 6~Visit and relieve the Sick ~ 8~Bury the dead.

CHIVALRIC In addition to the Charter granted by the Catholic Apostolic Church, the Order has a second Charter, one granted on 17th June 1954, by the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order of the Levant. By virtue of this second Charter we may now grant our members the grades and ranks handed down from the Teutonic Order of St Mary, founded in 1190 AD, when pilgrims to the Holy Land from Bremen and Lubeck, wished to administer and protect a new hospital in Jerusalem, which had been built to replace a much older one.

HISTORY The Grand Master of any may permit another existing Order to perform some functions of his own Order. This is what happened in the aftermath of the Second World War when the Teutonic Knights found they had problems in Europe. Rather than lose the traditions of an Order that went back more than 750 years, they were transferred to the protection of our Order in England, on 17th June 1954. We then became a Chivalric Order.

CHARITY the Order undertakes charitable fundraising at its meetings. Each Conclave chooses a small local charity to support, thus giving maximum support and gaining invaluable publicity for both the charity and the Order.

GENERAL Our Order believes that **NOW** is the time when people are seeking a Spiritual Base from which to study the Great Mystery of Life. We hope that our members find Peace of Mind and a strengthening of Faith in their association with the Order, for we are guided by the writings of St James, Chapter 5 verses 14, 15 & 16.

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the Elders of the Church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the Prayer of Faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

CEREMONY Ceremonial meetings are usually held in a Church which may be of any recognised denomination. From the earliest days of Knighthood aspirants spent the evening before investiture in Vigil before the altar. Early next day the Accolade having been administered all would partake in Holy Communion. Our ceremony of Admission and the creation of Knights and Dames is beautiful and meaningful, and takes place in Peterborough each year.

The Order also administers, as an Order of Merit, **The Most Meritorious, Spiritual and Military Order of St Mark** to recognise the efforts of members on behalf of St Raphael.

MEMBERSHIP The membership of the Order is inexpensive as we believe that knowledge should be, and we wish to encourage participation in all our activities. You will, however, be expected to pay for the insignia of your rank prior to its presentation on Admission.

INSIGNIA

Dame Margaret Gunnell reminds members that a variety of gifts and insignia are 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 contact details are below.

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 as of 2016 and subject to change as stock is replenished, so please **check** with Dame Margaret before placing any orders. gcoi@orderofstraphael.org.uk

The newsletter is written by the herald, Chevalier Ian Cameron. Articles for publication should be sent to him at gh@orderofstraphael.org.uk

ALL OTHER COMMUNICATIONS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE MUST BE TO:

Grand Chancellor

R.E. Chevalier David Haywood, OStJ, GCSR, GCSM

89 Haig Road, Bury, BL8 2LG.

Tel: 0161 764 4786

email: gc@orderofstraphael.org.uk

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR GRAND MASTER

JULIAN K GUNNELL GCSR, GCSM

Dear Knights, Dames & friends,

At this time of year our thoughts turn to the Festive Season and quite rightly there is much excitement about welcoming relatives and friends into our homes. There's a special pleasure in having friends round on Christmas Day or just simply relaxing quietly in front of the fire, whatever suits you best. However, let us not forget those less fortunate than us. Those that do not have friends or family to support them, those struggling financially and last but by no means least, those fighting illness and disease. As a member of our Christian Healing Order, I ask you to spare a little time on Christmas Day, say at 5 p.m., find somewhere tranquil and offer up a short prayer for these unfortunate people. If we are able to do this, the combined outpouring of love cannot fail to be heard by our Lord. Never underestimate the power of prayer!

Finally, Margaret and I wish you all a very Happy & Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order and with the Blessings of St Raphael,

Julian Gunnell, Grand Master,



OBITUARIES

Patricia (Patti) Dorothy Ansell 1933-2017



On Thursday, 9th November 2017, Dianne and I attended the funeral of **Dame Patti Ansell DGCSR** at The Fenland Crematorium, March, Cambridgeshire. Also present was our Grand Master Julian Gunnell and his wife Margaret.

The funeral ceremony, conducted by Gemma Christina, was extremely dignified and started with the film theme *Somewhere in Time* by the John Barry Orchestra. We were all welcomed by Gemma who then invited Beverley Ansell, Patti's daughter-in-law to recite the poem *Death is nothing at All* by Canon Henry Scott Holland (1847-1918). The recital was followed by a eulogy and life story of Patti prepared and read by Chris Ansell, Patti's son; it was a thoughtful tribute and much appreciated by all present. After a few moments silence we recited the Lord's Prayer and then listened to the Choir of York Minster singing *Abide with Me*. Gemma Christina then read a few words of comfort and the proceedings were concluded by Cat Stevens singing *Morning Has Broken*. Donations were readily given for Parkinson's UK. We then retired to the Oliver Cromwell Hotel, March for refreshments.

Patti was a long-standing and enthusiastic supporter of The Healing, Teaching and Chivalric Order of St. Raphael and she fully supported her husband Keith. Keith was the Grand Chancellor of The Order for many years until he passed away 11 years ago. In the early years of The Order most new candidates had their mantles made privately and Patti made many of these mantles before we approached regalia manufacturers in recent times. For her work in this area and her loyalty to The Order, Patti received the accolade of honorary Dame Grand Cross of St. Raphael.

It was an Honour to have known Dame **Patti Ansell**.

Chevalier Barry Uttley, Deputy Grand Master Emeritus

Margaret and I were privileged to be able to attend the funeral and celebration of the life of Dame Patti Ansell, DGCSR, late of our Order. The service took place 9th. November 2017 at Fenland Crematorium, Cambridgeshire. The setting was lovely and very conducive to saying one's farewell with dignity. Barry & Diane Uttley, long term friends of the family travelled down and also represented the Order with us. Her son, Chris Ansell, gave a detailed and slightly humorous eulogy to his mother and the obvious fun they had growing up. The service was a moving tribute to Patti and her very full life, from her years travelling the world with Keith her husband who was in the RAF at the time and also a former Chancellor of this Order; her time in Yorkshire, then March in Cambridgeshire and her devotion to her family throughout all that time.

Patti's health eventually failed her and she needed care from 2015, and it was whilst in the Care Home she slipped away on 24th October 2017. She will be sadly missed, a true stalwart both of life and of our Order.

Julian Gunnell, Grand Master

ANNUAL INVESTITURE 2017

This year's meeting again took place at the Masonic Hall, Peterborough on 13th May. The Grand Master opened the meeting and the Grand Chancellor read out the apologies.

There were three postulants this year – Chevalier Brian Everett, Dame Olive Ward and the Rt Rev'd Michael Ward, and we welcome them all to the Order. Prior to the Investiture Ceremony, a short vigil was introduced this year for the postulants, led by the Grand Prior, to focus the postulants' minds on the step that they are about to take.

There was just one St Raphael promotion this year, with Chevalier David Starritt promoted to Knight Grand Cross, and the Grand Prior was invested with the newly created decoration of Ecclesiastical Grand Cross. The Grand Master then had great pleasure in making a number of awards in the Order of St Mark.

The Grand Master then appointed E Dame Pamela Robinson as Commander of the Conclave of St Martin at Sées – the first female to achieve this in our Order. This being his first Investiture as GM, certificates were presented to all Grand Officers present. The full list of Grand Officers can be found on the website.

After the service, the usual convivial meal took place, attended by 26 members and guests.

The Grand Council meeting took place after lunch, and items discussed were as follows:

- The Grand Chancellor announced that although a few minor changes to the Constitution and Statutes were approved last year, several further changes were now proposed and had been circulated to members of the Grand Council by email. These were approved unanimously and a copy of the revised document can be found on the Order's website.
- At the beginning of the morning service, the Grand Chancellor had announced that we were using a temporary Ritual booklet since changes needed to be made following the change of GM. The Grand Prior now explained that we had introduced some extra items into the service, namely a Bible Reading, short intercessions, and a short section allowing those who wished to receive healing oils. There were no objections from members and so these will be introduced into the Ritual on a permanent basis.
- The Grand Prior went on to say that he had produced a St Raphael Prayer book to enable Conclaves, especially those with no ordained Prior, to have something to use at local meetings, with prayers and blessings that can be said by a lay person. It can also be used by members to assist with prayer, and covers various eventualities when prayer may be required. At the moment it is still a work in progress, but copies have been initially given to Conclaves to use and provide feedback.
- The Grand Chancellor said that a lot of positive reports were received following the service at Rugeley, and in order to build on this suggested an annual Service of Thanksgiving in the autumn of each year at Rugeley, but with a more informal lunch. This would give members of the Order an extra opportunity to meet, and it would not matter too much if the response was not huge. The Grand Prior confirmed that we could use the Cathedral at any time we wished. Full details and application forms will be sent out later in the summer. The date now set is Saturday 7th October, at 11am.
- The Grand Treasurer circulated a copy of the accounts to 31st December 2015, which showed a deficit for the year of £524.66, due mainly to the extra cost incurred in the Installation of the Grand Master and new Chains of Office and Batons. Only one member is now in arrears with subscriptions, and it is reported that he is very poorly. The accounts had been independently examined by Dame Rhoda Ross. The accounts were accepted by the meeting and thanks given to David and Rhoda for their work. David went on to say that he is stepping down as Treasurer at the end of the year, and the GM has appointed Chevalier Brian Everett to take over at that time.

- The GT went on to add that following today's raffle, and with membership donations and donations from Conclaves we had around £600 to distribute to our nominated Charities. The Grand Master said that he wished to change our distribution process and split this between the Conclaves to enable them to choose and distribute to local charities. Not only will this ensure that the money goes to small worthy charities, but the publicity opportunity is also much greater, and it is hoped that all Conclaves will make the most of this. The only criteria are that the charity must have a "human healing" aspect to it, and that details of any charities chosen must be submitted to the Grand Hospitaller and Grand Chancellor for approval before the cheques are issued by the Grand Treasurer. Commanders are to invite the local press and radio to any donations to ensure a photo opportunity.

If the press does not attend, it is the Commander's responsibility to ensure photos are taken and the copy written for the press. Photos and the "written copy" are to be sent to the Grand Hospitaller and Grand Chancellor for inclusion in the newsletter, Facebook and the website.

- Each of the three Conclave Commanders gave brief reports of their activities, and it is pleasing that we now have three active Conclaves. Copies of the reports or events can be found on the website.
- Chevalier Steven Turner spoke about a new organisation of which he is a founder. The Grand Master of the International Order of St Stanislas thought that it was about time that the *alleged* illegitimate or unrecognised Orders had their own association. He therefore created the International Confederation of Chivalric Orders (ICCO) and has sent invitations to various Orders around the World inviting them to join. At the moment and for the next few Years there will be no Fees and all costs will be met by St Stanislas; when sufficient Orders have joined a Council will be formed with each Order having representation. All Orders will remain independent as the purpose of the ICCO is to create strength in numbers and to allow exchange of ideas and possibly members.
A discussion then took place amongst the Grand Council as to whether or not we should join. There was a small number against but the majority agreed that we should give it a try and the Order of St Raphael will therefore join the ICCO for an initial period of three years.
- Steven Turner talked about the benefits of "*easyfundraising*", which enables people shopping or searching on the internet to have a small amount donated to their charitable cause. It was agreed that each Conclave should set up its own "*easyfundraising*" page and accrue the donations received in its own Conclave account for distribution in due course.

The Grand Master closed the Grand Council Meeting at 3.30pm.

The date for the 2018 Investiture is Saturday 12th May. @ 11am.

New members admitted:

Chevalier Brian Everett, MBE (KSR)
 Dame Olive Ward (DSR)
 Rt Rev'd Michael Ward (SchSR)

St Mark Awards:

RE Dame Margaret Gunnell (DGCSM)
 E Steven Turner (KCSM)
 Dame Dianne Uttley (DCSM)
 Chevalier Ian Cameron (OSM)
 Dame Susan Austin (MSM)
 Chevalier Mike Boxall (MSM)

Promotions:

E Chevalier David Starritt (GCSR)

Photographs of the event can be viewed in the Gallery on the website.
www.orderofstraphael.org.uk

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING - SATURDAY 7TH. OCTOBER 2017

Cathedral of the Old Catholic Church UK, Rugeley

Members of the Order, some travelling from Scotland, Darlington and London, gathered at the Cathedral for the first of what is hoped to be a regular annual event. The old cathedral is a beautiful building and the ambiance was magnificent. The service was led by the Great Prior, Right. Rev'd. Geoffrey Robinson with reading from Pamela Robinson, David Haywood and me. We also had the Archbishop, Most Rev'd John Lycett with three visiting priests to join us.

It was a very pleasant event and afterwards we went to a local pub for lunch. This turned out to be a very pleasant indeed as it was "Buy 1 Get 1 Free"! A perfect ending to a perfect day! Next year we hope that more will come along.



I am indebted to Geoffrey & David for the work they put in organising the event, to Geoffrey for writing the service and to the Archbishop, John Lycett, for allowing us the use of the cathedral.

Julian Gunnell GCSR GCSM, Grand Master

SOME PERIODIC RAMBLINGS OF THE PRIOR

June 2017 (Issue 30)

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. I have also reprinted Issue 30 as I feel it is a message we should not allow to dim in our daily thoughts and actions

Dear Members

As Christians, we need to play a very important role in society these days, when social structures are collapsing, family life breaking up and everyone appears to be only concerned about pleasing themselves. But there are still those people who look to Christians to provide the answers, and we can only help society find the right solutions, when we set a good example ourselves. So, as followers of Christ, our lives should be an example of true Christian teaching. Any conduct falling short of this will only invite criticism and will inevitably further restrict the growth of the Church.

The example of Christ should be central to our life and faith so that our minds are characterised by the self-giving attitude of Christ, the Good Shepherd. In Biblical times the Shepherd cared for his sheep, called them by name, led them to pasture and water, found shelter for them during inclement weather, defended them against bandits and wolves, and willingly laid down his life for them. Unfortunately, this image of the Good Shepherd does not move us as it did the people of Israel, and the early Christians. But if we really want to understand the Scriptures and to know our true relationship with God, we must understand the image of the Shepherd and his sheep. Shepherds and sheep are not very common or relevant in today's high tech, computerized world. And we do not like to think of ourselves as dumb, submissive animals.

We are sophisticated human beings, or so we think! We have an intellect and a free will, to go where we please and do what we want. And we don't like sheep dogs yapping and snapping at our feet. But perhaps we are more like sheep than we really care to admit: Because, like sheep we seem to be oblivious of everything

except the plot of grass that surrounds us here and now. We spend all of our time feathering our little nest here, as if it will go on forever.

Just like sheep, we are not conscious of the ravenous wolves that surround us in the counter-culture in which we live – though we really should be. To say nothing of the wolves that come to us in sheep's clothing. And just like sheep, we always think that the grass is greener on the other side, so we stray from the flock. Now, whether we appreciate it or not, the image of the Good Shepherd and his sheep is enshrined forever in the Bible and in Christianity. In very truth it fits every generation, even our own. So, what a great blessing it is for us Christians, to follow Jesus and his Apostles with great joy and confidence, wherever they may lead us. Amen.

+Geoffrey

Around the Conclaves - News & Events

CONCLAVE OF MARTIN AT SEES

The Conclave Commander is E. Dame Pamela Robinson, DCSR, CSM

You can contact Helen at csm@orderofstraphael.org.uk

Recently Dame Pamela Robinson presented a cheque of £310.00 to 'Autism Ventures' who were founded in the early 1970s in the Merseyside region, Autism Initiatives remains a parent-led charity. They are a founder member of the Autism Alliance and connected with regional and national autism networks and strategy groups.



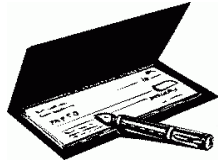
Pictured on the right is the presentation of the cheque to "Sam" and Cathy from Autism Ventures in Southport.



LION RAMPANT CONCLAVE

The Commander is E Chevalier David Starritt, KCSR, GCSM

You can contact David at clr@orderofstraphael.org.uk



I am very proud to report that virtually all members of the Lion Rampant Conclave turned out this morning for the visit to St James's Court, for the presentation of a cheque for £400 to Inspire, and for the draw for Melanie's lucky square. We were shown the sensory area that we helped equip last year, and the donation today will help equip it further...

Pictured on the right is the winner of the Lucky draw, our latest new postulant, Mrs Moira Scott, which was drawn by one of the staff from "INSPIRE" at St. James House in Inverurie, Aberdeenshire.

R.E. David R. Starritt GCSR GCSM and Melanie McLellan, who organized the Lucky Draw, are pictured presenting the prize of a basket of Fruit & flowers to Mrs Moira Scott alongside Hon. Almoner Ross McLellan and Vice Chancellor Dame Elaine Starritt.



Since winning the Lucky Draw, Moira has joined the Order of St. Raphael at our Meeting in August in the Masonic Temple, Inverurie, along with her husband Richard Scott, who were both inducted into the Conclave by the Grand Chancellor.

Abbreviated Minutes of our Meeting held at Mosseye Steading, Oldmeldrum, 25th June 2017

Matters arising: It was agreed that we would invite Albert Thomson and other members of the Confraternity of Knights of the Most Holy Trinity to our AGM in September. DS will do this. It was agreed to repeat Melanie's lucky square fundraiser. The squares will be £1 each, that each member will be given 13 numbers to sell, and would each contribute £5 to the cost of the prize, a Christmas hamper. The draw will take place in December at the same time as the donation. Ian Cameron is still trying to get us a bag packing slot at M&S, Inverurie, but it is uncertain whether the application will be successful. He will now attempt to get the same at Morrison's, Inverurie.

Treasurer's report: Gordon Wackett presented a summary of the present state of the accounts. These were accepted. The bank balance stands at £305. It was agreed that we again donate to Inspire, amount to be decided at the AGM.

"Easy fundraising" is up and going, but we have not seen yet any money coming through to us. everyone was reminded to try and make use of this. **Members** were

encouraged to pay their oblations in good time as this increases the amount that comes back to us from the main Order. Standing Orders were encouraged. The Order used to give hefty donations to national causes once a year. They have changed this, and will send money through to the Conclaves for us to use locally. We can expect to receive £250 for this purpose.

Fund-raising: Moira and Anne offered to raise money through a tea party in a village hall. This was welcomed. We shall await the details.

Recruitment and retention: We are a small group and must gain new members, and endeavor to at least get back to our original number of 16 members. Each member was encouraged to try to recruit suitable people. Though not yet members, Richard and Moira were also encouraged to try to enroll new members.

Promotions: Within the Order, Chevalier Ian Cameron has been promoted to the rank of Officer of the Order of St. Mark (OSM) and has also been made Grand Herald. David has been promoted to GCSR, will be standing down as Grand Treasurer, and will take up Grand Registrar as Elaine wishes to relinquish this duty.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be scheduled for Sunday 24th September. This will be opened and closed in full ritualistic form. We have two for admission to the Order. We may work a ceremony of admission, or perhaps the Grand Master will attend and undertake this plus the conferring of knighthood. This will be held at the Masonic Lodge, Inverurie, at 10:30, followed by lunch at the Kintore Arms.

AOCB: It was suggested that the Order might consider applying for Charitable status. Donations then could be Gift Aided. DS will pass this on. This was followed by a wonderful spread, thanks to Sabina, good company and good conversation.

Grace was given by our Chaplain, Chevalier Michael Stephen KSR OSM.

Annual General Meeting – 24th September 2017



Today we had our AGM. We had a visit by the Deputy Grand Master, and we admitted two new members to our Order. Good company, good food, what more could you ask for!

**Dame Moira Scott, Grand Chancellor, R.E.
Chevalier David Haywood, and Chevalier
Richard Scott**



*A Happy bunch o' Quines & Loons.
Or
Mony a mickle maks a muckle*

Loons are Boys or Young Men
~ **Quines** are Girls or Young Women ~ **Mony** is Many and
Mickle is Small/little whilst
Muckle is Big / Large

Morrison Bag Pack We have now fixed our date for the bag pack as the 20th December 2017, we have at present 5 volunteers and hopefully we can persuade some family members to assist.

And finally: The new date for the **FIZZY TEA PARTY** is Saturday 3rd February. 2018, Members, Friends, Family are all welcome to what should be a fun day for all.

CONCLAVE OF ST THOMAS BECKET – MARTYR

The Conclave Commander is **E. Chevalier Lawrence Day**, CStJ, KCSR

You can contact Alan at ctb@orderofstraphael.org.uk or telephone: 0208 3904642

St Thomas Becket – Martyr - Annual General Meeting 2016

At the previous meeting and at the Grand meeting in Peterborough as well as by email correspondence members of the St William of Rochester Conclave had decided that it would be sensible to place the Conclave into abeyance and transfer into St Thomas Becket – Martyr. Following a brief discussion at which the Kent members present had voiced their agreement with this view and following a proposal from Penny Bell-Wright seconded by Peter Robins, the members of St Thomas Becket – Martyr voted unanimously to accept the Kent members. A general discussed then ensued and it was agreed that all members should be encouraged to attend and that those who did not generally respond should be telephoned.

It was agreed that a Conclave meeting would be held in Kent, probably at Dartford, on a date to be decided. It was also agreed that a Dinner would be held on the Friday before the 29th September each Year, three courses excluding drinks. To encourage members to become more active, 3 or 4 activities per year would also be arranged. The following initial suggestions were put forward, a tour of Windsor Castle, to be arranged with Leslie Grout, renowned expert, a trip on the London Eye and a trip down the River to Greenwich, possibly with a meal in the O2.



CHEVALIER BRIAN EVERETT, GRAND TREASURER

MBE, KSR, BA, FRAeS, FIMgt, FCIPS, MCIT, MSOE, MIRTE

Brian's first career started in the Royal Air Force following National Service in the 1950's and after a brief spell working as a civil servant, he returned to the RAF in 1958. In the subsequent years he served in many parts of the world and held a number of senior operational and staff appointments. In 1972, he was awarded the MBE for military operations in the Middle East.

There then followed a variety of positions in the Ministry of Defence during which he was appointed MOD Escort Officer to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, accompanying them on many of their official overseas visits throughout the late 1970s.

In 1985, he decided to leave the RAF whilst there was still time to develop a second career and to exercise management skills in a more commercially competitive environment. Initially, becoming Assistant Director of Planning and Transportation for the City of Westminster and nominal Chief of Staff for six other divisions. It was during this period that he successfully absorbed many of the tasks, previously carried out by the Greater London Council, with no additional resources and against an almost impossible time-scale. Once this was achieved he was given the task of implementing "Privatisation Reviews" and setting each of the identified areas on a fully commercial basis before becoming Director of Commercial Operations with responsibility for moving these businesses into the private sector.

Having successfully completed this task, he left to set up his own business. In the years that followed he became Chairman and Chief Executive of the Capital Group, a group of companies involved in the design, implementation and operation of city centre parking schemes throughout Europe. He worked on many projects both at home and overseas, the including major schemes in Spain, Mexico, Malta, Africa and the Far East. The Group was eventually sold to a French multi-national in 1991, Six months later he was invited to join London Transport to take on the role of contracts management and eventually, in conjunction with the Department of Transport and others, he played a major role in the successful privatisation of London Buses. Subsequently, he was appointed a main board director, assuming the regulatory and contracting role as Procurement and Infrastructure Director for London Bus Services Limited and London River Services Limited, with an annual budget of almost £1 billion (1993 values). The work included the introduction and development of the bus and river networks for London, the procurement of bus and boat services and infrastructure. He was made a Freeman of the City of London in 2001.

When he retired from London Transport, as well as taking on voluntary roles, he became a director of one of the London Bus operating companies, helping them to restructure and putting their company on a more solid financial footing. In addition to owning and running a country house hotel in the Scottish Borders he also created and managed Translink Consultancy, a company operating in a several specialist areas including transportation, parking, finance, procurement, contract management, infrastructure and engineering.

In the years that followed, he became a non-executive director of NHS Darlington Primary Care Trust, Chairman of NHS County Durham & Darlington Community Health Services, Chairman of the South Durham U3A, Church Warden and President of British Gymnastics. Having been an international athlete, he takes an active interest in all sport. Over the past 17 years he has been involved in fund raising for many charities; climbed many of the world’s major mountains and competitively walked, run and cycled many thousands of miles in the process



Charity Challenge 2017



Simulated walk across the American Continent (or the equivalent of completing the Tour de France)

For over 17 years I’ve been undertaking a number of challenges for different charities. These range from climbing mountains and volcanoes in Europe, Africa, Asia and South America, at altitudes up to 21,000 ft; long distance walks across the UK and Africa; and long-distance cycle rides in excess of 1,000 miles, averaging 72 miles a day. In the process I have raised over £150,000 for various charities.

This year I’m supporting a different charity and you could say, at the age of 82, I’m investing in the future! As I have many other commitments, I can’t afford to be away for almost a year whilst transiting America so I’m doing the equivalent mileage where ever and whenever I can. Some days 5 miles and on others up to 25 miles. Since the first of January this year I’ve completed 1182 miles, reached the equivalent height of 30,090 ft and in the process burned off 474,607 calories, so I’m on target, slightly ahead if I’m crossing America; slightly behind if it’s the Tour de France.

As in previous years, I will be paying all my own expenses, so that every penny raised goes to the charity concerned.. Donations can be made, through either the web page which is www.justgiving.com/Brian-Everett2017 which is then paid directly to the charity or forward it to the charity (quoting Brian Everett’s Fund Raising) or send it to me at the address below. If you are a UK tax payer you can Gift Aid your contribution at no extra cost to yourself but make sure you give your address and a statement to that effect.

Brian D.Everett, MBE,
4, Mowden Hall Drive,
Darlington, DL3 9BJ
Tel: 01325-360423 or Mob: 07508-595960
bd.everett@ntlworld.com

EVENTS / OCCASIONS

Annual outings are one which many of our members enjoy, as it enables them to get to know each other better in informal surroundings, whilst at the same time allowing us to participate in the Order’s objectives of Healing and Teaching, and to raise a small amount of money for the Order’s charity.

Please advise on any events planned for this year or next year. Also I can include in the section below any members you wish to include?

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with you.		
Name	Reason for prayers	Submitted by

Accounts ~ The Order of St. Raphael ~ 2016

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Subscriptions	£1260.00	£1020.00
Admission Fees	£100.00	£50.00
Sales of Regalia	£108.00	£358.00
Donations	£377.00	£435.81
Dining Fees	£775.00	£1792.00
Interest	£0.37	£0.12
	<u>£2620.37</u>	<u>£3655.93</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
To Conclaves	£100.00	£190.00
Regalia	£38.84	£1376.89
Donations	£633.00	£700.00
Catering	£950.00	£1857.00
Bank Charges	£0.00	£0.00
Postage & Stationery	£0.00	£64.70
Website & Newsletter	£222.83	£0.00
	<u>£1944.67</u>	<u>£4188.59</u>
Drop in Value of Stock	£347.00	£-8.00
Surplus (Deficit) for the period	£327.80	£-524.66

Balance Sheet as at 31st. December

Balances as at 1st. January	Current. a/c	£1065.34	£3313.51
	Deposit a/c.	£1701.82	£202.19
	Cash	£34.00	£0.00
	Float	£87.41	£48.57
	Assets	£2856.80	£2509.80
Add surplus (deficit) for year		£328.80	£-524.66
		<u>£6074.07</u>	<u>£5549.41</u>

Represented by Assets

Insignia Stock	£2393.00	££2401.00
Ceremonial Cushions /Sword & Gavel.	£62.00	£62.00
Chains of Office	£54.80	£750.80
Closing Balance	Current a/c	£3313.51
	Deposit a/c.	£202.19
	Cash	£0.00
	Float	£48.57
		<u>£6074.07</u>
		<u>£5549.41</u>

I, the undersigned submit this statement of accounts as a true and accurate record of the accounts of the Order for the year ending 31st. December 2016: E. Chevalier David R. Starritt, KCSR, GCSM., Grand Treasurer.

Examiners Report: I have examined the books and vouchers of these accounts and am satisfied that the above is a true record of the accounts and funds for the year ending 31st. December 2016:

Dame Rhoda W. Ross, DSR, Examiner of Books

Dated: 21st. February 2017

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND TREASURER

I am pleased to report that our finances are sound and in order to secure those funds and to improve our charitable works we have three methods by which members can pay their oblation (subscription) for the current year.

- 1) **On-line banking, Pay Order Bank Account – State your name on payment (A.N. Other ~ Sub/2018)**
- 2) **Standing order ~ ask me for an STO form and give it to your bank.**
- 3) **OR ~ Send a Cheque to the address detailed below**

E. Chevalier Brian Everett, MBE, KSR, 4 Mowden Hall Drive, Darlington, DL3 9BJ.

Cheques payable to: "Order of Saint Raphael" ~ Sort Code:30-98-74 ~ Acct. No: 03007698

ABSTRACT RAMBLINGS FROM THE GRAND HERALD

As the Grand Herald for the Order of St. Raphael. I said I would attempt to bring new and interesting items and articles along with thought-provoking content to the Order of St. Raphael Newsletter. Also, if you feel that there is some aspect of your Conclave that helps promote the Order or have some ideas on this newsletter and its format, please contact myself in the first instance, either by Telephone or e-mail and I will be more than happy to review your comments or suggestions.

- (a) **It is important that we know our members throughout the Order and that's what I think the newsletter is intended to promote and broadcast. So, please let me know of your Interests, thoughts and Aspirations for yourselves and the Order in General.**

*I personally have embarked on a restoration project for a two-wheeled tractor unit (Howard Clifford 700). I also do quite a bit of Landscaping at our Converted Farm Steading including Dry Stone Walling and Fencing. We also have chickens (Fresh Eggs) and Grandchildren (Laughter & tears) here on the Steading so life is always full on, I am also a Member of the Local **MENS SHED** and Secretary/Scribe / Recorder of 3 Masonic Organisations and an Office Bearer in 3 more Local and Provincial Orders along with being an active member in 2 other Non-Masonic Organisations which all raise considerable amounts of money for good causes.*

- (b) **New Members are the life blood of any organisation, let us know how you think that we can encourage likeminded Individuals to become part of our organisation**

I have two applicants in mind for joining, but it is important that we ensure applicants have the inclination to participate in our Orders with both Philosophical and practical efforts on behalf of our fellow human beings. I have taken a slow but sure approach with invitations to our events and promoting our ideals. Hopefully, this will inspire them to take further participation in our order as I sometimes believe we are too quick to ask people to join without ensuring that their own personal circumstances and beliefs match our Orders ideals.

- (c) **Raising money for our charitable donations is a very worthwhile aspiration, how we do it is more problematical. New ideas based on new technologies like EASY FUND RAISING is one way we can improve our contributions to charity, old ideas are just as important, they bring together our members and possible new members who have similar interests. The dissemination of these ideas is one of the benefits of our Newsletter and I would therefore encourage you to share those ideas with our members through this newsletter.**

*One of our youngest members brought up the idea of a Raffle board, a simple but most effective way of raising money and has been very successful in raising funds for our Local Charitable Causes. This came about because we engaged with the young adults and responded positively to their ideas. The moral of this story is: Listen & Learn as you are never too old to learn new tricks I also am using “**easy Fundraising**” it does not cost me anything and sends the contribution direct to **The Order of St. Raphael Lion Rampant Conclave** If we all used this system, we could raise Hundreds of Pounds without any effort on our parts.*

*Other ideas like Bag packing days at local supermarkets can raise Hundreds of Pounds and are fairly easy to organise, Contact the Supermarkets Customer Service and they will put in touch with their Local Champion (They will then advise you on dates available and also what criteria you need to meet to operate in their shops, (Some only do registered Charities) I’ve managed this year to sort a day at **MORRISONS SUPERMARKETS**. If we are successful we should hopefully raise £200 – £300 and also raise the profile of our Group locally*

You will need the following to be successful:

- 1 Plastic Tubs / buckets with your organisation and who you raise money for clearly visible.
- 2 Enthusiastic Bag Packers with personality to chat to customers as you are packing.
- 3 1 Spare person to enable others to take breaks ~ no more than ½ hour packing is advisable.
- 4 A Table display is good way of publicising your organisation and having a spare collection bucket on the table helps increase donations from shoppers who just want to help your charity.

OUR ORDERS AIMS & BELIEFS - WHAT ARE WE ABOUT?

PRAYER

The main purpose of our Order has always been to aid the cure of those who are sick in mind or body. We do this by way of PRAYER. It is our belief, in common with many other religions, that God listens to prayer, and that the greater the volume of prayer towards any specific end, the more likely that it will be granted. Therefore, we pray for the sick, in our homes and at our meetings. It was to fulfil this purpose that the Order was instituted by a Charter dated 1st January 1953, by the Pope of the Catholic Apostolic Church. Before this the Order had existed on a less formal basis.

ECUMENICAL We are an Ecumenical Order, and admit both men and women on an equal basis. Any CHRISTIAN may join provided he or she signs a Declaration of Faith which forms part of the application form. Some members have a belief in, and practise, 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 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.

KNOWLEDGE: The second purpose of our Order is to acquire and preserve esoteric knowledge, and to pass on such knowledge to others. We are especially concerned the wisdom of philosophers and teachers, past and present, should not be lost to Mankind. How many of us have read the writings of, or are even conversant with the works of early and erudite teachers, such as Ignatius? How many have read the words of those whose thoughts did not find favour with the authorities of their times? Even those who were not Christian often had a message of importance, and deserve to be studied. We encourage members to read and study such teachers of all disciplines, in the belief that the work of all great thinkers deserves to be considered and discussed. It must be stressed that not everything that is considered is accepted. We wish to broaden our educational horizons, and the discussion of all topics widens our understanding of the conditions that created such ideas.

MEETINGS Throughout the year we organise meetings that any member may attend to hear speakers on various subjects. At the local level Conclaves arrange their own programme, to suit the requirements of the members. Typically, this consists of three meetings a year at dates acceptable to its members - usually a social occasion, a learning occasion and an Investiture to welcome and admit new members. There are opportunities to unite with other Orders to learn their aims and objectives.

Our aims are best summarised in the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy:

1~Feed the hungry ~ 2~ Give drink to the thirsty ~ 3~Clothe the naked with a garment ~ 4~Visit and ransom the captives, 5~Shelter the homeless ~ 6~Visit and relieve the Sick ~ 8~Bury the dead.

CHIVALRIC In addition to the Charter granted by the Catholic Apostolic Church, the Order has a second Charter, one granted on 17th June 1954, by the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order of the Levant. By virtue of this second Charter we may now grant our members the grades and ranks handed down from the Teutonic Order of St Mary, founded in 1190 AD, when pilgrims to the Holy Land from Bremen and Lubeck, wished to administer and protect a new hospital in Jerusalem, which had been built to replace a much older one.

HISTORY The Grand Master of any may permit another existing Order to perform some functions of his own Order. This is what happened in the aftermath of the Second World War when the Teutonic Knights found they had problems in Europe. Rather than lose the traditions of an Order that went back more than 750 years, they were transferred to the protection of our Order in England, on 17th June 1954. We then became a Chivalric Order.

CHARITY the Order undertakes charitable fundraising at its meetings. Each Conclave chooses a small local charity to support, thus giving maximum support and gaining invaluable publicity for both the charity and the Order.

GENERAL Our Order believes that **NOW** is the time when people are seeking a Spiritual Base from which to study the Great Mystery of Life. We hope that our members find Peace of Mind and a strengthening of Faith in their association with the Order, for we are guided by the writings of St James, Chapter 5 verses 14, 15 & 16.

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the Elders of the Church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the Prayer of Faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

CEREMONY Ceremonial meetings are usually held in a Church which may be of any recognised denomination. From the earliest days of Knighthood aspirants spent the evening before investiture in Vigil before the altar. Early next day the Accolade having been administered all would partake in Holy Communion. Our ceremony of Admission and the creation of Knights and Dames is beautiful and meaningful, and takes place in Peterborough each year.

The Order also administers, as an Order of Merit, **The Most Meritorious, Spiritual and Military Order of St Mark** to recognise the efforts of members on behalf of St Raphael.

MEMBERSHIP The membership of the Order is inexpensive as we believe that knowledge should be, and we wish to encourage participation in all our activities. You will, however, be expected to pay for the insignia of your rank prior to its presentation on Admission.

INSIGNIA

Dame Margaret Gunnell reminds members that a variety of gifts and insignia are 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 contact details are below.

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 as of 2016 and subject to change as stock is replenished, so please **check** with Dame Margaret before placing any orders. gcoi@orderofstraphael.org.uk

The newsletter is written by the herald, Chevalier Ian Cameron. Articles for publication should be sent to him at gh@orderofstraphael.org.uk

ALL OTHER COMMUNICATIONS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE MUST BE TO:

Grand Chancellor

R.E. Chevalier David Haywood, OStJ, GCSR, GCSM

89 Haig Road, Bury, BL8 2LG.

Tel: 0161 764 4786

email: gc@orderofstraphael.org.uk

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR GRAND MASTER

JULIAN K GUNNELL GCSR, GCSM

Dear Knights, Dames & friends,

At this time of year our thoughts turn to the Festive Season and quite rightly there is much excitement about welcoming relatives and friends into our homes. There's a special pleasure in having friends round on Christmas Day or just simply relaxing quietly in front of the fire, whatever suits you best. However, let us not forget those less fortunate than us. Those that do not have friends or family to support them, those struggling financially and last but by no means least, those fighting illness and disease. As a member of our Christian Healing Order, I ask you to spare a little time on Christmas Day, say at 5 p.m., find somewhere tranquil and offer up a short prayer for these unfortunate people. If we are able to do this, the combined outpouring of love cannot fail to be heard by our Lord. Never underestimate the power of prayer!

Finally, Margaret and I wish you all a very Happy & Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order and with the Blessings of St Raphael,

Julian Gunnell, Grand Master,



OBITUARIES

Patricia (Patti) Dorothy Ansell 1933-2017



On Thursday, 9th November 2017, Dianne and I attended the funeral of **Dame Patti Ansell DGCSR** at The Fenland Crematorium, March, Cambridgeshire. Also present was our Grand Master Julian Gunnell and his wife Margaret.

The funeral ceremony, conducted by Gemma Christina, was extremely dignified and started with the film theme *Somewhere in Time* by the John Barry Orchestra. We were all welcomed by Gemma who then invited Beverley Ansell, Patti's daughter-in-law to recite the poem *Death is nothing at All* by Canon Henry Scott Holland (1847-1918). The recital was followed by a eulogy and life story of Patti prepared and read by Chris Ansell, Patti's son; it was a thoughtful tribute and much appreciated by all present. After a few moments silence we recited the Lord's Prayer and then listened to the Choir of York Minster singing *Abide with Me*. Gemma Christina then read a few words of comfort and the proceedings were concluded by Cat Stevens singing *Morning Has Broken*. Donations were readily given for Parkinson's UK. We then retired to the Oliver Cromwell Hotel, March for refreshments.

Patti was a long-standing and enthusiastic supporter of The Healing, Teaching and Chivalric Order of St. Raphael and she fully supported her husband Keith. Keith was the Grand Chancellor of The Order for many years until he passed away 11 years ago. In the early years of The Order most new candidates had their mantles made privately and Patti made many of these mantles before we approached regalia manufacturers in recent times. For her work in this area and her loyalty to The Order, Patti received the accolade of honorary Dame Grand Cross of St. Raphael.

It was an Honour to have known Dame **Patti Ansell**.

Chevalier Barry Uttley, Deputy Grand Master Emeritus

Margaret and I were privileged to be able to attend the funeral and celebration of the life of Dame Patti Ansell, DGCSR, late of our Order. The service took place 9th. November 2017 at Fenland Crematorium, Cambridgeshire. The setting was lovely and very conducive to saying one's farewell with dignity. Barry & Diane Uttley, long term friends of the family travelled down and also represented the Order with us. Her son, Chris Ansell, gave a detailed and slightly humorous eulogy to his mother and the obvious fun they had growing up. The service was a moving tribute to Patti and her very full life, from her years travelling the world with Keith her husband who was in the RAF at the time and also a former Chancellor of this Order; her time in Yorkshire, then March in Cambridgeshire and her devotion to her family throughout all that time.

Patti's health eventually failed her and she needed care from 2015, and it was whilst in the Care Home she slipped away on 24th October 2017. She will be sadly missed, a true stalwart both of life and of our Order.

Julian Gunnell, Grand Master

ANNUAL INVESTITURE 2017

This year's meeting again took place at the Masonic Hall, Peterborough on 13th May. The Grand Master opened the meeting and the Grand Chancellor read out the apologies.

There were three postulants this year – Chevalier Brian Everett, Dame Olive Ward and the Rt Rev'd Michael Ward, and we welcome them all to the Order. Prior to the Investiture Ceremony, a short vigil was introduced this year for the postulants, led by the Grand Prior, to focus the postulants' minds on the step that they are about to take.

There was just one St Raphael promotion this year, with Chevalier David Starritt promoted to Knight Grand Cross, and the Grand Prior was invested with the newly created decoration of Ecclesiastical Grand Cross. The Grand Master then had great pleasure in making a number of awards in the Order of St Mark.

The Grand Master then appointed E Dame Pamela Robinson as Commander of the Conclave of St Martin at Sées – the first female to achieve this in our Order. This being his first Investiture as GM, certificates were presented to all Grand Officers present. The full list of Grand Officers can be found on the website.

After the service, the usual convivial meal took place, attended by 26 members and guests.

The Grand Council meeting took place after lunch, and items discussed were as follows:

- The Grand Chancellor announced that although a few minor changes to the Constitution and Statutes were approved last year, several further changes were now proposed and had been circulated to members of the Grand Council by email. These were approved unanimously and a copy of the revised document can be found on the Order's website.
- At the beginning of the morning service, the Grand Chancellor had announced that we were using a temporary Ritual booklet since changes needed to be made following the change of GM. The Grand Prior now explained that we had introduced some extra items into the service, namely a Bible Reading, short intercessions, and a short section allowing those who wished to receive healing oils. There were no objections from members and so these will be introduced into the Ritual on a permanent basis.
- The Grand Prior went on to say that he had produced a St Raphael Prayer book to enable Conclaves, especially those with no ordained Prior, to have something to use at local meetings, with prayers and blessings that can be said by a lay person. It can also be used by members to assist with prayer, and covers various eventualities when prayer may be required. At the moment it is still a work in progress, but copies have been initially given to Conclaves to use and provide feedback.
- The Grand Chancellor said that a lot of positive reports were received following the service at Rugeley, and in order to build on this suggested an annual Service of Thanksgiving in the autumn of each year at Rugeley, but with a more informal lunch. This would give members of the Order an extra opportunity to meet, and it would not matter too much if the response was not huge. The Grand Prior confirmed that we could use the Cathedral at any time we wished. Full details and application forms will be sent out later in the summer. The date now set is Saturday 7th October, at 11am.
- The Grand Treasurer circulated a copy of the accounts to 31st December 2015, which showed a deficit for the year of £524.66, due mainly to the extra cost incurred in the Installation of the Grand Master and new Chains of Office and Batons. Only one member is now in arrears with subscriptions, and it is reported that he is very poorly. The accounts had been independently examined by Dame Rhoda Ross. The accounts were accepted by the meeting and thanks given to David and Rhoda for their work. David went on to say that he is stepping down as Treasurer at the end of the year, and the GM has appointed Chevalier Brian Everett to take over at that time.

- The GT went on to add that following today's raffle, and with membership donations and donations from Conclaves we had around £600 to distribute to our nominated Charities. The Grand Master said that he wished to change our distribution process and split this between the Conclaves to enable them to choose and distribute to local charities. Not only will this ensure that the money goes to small worthy charities, but the publicity opportunity is also much greater, and it is hoped that all Conclaves will make the most of this. The only criteria are that the charity must have a "human healing" aspect to it, and that details of any charities chosen must be submitted to the Grand Hospitaller and Grand Chancellor for approval before the cheques are issued by the Grand Treasurer. Commanders are to invite the local press and radio to any donations to ensure a photo opportunity.

If the press does not attend, it is the Commander's responsibility to ensure photos are taken and the copy written for the press. Photos and the "written copy" are to be sent to the Grand Hospitaller and Grand Chancellor for inclusion in the newsletter, Facebook and the website.

- Each of the three Conclave Commanders gave brief reports of their activities, and it is pleasing that we now have three active Conclaves. Copies of the reports or events can be found on the website.
- Chevalier Steven Turner spoke about a new organisation of which he is a founder. The Grand Master of the International Order of St Stanislas thought that it was about time that the *alleged* illegitimate or unrecognised Orders had their own association. He therefore created the International Confederation of Chivalric Orders (ICCO) and has sent invitations to various Orders around the World inviting them to join. At the moment and for the next few Years there will be no Fees and all costs will be met by St Stanislas; when sufficient Orders have joined a Council will be formed with each Order having representation. All Orders will remain independent as the purpose of the ICCO is to create strength in numbers and to allow exchange of ideas and possibly members.
A discussion then took place amongst the Grand Council as to whether or not we should join. There was a small number against but the majority agreed that we should give it a try and the Order of St Raphael will therefore join the ICCO for an initial period of three years.
- Steven Turner talked about the benefits of "*easyfundraising*", which enables people shopping or searching on the internet to have a small amount donated to their charitable cause. It was agreed that each Conclave should set up its own "*easyfundraising*" page and accrue the donations received in its own Conclave account for distribution in due course.

The Grand Master closed the Grand Council Meeting at 3.30pm.

The date for the 2018 Investiture is Saturday 12th May. @ 11am.

New members admitted:

Chevalier Brian Everett, MBE (KSR)
 Dame Olive Ward (DSR)
 Rt Rev'd Michael Ward (SchSR)

St Mark Awards:

RE Dame Margaret Gunnell (DGCSM)
 E Steven Turner (KCSM)
 Dame Dianne Uttley (DCSM)
 Chevalier Ian Cameron (OSM)
 Dame Susan Austin (MSM)
 Chevalier Mike Boxall (MSM)

Promotions:

E Chevalier David Starritt (GCSR)

Photographs of the event can be viewed in the Gallery on the website.
www.orderofstraphael.org.uk

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING - SATURDAY 7TH. OCTOBER 2017

Cathedral of the Old Catholic Church UK, Rugeley

Members of the Order, some travelling from Scotland, Darlington and London, gathered at the Cathedral for the first of what is hoped to be a regular annual event. The old cathedral is a beautiful building and the ambiance was magnificent. The service was led by the Great Prior, Right. Rev'd. Geoffrey Robinson with reading from Pamela Robinson, David Haywood and me. We also had the Archbishop, Most Rev'd John Lycett with three visiting priests to join us.

It was a very pleasant event and afterwards we went to a local pub for lunch. This turned out to be a very pleasant indeed as it was "Buy 1 Get 1 Free"! A perfect ending to a perfect day! Next year we hope that more will come along.



I am indebted to Geoffrey & David for the work they put in organising the event, to Geoffrey for writing the service and to the Archbishop, John Lycett, for allowing us the use of the cathedral.

Julian Gunnell GCSR GCSM, Grand Master

SOME PERIODIC RAMBLINGS OF THE PRIOR

June 2017 (Issue 30)

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. I have also reprinted Issue 30 as I feel it is a message we should not allow to dim in our daily thoughts and actions

Dear Members

As Christians, we need to play a very important role in society these days, when social structures are collapsing, family life breaking up and everyone appears to be only concerned about pleasing themselves. But there are still those people who look to Christians to provide the answers, and we can only help society find the right solutions, when we set a good example ourselves. So, as followers of Christ, our lives should be an example of true Christian teaching. Any conduct falling short of this will only invite criticism and will inevitably further restrict the growth of the Church.

The example of Christ should be central to our life and faith so that our minds are characterised by the self-giving attitude of Christ, the Good Shepherd. In Biblical times the Shepherd cared for his sheep, called them by name, led them to pasture and water, found shelter for them during inclement weather, defended them against bandits and wolves, and willingly laid down his life for them. Unfortunately, this image of the Good Shepherd does not move us as it did the people of Israel, and the early Christians. But if we really want to understand the Scriptures and to know our true relationship with God, we must understand the image of the Shepherd and his sheep. Shepherds and sheep are not very common or relevant in today's high tech, computerized world. And we do not like to think of ourselves as dumb, submissive animals.

We are sophisticated human beings, or so we think! We have an intellect and a free will, to go where we please and do what we want. And we don't like sheep dogs yapping and snapping at our feet. But perhaps we are more like sheep than we really care to admit: Because, like sheep we seem to be oblivious of everything

except the plot of grass that surrounds us here and now. We spend all of our time feathering our little nest here, as if it will go on forever.

Just like sheep, we are not conscious of the ravenous wolves that surround us in the counter-culture in which we live – though we really should be. To say nothing of the wolves that come to us in sheep's clothing. And just like sheep, we always think that the grass is greener on the other side, so we stray from the flock. Now, whether we appreciate it or not, the image of the Good Shepherd and his sheep is enshrined forever in the Bible and in Christianity. In very truth it fits every generation, even our own. So, what a great blessing it is for us Christians, to follow Jesus and his Apostles with great joy and confidence, wherever they may lead us. Amen.

+Geoffrey

Around the Conclaves - News & Events

CONCLAVE OF MARTIN AT SEES

The Conclave Commander is E. Dame Pamela Robinson, DCSR, CSM

You can contact Helen at csm@orderofstraphael.org.uk

Recently Dame Pamela Robinson presented a cheque of £310.00 to 'Autism Ventures' who were founded in the early 1970s in the Merseyside region, Autism Initiatives remains a parent-led charity. They are a founder member of the Autism Alliance and connected with regional and national autism networks and strategy groups.



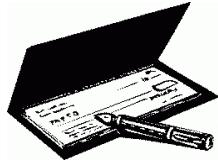
Pictured on the right is the presentation of the cheque to "Sam" and Cathy from Autism Ventures in Southport.



LION RAMPANT CONCLAVE

The Commander is E Chevalier David Starritt, KCSR, GCSM

You can contact David at clr@orderofstraphael.org.uk



I am very proud to report that virtually all members of the Lion Rampant Conclave turned out this morning for the visit to St James's Court, for the presentation of a cheque for £400 to Inspire, and for the draw for Melanie's lucky square. We were shown the sensory area that we helped equip last year, and the donation today will help equip it further...

Pictured on the right is the winner of the Lucky draw, our latest new postulant, Mrs Moira Scott, which was drawn by one of the staff from "INSPIRE" at St. James House in Inverurie, Aberdeenshire.

R.E. David R. Starritt GCSR GCSM and Melanie McLellan, who organized the Lucky Draw, are pictured presenting the prize of a basket of Fruit & flowers to Mrs Moira Scott alongside Hon. Almoner Ross McLellan and Vice Chancellor Dame Elaine Starritt.



Since winning the Lucky Draw, Moira has joined the Order of St. Raphael at our Meeting in August in the Masonic Temple, Inverurie, along with her husband Richard Scott, who were both inducted into the Conclave by the Grand Chancellor.

Abbreviated Minutes of our Meeting held at Mosseye Steading, Oldmeldrum, 25th June 2017

Matters arising: It was agreed that we would invite Albert Thomson and other members of the Confraternity of Knights of the Most Holy Trinity to our AGM in September. DS will do this. It was agreed to repeat Melanie's lucky square fundraiser. The squares will be £1 each, that each member will be given 13 numbers to sell, and would each contribute £5 to the cost of the prize, a Christmas hamper. The draw will take place in December at the same time as the donation. Ian Cameron is still trying to get us a bag packing slot at M&S, Inverurie, but it is uncertain whether the application will be successful. He will now attempt to get the same at Morrison's, Inverurie.

Treasurer's report: Gordon Wackett presented a summary of the present state of the accounts. These were accepted. The bank balance stands at £305. It was agreed that we again donate to Inspire, amount to be decided at the AGM.

"Easy fundraising" is up and going, but we have not seen yet any money coming through to us. everyone was reminded to try and make use of this. **Members** were

encouraged to pay their oblations in good time as this increases the amount that comes back to us from the main Order. Standing Orders were encouraged. The Order used to give hefty donations to national causes once a year. They have changed this, and will send money through to the Conclaves for us to use locally. We can expect to receive £250 for this purpose.

Fund-raising: Moira and Anne offered to raise money through a tea party in a village hall. This was welcomed. We shall await the details.

Recruitment and retention: We are a small group and must gain new members, and endeavor to at least get back to our original number of 16 members. Each member was encouraged to try to recruit suitable people. Though not yet members, Richard and Moira were also encouraged to try to enroll new members.

Promotions: Within the Order, Chevalier Ian Cameron has been promoted to the rank of Officer of the Order of St. Mark (OSM) and has also been made Grand Herald. David has been promoted to GCSR, will be standing down as Grand Treasurer, and will take up Grand Registrar as Elaine wishes to relinquish this duty.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be scheduled for Sunday 24th September. This will be opened and closed in full ritualistic form. We have two for admission to the Order. We may work a ceremony of admission, or perhaps the Grand Master will attend and undertake this plus the conferring of knighthood. This will be held at the Masonic Lodge, Inverurie, at 10:30, followed by lunch at the Kintore Arms.

AOCB: It was suggested that the Order might consider applying for Charitable status. Donations then could be Gift Aided. DS will pass this on. This was followed by a wonderful spread, thanks to Sabina, good company and good conversation.

Grace was given by our Chaplain, Chevalier Michael Stephen KSR OSM.

Annual General Meeting – 24th September 2017



Today we had our AGM. We had a visit by the Deputy Grand Master, and we admitted two new members to our Order. Good company, good food, what more could you ask for!

**Dame Moira Scott, Grand Chancellor, R.E.
Chevalier David Haywood, and Chevalier
Richard Scott**



*A Happy bunch o' Quines & Loons.
Or
Mony a mickle maks a muckle*

Loons are Boys or Young Men
~ **Quines** are Girls or Young Women ~ **Mony** is Many and
Mickle is Small/little whilst
Muckle is Big / Large

Morrison Bag Pack We have now fixed our date for the bag pack as the 20th December 2017, we have at present 5 volunteers and hopefully we can persuade some family members to assist.

And finally: The new date for the **FIZZY TEA PARTY** is Saturday 3rd February. 2018, Members, Friends, Family are all welcome to what should be a fun day for all.

CONCLAVE OF ST THOMAS BECKET – MARTYR

The Conclave Commander is **E. Chevalier Lawrence Day**, CStJ, KCSR

You can contact Alan at ctb@orderofstraphael.org.uk or telephone: 0208 3904642

St Thomas Becket – Martyr - Annual General Meeting 2016

At the previous meeting and at the Grand meeting in Peterborough as well as by email correspondence members of the St William of Rochester Conclave had decided that it would be sensible to place the Conclave into abeyance and transfer into St Thomas Becket – Martyr. Following a brief discussion at which the Kent members present had voiced their agreement with this view and following a proposal from Penny Bell-Wright seconded by Peter Robins, the members of St Thomas Becket – Martyr voted unanimously to accept the Kent members. A general discussed then ensued and it was agreed that all members should be encouraged to attend and that those who did not generally respond should be telephoned.

It was agreed that a Conclave meeting would be held in Kent, probably at Dartford, on a date to be decided. It was also agreed that a Dinner would be held on the Friday before the 29th September each Year, three courses excluding drinks. To encourage members to become more active, 3 or 4 activities per year would also be arranged. The following initial suggestions were put forward, a tour of Windsor Castle, to be arranged with Leslie Grout, renowned expert, a trip on the London Eye and a trip down the River to Greenwich, possibly with a meal in the O2.



CHEVALIER BRIAN EVERETT, GRAND TREASURER

MBE, KSR, BA, FRAeS, FIMgt, FCIPS, MCIT, MSOE, MIRTE

Brian's first career started in the Royal Air Force following National Service in the 1950's and after a brief spell working as a civil servant, he returned to the RAF in 1958. In the subsequent years he served in many parts of the world and held a number of senior operational and staff appointments. In 1972, he was awarded the MBE for military operations in the Middle East.

There then followed a variety of positions in the Ministry of Defence during which he was appointed MOD Escort Officer to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, accompanying them on many of their official overseas visits throughout the late 1970s.

In 1985, he decided to leave the RAF whilst there was still time to develop a second career and to exercise management skills in a more commercially competitive environment. Initially, becoming Assistant Director of Planning and Transportation for the City of Westminster and nominal Chief of Staff for six other divisions. It was during this period that he successfully absorbed many of the tasks, previously carried out by the Greater London Council, with no additional resources and against an almost impossible time-scale. Once this was achieved he was given the task of implementing "Privatisation Reviews" and setting each of the identified areas on a fully commercial basis before becoming Director of Commercial Operations with responsibility for moving these businesses into the private sector.

Having successfully completed this task, he left to set up his own business. In the years that followed he became Chairman and Chief Executive of the Capital Group, a group of companies involved in the design, implementation and operation of city centre parking schemes throughout Europe. He worked on many projects both at home and overseas, the including major schemes in Spain, Mexico, Malta, Africa and the Far East. The Group was eventually sold to a French multi-national in 1991, Six months later he was invited to join London Transport to take on the role of contracts management and eventually, in conjunction with the Department of Transport and others, he played a major role in the successful privatisation of London Buses. Subsequently, he was appointed a main board director, assuming the regulatory and contracting role as Procurement and Infrastructure Director for London Bus Services Limited and London River Services Limited, with an annual budget of almost £1 billion (1993 values). The work included the introduction and development of the bus and river networks for London, the procurement of bus and boat services and infrastructure. He was made a Freeman of the City of London in 2001.

When he retired from London Transport, as well as taking on voluntary roles, he became a director of one of the London Bus operating companies, helping them to restructure and putting their company on a more solid financial footing. In addition to owning and running a country house hotel in the Scottish Borders he also created and managed Translink Consultancy, a company operating in a several specialist areas including transportation, parking, finance, procurement, contract management, infrastructure and engineering.

In the years that followed, he became a non-executive director of NHS Darlington Primary Care Trust, Chairman of NHS County Durham & Darlington Community Health Services, Chairman of the South Durham U3A, Church Warden and President of British Gymnastics. Having been an international athlete, he takes an active interest in all sport. Over the past 17 years he has been involved in fund raising for many charities; climbed many of the world’s major mountains and competitively walked, run and cycled many thousands of miles in the process



Charity Challenge 2017



Simulated walk across the American Continent (or the equivalent of completing the Tour de France)

For over 17 years I’ve been undertaking a number of challenges for different charities. These range from climbing mountains and volcanoes in Europe, Africa, Asia and South America, at altitudes up to 21,000 ft; long distance walks across the UK and Africa; and long-distance cycle rides in excess of 1,000 miles, averaging 72 miles a day. In the process I have raised over £150,000 for various charities.

This year I’m supporting a different charity and you could say, at the age of 82, I’m investing in the future! As I have many other commitments, I can’t afford to be away for almost a year whilst transiting America so I’m doing the equivalent mileage where ever and whenever I can. Some days 5 miles and on others up to 25 miles. Since the first of January this year I’ve completed 1182 miles, reached the equivalent height of 30,090 ft and in the process burned off 474,607 calories, so I’m on target, slightly ahead if I’m crossing America; slightly behind if it’s the Tour de France.

As in previous years, I will be paying all my own expenses, so that every penny raised goes to the charity concerned.. Donations can be made, through either the web page which is www.justgiving.com/Brian-Everett2017 which is then paid directly to the charity or forward it to the charity (quoting Brian Everett’s Fund Raising) or send it to me at the address below. If you are a UK tax payer you can Gift Aid your contribution at no extra cost to yourself but make sure you give your address and a statement to that effect.

Brian D.Everett, MBE,
4, Mowden Hall Drive,
Darlington, DL3 9BJ
Tel: 01325-360423 or Mob: 07508-595960
bd.everett@ntlworld.com

EVENTS / OCCASIONS

Annual outings are one which many of our members enjoy, as it enables them to get to know each other better in informal surroundings, whilst at the same time allowing us to participate in the Order’s objectives of Healing and Teaching, and to raise a small amount of money for the Order’s charity.

Please advise on any events planned for this year or next year. Also I can include in the section below any members you wish to include?

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with you.		
Name	Reason for prayers	Submitted by

Accounts ~ The Order of St. Raphael ~ 2016

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Subscriptions	£1260.00	£1020.00
Admission Fees	£100.00	£50.00
Sales of Regalia	£108.00	£358.00
Donations	£377.00	£435.81
Dining Fees	£775.00	£1792.00
Interest	£0.37	£0.12
	<u>£2620.37</u>	<u>£3655.93</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
To Conclaves	£100.00	£190.00
Regalia	£38.84	£1376.89
Donations	£633.00	£700.00
Catering	£950.00	£1857.00
Bank Charges	£0.00	£0.00
Postage & Stationery	£0.00	£64.70
Website & Newsletter	£222.83	£0.00
	<u>£1944.67</u>	<u>£4188.59</u>
Drop in Value of Stock	£347.00	£-8.00
Surplus (Deficit) for the period	£327.80	£-524.66

Balance Sheet as at 31st. December

Balances as at 1st. January	Current. a/c	£1065.34	£3313.51
	Deposit a/c.	£1701.82	£202.19
	Cash	£34.00	£0.00
	Float	£87.41	£48.57
	Assets	£2856.80	£2509.80
Add surplus (deficit) for year		£328.80	£-524.66
		<u>£6074.07</u>	<u>£5549.41</u>

Represented by Assets

Insignia Stock	£2393.00	££2401.00
Ceremonial Cushions /Sword & Gavel.	£62.00	£62.00
Chains of Office	£54.80	£750.80
Closing Balance	Current a/c	£3313.51
	Deposit a/c.	£202.19
	Cash	£0.00
	Float	£48.57
		<u>£6074.07</u>
		<u>£5549.41</u>

I, the undersigned submit this statement of accounts as a true and accurate record of the accounts of the Order for the year ending 31st. December 2016: E. Chevalier David R. Starritt, KCSR, GCSM., Grand Treasurer.

Examiners Report: I have examined the books and vouchers of these accounts and am satisfied that the above is a true record of the accounts and funds for the year ending 31st. December 2016:

Dame Rhoda W. Ross, DSR, Examiner of Books

Dated: 21st. February 2017

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND TREASURER

I am pleased to report that our finances are sound and in order to secure those funds and to improve our charitable works we have three methods by which members can pay their oblation (subscription) for the current year.

- 1) **On-line banking, Pay Order Bank Account – State your name on payment (A.N. Other ~ Sub/2018)**
- 2) **Standing order ~ ask me for an STO form and give it to your bank.**
- 3) **OR ~ Send a Cheque to the address detailed below**

E. Chevalier Brian Everett, MBE, KSR, 4 Mowden Hall Drive, Darlington, DL3 9BJ.

Cheques payable to: "Order of Saint Raphael" ~ Sort Code:30-98-74 ~ Acct. No: 03007698

ABSTRACT RAMBLINGS FROM THE GRAND HERALD

As the Grand Herald for the Order of St. Raphael. I said I would attempt to bring new and interesting items and articles along with thought-provoking content to the Order of St. Raphael Newsletter. Also, if you feel that there is some aspect of your Conclave that helps promote the Order or have some ideas on this newsletter and its format, please contact myself in the first instance, either by Telephone or e-mail and I will be more than happy to review your comments or suggestions.

- (a) **It is important that we know our members throughout the Order and that's what I think the newsletter is intended to promote and broadcast. So, please let me know of your Interests, thoughts and Aspirations for yourselves and the Order in General.**

*I personally have embarked on a restoration project for a two-wheeled tractor unit (Howard Clifford 700). I also do quite a bit of Landscaping at our Converted Farm Steading including Dry Stone Walling and Fencing. We also have chickens (Fresh Eggs) and Grandchildren (Laughter & tears) here on the Steading so life is always full on, I am also a Member of the Local **MENS SHED** and Secretary/Scribe / Recorder of 3 Masonic Organisations and an Office Bearer in 3 more Local and Provincial Orders along with being an active member in 2 other Non-Masonic Organisations which all raise considerable amounts of money for good causes.*

- (b) **New Members are the life blood of any organisation, let us know how you think that we can encourage likeminded Individuals to become part of our organisation**

I have two applicants in mind for joining, but it is important that we ensure applicants have the inclination to participate in our Orders with both Philosophical and practical efforts on behalf of our fellow human beings. I have taken a slow but sure approach with invitations to our events and promoting our ideals. Hopefully, this will inspire them to take further participation in our order as I sometimes believe we are too quick to ask people to join without ensuring that their own personal circumstances and beliefs match our Orders ideals.

- (c) **Raising money for our charitable donations is a very worthwhile aspiration, how we do it is more problematical. New ideas based on new technologies like EASY FUND RAISING is one way we can improve our contributions to charity, old ideas are just as important, they bring together our members and possible new members who have similar interests. The dissemination of these ideas is one of the benefits of our Newsletter and I would therefore encourage you to share those ideas with our members through this newsletter.**

*One of our youngest members brought up the idea of a Raffle board, a simple but most effective way of raising money and has been very successful in raising funds for our Local Charitable Causes. This came about because we engaged with the young adults and responded positively to their ideas. The moral of this story is: Listen & Learn as you are never too old to learn new tricks I also am using “easy Fundraising” it does not cost me anything and sends the contribution direct to **The Order of St. Raphael Lion Rampant Conclave** If we all used this system, we could raise Hundreds of Pounds without any effort on our parts.*

*Other ideas like Bag packing days at local supermarkets can raise Hundreds of Pounds and are fairly easy to organise, Contact the Supermarkets Customer Service and they will put in touch with their Local Champion (They will then advise you on dates available and also what criteria you need to meet to operate in their shops, (Some only do registered Charities) I’ve managed this year to sort a day at **MORRISONS SUPERMARKETS**. If we are successful we should hopefully raise £200 – £300 and also raise the profile of our Group locally*

You will need the following to be successful:

- 1 Plastic Tubs / buckets with your organisation and who you raise money for clearly visible.
- 2 Enthusiastic Bag Packers with personality to chat to customers as you are packing.
- 3 1 Spare person to enable others to take breaks ~ no more than ½ hour packing is advisable.
- 4 A Table display is good way of publicising your organisation and having a spare collection bucket on the table helps increase donations from shoppers who just want to help your charity.

OUR ORDERS AIMS & BELIEFS - WHAT ARE WE ABOUT?

PRAYER

The main purpose of our Order has always been to aid the cure of those who are sick in mind or body. We do this by way of PRAYER. It is our belief, in common with many other religions, that God listens to prayer, and that the greater the volume of prayer towards any specific end, the more likely that it will be granted. Therefore, we pray for the sick, in our homes and at our meetings. It was to fulfil this purpose that the Order was instituted by a Charter dated 1st January 1953, by the Pope of the Catholic Apostolic Church. Before this the Order had existed on a less formal basis.

ECUMENICAL We are an Ecumenical Order, and admit both men and women on an equal basis. Any CHRISTIAN may join provided he or she signs a Declaration of Faith which forms part of the application form. Some members have a belief in, and practise, 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 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.

KNOWLEDGE: The second purpose of our Order is to acquire and preserve esoteric knowledge, and to pass on such knowledge to others. We are especially concerned the wisdom of philosophers and teachers, past and present, should not be lost to Mankind. How many of us have read the writings of, or are even conversant with the works of early and erudite teachers, such as Ignatius? How many have read the words of those whose thoughts did not find favour with the authorities of their times? Even those who were not Christian often had a message of importance, and deserve to be studied. We encourage members to read and study such teachers of all disciplines, in the belief that the work of all great thinkers deserves to be considered and discussed. It must be stressed that not everything that is considered is accepted. We wish to broaden our educational horizons, and the discussion of all topics widens our understanding of the conditions that created such ideas.

MEETINGS Throughout the year we organise meetings that any member may attend to hear speakers on various subjects. At the local level Conclaves arrange their own programme, to suit the requirements of the members. Typically, this consists of three meetings a year at dates acceptable to its members - usually a social occasion, a learning occasion and an Investiture to welcome and admit new members. There are opportunities to unite with other Orders to learn their aims and objectives.

Our aims are best summarised in the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy:

1~Feed the hungry ~ 2~ Give drink to the thirsty ~ 3~Clothe the naked with a garment ~ 4~Visit and ransom the captives, 5~Shelter the homeless ~ 6~Visit and relieve the Sick ~ 8~Bury the dead.

CHIVALRIC In addition to the Charter granted by the Catholic Apostolic Church, the Order has a second Charter, one granted on 17th June 1954, by the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order of the Levant. By virtue of this second Charter we may now grant our members the grades and ranks handed down from the Teutonic Order of St Mary, founded in 1190 AD, when pilgrims to the Holy Land from Bremen and Lubeck, wished to administer and protect a new hospital in Jerusalem, which had been built to replace a much older one.

HISTORY The Grand Master of any may permit another existing Order to perform some functions of his own Order. This is what happened in the aftermath of the Second World War when the Teutonic Knights found they had problems in Europe. Rather than lose the traditions of an Order that went back more than 750 years, they were transferred to the protection of our Order in England, on 17th June 1954. We then became a Chivalric Order.

CHARITY the Order undertakes charitable fundraising at its meetings. Each Conclave chooses a small local charity to support, thus giving maximum support and gaining invaluable publicity for both the charity and the Order.

GENERAL Our Order believes that **NOW** is the time when people are seeking a Spiritual Base from which to study the Great Mystery of Life. We hope that our members find Peace of Mind and a strengthening of Faith in their association with the Order, for we are guided by the writings of St James, Chapter 5 verses 14, 15 & 16.

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the Elders of the Church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the Prayer of Faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

CEREMONY Ceremonial meetings are usually held in a Church which may be of any recognised denomination. From the earliest days of Knighthood aspirants spent the evening before investiture in Vigil before the altar. Early next day the Accolade having been administered all would partake in Holy Communion. Our ceremony of Admission and the creation of Knights and Dames is beautiful and meaningful, and takes place in Peterborough each year.

The Order also administers, as an Order of Merit, **The Most Meritorious, Spiritual and Military Order of St Mark** to recognise the efforts of members on behalf of St Raphael.

MEMBERSHIP The membership of the Order is inexpensive as we believe that knowledge should be, and we wish to encourage participation in all our activities. You will, however, be expected to pay for the insignia of your rank prior to its presentation on Admission.

INSIGNIA

Dame Margaret Gunnell reminds members that a variety of gifts and insignia are 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 contact details are below.

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 as of 2016 and subject to change as stock is replenished, so please **check** with Dame Margaret before placing any orders. gcoi@orderofstraphael.org.uk

The newsletter is written by the herald, Chevalier Ian Cameron. Articles for publication should be sent to him at gh@orderofstraphael.org.uk

ALL OTHER COMMUNICATIONS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE MUST BE TO:

Grand Chancellor

R.E. Chevalier David Haywood, OStJ, GCSR, GCSM

89 Haig Road, Bury, BL8 2LG.

Tel: 0161 764 4786

email: gc@orderofstraphael.org.uk

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR GRAND MASTER

JULIAN K GUNNELL GCSR, GCSM

Dear Knights, Dames & friends,

At this time of year our thoughts turn to the Festive Season and quite rightly there is much excitement about welcoming relatives and friends into our homes. There's a special pleasure in having friends round on Christmas Day or just simply relaxing quietly in front of the fire, whatever suits you best. However, let us not forget those less fortunate than us. Those that do not have friends or family to support them, those struggling financially and last but by no means least, those fighting illness and disease. As a member of our Christian Healing Order, I ask you to spare a little time on Christmas Day, say at 5 p.m., find somewhere tranquil and offer up a short prayer for these unfortunate people. If we are able to do this, the combined outpouring of love cannot fail to be heard by our Lord. Never underestimate the power of prayer!

Finally, Margaret and I wish you all a very Happy & Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order and with the Blessings of St Raphael,

Julian Gunnell, Grand Master,



OBITUARIES

Patricia (Patti) Dorothy Ansell 1933-2017



On Thursday, 9th November 2017, Dianne and I attended the funeral of **Dame Patti Ansell DGCSR** at The Fenland Crematorium, March, Cambridgeshire. Also present was our Grand Master Julian Gunnell and his wife Margaret.

The funeral ceremony, conducted by Gemma Christina, was extremely dignified and started with the film theme *Somewhere in Time* by the John Barry Orchestra. We were all welcomed by Gemma who then invited Beverley Ansell, Patti's daughter-in-law to recite the poem *Death is nothing at All* by Canon Henry Scott Holland (1847-1918). The recital was followed by a eulogy and life story of Patti prepared and read by Chris Ansell, Patti's son; it was a thoughtful tribute and much appreciated by all present. After a few moments silence we recited the Lord's Prayer and then listened to the Choir of York Minster singing *Abide with Me*. Gemma Christina then read a few words of comfort and the proceedings were concluded by Cat Stevens singing *Morning Has Broken*. Donations were readily given for Parkinson's UK. We then retired to the Oliver Cromwell Hotel, March for refreshments.

Patti was a long-standing and enthusiastic supporter of The Healing, Teaching and Chivalric Order of St. Raphael and she fully supported her husband Keith. Keith was the Grand Chancellor of The Order for many years until he passed away 11 years ago. In the early years of The Order most new candidates had their mantles made privately and Patti made many of these mantles before we approached regalia manufacturers in recent times. For her work in this area and her loyalty to The Order, Patti received the accolade of honorary Dame Grand Cross of St. Raphael.

It was an Honour to have known Dame **Patti Ansell**.

Chevalier Barry Uttley, Deputy Grand Master Emeritus

Margaret and I were privileged to be able to attend the funeral and celebration of the life of Dame Patti Ansell, DGCSR, late of our Order. The service took place 9th. November 2017 at Fenland Crematorium, Cambridgeshire. The setting was lovely and very conducive to saying one's farewell with dignity. Barry & Diane Uttley, long term friends of the family travelled down and also represented the Order with us. Her son, Chris Ansell, gave a detailed and slightly humorous eulogy to his mother and the obvious fun they had growing up. The service was a moving tribute to Patti and her very full life, from her years travelling the world with Keith her husband who was in the RAF at the time and also a former Chancellor of this Order; her time in Yorkshire, then March in Cambridgeshire and her devotion to her family throughout all that time.

Patti's health eventually failed her and she needed care from 2015, and it was whilst in the Care Home she slipped away on 24th October 2017. She will be sadly missed, a true stalwart both of life and of our Order.

Julian Gunnell, Grand Master

ANNUAL INVESTITURE 2017

This year's meeting again took place at the Masonic Hall, Peterborough on 13th May. The Grand Master opened the meeting and the Grand Chancellor read out the apologies.

There were three postulants this year – Chevalier Brian Everett, Dame Olive Ward and the Rt Rev'd Michael Ward, and we welcome them all to the Order. Prior to the Investiture Ceremony, a short vigil was introduced this year for the postulants, led by the Grand Prior, to focus the postulants' minds on the step that they are about to take.

There was just one St Raphael promotion this year, with Chevalier David Starritt promoted to Knight Grand Cross, and the Grand Prior was invested with the newly created decoration of Ecclesiastical Grand Cross. The Grand Master then had great pleasure in making a number of awards in the Order of St Mark.

The Grand Master then appointed E Dame Pamela Robinson as Commander of the Conclave of St Martin at Sées – the first female to achieve this in our Order. This being his first Investiture as GM, certificates were presented to all Grand Officers present. The full list of Grand Officers can be found on the website.

After the service, the usual convivial meal took place, attended by 26 members and guests.

The Grand Council meeting took place after lunch, and items discussed were as follows:

- The Grand Chancellor announced that although a few minor changes to the Constitution and Statutes were approved last year, several further changes were now proposed and had been circulated to members of the Grand Council by email. These were approved unanimously and a copy of the revised document can be found on the Order's website.
- At the beginning of the morning service, the Grand Chancellor had announced that we were using a temporary Ritual booklet since changes needed to be made following the change of GM. The Grand Prior now explained that we had introduced some extra items into the service, namely a Bible Reading, short intercessions, and a short section allowing those who wished to receive healing oils. There were no objections from members and so these will be introduced into the Ritual on a permanent basis.
- The Grand Prior went on to say that he had produced a St Raphael Prayer book to enable Conclaves, especially those with no ordained Prior, to have something to use at local meetings, with prayers and blessings that can be said by a lay person. It can also be used by members to assist with prayer, and covers various eventualities when prayer may be required. At the moment it is still a work in progress, but copies have been initially given to Conclaves to use and provide feedback.
- The Grand Chancellor said that a lot of positive reports were received following the service at Rugeley, and in order to build on this suggested an annual Service of Thanksgiving in the autumn of each year at Rugeley, but with a more informal lunch. This would give members of the Order an extra opportunity to meet, and it would not matter too much if the response was not huge. The Grand Prior confirmed that we could use the Cathedral at any time we wished. Full details and application forms will be sent out later in the summer. The date now set is Saturday 7th October, at 11am.
- The Grand Treasurer circulated a copy of the accounts to 31st December 2015, which showed a deficit for the year of £524.66, due mainly to the extra cost incurred in the Installation of the Grand Master and new Chains of Office and Batons. Only one member is now in arrears with subscriptions, and it is reported that he is very poorly. The accounts had been independently examined by Dame Rhoda Ross. The accounts were accepted by the meeting and thanks given to David and Rhoda for their work. David went on to say that he is stepping down as Treasurer at the end of the year, and the GM has appointed Chevalier Brian Everett to take over at that time.

- The GT went on to add that following today's raffle, and with membership donations and donations from Conclaves we had around £600 to distribute to our nominated Charities. The Grand Master said that he wished to change our distribution process and split this between the Conclaves to enable them to choose and distribute to local charities. Not only will this ensure that the money goes to small worthy charities, but the publicity opportunity is also much greater, and it is hoped that all Conclaves will make the most of this. The only criteria are that the charity must have a "human healing" aspect to it, and that details of any charities chosen must be submitted to the Grand Hospitaller and Grand Chancellor for approval before the cheques are issued by the Grand Treasurer. Commanders are to invite the local press and radio to any donations to ensure a photo opportunity.

If the press does not attend, it is the Commander's responsibility to ensure photos are taken and the copy written for the press. Photos and the "written copy" are to be sent to the Grand Hospitaller and Grand Chancellor for inclusion in the newsletter, Facebook and the website.

- Each of the three Conclave Commanders gave brief reports of their activities, and it is pleasing that we now have three active Conclaves. Copies of the reports or events can be found on the website.
- Chevalier Steven Turner spoke about a new organisation of which he is a founder. The Grand Master of the International Order of St Stanislas thought that it was about time that the *alleged* illegitimate or unrecognised Orders had their own association. He therefore created the International Confederation of Chivalric Orders (ICCO) and has sent invitations to various Orders around the World inviting them to join. At the moment and for the next few Years there will be no Fees and all costs will be met by St Stanislas; when sufficient Orders have joined a Council will be formed with each Order having representation. All Orders will remain independent as the purpose of the ICCO is to create strength in numbers and to allow exchange of ideas and possibly members.
A discussion then took place amongst the Grand Council as to whether or not we should join. There was a small number against but the majority agreed that we should give it a try and the Order of St Raphael will therefore join the ICCO for an initial period of three years.
- Steven Turner talked about the benefits of "*easyfundraising*", which enables people shopping or searching on the internet to have a small amount donated to their charitable cause. It was agreed that each Conclave should set up its own "*easyfundraising*" page and accrue the donations received in its own Conclave account for distribution in due course.

The Grand Master closed the Grand Council Meeting at 3.30pm.

The date for the 2018 Investiture is Saturday 12th May. @ 11am.

New members admitted:

Chevalier Brian Everett, MBE (KSR)
 Dame Olive Ward (DSR)
 Rt Rev'd Michael Ward (SchSR)

St Mark Awards:

RE Dame Margaret Gunnell (DGCSM)
 E Steven Turner (KCSM)
 Dame Dianne Uttley (DCSM)
 Chevalier Ian Cameron (OSM)
 Dame Susan Austin (MSM)
 Chevalier Mike Boxall (MSM)

Promotions:

E Chevalier David Starritt (GCSR)

Photographs of the event can be viewed in the Gallery on the website.
www.orderofstraphael.org.uk

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING - SATURDAY 7TH. OCTOBER 2017

Cathedral of the Old Catholic Church UK, Rugeley

Members of the Order, some travelling from Scotland, Darlington and London, gathered at the Cathedral for the first of what is hoped to be a regular annual event. The old cathedral is a beautiful building and the ambiance was magnificent. The service was led by the Great Prior, Right. Rev'd. Geoffrey Robinson with reading from Pamela Robinson, David Haywood and me. We also had the Archbishop, Most Rev'd John Lycett with three visiting priests to join us.

It was a very pleasant event and afterwards we went to a local pub for lunch. This turned out to be a very pleasant indeed as it was "Buy 1 Get 1 Free"! A perfect ending to a perfect day! Next year we hope that more will come along.



I am indebted to Geoffrey & David for the work they put in organising the event, to Geoffrey for writing the service and to the Archbishop, John Lycett, for allowing us the use of the cathedral.

Julian Gunnell GCSR GCSM, Grand Master

SOME PERIODIC RAMBLINGS OF THE PRIOR

June 2017 (Issue 30)

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. I have also reprinted Issue 30 as I feel it is a message we should not allow to dim in our daily thoughts and actions

Dear Members

As Christians, we need to play a very important role in society these days, when social structures are collapsing, family life breaking up and everyone appears to be only concerned about pleasing themselves. But there are still those people who look to Christians to provide the answers, and we can only help society find the right solutions, when we set a good example ourselves. So, as followers of Christ, our lives should be an example of true Christian teaching. Any conduct falling short of this will only invite criticism and will inevitably further restrict the growth of the Church.

The example of Christ should be central to our life and faith so that our minds are characterised by the self-giving attitude of Christ, the Good Shepherd. In Biblical times the Shepherd cared for his sheep, called them by name, led them to pasture and water, found shelter for them during inclement weather, defended them against bandits and wolves, and willingly laid down his life for them. Unfortunately, this image of the Good Shepherd does not move us as it did the people of Israel, and the early Christians. But if we really want to understand the Scriptures and to know our true relationship with God, we must understand the image of the Shepherd and his sheep. Shepherds and sheep are not very common or relevant in today's high tech, computerized world. And we do not like to think of ourselves as dumb, submissive animals.

We are sophisticated human beings, or so we think! We have an intellect and a free will, to go where we please and do what we want. And we don't like sheep dogs yapping and snapping at our feet. But perhaps we are more like sheep than we really care to admit: Because, like sheep we seem to be oblivious of everything

except the plot of grass that surrounds us here and now. We spend all of our time feathering our little nest here, as if it will go on forever.

Just like sheep, we are not conscious of the ravenous wolves that surround us in the counter-culture in which we live – though we really should be. To say nothing of the wolves that come to us in sheep's clothing. And just like sheep, we always think that the grass is greener on the other side, so we stray from the flock. Now, whether we appreciate it or not, the image of the Good Shepherd and his sheep is enshrined forever in the Bible and in Christianity. In very truth it fits every generation, even our own. So, what a great blessing it is for us Christians, to follow Jesus and his Apostles with great joy and confidence, wherever they may lead us. Amen.

+Geoffrey

Around the Conclaves - News & Events

CONCLAVE OF MARTIN AT SEES

The Conclave Commander is E. Dame Pamela Robinson, DCSR, CSM

You can contact Helen at csm@orderofstraphael.org.uk

Recently Dame Pamela Robinson presented a cheque of £310.00 to 'Autism Ventures' who were founded in the early 1970s in the Merseyside region, Autism Initiatives remains a parent-led charity. They are a founder member of the Autism Alliance and connected with regional and national autism networks and strategy groups.



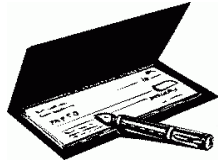
Pictured on the right is the presentation of the cheque to "Sam" and Cathy from Autism Ventures in Southport.



LION RAMPANT CONCLAVE

The Commander is E Chevalier David Starritt, KCSR, GCSM

You can contact David at clr@orderofstraphael.org.uk



I am very proud to report that virtually all members of the Lion Rampant Conclave turned out this morning for the visit to St James's Court, for the presentation of a cheque for £400 to Inspire, and for the draw for Melanie's lucky square. We were shown the sensory area that we helped equip last year, and the donation today will help equip it further...

Pictured on the right is the winner of the Lucky draw, our latest new postulant, Mrs Moira Scott, which was drawn by one of the staff from "INSPIRE" at St. James House in Inverurie, Aberdeenshire.

R.E. David R. Starritt GCSR GCSM and Melanie McLellan, who organized the Lucky Draw, are pictured presenting the prize of a basket of Fruit & flowers to Mrs Moira Scott alongside Hon. Almoner Ross McLellan and Vice Chancellor Dame Elaine Starritt.



Since winning the Lucky Draw, Moira has joined the Order of St. Raphael at our Meeting in August in the Masonic Temple, Inverurie, along with her husband Richard Scott, who were both inducted into the Conclave by the Grand Chancellor.

Abbreviated Minutes of our Meeting held at Mosseye Steading, Oldmeldrum, 25th June 2017

Matters arising: It was agreed that we would invite Albert Thomson and other members of the Confraternity of Knights of the Most Holy Trinity to our AGM in September. DS will do this. It was agreed to repeat Melanie's lucky square fundraiser. The squares will be £1 each, that each member will be given 13 numbers to sell, and would each contribute £5 to the cost of the prize, a Christmas hamper. The draw will take place in December at the same time as the donation. Ian Cameron is still trying to get us a bag packing slot at M&S, Inverurie, but it is uncertain whether the application will be successful. He will now attempt to get the same at Morrison's, Inverurie.

Treasurer's report: Gordon Wackett presented a summary of the present state of the accounts. These were accepted. The bank balance stands at £305. It was agreed that we again donate to Inspire, amount to be decided at the AGM.

"Easy fundraising" is up and going, but we have not seen yet any money coming through to us. everyone was reminded to try and make use of this. **Members** were

encouraged to pay their oblations in good time as this increases the amount that comes back to us from the main Order. Standing Orders were encouraged. The Order used to give hefty donations to national causes once a year. They have changed this, and will send money through to the Conclaves for us to use locally. We can expect to receive £250 for this purpose.

Fund-raising: Moira and Anne offered to raise money through a tea party in a village hall. This was welcomed. We shall await the details.

Recruitment and retention: We are a small group and must gain new members, and endeavor to at least get back to our original number of 16 members. Each member was encouraged to try to recruit suitable people. Though not yet members, Richard and Moira were also encouraged to try to enroll new members.

Promotions: Within the Order, Chevalier Ian Cameron has been promoted to the rank of Officer of the Order of St. Mark (OSM) and has also been made Grand Herald. David has been promoted to GCSR, will be standing down as Grand Treasurer, and will take up Grand Registrar as Elaine wishes to relinquish this duty.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be scheduled for Sunday 24th September. This will be opened and closed in full ritualistic form. We have two for admission to the Order. We may work a ceremony of admission, or perhaps the Grand Master will attend and undertake this plus the conferring of knighthood. This will be held at the Masonic Lodge, Inverurie, at 10:30, followed by lunch at the Kintore Arms.

AOCB: It was suggested that the Order might consider applying for Charitable status. Donations then could be Gift Aided. DS will pass this on. This was followed by a wonderful spread, thanks to Sabina, good company and good conversation.

Grace was given by our Chaplain, Chevalier Michael Stephen KSR OSM.

Annual General Meeting – 24th September 2017



Today we had our AGM. We had a visit by the Deputy Grand Master, and we admitted two new members to our Order. Good company, good food, what more could you ask for!

**Dame Moira Scott, Grand Chancellor, R.E.
Chevalier David Haywood, and Chevalier
Richard Scott**



*A Happy bunch o' Quines & Loons.
Or
Mony a mickle maks a muckle*

Loons are Boys or Young Men
~ **Quines** are Girls or Young Women ~ **Mony** is Many and
Mickle is Small/little whilst
Muckle is Big / Large

Morrison Bag Pack We have now fixed our date for the bag pack as the 20th December 2017, we have at present 5 volunteers and hopefully we can persuade some family members to assist.

And finally: The new date for the **FIZZY TEA PARTY** is Saturday 3rd February. 2018, Members, Friends, Family are all welcome to what should be a fun day for all.

CONCLAVE OF ST THOMAS BECKET – MARTYR

The Conclave Commander is **E. Chevalier Lawrence Day**, CStJ, KCSR

You can contact Alan at ctb@orderofstraphael.org.uk or telephone: 0208 3904642

St Thomas Becket – Martyr - Annual General Meeting 2016

At the previous meeting and at the Grand meeting in Peterborough as well as by email correspondence members of the St William of Rochester Conclave had decided that it would be sensible to place the Conclave into abeyance and transfer into St Thomas Becket – Martyr. Following a brief discussion at which the Kent members present had voiced their agreement with this view and following a proposal from Penny Bell-Wright seconded by Peter Robins, the members of St Thomas Becket – Martyr voted unanimously to accept the Kent members. A general discussed then ensued and it was agreed that all members should be encouraged to attend and that those who did not generally respond should be telephoned.

It was agreed that a Conclave meeting would be held in Kent, probably at Dartford, on a date to be decided. It was also agreed that a Dinner would be held on the Friday before the 29th September each Year, three courses excluding drinks. To encourage members to become more active, 3 or 4 activities per year would also be arranged. The following initial suggestions were put forward, a tour of Windsor Castle, to be arranged with Leslie Grout, renowned expert, a trip on the London Eye and a trip down the River to Greenwich, possibly with a meal in the O2.



CHEVALIER BRIAN EVERETT, GRAND TREASURER

MBE, KSR, BA, FRAeS, FIMgt, FCIPS, MCIT, MSOE, MIRTE

Brian's first career started in the Royal Air Force following National Service in the 1950's and after a brief spell working as a civil servant, he returned to the RAF in 1958. In the subsequent years he served in many parts of the world and held a number of senior operational and staff appointments. In 1972, he was awarded the MBE for military operations in the Middle East.

There then followed a variety of positions in the Ministry of Defence during which he was appointed MOD Escort Officer to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, accompanying them on many of their official overseas visits throughout the late 1970s.

In 1985, he decided to leave the RAF whilst there was still time to develop a second career and to exercise management skills in a more commercially competitive environment. Initially, becoming Assistant Director of Planning and Transportation for the City of Westminster and nominal Chief of Staff for six other divisions. It was during this period that he successfully absorbed many of the tasks, previously carried out by the Greater London Council, with no additional resources and against an almost impossible time-scale. Once this was achieved he was given the task of implementing "Privatisation Reviews" and setting each of the identified areas on a fully commercial basis before becoming Director of Commercial Operations with responsibility for moving these businesses into the private sector.

Having successfully completed this task, he left to set up his own business. In the years that followed he became Chairman and Chief Executive of the Capital Group, a group of companies involved in the design, implementation and operation of city centre parking schemes throughout Europe. He worked on many projects both at home and overseas, the including major schemes in Spain, Mexico, Malta, Africa and the Far East. The Group was eventually sold to a French multi-national in 1991, Six months later he was invited to join London Transport to take on the role of contracts management and eventually, in conjunction with the Department of Transport and others, he played a major role in the successful privatisation of London Buses. Subsequently, he was appointed a main board director, assuming the regulatory and contracting role as Procurement and Infrastructure Director for London Bus Services Limited and London River Services Limited, with an annual budget of almost £1 billion (1993 values). The work included the introduction and development of the bus and river networks for London, the procurement of bus and boat services and infrastructure. He was made a Freeman of the City of London in 2001.

When he retired from London Transport, as well as taking on voluntary roles, he became a director of one of the London Bus operating companies, helping them to restructure and putting their company on a more solid financial footing. In addition to owning and running a country house hotel in the Scottish Borders he also created and managed Translink Consultancy, a company operating in a several specialist areas including transportation, parking, finance, procurement, contract management, infrastructure and engineering.

In the years that followed, he became a non-executive director of NHS Darlington Primary Care Trust, Chairman of NHS County Durham & Darlington Community Health Services, Chairman of the South Durham U3A, Church Warden and President of British Gymnastics. Having been an international athlete, he takes an active interest in all sport. Over the past 17 years he has been involved in fund raising for many charities; climbed many of the world’s major mountains and competitively walked, run and cycled many thousands of miles in the process



Charity Challenge 2017



Simulated walk across the American Continent (or the equivalent of completing the Tour de France)

For over 17 years I’ve been undertaking a number of challenges for different charities. These range from climbing mountains and volcanoes in Europe, Africa, Asia and South America, at altitudes up to 21,000 ft; long distance walks across the UK and Africa; and long-distance cycle rides in excess of 1,000 miles, averaging 72 miles a day. In the process I have raised over £150,000 for various charities.

This year I’m supporting a different charity and you could say, at the age of 82, I’m investing in the future! As I have many other commitments, I can’t afford to be away for almost a year whilst transiting America so I’m doing the equivalent mileage where ever and whenever I can. Some days 5 miles and on others up to 25 miles. Since the first of January this year I’ve completed 1182 miles, reached the equivalent height of 30,090 ft and in the process burned off 474,607 calories, so I’m on target, slightly ahead if I’m crossing America; slightly behind if it’s the Tour de France.

As in previous years, I will be paying all my own expenses, so that every penny raised goes to the charity concerned.. Donations can be made, through either the web page which is www.justgiving.com/Brian-Everett2017 which is then paid directly to the charity or forward it to the charity (quoting Brian Everett’s Fund Raising) or send it to me at the address below. If you are a UK tax payer you can Gift Aid your contribution at no extra cost to yourself but make sure you give your address and a statement to that effect.

Brian D.Everett, MBE,
4, Mowden Hall Drive,
Darlington, DL3 9BJ
Tel: 01325-360423 or Mob: 07508-595960
bd.everett@ntlworld.com

EVENTS / OCCASIONS

Annual outings are one which many of our members enjoy, as it enables them to get to know each other better in informal surroundings, whilst at the same time allowing us to participate in the Order’s objectives of Healing and Teaching, and to raise a small amount of money for the Order’s charity.

Please advise on any events planned for this year or next year. Also I can include in the section below any members you wish to include?

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with you.		
Name	Reason for prayers	Submitted by

Accounts ~ The Order of St. Raphael ~ 2016

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Subscriptions	£1260.00	£1020.00
Admission Fees	£100.00	£50.00
Sales of Regalia	£108.00	£358.00
Donations	£377.00	£435.81
Dining Fees	£775.00	£1792.00
Interest	£0.37	£0.12
	<u>£2620.37</u>	<u>£3655.93</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
To Conclaves	£100.00	£190.00
Regalia	£38.84	£1376.89
Donations	£633.00	£700.00
Catering	£950.00	£1857.00
Bank Charges	£0.00	£0.00
Postage & Stationery	£0.00	£64.70
Website & Newsletter	£222.83	£0.00
	<u>£1944.67</u>	<u>£4188.59</u>
Drop in Value of Stock	£347.00	£-8.00
Surplus (Deficit) for the period	£327.80	£-524.66

Balance Sheet as at 31st. December

Balances as at 1st. January	Current. a/c	£1065.34	£3313.51
	Deposit a/c.	£1701.82	£202.19
	Cash	£34.00	£0.00
	Float	£87.41	£48.57
	Assets	£2856.80	£2509.80
Add surplus (deficit) for year		£328.80	£-524.66
		<u>£6074.07</u>	<u>£5549.41</u>

Represented by Assets

Insignia Stock	£2393.00	££2401.00
Ceremonial Cushions /Sword & Gavel.	£62.00	£62.00
Chains of Office	£54.80	£750.80
Closing Balance	Current a/c	£3313.51
	Deposit a/c.	£202.19
	Cash	£0.00
	Float	£48.57
		<u>£6074.07</u>
		<u>£5549.41</u>

I, the undersigned submit this statement of accounts as a true and accurate record of the accounts of the Order for the year ending 31st. December 2016: E. Chevalier David R. Starritt, KCSR, GCSM., Grand Treasurer.

Examiners Report: I have examined the books and vouchers of these accounts and am satisfied that the above is a true record of the accounts and funds for the year ending 31st. December 2016:

Dame Rhoda W. Ross, DSR, Examiner of Books

Dated: 21st. February 2017

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND TREASURER

I am pleased to report that our finances are sound and in order to secure those funds and to improve our charitable works we have three methods by which members can pay their oblation (subscription) for the current year.

- 1) **On-line banking, Pay Order Bank Account – State your name on payment (A.N. Other ~ Sub/2018)**
- 2) **Standing order ~ ask me for an STO form and give it to your bank.**
- 3) **OR ~ Send a Cheque to the address detailed below**

E. Chevalier Brian Everett, MBE, KSR, 4 Mowden Hall Drive, Darlington, DL3 9BJ.

Cheques payable to: "Order of Saint Raphael" ~ Sort Code:30-98-74 ~ Acct. No: 03007698

ABSTRACT RAMBLINGS FROM THE GRAND HERALD

As the Grand Herald for the Order of St. Raphael. I said I would attempt to bring new and interesting items and articles along with thought-provoking content to the Order of St. Raphael Newsletter. Also, if you feel that there is some aspect of your Conclave that helps promote the Order or have some ideas on this newsletter and its format, please contact myself in the first instance, either by Telephone or e-mail and I will be more than happy to review your comments or suggestions.

- (a) **It is important that we know our members throughout the Order and that's what I think the newsletter is intended to promote and broadcast. So, please let me know of your Interests, thoughts and Aspirations for yourselves and the Order in General.**

*I personally have embarked on a restoration project for a two-wheeled tractor unit (Howard Clifford 700). I also do quite a bit of Landscaping at our Converted Farm Steading including Dry Stone Walling and Fencing. We also have chickens (Fresh Eggs) and Grandchildren (Laughter & tears) here on the Steading so life is always full on, I am also a Member of the Local **MENS SHED** and Secretary/Scribe / Recorder of 3 Masonic Organisations and an Office Bearer in 3 more Local and Provincial Orders along with being an active member in 2 other Non-Masonic Organisations which all raise considerable amounts of money for good causes.*

- (b) **New Members are the life blood of any organisation, let us know how you think that we can encourage likeminded Individuals to become part of our organisation**

I have two applicants in mind for joining, but it is important that we ensure applicants have the inclination to participate in our Orders with both Philosophical and practical efforts on behalf of our fellow human beings. I have taken a slow but sure approach with invitations to our events and promoting our ideals. Hopefully, this will inspire them to take further participation in our order as I sometimes believe we are too quick to ask people to join without ensuring that their own personal circumstances and beliefs match our Orders ideals.

- (c) **Raising money for our charitable donations is a very worthwhile aspiration, how we do it is more problematical. New ideas based on new technologies like EASY FUND RAISING is one way we can improve our contributions to charity, old ideas are just as important, they bring together our members and possible new members who have similar interests. The dissemination of these ideas is one of the benefits of our Newsletter and I would therefore encourage you to share those ideas with our members through this newsletter.**

*One of our youngest members brought up the idea of a Raffle board, a simple but most effective way of raising money and has been very successful in raising funds for our Local Charitable Causes. This came about because we engaged with the young adults and responded positively to their ideas. The moral of this story is: Listen & Learn as you are never too old to learn new tricks I also am using “**easy Fundraising**” it does not cost me anything and sends the contribution direct to **The Order of St. Raphael Lion Rampant Conclave** If we all used this system, we could raise Hundreds of Pounds without any effort on our parts.*

*Other ideas like Bag packing days at local supermarkets can raise Hundreds of Pounds and are fairly easy to organise, Contact the Supermarkets Customer Service and they will put in touch with their Local Champion (They will then advise you on dates available and also what criteria you need to meet to operate in their shops, (Some only do registered Charities) I’ve managed this year to sort a day at **MORRISONS SUPERMARKETS**. If we are successful we should hopefully raise £200 – £300 and also raise the profile of our Group locally*

You will need the following to be successful:

- 1 Plastic Tubs / buckets with your organisation and who you raise money for clearly visible.
- 2 Enthusiastic Bag Packers with personality to chat to customers as you are packing.
- 3 1 Spare person to enable others to take breaks ~ no more than ½ hour packing is advisable.
- 4 A Table display is good way of publicising your organisation and having a spare collection bucket on the table helps increase donations from shoppers who just want to help your charity.

OUR ORDERS AIMS & BELIEFS - WHAT ARE WE ABOUT?

PRAYER

The main purpose of our Order has always been to aid the cure of those who are sick in mind or body. We do this by way of PRAYER. It is our belief, in common with many other religions, that God listens to prayer, and that the greater the volume of prayer towards any specific end, the more likely that it will be granted. Therefore, we pray for the sick, in our homes and at our meetings. It was to fulfil this purpose that the Order was instituted by a Charter dated 1st January 1953, by the Pope of the Catholic Apostolic Church. Before this the Order had existed on a less formal basis.

ECUMENICAL We are an Ecumenical Order, and admit both men and women on an equal basis. Any CHRISTIAN may join provided he or she signs a Declaration of Faith which forms part of the application form. Some members have a belief in, and practise, 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 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.

KNOWLEDGE: The second purpose of our Order is to acquire and preserve esoteric knowledge, and to pass on such knowledge to others. We are especially concerned the wisdom of philosophers and teachers, past and present, should not be lost to Mankind. How many of us have read the writings of, or are even conversant with the works of early and erudite teachers, such as Ignatius? How many have read the words of those whose thoughts did not find favour with the authorities of their times? Even those who were not Christian often had a message of importance, and deserve to be studied. We encourage members to read and study such teachers of all disciplines, in the belief that the work of all great thinkers deserves to be considered and discussed. It must be stressed that not everything that is considered is accepted. We wish to broaden our educational horizons, and the discussion of all topics widens our understanding of the conditions that created such ideas.

MEETINGS Throughout the year we organise meetings that any member may attend to hear speakers on various subjects. At the local level Conclaves arrange their own programme, to suit the requirements of the members. Typically, this consists of three meetings a year at dates acceptable to its members - usually a social occasion, a learning occasion and an Investiture to welcome and admit new members. There are opportunities to unite with other Orders to learn their aims and objectives.

Our aims are best summarised in the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy:

1~Feed the hungry ~ 2~ Give drink to the thirsty ~ 3~Clothe the naked with a garment ~ 4~Visit and ransom the captives, 5~Shelter the homeless ~ 6~Visit and relieve the Sick ~ 8~Bury the dead.

CHIVALRIC In addition to the Charter granted by the Catholic Apostolic Church, the Order has a second Charter, one granted on 17th June 1954, by the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order of the Levant. By virtue of this second Charter we may now grant our members the grades and ranks handed down from the Teutonic Order of St Mary, founded in 1190 AD, when pilgrims to the Holy Land from Bremen and Lubeck, wished to administer and protect a new hospital in Jerusalem, which had been built to replace a much older one.

HISTORY The Grand Master of any may permit another existing Order to perform some functions of his own Order. This is what happened in the aftermath of the Second World War when the Teutonic Knights found they had problems in Europe. Rather than lose the traditions of an Order that went back more than 750 years, they were transferred to the protection of our Order in England, on 17th June 1954. We then became a Chivalric Order.

CHARITY the Order undertakes charitable fundraising at its meetings. Each Conclave chooses a small local charity to support, thus giving maximum support and gaining invaluable publicity for both the charity and the Order.

GENERAL Our Order believes that **NOW** is the time when people are seeking a Spiritual Base from which to study the Great Mystery of Life. We hope that our members find Peace of Mind and a strengthening of Faith in their association with the Order, for we are guided by the writings of St James, Chapter 5 verses 14, 15 & 16.

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the Elders of the Church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the Prayer of Faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

CEREMONY Ceremonial meetings are usually held in a Church which may be of any recognised denomination. From the earliest days of Knighthood aspirants spent the evening before investiture in Vigil before the altar. Early next day the Accolade having been administered all would partake in Holy Communion. Our ceremony of Admission and the creation of Knights and Dames is beautiful and meaningful, and takes place in Peterborough each year.

The Order also administers, as an Order of Merit, **The Most Meritorious, Spiritual and Military Order of St Mark** to recognise the efforts of members on behalf of St Raphael.

MEMBERSHIP The membership of the Order is inexpensive as we believe that knowledge should be, and we wish to encourage participation in all our activities. You will, however, be expected to pay for the insignia of your rank prior to its presentation on Admission.

INSIGNIA

Dame Margaret Gunnell reminds members that a variety of gifts and insignia are 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 contact details are below.

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 as of 2016 and subject to change as stock is replenished, so please **check** with Dame Margaret before placing any orders. gcoi@orderofstraphael.org.uk

The newsletter is written by the herald, Chevalier Ian Cameron. Articles for publication should be sent to him at gh@orderofstraphael.org.uk

ALL OTHER COMMUNICATIONS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE MUST BE TO:

Grand Chancellor

R.E. Chevalier David Haywood, OStJ, GCSR, GCSM

89 Haig Road, Bury, BL8 2LG.

Tel: 0161 764 4786

email: gc@orderofstraphael.org.uk

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR GRAND MASTER

JULIAN K GUNNELL GCSR, GCSM

Dear Knights, Dames & friends,

At this time of year our thoughts turn to the Festive Season and quite rightly there is much excitement about welcoming relatives and friends into our homes. There's a special pleasure in having friends round on Christmas Day or just simply relaxing quietly in front of the fire, whatever suits you best. However, let us not forget those less fortunate than us. Those that do not have friends or family to support them, those struggling financially and last but by no means least, those fighting illness and disease. As a member of our Christian Healing Order, I ask you to spare a little time on Christmas Day, say at 5 p.m., find somewhere tranquil and offer up a short prayer for these unfortunate people. If we are able to do this, the combined outpouring of love cannot fail to be heard by our Lord. Never underestimate the power of prayer!

Finally, Margaret and I wish you all a very Happy & Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order and with the Blessings of St Raphael,

Julian Gunnell, Grand Master,



OBITUARIES

Patricia (Patti) Dorothy Ansell 1933-2017



On Thursday, 9th November 2017, Dianne and I attended the funeral of **Dame Patti Ansell DGCSR** at The Fenland Crematorium, March, Cambridgeshire. Also present was our Grand Master Julian Gunnell and his wife Margaret.

The funeral ceremony, conducted by Gemma Christina, was extremely dignified and started with the film theme *Somewhere in Time* by the John Barry Orchestra. We were all welcomed by Gemma who then invited Beverley Ansell, Patti's daughter-in-law to recite the poem *Death is nothing at All* by Canon Henry Scott Holland (1847-1918). The recital was followed by a eulogy and life story of Patti prepared and read by Chris Ansell, Patti's son; it was a thoughtful tribute and much appreciated by all present. After a few moments silence we recited the Lord's Prayer and then listened to the Choir of York Minster singing *Abide with Me*. Gemma Christina then read a few words of comfort and the proceedings were concluded by Cat Stevens singing *Morning Has Broken*. Donations were readily given for Parkinson's UK. We then retired to the Oliver Cromwell Hotel, March for refreshments.

Patti was a long-standing and enthusiastic supporter of The Healing, Teaching and Chivalric Order of St. Raphael and she fully supported her husband Keith. Keith was the Grand Chancellor of The Order for many years until he passed away 11 years ago. In the early years of The Order most new candidates had their mantles made privately and Patti made many of these mantles before we approached regalia manufacturers in recent times. For her work in this area and her loyalty to The Order, Patti received the accolade of honorary Dame Grand Cross of St. Raphael.

It was an Honour to have known Dame **Patti Ansell**.

Chevalier Barry Uttley, Deputy Grand Master Emeritus

Margaret and I were privileged to be able to attend the funeral and celebration of the life of Dame Patti Ansell, DGCSR, late of our Order. The service took place 9th. November 2017 at Fenland Crematorium, Cambridgeshire. The setting was lovely and very conducive to saying one's farewell with dignity. Barry & Diane Uttley, long term friends of the family travelled down and also represented the Order with us. Her son, Chris Ansell, gave a detailed and slightly humorous eulogy to his mother and the obvious fun they had growing up. The service was a moving tribute to Patti and her very full life, from her years travelling the world with Keith her husband who was in the RAF at the time and also a former Chancellor of this Order; her time in Yorkshire, then March in Cambridgeshire and her devotion to her family throughout all that time.

Patti's health eventually failed her and she needed care from 2015, and it was whilst in the Care Home she slipped away on 24th October 2017. She will be sadly missed, a true stalwart both of life and of our Order.

Julian Gunnell, Grand Master

ANNUAL INVESTITURE 2017

This year's meeting again took place at the Masonic Hall, Peterborough on 13th May. The Grand Master opened the meeting and the Grand Chancellor read out the apologies.

There were three postulants this year – Chevalier Brian Everett, Dame Olive Ward and the Rt Rev'd Michael Ward, and we welcome them all to the Order. Prior to the Investiture Ceremony, a short vigil was introduced this year for the postulants, led by the Grand Prior, to focus the postulants' minds on the step that they are about to take.

There was just one St Raphael promotion this year, with Chevalier David Starritt promoted to Knight Grand Cross, and the Grand Prior was invested with the newly created decoration of Ecclesiastical Grand Cross. The Grand Master then had great pleasure in making a number of awards in the Order of St Mark.

The Grand Master then appointed E Dame Pamela Robinson as Commander of the Conclave of St Martin at Sées – the first female to achieve this in our Order. This being his first Investiture as GM, certificates were presented to all Grand Officers present. The full list of Grand Officers can be found on the website.

After the service, the usual convivial meal took place, attended by 26 members and guests.

The Grand Council meeting took place after lunch, and items discussed were as follows:

- The Grand Chancellor announced that although a few minor changes to the Constitution and Statutes were approved last year, several further changes were now proposed and had been circulated to members of the Grand Council by email. These were approved unanimously and a copy of the revised document can be found on the Order's website.
- At the beginning of the morning service, the Grand Chancellor had announced that we were using a temporary Ritual booklet since changes needed to be made following the change of GM. The Grand Prior now explained that we had introduced some extra items into the service, namely a Bible Reading, short intercessions, and a short section allowing those who wished to receive healing oils. There were no objections from members and so these will be introduced into the Ritual on a permanent basis.
- The Grand Prior went on to say that he had produced a St Raphael Prayer book to enable Conclaves, especially those with no ordained Prior, to have something to use at local meetings, with prayers and blessings that can be said by a lay person. It can also be used by members to assist with prayer, and covers various eventualities when prayer may be required. At the moment it is still a work in progress, but copies have been initially given to Conclaves to use and provide feedback.
- The Grand Chancellor said that a lot of positive reports were received following the service at Rugeley, and in order to build on this suggested an annual Service of Thanksgiving in the autumn of each year at Rugeley, but with a more informal lunch. This would give members of the Order an extra opportunity to meet, and it would not matter too much if the response was not huge. The Grand Prior confirmed that we could use the Cathedral at any time we wished. Full details and application forms will be sent out later in the summer. The date now set is Saturday 7th October, at 11am.
- The Grand Treasurer circulated a copy of the accounts to 31st December 2015, which showed a deficit for the year of £524.66, due mainly to the extra cost incurred in the Installation of the Grand Master and new Chains of Office and Batons. Only one member is now in arrears with subscriptions, and it is reported that he is very poorly. The accounts had been independently examined by Dame Rhoda Ross. The accounts were accepted by the meeting and thanks given to David and Rhoda for their work. David went on to say that he is stepping down as Treasurer at the end of the year, and the GM has appointed Chevalier Brian Everett to take over at that time.

- The GT went on to add that following today's raffle, and with membership donations and donations from Conclaves we had around £600 to distribute to our nominated Charities. The Grand Master said that he wished to change our distribution process and split this between the Conclaves to enable them to choose and distribute to local charities. Not only will this ensure that the money goes to small worthy charities, but the publicity opportunity is also much greater, and it is hoped that all Conclaves will make the most of this. The only criteria are that the charity must have a "human healing" aspect to it, and that details of any charities chosen must be submitted to the Grand Hospitaller and Grand Chancellor for approval before the cheques are issued by the Grand Treasurer. Commanders are to invite the local press and radio to any donations to ensure a photo opportunity.

If the press does not attend, it is the Commander's responsibility to ensure photos are taken and the copy written for the press. Photos and the "written copy" are to be sent to the Grand Hospitaller and Grand Chancellor for inclusion in the newsletter, Facebook and the website.

- Each of the three Conclave Commanders gave brief reports of their activities, and it is pleasing that we now have three active Conclaves. Copies of the reports or events can be found on the website.
- Chevalier Steven Turner spoke about a new organisation of which he is a founder. The Grand Master of the International Order of St Stanislas thought that it was about time that the *alleged* illegitimate or unrecognised Orders had their own association. He therefore created the International Confederation of Chivalric Orders (ICCO) and has sent invitations to various Orders around the World inviting them to join. At the moment and for the next few Years there will be no Fees and all costs will be met by St Stanislas; when sufficient Orders have joined a Council will be formed with each Order having representation. All Orders will remain independent as the purpose of the ICCO is to create strength in numbers and to allow exchange of ideas and possibly members.
A discussion then took place amongst the Grand Council as to whether or not we should join. There was a small number against but the majority agreed that we should give it a try and the Order of St Raphael will therefore join the ICCO for an initial period of three years.
- Steven Turner talked about the benefits of "*easyfundraising*", which enables people shopping or searching on the internet to have a small amount donated to their charitable cause. It was agreed that each Conclave should set up its own "*easyfundraising*" page and accrue the donations received in its own Conclave account for distribution in due course.

The Grand Master closed the Grand Council Meeting at 3.30pm.

The date for the 2018 Investiture is Saturday 12th May. @ 11am.

New members admitted:

Chevalier Brian Everett, MBE (KSR)
 Dame Olive Ward (DSR)
 Rt Rev'd Michael Ward (SchSR)

St Mark Awards:

RE Dame Margaret Gunnell (DGCSM)
 E Steven Turner (KCSM)
 Dame Dianne Uttley (DCSM)
 Chevalier Ian Cameron (OSM)
 Dame Susan Austin (MSM)
 Chevalier Mike Boxall (MSM)

Promotions:

E Chevalier David Starritt (GCSR)

Photographs of the event can be viewed in the Gallery on the website.
www.orderofstraphael.org.uk

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING - SATURDAY 7TH. OCTOBER 2017

Cathedral of the Old Catholic Church UK, Rugeley

Members of the Order, some travelling from Scotland, Darlington and London, gathered at the Cathedral for the first of what is hoped to be a regular annual event. The old cathedral is a beautiful building and the ambiance was magnificent. The service was led by the Great Prior, Right. Rev'd. Geoffrey Robinson with reading from Pamela Robinson, David Haywood and me. We also had the Archbishop, Most Rev'd John Lycett with three visiting priests to join us.

It was a very pleasant event and afterwards we went to a local pub for lunch. This turned out to be a very pleasant indeed as it was "Buy 1 Get 1 Free"! A perfect ending to a perfect day! Next year we hope that more will come along.



I am indebted to Geoffrey & David for the work they put in organising the event, to Geoffrey for writing the service and to the Archbishop, John Lycett, for allowing us the use of the cathedral.

Julian Gunnell GCSR GCSM, Grand Master

SOME PERIODIC RAMBLINGS OF THE PRIOR

June 2017 (Issue 30)

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. I have also reprinted Issue 30 as I feel it is a message we should not allow to dim in our daily thoughts and actions

Dear Members

As Christians, we need to play a very important role in society these days, when social structures are collapsing, family life breaking up and everyone appears to be only concerned about pleasing themselves. But there are still those people who look to Christians to provide the answers, and we can only help society find the right solutions, when we set a good example ourselves. So, as followers of Christ, our lives should be an example of true Christian teaching. Any conduct falling short of this will only invite criticism and will inevitably further restrict the growth of the Church.

The example of Christ should be central to our life and faith so that our minds are characterised by the self-giving attitude of Christ, the Good Shepherd. In Biblical times the Shepherd cared for his sheep, called them by name, led them to pasture and water, found shelter for them during inclement weather, defended them against bandits and wolves, and willingly laid down his life for them. Unfortunately, this image of the Good Shepherd does not move us as it did the people of Israel, and the early Christians. But if we really want to understand the Scriptures and to know our true relationship with God, we must understand the image of the Shepherd and his sheep. Shepherds and sheep are not very common or relevant in today's high tech, computerized world. And we do not like to think of ourselves as dumb, submissive animals.

We are sophisticated human beings, or so we think! We have an intellect and a free will, to go where we please and do what we want. And we don't like sheep dogs yapping and snapping at our feet. But perhaps we are more like sheep than we really care to admit: Because, like sheep we seem to be oblivious of everything

except the plot of grass that surrounds us here and now. We spend all of our time feathering our little nest here, as if it will go on forever.

Just like sheep, we are not conscious of the ravenous wolves that surround us in the counter-culture in which we live – though we really should be. To say nothing of the wolves that come to us in sheep's clothing. And just like sheep, we always think that the grass is greener on the other side, so we stray from the flock. Now, whether we appreciate it or not, the image of the Good Shepherd and his sheep is enshrined forever in the Bible and in Christianity. In very truth it fits every generation, even our own. So, what a great blessing it is for us Christians, to follow Jesus and his Apostles with great joy and confidence, wherever they may lead us. Amen.

+Geoffrey

Around the Conclaves - News & Events

CONCLAVE OF MARTIN AT SEES

The Conclave Commander is E. Dame Pamela Robinson, DCSR, CSM

You can contact Helen at csm@orderofstraphael.org.uk

Recently Dame Pamela Robinson presented a cheque of £310.00 to 'Autism Ventures' who were founded in the early 1970s in the Merseyside region, Autism Initiatives remains a parent-led charity. They are a founder member of the Autism Alliance and connected with regional and national autism networks and strategy groups.



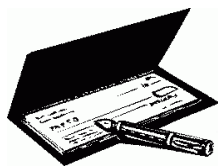
Pictured on the right is the presentation of the cheque to "Sam" and Cathy from Autism Ventures in Southport.



LION RAMPANT CONCLAVE

The Commander is E Chevalier David Starritt, KCSR, GCSM

You can contact David at clr@orderofstraphael.org.uk



I am very proud to report that virtually all members of the Lion Rampant Conclave turned out this morning for the visit to St James's Court, for the presentation of a cheque for £400 to Inspire, and for the draw for Melanie's lucky square. We were shown the sensory area that we helped equip last year, and the donation today will help equip it further...

Pictured on the right is the winner of the Lucky draw, our latest new postulant, Mrs Moira Scott, which was drawn by one of the staff from "INSPIRE" at St. James House in Inverurie, Aberdeenshire.

R.E. David R. Starritt GCSR GCSM and Melanie McLellan, who organized the Lucky Draw, are pictured presenting the prize of a basket of Fruit & flowers to Mrs Moira Scott alongside Hon. Almoner Ross McLellan and Vice Chancellor Dame Elaine Starritt.



Since winning the Lucky Draw, Moira has joined the Order of St. Raphael at our Meeting in August in the Masonic Temple, Inverurie, along with her husband Richard Scott, who were both inducted into the Conclave by the Grand Chancellor.

Abbreviated Minutes of our Meeting held at Mosseye Steading, Oldmeldrum, 25th June 2017

Matters arising: It was agreed that we would invite Albert Thomson and other members of the Confraternity of Knights of the Most Holy Trinity to our AGM in September. DS will do this. It was agreed to repeat Melanie's lucky square fundraiser. The squares will be £1 each, that each member will be given 13 numbers to sell, and would each contribute £5 to the cost of the prize, a Christmas hamper. The draw will take place in December at the same time as the donation. Ian Cameron is still trying to get us a bag packing slot at M&S, Inverurie, but it is uncertain whether the application will be successful. He will now attempt to get the same at Morrison's, Inverurie.

Treasurer's report: Gordon Wackett presented a summary of the present state of the accounts. These were accepted. The bank balance stands at £305. It was agreed that we again donate to Inspire, amount to be decided at the AGM.

"Easy fundraising" is up and going, but we have not seen yet any money coming through to us. everyone was reminded to try and make use of this. **Members** were

encouraged to pay their oblations in good time as this increases the amount that comes back to us from the main Order. Standing Orders were encouraged. The Order used to give hefty donations to national causes once a year. They have changed this, and will send money through to the Conclaves for us to use locally. We can expect to receive £250 for this purpose.

Fund-raising: Moira and Anne offered to raise money through a tea party in a village hall. This was welcomed. We shall await the details.

Recruitment and retention: We are a small group and must gain new members, and endeavor to at least get back to our original number of 16 members. Each member was encouraged to try to recruit suitable people. Though not yet members, Richard and Moira were also encouraged to try to enroll new members.

Promotions: Within the Order, Chevalier Ian Cameron has been promoted to the rank of Officer of the Order of St. Mark (OSM) and has also been made Grand Herald. David has been promoted to GCSR, will be standing down as Grand Treasurer, and will take up Grand Registrar as Elaine wishes to relinquish this duty.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be scheduled for Sunday 24th September. This will be opened and closed in full ritualistic form. We have two for admission to the Order. We may work a ceremony of admission, or perhaps the Grand Master will attend and undertake this plus the conferring of knighthood. This will be held at the Masonic Lodge, Inverurie, at 10:30, followed by lunch at the Kintore Arms.

AOCB: It was suggested that the Order might consider applying for Charitable status. Donations then could be Gift Aided. DS will pass this on. This was followed by a wonderful spread, thanks to Sabina, good company and good conversation.

Grace was given by our Chaplain, Chevalier Michael Stephen KSR OSM.

Annual General Meeting – 24th September 2017



Today we had our AGM. We had a visit by the Deputy Grand Master, and we admitted two new members to our Order. Good company, good food, what more could you ask for!

**Dame Moira Scott, Grand Chancellor, R.E.
Chevalier David Haywood, and Chevalier
Richard Scott**



*A Happy bunch o' Quines & Loons.
Or
Mony a mickle maks a muckle*

Loons are Boys or Young Men
~ **Quines** are Girls or Young Women ~ **Mony** is Many and
Mickle is Small/little whilst
Muckle is Big / Large

Morrison Bag Pack We have now fixed our date for the bag pack as the 20th December 2017, we have at present 5 volunteers and hopefully we can persuade some family members to assist.

And finally: The new date for the **FIZZY TEA PARTY** is Saturday 3rd February. 2018, Members, Friends, Family are all welcome to what should be a fun day for all.

CONCLAVE OF ST THOMAS BECKET – MARTYR

The Conclave Commander is **E. Chevalier Lawrence Day**, CStJ, KCSR

You can contact Alan at ctb@orderofstraphael.org.uk or telephone: 0208 3904642

St Thomas Becket – Martyr - Annual General Meeting 2016

At the previous meeting and at the Grand meeting in Peterborough as well as by email correspondence members of the St William of Rochester Conclave had decided that it would be sensible to place the Conclave into abeyance and transfer into St Thomas Becket – Martyr. Following a brief discussion at which the Kent members present had voiced their agreement with this view and following a proposal from Penny Bell-Wright seconded by Peter Robins, the members of St Thomas Becket – Martyr voted unanimously to accept the Kent members. A general discussed then ensued and it was agreed that all members should be encouraged to attend and that those who did not generally respond should be telephoned.

It was agreed that a Conclave meeting would be held in Kent, probably at Dartford, on a date to be decided. It was also agreed that a Dinner would be held on the Friday before the 29th September each Year, three courses excluding drinks. To encourage members to become more active, 3 or 4 activities per year would also be arranged. The following initial suggestions were put forward, a tour of Windsor Castle, to be arranged with Leslie Grout, renowned expert, a trip on the London Eye and a trip down the River to Greenwich, possibly with a meal in the O2.



CHEVALIER BRIAN EVERETT, GRAND TREASURER

MBE, KSR, BA, FRAeS, FIMgt, FCIPS, MCIT, MSOE, MIRTE

Brian's first career started in the Royal Air Force following National Service in the 1950's and after a brief spell working as a civil servant, he returned to the RAF in 1958. In the subsequent years he served in many parts of the world and held a number of senior operational and staff appointments. In 1972, he was awarded the MBE for military operations in the Middle East.

There then followed a variety of positions in the Ministry of Defence during which he was appointed MOD Escort Officer to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, accompanying them on many of their official overseas visits throughout the late 1970s.

In 1985, he decided to leave the RAF whilst there was still time to develop a second career and to exercise management skills in a more commercially competitive environment. Initially, becoming Assistant Director of Planning and Transportation for the City of Westminster and nominal Chief of Staff for six other divisions. It was during this period that he successfully absorbed many of the tasks, previously carried out by the Greater London Council, with no additional resources and against an almost impossible time-scale. Once this was achieved he was given the task of implementing "Privatisation Reviews" and setting each of the identified areas on a fully commercial basis before becoming Director of Commercial Operations with responsibility for moving these businesses into the private sector.

Having successfully completed this task, he left to set up his own business. In the years that followed he became Chairman and Chief Executive of the Capital Group, a group of companies involved in the design, implementation and operation of city centre parking schemes throughout Europe. He worked on many projects both at home and overseas, the including major schemes in Spain, Mexico, Malta, Africa and the Far East. The Group was eventually sold to a French multi-national in 1991, Six months later he was invited to join London Transport to take on the role of contracts management and eventually, in conjunction with the Department of Transport and others, he played a major role in the successful privatisation of London Buses. Subsequently, he was appointed a main board director, assuming the regulatory and contracting role as Procurement and Infrastructure Director for London Bus Services Limited and London River Services Limited, with an annual budget of almost £1 billion (1993 values). The work included the introduction and development of the bus and river networks for London, the procurement of bus and boat services and infrastructure. He was made a Freeman of the City of London in 2001.

When he retired from London Transport, as well as taking on voluntary roles, he became a director of one of the London Bus operating companies, helping them to restructure and putting their company on a more solid financial footing. In addition to owning and running a country house hotel in the Scottish Borders he also created and managed Translink Consultancy, a company operating in a several specialist areas including transportation, parking, finance, procurement, contract management, infrastructure and engineering.

In the years that followed, he became a non-executive director of NHS Darlington Primary Care Trust, Chairman of NHS County Durham & Darlington Community Health Services, Chairman of the South Durham U3A, Church Warden and President of British Gymnastics. Having been an international athlete, he takes an active interest in all sport. Over the past 17 years he has been involved in fund raising for many charities; climbed many of the world’s major mountains and competitively walked, run and cycled many thousands of miles in the process



Charity Challenge 2017



Simulated walk across the American Continent (or the equivalent of completing the Tour de France)

For over 17 years I’ve been undertaking a number of challenges for different charities. These range from climbing mountains and volcanoes in Europe, Africa, Asia and South America, at altitudes up to 21,000 ft; long distance walks across the UK and Africa; and long-distance cycle rides in excess of 1,000 miles, averaging 72 miles a day. In the process I have raised over £150,000 for various charities.

This year I’m supporting a different charity and you could say, at the age of 82, I’m investing in the future! As I have many other commitments, I can’t afford to be away for almost a year whilst transiting America so I’m doing the equivalent mileage where ever and whenever I can. Some days 5 miles and on others up to 25 miles. Since the first of January this year I’ve completed 1182 miles, reached the equivalent height of 30,090 ft and in the process burned off 474,607 calories, so I’m on target, slightly ahead if I’m crossing America; slightly behind if it’s the Tour de France.

As in previous years, I will be paying all my own expenses, so that every penny raised goes to the charity concerned.. Donations can be made, through either the web page which is www.justgiving.com/Brian-Everett2017 which is then paid directly to the charity or forward it to the charity (quoting Brian Everett’s Fund Raising) or send it to me at the address below. If you are a UK tax payer you can Gift Aid your contribution at no extra cost to yourself but make sure you give your address and a statement to that effect.

Brian D.Everett, MBE,
4, Mowden Hall Drive,
Darlington, DL3 9BJ
Tel: 01325-360423 or Mob: 07508-595960
bd.everett@ntlworld.com

EVENTS / OCCASIONS

Annual outings are one which many of our members enjoy, as it enables them to get to know each other better in informal surroundings, whilst at the same time allowing us to participate in the Order’s objectives of Healing and Teaching, and to raise a small amount of money for the Order’s charity.

Please advise on any events planned for this year or next year. Also I can include in the section below any members you wish to include?

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with you.		
Name	Reason for prayers	Submitted by

Accounts ~ The Order of St. Raphael ~ 2016

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Subscriptions	£1260.00	£1020.00
Admission Fees	£100.00	£50.00
Sales of Regalia	£108.00	£358.00
Donations	£377.00	£435.81
Dining Fees	£775.00	£1792.00
Interest	£0.37	£0.12
	<u>£2620.37</u>	<u>£3655.93</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
To Conclaves	£100.00	£190.00
Regalia	£38.84	£1376.89
Donations	£633.00	£700.00
Catering	£950.00	£1857.00
Bank Charges	£0.00	£0.00
Postage & Stationery	£0.00	£64.70
Website & Newsletter	£222.83	£0.00
	<u>£1944.67</u>	<u>£4188.59</u>
Drop in Value of Stock	£347.00	£-8.00
Surplus (Deficit) for the period	£327.80	£-524.66

Balance Sheet as at 31st. December

Balances as at 1st. January	Current. a/c	£1065.34	£3313.51
	Deposit a/c.	£1701.82	£202.19
	Cash	£34.00	£0.00
	Float	£87.41	£48.57
	Assets	£2856.80	£2509.80
Add surplus (deficit) for year		£328.80	£-524.66
		<u>£6074.07</u>	<u>£5549.41</u>

Represented by Assets

Insignia Stock	£2393.00	££2401.00
Ceremonial Cushions /Sword & Gavel.	£62.00	£62.00
Chains of Office	£54.80	£750.80
Closing Balance	Current a/c	£3313.51
	Deposit a/c.	£202.19
	Cash	£0.00
	Float	£48.57
		<u>£6074.07</u>
		<u>£5549.41</u>

I, the undersigned submit this statement of accounts as a true and accurate record of the accounts of the Order for the year ending 31st. December 2016: E. Chevalier David R. Starritt, KCSR, GCSM., Grand Treasurer.

Examiners Report: I have examined the books and vouchers of these accounts and am satisfied that the above is a true record of the accounts and funds for the year ending 31st. December 2016:

Dame Rhoda W. Ross, DSR, Examiner of Books

Dated: 21st. February 2017

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND TREASURER

I am pleased to report that our finances are sound and in order to secure those funds and to improve our charitable works we have three methods by which members can pay their oblation (subscription) for the current year.

- 1) **On-line banking, Pay Order Bank Account – State your name on payment (A.N. Other ~ Sub/2018)**
- 2) **Standing order ~ ask me for an STO form and give it to your bank.**
- 3) **OR ~ Send a Cheque to the address detailed below**

E. Chevalier Brian Everett, MBE, KSR, 4 Mowden Hall Drive, Darlington, DL3 9BJ.

Cheques payable to: "Order of Saint Raphael" ~ Sort Code:30-98-74 ~ Acct. No: 03007698

ABSTRACT RAMBLINGS FROM THE GRAND HERALD

As the Grand Herald for the Order of St. Raphael. I said I would attempt to bring new and interesting items and articles along with thought-provoking content to the Order of St. Raphael Newsletter. Also, if you feel that there is some aspect of your Conclave that helps promote the Order or have some ideas on this newsletter and its format, please contact myself in the first instance, either by Telephone or e-mail and I will be more than happy to review your comments or suggestions.

- (a) **It is important that we know our members throughout the Order and that's what I think the newsletter is intended to promote and broadcast. So, please let me know of your Interests, thoughts and Aspirations for yourselves and the Order in General.**

*I personally have embarked on a restoration project for a two-wheeled tractor unit (Howard Clifford 700). I also do quite a bit of Landscaping at our Converted Farm Steading including Dry Stone Walling and Fencing. We also have chickens (Fresh Eggs) and Grandchildren (Laughter & tears) here on the Steading so life is always full on, I am also a Member of the Local **MENS SHED** and Secretary/Scribe / Recorder of 3 Masonic Organisations and an Office Bearer in 3 more Local and Provincial Orders along with being an active member in 2 other Non-Masonic Organisations which all raise considerable amounts of money for good causes.*

- (b) **New Members are the life blood of any organisation, let us know how you think that we can encourage likeminded Individuals to become part of our organisation**

I have two applicants in mind for joining, but it is important that we ensure applicants have the inclination to participate in our Orders with both Philosophical and practical efforts on behalf of our fellow human beings. I have taken a slow but sure approach with invitations to our events and promoting our ideals. Hopefully, this will inspire them to take further participation in our order as I sometimes believe we are too quick to ask people to join without ensuring that their own personal circumstances and beliefs match our Orders ideals.

- (c) **Raising money for our charitable donations is a very worthwhile aspiration, how we do it is more problematical. New ideas based on new technologies like EASY FUND RAISING is one way we can improve our contributions to charity, old ideas are just as important, they bring together our members and possible new members who have similar interests. The dissemination of these ideas is one of the benefits of our Newsletter and I would therefore encourage you to share those ideas with our members through this newsletter.**

*One of our youngest members brought up the idea of a Raffle board, a simple but most effective way of raising money and has been very successful in raising funds for our Local Charitable Causes. This came about because we engaged with the young adults and responded positively to their ideas. The moral of this story is: Listen & Learn as you are never too old to learn new tricks I also am using “**easy Fundraising**” it does not cost me anything and sends the contribution direct to **The Order of St. Raphael Lion Rampant Conclave** If we all used this system, we could raise Hundreds of Pounds without any effort on our parts.*

*Other ideas like Bag packing days at local supermarkets can raise Hundreds of Pounds and are fairly easy to organise, Contact the Supermarkets Customer Service and they will put in touch with their Local Champion (They will then advise you on dates available and also what criteria you need to meet to operate in their shops, (Some only do registered Charities) I’ve managed this year to sort a day at **MORRISONS SUPERMARKETS**. If we are successful we should hopefully raise £200 – £300 and also raise the profile of our Group locally*

You will need the following to be successful:

- 1 Plastic Tubs / buckets with your organisation and who you raise money for clearly visible.
- 2 Enthusiastic Bag Packers with personality to chat to customers as you are packing.
- 3 1 Spare person to enable others to take breaks ~ no more than ½ hour packing is advisable.
- 4 A Table display is good way of publicising your organisation and having a spare collection bucket on the table helps increase donations from shoppers who just want to help your charity.

OUR ORDERS AIMS & BELIEFS - WHAT ARE WE ABOUT?

PRAYER

The main purpose of our Order has always been to aid the cure of those who are sick in mind or body. We do this by way of PRAYER. It is our belief, in common with many other religions, that God listens to prayer, and that the greater the volume of prayer towards any specific end, the more likely that it will be granted. Therefore, we pray for the sick, in our homes and at our meetings. It was to fulfil this purpose that the Order was instituted by a Charter dated 1st January 1953, by the Pope of the Catholic Apostolic Church. Before this the Order had existed on a less formal basis.

ECUMENICAL We are an Ecumenical Order, and admit both men and women on an equal basis. Any CHRISTIAN may join provided he or she signs a Declaration of Faith which forms part of the application form. Some members have a belief in, and practise, 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 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.

KNOWLEDGE: The second purpose of our Order is to acquire and preserve esoteric knowledge, and to pass on such knowledge to others. We are especially concerned the wisdom of philosophers and teachers, past and present, should not be lost to Mankind. How many of us have read the writings of, or are even conversant with the works of early and erudite teachers, such as Ignatius? How many have read the words of those whose thoughts did not find favour with the authorities of their times? Even those who were not Christian often had a message of importance, and deserve to be studied. We encourage members to read and study such teachers of all disciplines, in the belief that the work of all great thinkers deserves to be considered and discussed. It must be stressed that not everything that is considered is accepted. We wish to broaden our educational horizons, and the discussion of all topics widens our understanding of the conditions that created such ideas.

MEETINGS Throughout the year we organise meetings that any member may attend to hear speakers on various subjects. At the local level Conclaves arrange their own programme, to suit the requirements of the members. Typically, this consists of three meetings a year at dates acceptable to its members - usually a social occasion, a learning occasion and an Investiture to welcome and admit new members. There are opportunities to unite with other Orders to learn their aims and objectives.

Our aims are best summarised in the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy:

1~Feed the hungry ~ 2~ Give drink to the thirsty ~ 3~Clothe the naked with a garment ~ 4~Visit and ransom the captives, 5~Shelter the homeless ~ 6~Visit and relieve the Sick ~ 8~Bury the dead.

CHIVALRIC In addition to the Charter granted by the Catholic Apostolic Church, the Order has a second Charter, one granted on 17th June 1954, by the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order of the Levant. By virtue of this second Charter we may now grant our members the grades and ranks handed down from the Teutonic Order of St Mary, founded in 1190 AD, when pilgrims to the Holy Land from Bremen and Lubeck, wished to administer and protect a new hospital in Jerusalem, which had been built to replace a much older one.

HISTORY The Grand Master of any may permit another existing Order to perform some functions of his own Order. This is what happened in the aftermath of the Second World War when the Teutonic Knights found they had problems in Europe. Rather than lose the traditions of an Order that went back more than 750 years, they were transferred to the protection of our Order in England, on 17th June 1954. We then became a Chivalric Order.

CHARITY the Order undertakes charitable fundraising at its meetings. Each Conclave chooses a small local charity to support, thus giving maximum support and gaining invaluable publicity for both the charity and the Order.

GENERAL Our Order believes that **NOW** is the time when people are seeking a Spiritual Base from which to study the Great Mystery of Life. We hope that our members find Peace of Mind and a strengthening of Faith in their association with the Order, for we are guided by the writings of St James, Chapter 5 verses 14, 15 & 16.

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the Elders of the Church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the Prayer of Faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

CEREMONY Ceremonial meetings are usually held in a Church which may be of any recognised denomination. From the earliest days of Knighthood aspirants spent the evening before investiture in Vigil before the altar. Early next day the Accolade having been administered all would partake in Holy Communion. Our ceremony of Admission and the creation of Knights and Dames is beautiful and meaningful, and takes place in Peterborough each year.

The Order also administers, as an Order of Merit, **The Most Meritorious, Spiritual and Military Order of St Mark** to recognise the efforts of members on behalf of St Raphael.

MEMBERSHIP The membership of the Order is inexpensive as we believe that knowledge should be, and we wish to encourage participation in all our activities. You will, however, be expected to pay for the insignia of your rank prior to its presentation on Admission.

INSIGNIA

Dame Margaret Gunnell reminds members that a variety of gifts and insignia are 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 contact details are below.

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 as of 2016 and subject to change as stock is replenished, so please **check** with Dame Margaret before placing any orders. gcoi@orderofstraphael.org.uk

The newsletter is written by the herald, Chevalier Ian Cameron. Articles for publication should be sent to him at gh@orderofstraphael.org.uk

ALL OTHER COMMUNICATIONS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE MUST BE TO:

Grand Chancellor

R.E. Chevalier David Haywood, OStJ, GCSR, GCSM

89 Haig Road, Bury, BL8 2LG.

Tel: 0161 764 4786

email: gc@orderofstraphael.org.uk

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR GRAND MASTER

JULIAN K GUNNELL GCSR, GCSM

Dear Knights, Dames & friends,

At this time of year our thoughts turn to the Festive Season and quite rightly there is much excitement about welcoming relatives and friends into our homes. There's a special pleasure in having friends round on Christmas Day or just simply relaxing quietly in front of the fire, whatever suits you best. However, let us not forget those less fortunate than us. Those that do not have friends or family to support them, those struggling financially and last but by no means least, those fighting illness and disease. As a member of our Christian Healing Order, I ask you to spare a little time on Christmas Day, say at 5 p.m., find somewhere tranquil and offer up a short prayer for these unfortunate people. If we are able to do this, the combined outpouring of love cannot fail to be heard by our Lord. Never underestimate the power of prayer!

Finally, Margaret and I wish you all a very Happy & Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order and with the Blessings of St Raphael,

Julian Gunnell, Grand Master,



OBITUARIES

Patricia (Patti) Dorothy Ansell 1933-2017



On Thursday, 9th November 2017, Dianne and I attended the funeral of **Dame Patti Ansell DGCSR** at The Fenland Crematorium, March, Cambridgeshire. Also present was our Grand Master Julian Gunnell and his wife Margaret.

The funeral ceremony, conducted by Gemma Christina, was extremely dignified and started with the film theme *Somewhere in Time* by the John Barry Orchestra. We were all welcomed by Gemma who then invited Beverley Ansell, Patti's daughter-in-law to recite the poem *Death is nothing at All* by Canon Henry Scott Holland (1847-1918). The recital was followed by a eulogy and life story of Patti prepared and read by Chris Ansell, Patti's son; it was a thoughtful tribute and much appreciated by all present. After a few moments silence we recited the Lord's Prayer and then listened to the Choir of York Minster singing *Abide with Me*. Gemma Christina then read a few words of comfort and the proceedings were concluded by Cat Stevens singing *Morning Has Broken*. Donations were readily given for Parkinson's UK. We then retired to the Oliver Cromwell Hotel, March for refreshments.

Patti was a long-standing and enthusiastic supporter of The Healing, Teaching and Chivalric Order of St. Raphael and she fully supported her husband Keith. Keith was the Grand Chancellor of The Order for many years until he passed away 11 years ago. In the early years of The Order most new candidates had their mantles made privately and Patti made many of these mantles before we approached regalia manufacturers in recent times. For her work in this area and her loyalty to The Order, Patti received the accolade of honorary Dame Grand Cross of St. Raphael.

It was an Honour to have known Dame **Patti Ansell**.

Chevalier Barry Uttley, Deputy Grand Master Emeritus

Margaret and I were privileged to be able to attend the funeral and celebration of the life of Dame Patti Ansell, DGCSR, late of our Order. The service took place 9th. November 2017 at Fenland Crematorium, Cambridgeshire. The setting was lovely and very conducive to saying one's farewell with dignity. Barry & Diane Uttley, long term friends of the family travelled down and also represented the Order with us. Her son, Chris Ansell, gave a detailed and slightly humorous eulogy to his mother and the obvious fun they had growing up. The service was a moving tribute to Patti and her very full life, from her years travelling the world with Keith her husband who was in the RAF at the time and also a former Chancellor of this Order; her time in Yorkshire, then March in Cambridgeshire and her devotion to her family throughout all that time.

Patti's health eventually failed her and she needed care from 2015, and it was whilst in the Care Home she slipped away on 24th October 2017. She will be sadly missed, a true stalwart both of life and of our Order.

Julian Gunnell, Grand Master

ANNUAL INVESTITURE 2017

This year's meeting again took place at the Masonic Hall, Peterborough on 13th May. The Grand Master opened the meeting and the Grand Chancellor read out the apologies.

There were three postulants this year – Chevalier Brian Everett, Dame Olive Ward and the Rt Rev'd Michael Ward, and we welcome them all to the Order. Prior to the Investiture Ceremony, a short vigil was introduced this year for the postulants, led by the Grand Prior, to focus the postulants' minds on the step that they are about to take.

There was just one St Raphael promotion this year, with Chevalier David Starritt promoted to Knight Grand Cross, and the Grand Prior was invested with the newly created decoration of Ecclesiastical Grand Cross. The Grand Master then had great pleasure in making a number of awards in the Order of St Mark.

The Grand Master then appointed E Dame Pamela Robinson as Commander of the Conclave of St Martin at Sées – the first female to achieve this in our Order. This being his first Investiture as GM, certificates were presented to all Grand Officers present. The full list of Grand Officers can be found on the website.

After the service, the usual convivial meal took place, attended by 26 members and guests.

The Grand Council meeting took place after lunch, and items discussed were as follows:

- The Grand Chancellor announced that although a few minor changes to the Constitution and Statutes were approved last year, several further changes were now proposed and had been circulated to members of the Grand Council by email. These were approved unanimously and a copy of the revised document can be found on the Order's website.
- At the beginning of the morning service, the Grand Chancellor had announced that we were using a temporary Ritual booklet since changes needed to be made following the change of GM. The Grand Prior now explained that we had introduced some extra items into the service, namely a Bible Reading, short intercessions, and a short section allowing those who wished to receive healing oils. There were no objections from members and so these will be introduced into the Ritual on a permanent basis.
- The Grand Prior went on to say that he had produced a St Raphael Prayer book to enable Conclaves, especially those with no ordained Prior, to have something to use at local meetings, with prayers and blessings that can be said by a lay person. It can also be used by members to assist with prayer, and covers various eventualities when prayer may be required. At the moment it is still a work in progress, but copies have been initially given to Conclaves to use and provide feedback.
- The Grand Chancellor said that a lot of positive reports were received following the service at Rugeley, and in order to build on this suggested an annual Service of Thanksgiving in the autumn of each year at Rugeley, but with a more informal lunch. This would give members of the Order an extra opportunity to meet, and it would not matter too much if the response was not huge. The Grand Prior confirmed that we could use the Cathedral at any time we wished. Full details and application forms will be sent out later in the summer. The date now set is Saturday 7th October, at 11am.
- The Grand Treasurer circulated a copy of the accounts to 31st December 2015, which showed a deficit for the year of £524.66, due mainly to the extra cost incurred in the Installation of the Grand Master and new Chains of Office and Batons. Only one member is now in arrears with subscriptions, and it is reported that he is very poorly. The accounts had been independently examined by Dame Rhoda Ross. The accounts were accepted by the meeting and thanks given to David and Rhoda for their work. David went on to say that he is stepping down as Treasurer at the end of the year, and the GM has appointed Chevalier Brian Everett to take over at that time.

- The GT went on to add that following today's raffle, and with membership donations and donations from Conclaves we had around £600 to distribute to our nominated Charities. The Grand Master said that he wished to change our distribution process and split this between the Conclaves to enable them to choose and distribute to local charities. Not only will this ensure that the money goes to small worthy charities, but the publicity opportunity is also much greater, and it is hoped that all Conclaves will make the most of this. The only criteria are that the charity must have a "human healing" aspect to it, and that details of any charities chosen must be submitted to the Grand Hospitaller and Grand Chancellor for approval before the cheques are issued by the Grand Treasurer. Commanders are to invite the local press and radio to any donations to ensure a photo opportunity.

If the press does not attend, it is the Commander's responsibility to ensure photos are taken and the copy written for the press. Photos and the "written copy" are to be sent to the Grand Hospitaller and Grand Chancellor for inclusion in the newsletter, Facebook and the website.

- Each of the three Conclave Commanders gave brief reports of their activities, and it is pleasing that we now have three active Conclaves. Copies of the reports or events can be found on the website.
- Chevalier Steven Turner spoke about a new organisation of which he is a founder. The Grand Master of the International Order of St Stanislas thought that it was about time that the *alleged* illegitimate or unrecognised Orders had their own association. He therefore created the International Confederation of Chivalric Orders (ICCO) and has sent invitations to various Orders around the World inviting them to join. At the moment and for the next few Years there will be no Fees and all costs will be met by St Stanislas; when sufficient Orders have joined a Council will be formed with each Order having representation. All Orders will remain independent as the purpose of the ICCO is to create strength in numbers and to allow exchange of ideas and possibly members.
A discussion then took place amongst the Grand Council as to whether or not we should join. There was a small number against but the majority agreed that we should give it a try and the Order of St Raphael will therefore join the ICCO for an initial period of three years.
- Steven Turner talked about the benefits of "*easyfundraising*", which enables people shopping or searching on the internet to have a small amount donated to their charitable cause. It was agreed that each Conclave should set up its own "*easyfundraising*" page and accrue the donations received in its own Conclave account for distribution in due course.

The Grand Master closed the Grand Council Meeting at 3.30pm.

The date for the 2018 Investiture is Saturday 12th May. @ 11am.

New members admitted:

Chevalier Brian Everett, MBE (KSR)
 Dame Olive Ward (DSR)
 Rt Rev'd Michael Ward (SchSR)

St Mark Awards:

RE Dame Margaret Gunnell (DGCSM)
 E Steven Turner (KCSM)
 Dame Dianne Uttley (DCSM)
 Chevalier Ian Cameron (OSM)
 Dame Susan Austin (MSM)
 Chevalier Mike Boxall (MSM)

Promotions:

E Chevalier David Starritt (GCSR)

Photographs of the event can be viewed in the Gallery on the website.
www.orderofstraphael.org.uk

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING - SATURDAY 7TH. OCTOBER 2017

Cathedral of the Old Catholic Church UK, Rugeley

Members of the Order, some travelling from Scotland, Darlington and London, gathered at the Cathedral for the first of what is hoped to be a regular annual event. The old cathedral is a beautiful building and the ambiance was magnificent. The service was led by the Great Prior, Right. Rev'd. Geoffrey Robinson with reading from Pamela Robinson, David Haywood and me. We also had the Archbishop, Most Rev'd John Lycett with three visiting priests to join us.

It was a very pleasant event and afterwards we went to a local pub for lunch. This turned out to be a very pleasant indeed as it was "Buy 1 Get 1 Free"! A perfect ending to a perfect day! Next year we hope that more will come along.



I am indebted to Geoffrey & David for the work they put in organising the event, to Geoffrey for writing the service and to the Archbishop, John Lycett, for allowing us the use of the cathedral.

Julian Gunnell GCSR GCSM, Grand Master

SOME PERIODIC RAMBLINGS OF THE PRIOR

June 2017 (Issue 30)

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. I have also reprinted Issue 30 as I feel it is a message we should not allow to dim in our daily thoughts and actions

Dear Members

As Christians, we need to play a very important role in society these days, when social structures are collapsing, family life breaking up and everyone appears to be only concerned about pleasing themselves. But there are still those people who look to Christians to provide the answers, and we can only help society find the right solutions, when we set a good example ourselves. So, as followers of Christ, our lives should be an example of true Christian teaching. Any conduct falling short of this will only invite criticism and will inevitably further restrict the growth of the Church.

The example of Christ should be central to our life and faith so that our minds are characterised by the self-giving attitude of Christ, the Good Shepherd. In Biblical times the Shepherd cared for his sheep, called them by name, led them to pasture and water, found shelter for them during inclement weather, defended them against bandits and wolves, and willingly laid down his life for them. Unfortunately, this image of the Good Shepherd does not move us as it did the people of Israel, and the early Christians. But if we really want to understand the Scriptures and to know our true relationship with God, we must understand the image of the Shepherd and his sheep. Shepherds and sheep are not very common or relevant in today's high tech, computerized world. And we do not like to think of ourselves as dumb, submissive animals.

We are sophisticated human beings, or so we think! We have an intellect and a free will, to go where we please and do what we want. And we don't like sheep dogs yapping and snapping at our feet. But perhaps we are more like sheep than we really care to admit: Because, like sheep we seem to be oblivious of everything

except the plot of grass that surrounds us here and now. We spend all of our time feathering our little nest here, as if it will go on forever.

Just like sheep, we are not conscious of the ravenous wolves that surround us in the counter-culture in which we live – though we really should be. To say nothing of the wolves that come to us in sheep's clothing. And just like sheep, we always think that the grass is greener on the other side, so we stray from the flock. Now, whether we appreciate it or not, the image of the Good Shepherd and his sheep is enshrined forever in the Bible and in Christianity. In very truth it fits every generation, even our own. So, what a great blessing it is for us Christians, to follow Jesus and his Apostles with great joy and confidence, wherever they may lead us. Amen.

+Geoffrey

Around the Conclaves - News & Events

CONCLAVE OF MARTIN AT SEES

The Conclave Commander is E. Dame Pamela Robinson, DCSR, CSM

You can contact Helen at csm@orderofstraphael.org.uk

Recently Dame Pamela Robinson presented a cheque of £310.00 to 'Autism Ventures' who were founded in the early 1970s in the Merseyside region, Autism Initiatives remains a parent-led charity. They are a founder member of the Autism Alliance and connected with regional and national autism networks and strategy groups.



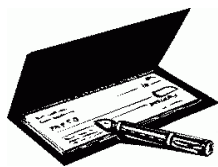
Pictured on the right is the presentation of the cheque to "Sam" and Cathy from Autism Ventures in Southport.



LION RAMPANT CONCLAVE

The Commander is E Chevalier David Starritt, KCSR, GCSM

You can contact David at clr@orderofstraphael.org.uk



I am very proud to report that virtually all members of the Lion Rampant Conclave turned out this morning for the visit to St James's Court, for the presentation of a cheque for £400 to Inspire, and for the draw for Melanie's lucky square. We were shown the sensory area that we helped equip last year, and the donation today will help equip it further...

Pictured on the right is the winner of the Lucky draw, our latest new postulant, Mrs Moira Scott, which was drawn by one of the staff from "INSPIRE" at St. James House in Inverurie, Aberdeenshire.

R.E. David R. Starritt GCSR GCSM and Melanie McLellan, who organized the Lucky Draw, are pictured presenting the prize of a basket of Fruit & flowers to Mrs Moira Scott alongside Hon. Almoner Ross McLellan and Vice Chancellor Dame Elaine Starritt.



Since winning the Lucky Draw, Moira has joined the Order of St. Raphael at our Meeting in August in the Masonic Temple, Inverurie, along with her husband Richard Scott, who were both inducted into the Conclave by the Grand Chancellor.

Abbreviated Minutes of our Meeting held at Mosseye Steading, Oldmeldrum, 25th June 2017

Matters arising: It was agreed that we would invite Albert Thomson and other members of the Confraternity of Knights of the Most Holy Trinity to our AGM in September. DS will do this. It was agreed to repeat Melanie's lucky square fundraiser. The squares will be £1 each, that each member will be given 13 numbers to sell, and would each contribute £5 to the cost of the prize, a Christmas hamper. The draw will take place in December at the same time as the donation. Ian Cameron is still trying to get us a bag packing slot at M&S, Inverurie, but it is uncertain whether the application will be successful. He will now attempt to get the same at Morrison's, Inverurie.

Treasurer's report: Gordon Wackett presented a summary of the present state of the accounts. These were accepted. The bank balance stands at £305. It was agreed that we again donate to Inspire, amount to be decided at the AGM.

"Easy fundraising" is up and going, but we have not seen yet any money coming through to us. everyone was reminded to try and make use of this. **Members** were

encouraged to pay their oblations in good time as this increases the amount that comes back to us from the main Order. Standing Orders were encouraged. The Order used to give hefty donations to national causes once a year. They have changed this, and will send money through to the Conclaves for us to use locally. We can expect to receive £250 for this purpose.

Fund-raising: Moira and Anne offered to raise money through a tea party in a village hall. This was welcomed. We shall await the details.

Recruitment and retention: We are a small group and must gain new members, and endeavor to at least get back to our original number of 16 members. Each member was encouraged to try to recruit suitable people. Though not yet members, Richard and Moira were also encouraged to try to enroll new members.

Promotions: Within the Order, Chevalier Ian Cameron has been promoted to the rank of Officer of the Order of St. Mark (OSM) and has also been made Grand Herald. David has been promoted to GCSR, will be standing down as Grand Treasurer, and will take up Grand Registrar as Elaine wishes to relinquish this duty.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be scheduled for Sunday 24th September. This will be opened and closed in full ritualistic form. We have two for admission to the Order. We may work a ceremony of admission, or perhaps the Grand Master will attend and undertake this plus the conferring of knighthood. This will be held at the Masonic Lodge, Inverurie, at 10:30, followed by lunch at the Kintore Arms.

AOCB: It was suggested that the Order might consider applying for Charitable status. Donations then could be Gift Aided. DS will pass this on. This was followed by a wonderful spread, thanks to Sabina, good company and good conversation.

Grace was given by our Chaplain, Chevalier Michael Stephen KSR OSM.

Annual General Meeting – 24th September 2017



Today we had our AGM. We had a visit by the Deputy Grand Master, and we admitted two new members to our Order. Good company, good food, what more could you ask for!

**Dame Moira Scott, Grand Chancellor, R.E.
Chevalier David Haywood, and Chevalier
Richard Scott**



*A Happy bunch o' Quines & Loons.
Or
Mony a mickle maks a muckle*

Loons are Boys or Young Men
~ **Quines** are Girls or Young Women ~ **Mony** is Many and
Mickle is Small/little whilst
Muckle is Big / Large

Morrison Bag Pack We have now fixed our date for the bag pack as the 20th December 2017, we have at present 5 volunteers and hopefully we can persuade some family members to assist.

And finally: The new date for the **FIZZY TEA PARTY** is Saturday 3rd February. 2018, Members, Friends, Family are all welcome to what should be a fun day for all.

CONCLAVE OF ST THOMAS BECKET – MARTYR

The Conclave Commander is **E. Chevalier Lawrence Day**, CStJ, KCSR

You can contact Alan at ctb@orderofstraphael.org.uk or telephone: 0208 3904642

St Thomas Becket – Martyr - Annual General Meeting 2016

At the previous meeting and at the Grand meeting in Peterborough as well as by email correspondence members of the St William of Rochester Conclave had decided that it would be sensible to place the Conclave into abeyance and transfer into St Thomas Becket – Martyr. Following a brief discussion at which the Kent members present had voiced their agreement with this view and following a proposal from Penny Bell-Wright seconded by Peter Robins, the members of St Thomas Becket – Martyr voted unanimously to accept the Kent members. A general discussed then ensued and it was agreed that all members should be encouraged to attend and that those who did not generally respond should be telephoned.

It was agreed that a Conclave meeting would be held in Kent, probably at Dartford, on a date to be decided. It was also agreed that a Dinner would be held on the Friday before the 29th September each Year, three courses excluding drinks. To encourage members to become more active, 3 or 4 activities per year would also be arranged. The following initial suggestions were put forward, a tour of Windsor Castle, to be arranged with Leslie Grout, renowned expert, a trip on the London Eye and a trip down the River to Greenwich, possibly with a meal in the O2.



CHEVALIER BRIAN EVERETT, GRAND TREASURER

MBE, KSR, BA, FRAeS, FIMgt, FCIPS, MCIT, MSOE, MIRTE

Brian's first career started in the Royal Air Force following National Service in the 1950's and after a brief spell working as a civil servant, he returned to the RAF in 1958. In the subsequent years he served in many parts of the world and held a number of senior operational and staff appointments. In 1972, he was awarded the MBE for military operations in the Middle East.

There then followed a variety of positions in the Ministry of Defence during which he was appointed MOD Escort Officer to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, accompanying them on many of their official overseas visits throughout the late 1970s.

In 1985, he decided to leave the RAF whilst there was still time to develop a second career and to exercise management skills in a more commercially competitive environment. Initially, becoming Assistant Director of Planning and Transportation for the City of Westminster and nominal Chief of Staff for six other divisions. It was during this period that he successfully absorbed many of the tasks, previously carried out by the Greater London Council, with no additional resources and against an almost impossible time-scale. Once this was achieved he was given the task of implementing "Privatisation Reviews" and setting each of the identified areas on a fully commercial basis before becoming Director of Commercial Operations with responsibility for moving these businesses into the private sector.

Having successfully completed this task, he left to set up his own business. In the years that followed he became Chairman and Chief Executive of the Capital Group, a group of companies involved in the design, implementation and operation of city centre parking schemes throughout Europe. He worked on many projects both at home and overseas, the including major schemes in Spain, Mexico, Malta, Africa and the Far East. The Group was eventually sold to a French multi-national in 1991, Six months later he was invited to join London Transport to take on the role of contracts management and eventually, in conjunction with the Department of Transport and others, he played a major role in the successful privatisation of London Buses. Subsequently, he was appointed a main board director, assuming the regulatory and contracting role as Procurement and Infrastructure Director for London Bus Services Limited and London River Services Limited, with an annual budget of almost £1 billion (1993 values). The work included the introduction and development of the bus and river networks for London, the procurement of bus and boat services and infrastructure. He was made a Freeman of the City of London in 2001.

When he retired from London Transport, as well as taking on voluntary roles, he became a director of one of the London Bus operating companies, helping them to restructure and putting their company on a more solid financial footing. In addition to owning and running a country house hotel in the Scottish Borders he also created and managed Translink Consultancy, a company operating in a several specialist areas including transportation, parking, finance, procurement, contract management, infrastructure and engineering.

In the years that followed, he became a non-executive director of NHS Darlington Primary Care Trust, Chairman of NHS County Durham & Darlington Community Health Services, Chairman of the South Durham U3A, Church Warden and President of British Gymnastics. Having been an international athlete, he takes an active interest in all sport. Over the past 17 years he has been involved in fund raising for many charities; climbed many of the world’s major mountains and competitively walked, run and cycled many thousands of miles in the process



Charity Challenge 2017



Simulated walk across the American Continent (or the equivalent of completing the Tour de France)

For over 17 years I’ve been undertaking a number of challenges for different charities. These range from climbing mountains and volcanoes in Europe, Africa, Asia and South America, at altitudes up to 21,000 ft; long distance walks across the UK and Africa; and long-distance cycle rides in excess of 1,000 miles, averaging 72 miles a day. In the process I have raised over £150,000 for various charities.

This year I’m supporting a different charity and you could say, at the age of 82, I’m investing in the future! As I have many other commitments, I can’t afford to be away for almost a year whilst transiting America so I’m doing the equivalent mileage where ever and whenever I can. Some days 5 miles and on others up to 25 miles. Since the first of January this year I’ve completed 1182 miles, reached the equivalent height of 30,090 ft and in the process burned off 474,607 calories, so I’m on target, slightly ahead if I’m crossing America; slightly behind if it’s the Tour de France.

As in previous years, I will be paying all my own expenses, so that every penny raised goes to the charity concerned.. Donations can be made, through either the web page which is www.justgiving.com/Brian-Everett2017 which is then paid directly to the charity or forward it to the charity (quoting Brian Everett’s Fund Raising) or send it to me at the address below. If you are a UK tax payer you can Gift Aid your contribution at no extra cost to yourself but make sure you give your address and a statement to that effect.

Brian D.Everett, MBE,
4, Mowden Hall Drive,
Darlington, DL3 9BJ
Tel: 01325-360423 or Mob: 07508-595960
bd.everett@ntlworld.com

EVENTS / OCCASIONS

Annual outings are one which many of our members enjoy, as it enables them to get to know each other better in informal surroundings, whilst at the same time allowing us to participate in the Order’s objectives of Healing and Teaching, and to raise a small amount of money for the Order’s charity.

Please advise on any events planned for this year or next year. Also I can include in the section below any members you wish to include?

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with you.		
Name	Reason for prayers	Submitted by

Accounts ~ The Order of St. Raphael ~ 2016

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Subscriptions	£1260.00	£1020.00
Admission Fees	£100.00	£50.00
Sales of Regalia	£108.00	£358.00
Donations	£377.00	£435.81
Dining Fees	£775.00	£1792.00
Interest	£0.37	£0.12
	<u>£2620.37</u>	<u>£3655.93</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
To Conclaves	£100.00	£190.00
Regalia	£38.84	£1376.89
Donations	£633.00	£700.00
Catering	£950.00	£1857.00
Bank Charges	£0.00	£0.00
Postage & Stationery	£0.00	£64.70
Website & Newsletter	£222.83	£0.00
	<u>£1944.67</u>	<u>£4188.59</u>
Drop in Value of Stock	£347.00	£-8.00
Surplus (Deficit) for the period	£327.80	£-524.66

Balance Sheet as at 31st. December

Balances as at 1st. January	Current. a/c	£1065.34	£3313.51
	Deposit a/c.	£1701.82	£202.19
	Cash	£34.00	£0.00
	Float	£87.41	£48.57
	Assets	£2856.80	£2509.80
Add surplus (deficit) for year		£328.80	£-524.66
		<u>£6074.07</u>	<u>£5549.41</u>

Represented by Assets

Insignia Stock	£2393.00	££2401.00
Ceremonial Cushions /Sword & Gavel.	£62.00	£62.00
Chains of Office	£54.80	£750.80
Closing Balance	Current a/c	£3313.51
	Deposit a/c.	£202.19
	Cash	£0.00
	Float	£48.57
		<u>£6074.07</u>
		<u>£5549.41</u>

I, the undersigned submit this statement of accounts as a true and accurate record of the accounts of the Order for the year ending 31st. December 2016: E. Chevalier David R. Starritt, KCSR, GCSM., Grand Treasurer.

Examiners Report: I have examined the books and vouchers of these accounts and am satisfied that the above is a true record of the accounts and funds for the year ending 31st. December 2016:

Dame Rhoda W. Ross, DSR, Examiner of Books

Dated: 21st. February 2017

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND TREASURER

I am pleased to report that our finances are sound and in order to secure those funds and to improve our charitable works we have three methods by which members can pay their oblation (subscription) for the current year.

- 1) **On-line banking, Pay Order Bank Account – State your name on payment (A.N. Other ~ Sub/2018)**
- 2) **Standing order ~ ask me for an STO form and give it to your bank.**
- 3) **OR ~ Send a Cheque to the address detailed below**

E. Chevalier Brian Everett, MBE, KSR, 4 Mowden Hall Drive, Darlington, DL3 9BJ.

Cheques payable to: "Order of Saint Raphael" ~ Sort Code:30-98-74 ~ Acct. No: 03007698

ABSTRACT RAMBLINGS FROM THE GRAND HERALD

As the Grand Herald for the Order of St. Raphael. I said I would attempt to bring new and interesting items and articles along with thought-provoking content to the Order of St. Raphael Newsletter. Also, if you feel that there is some aspect of your Conclave that helps promote the Order or have some ideas on this newsletter and its format, please contact myself in the first instance, either by Telephone or e-mail and I will be more than happy to review your comments or suggestions.

- (a) **It is important that we know our members throughout the Order and that's what I think the newsletter is intended to promote and broadcast. So, please let me know of your Interests, thoughts and Aspirations for yourselves and the Order in General.**

*I personally have embarked on a restoration project for a two-wheeled tractor unit (Howard Clifford 700). I also do quite a bit of Landscaping at our Converted Farm Steading including Dry Stone Walling and Fencing. We also have chickens (Fresh Eggs) and Grandchildren (Laughter & tears) here on the Steading so life is always full on, I am also a Member of the Local **MENS SHED** and Secretary/Scribe / Recorder of 3 Masonic Organisations and an Office Bearer in 3 more Local and Provincial Orders along with being an active member in 2 other Non-Masonic Organisations which all raise considerable amounts of money for good causes.*

- (b) **New Members are the life blood of any organisation, let us know how you think that we can encourage likeminded Individuals to become part of our organisation**

I have two applicants in mind for joining, but it is important that we ensure applicants have the inclination to participate in our Orders with both Philosophical and practical efforts on behalf of our fellow human beings. I have taken a slow but sure approach with invitations to our events and promoting our ideals. Hopefully, this will inspire them to take further participation in our order as I sometimes believe we are too quick to ask people to join without ensuring that their own personal circumstances and beliefs match our Orders ideals.

- (c) **Raising money for our charitable donations is a very worthwhile aspiration, how we do it is more problematical. New ideas based on new technologies like EASY FUND RAISING is one way we can improve our contributions to charity, old ideas are just as important, they bring together our members and possible new members who have similar interests. The dissemination of these ideas is one of the benefits of our Newsletter and I would therefore encourage you to share those ideas with our members through this newsletter.**

*One of our youngest members brought up the idea of a Raffle board, a simple but most effective way of raising money and has been very successful in raising funds for our Local Charitable Causes. This came about because we engaged with the young adults and responded positively to their ideas. The moral of this story is: Listen & Learn as you are never too old to learn new tricks I also am using “**easy Fundraising**” it does not cost me anything and sends the contribution direct to **The Order of St. Raphael Lion Rampant Conclave** If we all used this system, we could raise Hundreds of Pounds without any effort on our parts.*

*Other ideas like Bag packing days at local supermarkets can raise Hundreds of Pounds and are fairly easy to organise, Contact the Supermarkets Customer Service and they will put in touch with their Local Champion (They will then advise you on dates available and also what criteria you need to meet to operate in their shops, (Some only do registered Charities) I’ve managed this year to sort a day at **MORRISONS SUPERMARKETS**. If we are successful we should hopefully raise £200 – £300 and also raise the profile of our Group locally*

You will need the following to be successful:

- 1 Plastic Tubs / buckets with your organisation and who you raise money for clearly visible.
- 2 Enthusiastic Bag Packers with personality to chat to customers as you are packing.
- 3 1 Spare person to enable others to take breaks ~ no more than ½ hour packing is advisable.
- 4 A Table display is good way of publicising your organisation and having a spare collection bucket on the table helps increase donations from shoppers who just want to help your charity.

OUR ORDERS AIMS & BELIEFS - WHAT ARE WE ABOUT?

PRAYER

The main purpose of our Order has always been to aid the cure of those who are sick in mind or body. We do this by way of PRAYER. It is our belief, in common with many other religions, that God listens to prayer, and that the greater the volume of prayer towards any specific end, the more likely that it will be granted. Therefore, we pray for the sick, in our homes and at our meetings. It was to fulfil this purpose that the Order was instituted by a Charter dated 1st January 1953, by the Pope of the Catholic Apostolic Church. Before this the Order had existed on a less formal basis.

ECUMENICAL We are an Ecumenical Order, and admit both men and women on an equal basis. Any CHRISTIAN may join provided he or she signs a Declaration of Faith which forms part of the application form. Some members have a belief in, and practise, 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 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.

KNOWLEDGE: The second purpose of our Order is to acquire and preserve esoteric knowledge, and to pass on such knowledge to others. We are especially concerned the wisdom of philosophers and teachers, past and present, should not be lost to Mankind. How many of us have read the writings of, or are even conversant with the works of early and erudite teachers, such as Ignatius? How many have read the words of those whose thoughts did not find favour with the authorities of their times? Even those who were not Christian often had a message of importance, and deserve to be studied. We encourage members to read and study such teachers of all disciplines, in the belief that the work of all great thinkers deserves to be considered and discussed. It must be stressed that not everything that is considered is accepted. We wish to broaden our educational horizons, and the discussion of all topics widens our understanding of the conditions that created such ideas.

MEETINGS Throughout the year we organise meetings that any member may attend to hear speakers on various subjects. At the local level Conclaves arrange their own programme, to suit the requirements of the members. Typically, this consists of three meetings a year at dates acceptable to its members - usually a social occasion, a learning occasion and an Investiture to welcome and admit new members. There are opportunities to unite with other Orders to learn their aims and objectives.

Our aims are best summarised in the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy:

1~Feed the hungry ~ 2~ Give drink to the thirsty ~ 3~Clothe the naked with a garment ~ 4~Visit and ransom the captives, 5~Shelter the homeless ~ 6~Visit and relieve the Sick ~ 8~Bury the dead.

CHIVALRIC In addition to the Charter granted by the Catholic Apostolic Church, the Order has a second Charter, one granted on 17th June 1954, by the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order of the Levant. By virtue of this second Charter we may now grant our members the grades and ranks handed down from the Teutonic Order of St Mary, founded in 1190 AD, when pilgrims to the Holy Land from Bremen and Lubeck, wished to administer and protect a new hospital in Jerusalem, which had been built to replace a much older one.

HISTORY The Grand Master of any may permit another existing Order to perform some functions of his own Order. This is what happened in the aftermath of the Second World War when the Teutonic Knights found they had problems in Europe. Rather than lose the traditions of an Order that went back more than 750 years, they were transferred to the protection of our Order in England, on 17th June 1954. We then became a Chivalric Order.

CHARITY the Order undertakes charitable fundraising at its meetings. Each Conclave chooses a small local charity to support, thus giving maximum support and gaining invaluable publicity for both the charity and the Order.

GENERAL Our Order believes that **NOW** is the time when people are seeking a Spiritual Base from which to study the Great Mystery of Life. We hope that our members find Peace of Mind and a strengthening of Faith in their association with the Order, for we are guided by the writings of St James, Chapter 5 verses 14, 15 & 16.

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the Elders of the Church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the Prayer of Faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

CEREMONY Ceremonial meetings are usually held in a Church which may be of any recognised denomination. From the earliest days of Knighthood aspirants spent the evening before investiture in Vigil before the altar. Early next day the Accolade having been administered all would partake in Holy Communion. Our ceremony of Admission and the creation of Knights and Dames is beautiful and meaningful, and takes place in Peterborough each year.

The Order also administers, as an Order of Merit, **The Most Meritorious, Spiritual and Military Order of St Mark** to recognise the efforts of members on behalf of St Raphael.

MEMBERSHIP The membership of the Order is inexpensive as we believe that knowledge should be, and we wish to encourage participation in all our activities. You will, however, be expected to pay for the insignia of your rank prior to its presentation on Admission.

INSIGNIA

Dame Margaret Gunnell reminds members that a variety of gifts and insignia are 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 contact details are below.

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 as of 2016 and subject to change as stock is replenished, so please **check** with Dame Margaret before placing any orders. gcoi@orderofstraphael.org.uk

The newsletter is written by the herald, Chevalier Ian Cameron. Articles for publication should be sent to him at gh@orderofstraphael.org.uk

ALL OTHER COMMUNICATIONS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE MUST BE TO:

Grand Chancellor

R.E. Chevalier David Haywood, OStJ, GCSR, GCSM

89 Haig Road, Bury, BL8 2LG.

Tel: 0161 764 4786

email: gc@orderofstraphael.org.uk

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR GRAND MASTER

JULIAN K GUNNELL GCSR, GCSM

Dear Knights, Dames & friends,

At this time of year our thoughts turn to the Festive Season and quite rightly there is much excitement about welcoming relatives and friends into our homes. There's a special pleasure in having friends round on Christmas Day or just simply relaxing quietly in front of the fire, whatever suits you best. However, let us not forget those less fortunate than us. Those that do not have friends or family to support them, those struggling financially and last but by no means least, those fighting illness and disease. As a member of our Christian Healing Order, I ask you to spare a little time on Christmas Day, say at 5 p.m., find somewhere tranquil and offer up a short prayer for these unfortunate people. If we are able to do this, the combined outpouring of love cannot fail to be heard by our Lord. Never underestimate the power of prayer!

Finally, Margaret and I wish you all a very Happy & Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order and with the Blessings of St Raphael,

Julian Gunnell, Grand Master,



OBITUARIES

Patricia (Patti) Dorothy Ansell 1933-2017



On Thursday, 9th November 2017, Dianne and I attended the funeral of **Dame Patti Ansell DGCSR** at The Fenland Crematorium, March, Cambridgeshire. Also present was our Grand Master Julian Gunnell and his wife Margaret.

The funeral ceremony, conducted by Gemma Christina, was extremely dignified and started with the film theme *Somewhere in Time* by the John Barry Orchestra. We were all welcomed by Gemma who then invited Beverley Ansell, Patti's daughter-in-law to recite the poem *Death is nothing at All* by Canon Henry Scott Holland (1847-1918). The recital was followed by a eulogy and life story of Patti prepared and read by Chris Ansell, Patti's son; it was a thoughtful tribute and much appreciated by all present. After a few moments silence we recited the Lord's Prayer and then listened to the Choir of York Minster singing *Abide with Me*. Gemma Christina then read a few words of comfort and the proceedings were concluded by Cat Stevens singing *Morning Has Broken*. Donations were readily given for Parkinson's UK. We then retired to the Oliver Cromwell Hotel, March for refreshments.

Patti was a long-standing and enthusiastic supporter of The Healing, Teaching and Chivalric Order of St. Raphael and she fully supported her husband Keith. Keith was the Grand Chancellor of The Order for many years until he passed away 11 years ago. In the early years of The Order most new candidates had their mantles made privately and Patti made many of these mantles before we approached regalia manufacturers in recent times. For her work in this area and her loyalty to The Order, Patti received the accolade of honorary Dame Grand Cross of St. Raphael.

It was an Honour to have known Dame **Patti Ansell**.

Chevalier Barry Uttley, Deputy Grand Master Emeritus

Margaret and I were privileged to be able to attend the funeral and celebration of the life of Dame Patti Ansell, DGCSR, late of our Order. The service took place 9th. November 2017 at Fenland Crematorium, Cambridgeshire. The setting was lovely and very conducive to saying one's farewell with dignity. Barry & Diane Uttley, long term friends of the family travelled down and also represented the Order with us. Her son, Chris Ansell, gave a detailed and slightly humorous eulogy to his mother and the obvious fun they had growing up. The service was a moving tribute to Patti and her very full life, from her years travelling the world with Keith her husband who was in the RAF at the time and also a former Chancellor of this Order; her time in Yorkshire, then March in Cambridgeshire and her devotion to her family throughout all that time.

Patti's health eventually failed her and she needed care from 2015, and it was whilst in the Care Home she slipped away on 24th October 2017. She will be sadly missed, a true stalwart both of life and of our Order.

Julian Gunnell, Grand Master

ANNUAL INVESTITURE 2017

This year's meeting again took place at the Masonic Hall, Peterborough on 13th May. The Grand Master opened the meeting and the Grand Chancellor read out the apologies.

There were three postulants this year – Chevalier Brian Everett, Dame Olive Ward and the Rt Rev'd Michael Ward, and we welcome them all to the Order. Prior to the Investiture Ceremony, a short vigil was introduced this year for the postulants, led by the Grand Prior, to focus the postulants' minds on the step that they are about to take.

There was just one St Raphael promotion this year, with Chevalier David Starritt promoted to Knight Grand Cross, and the Grand Prior was invested with the newly created decoration of Ecclesiastical Grand Cross. The Grand Master then had great pleasure in making a number of awards in the Order of St Mark.

The Grand Master then appointed E Dame Pamela Robinson as Commander of the Conclave of St Martin at Sées – the first female to achieve this in our Order. This being his first Investiture as GM, certificates were presented to all Grand Officers present. The full list of Grand Officers can be found on the website.

After the service, the usual convivial meal took place, attended by 26 members and guests.

The Grand Council meeting took place after lunch, and items discussed were as follows:

- The Grand Chancellor announced that although a few minor changes to the Constitution and Statutes were approved last year, several further changes were now proposed and had been circulated to members of the Grand Council by email. These were approved unanimously and a copy of the revised document can be found on the Order's website.
- At the beginning of the morning service, the Grand Chancellor had announced that we were using a temporary Ritual booklet since changes needed to be made following the change of GM. The Grand Prior now explained that we had introduced some extra items into the service, namely a Bible Reading, short intercessions, and a short section allowing those who wished to receive healing oils. There were no objections from members and so these will be introduced into the Ritual on a permanent basis.
- The Grand Prior went on to say that he had produced a St Raphael Prayer book to enable Conclaves, especially those with no ordained Prior, to have something to use at local meetings, with prayers and blessings that can be said by a lay person. It can also be used by members to assist with prayer, and covers various eventualities when prayer may be required. At the moment it is still a work in progress, but copies have been initially given to Conclaves to use and provide feedback.
- The Grand Chancellor said that a lot of positive reports were received following the service at Rugeley, and in order to build on this suggested an annual Service of Thanksgiving in the autumn of each year at Rugeley, but with a more informal lunch. This would give members of the Order an extra opportunity to meet, and it would not matter too much if the response was not huge. The Grand Prior confirmed that we could use the Cathedral at any time we wished. Full details and application forms will be sent out later in the summer. The date now set is Saturday 7th October, at 11am.
- The Grand Treasurer circulated a copy of the accounts to 31st December 2015, which showed a deficit for the year of £524.66, due mainly to the extra cost incurred in the Installation of the Grand Master and new Chains of Office and Batons. Only one member is now in arrears with subscriptions, and it is reported that he is very poorly. The accounts had been independently examined by Dame Rhoda Ross. The accounts were accepted by the meeting and thanks given to David and Rhoda for their work. David went on to say that he is stepping down as Treasurer at the end of the year, and the GM has appointed Chevalier Brian Everett to take over at that time.

- The GT went on to add that following today's raffle, and with membership donations and donations from Conclaves we had around £600 to distribute to our nominated Charities. The Grand Master said that he wished to change our distribution process and split this between the Conclaves to enable them to choose and distribute to local charities. Not only will this ensure that the money goes to small worthy charities, but the publicity opportunity is also much greater, and it is hoped that all Conclaves will make the most of this. The only criteria are that the charity must have a "human healing" aspect to it, and that details of any charities chosen must be submitted to the Grand Hospitaller and Grand Chancellor for approval before the cheques are issued by the Grand Treasurer. Commanders are to invite the local press and radio to any donations to ensure a photo opportunity.

If the press does not attend, it is the Commander's responsibility to ensure photos are taken and the copy written for the press. Photos and the "written copy" are to be sent to the Grand Hospitaller and Grand Chancellor for inclusion in the newsletter, Facebook and the website.

- Each of the three Conclave Commanders gave brief reports of their activities, and it is pleasing that we now have three active Conclaves. Copies of the reports or events can be found on the website.
- Chevalier Steven Turner spoke about a new organisation of which he is a founder. The Grand Master of the International Order of St Stanislas thought that it was about time that the *alleged* illegitimate or unrecognised Orders had their own association. He therefore created the International Confederation of Chivalric Orders (ICCO) and has sent invitations to various Orders around the World inviting them to join. At the moment and for the next few Years there will be no Fees and all costs will be met by St Stanislas; when sufficient Orders have joined a Council will be formed with each Order having representation. All Orders will remain independent as the purpose of the ICCO is to create strength in numbers and to allow exchange of ideas and possibly members.
A discussion then took place amongst the Grand Council as to whether or not we should join. There was a small number against but the majority agreed that we should give it a try and the Order of St Raphael will therefore join the ICCO for an initial period of three years.
- Steven Turner talked about the benefits of "*easyfundraising*", which enables people shopping or searching on the internet to have a small amount donated to their charitable cause. It was agreed that each Conclave should set up its own "*easyfundraising*" page and accrue the donations received in its own Conclave account for distribution in due course.

The Grand Master closed the Grand Council Meeting at 3.30pm.

The date for the 2018 Investiture is Saturday 12th May. @ 11am.

New members admitted:

Chevalier Brian Everett, MBE (KSR)
 Dame Olive Ward (DSR)
 Rt Rev'd Michael Ward (SchSR)

St Mark Awards:

RE Dame Margaret Gunnell (DGCSM)
 E Steven Turner (KCSM)
 Dame Dianne Uttley (DCSM)
 Chevalier Ian Cameron (OSM)
 Dame Susan Austin (MSM)
 Chevalier Mike Boxall (MSM)

Promotions:

E Chevalier David Starritt (GCSR)

Photographs of the event can be viewed in the Gallery on the website.
www.orderofstraphael.org.uk

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING - SATURDAY 7TH. OCTOBER 2017

Cathedral of the Old Catholic Church UK, Rugeley

Members of the Order, some travelling from Scotland, Darlington and London, gathered at the Cathedral for the first of what is hoped to be a regular annual event. The old cathedral is a beautiful building and the ambiance was magnificent. The service was led by the Great Prior, Right. Rev'd. Geoffrey Robinson with reading from Pamela Robinson, David Haywood and me. We also had the Archbishop, Most Rev'd John Lycett with three visiting priests to join us.

It was a very pleasant event and afterwards we went to a local pub for lunch. This turned out to be a very pleasant indeed as it was "Buy 1 Get 1 Free"! A perfect ending to a perfect day! Next year we hope that more will come along.



I am indebted to Geoffrey & David for the work they put in organising the event, to Geoffrey for writing the service and to the Archbishop, John Lycett, for allowing us the use of the cathedral.

Julian Gunnell GCSR GCSM, Grand Master

SOME PERIODIC RAMBLINGS OF THE PRIOR

June 2017 (Issue 30)

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. I have also reprinted Issue 30 as I feel it is a message we should not allow to dim in our daily thoughts and actions

Dear Members

As Christians, we need to play a very important role in society these days, when social structures are collapsing, family life breaking up and everyone appears to be only concerned about pleasing themselves. But there are still those people who look to Christians to provide the answers, and we can only help society find the right solutions, when we set a good example ourselves. So, as followers of Christ, our lives should be an example of true Christian teaching. Any conduct falling short of this will only invite criticism and will inevitably further restrict the growth of the Church.

The example of Christ should be central to our life and faith so that our minds are characterised by the self-giving attitude of Christ, the Good Shepherd. In Biblical times the Shepherd cared for his sheep, called them by name, led them to pasture and water, found shelter for them during inclement weather, defended them against bandits and wolves, and willingly laid down his life for them. Unfortunately, this image of the Good Shepherd does not move us as it did the people of Israel, and the early Christians. But if we really want to understand the Scriptures and to know our true relationship with God, we must understand the image of the Shepherd and his sheep. Shepherds and sheep are not very common or relevant in today's high tech, computerized world. And we do not like to think of ourselves as dumb, submissive animals.

We are sophisticated human beings, or so we think! We have an intellect and a free will, to go where we please and do what we want. And we don't like sheep dogs yapping and snapping at our feet. But perhaps we are more like sheep than we really care to admit: Because, like sheep we seem to be oblivious of everything

except the plot of grass that surrounds us here and now. We spend all of our time feathering our little nest here, as if it will go on forever.

Just like sheep, we are not conscious of the ravenous wolves that surround us in the counter-culture in which we live – though we really should be. To say nothing of the wolves that come to us in sheep's clothing. And just like sheep, we always think that the grass is greener on the other side, so we stray from the flock. Now, whether we appreciate it or not, the image of the Good Shepherd and his sheep is enshrined forever in the Bible and in Christianity. In very truth it fits every generation, even our own. So, what a great blessing it is for us Christians, to follow Jesus and his Apostles with great joy and confidence, wherever they may lead us. Amen.

+Geoffrey

Around the Conclaves - News & Events

CONCLAVE OF MARTIN AT SEES

The Conclave Commander is E. Dame Pamela Robinson, DCSR, CSM

You can contact Helen at csm@orderofstraphael.org.uk

Recently Dame Pamela Robinson presented a cheque of £310.00 to 'Autism Ventures' who were founded in the early 1970s in the Merseyside region, Autism Initiatives remains a parent-led charity. They are a founder member of the Autism Alliance and connected with regional and national autism networks and strategy groups.



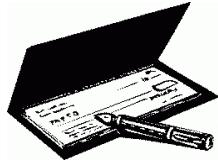
Pictured on the right is the presentation of the cheque to "Sam" and Cathy from Autism Ventures in Southport.



LION RAMPANT CONCLAVE

The Commander is E Chevalier David Starritt, KCSR, GCSM

You can contact David at clr@orderofstraphael.org.uk



I am very proud to report that virtually all members of the Lion Rampant Conclave turned out this morning for the visit to St James's Court, for the presentation of a cheque for £400 to Inspire, and for the draw for Melanie's lucky square. We were shown the sensory area that we helped equip last year, and the donation today will help equip it further...

Pictured on the right is the winner of the Lucky draw, our latest new postulant, Mrs Moira Scott, which was drawn by one of the staff from "INSPIRE" at St. James House in Inverurie, Aberdeenshire.

R.E. David R. Starritt GCSR GCSM and Melanie McLellan, who organized the Lucky Draw, are pictured presenting the prize of a basket of Fruit & flowers to Mrs Moira Scott alongside Hon. Almoner Ross McLellan and Vice Chancellor Dame Elaine Starritt.



Since winning the Lucky Draw, Moira has joined the Order of St. Raphael at our Meeting in August in the Masonic Temple, Inverurie, along with her husband Richard Scott, who were both inducted into the Conclave by the Grand Chancellor.

Abbreviated Minutes of our Meeting held at Mosseye Steading, Oldmeldrum, 25th June 2017

Matters arising: It was agreed that we would invite Albert Thomson and other members of the Confraternity of Knights of the Most Holy Trinity to our AGM in September. DS will do this. It was agreed to repeat Melanie's lucky square fundraiser. The squares will be £1 each, that each member will be given 13 numbers to sell, and would each contribute £5 to the cost of the prize, a Christmas hamper. The draw will take place in December at the same time as the donation. Ian Cameron is still trying to get us a bag packing slot at M&S, Inverurie, but it is uncertain whether the application will be successful. He will now attempt to get the same at Morrison's, Inverurie.

Treasurer's report: Gordon Wackett presented a summary of the present state of the accounts. These were accepted. The bank balance stands at £305. It was agreed that we again donate to Inspire, amount to be decided at the AGM.

"Easy fundraising" is up and going, but we have not seen yet any money coming through to us. everyone was reminded to try and make use of this. **Members** were

encouraged to pay their oblations in good time as this increases the amount that comes back to us from the main Order. Standing Orders were encouraged. The Order used to give hefty donations to national causes once a year. They have changed this, and will send money through to the Conclaves for us to use locally. We can expect to receive £250 for this purpose.

Fund-raising: Moira and Anne offered to raise money through a tea party in a village hall. This was welcomed. We shall await the details.

Recruitment and retention: We are a small group and must gain new members, and endeavor to at least get back to our original number of 16 members. Each member was encouraged to try to recruit suitable people. Though not yet members, Richard and Moira were also encouraged to try to enroll new members.

Promotions: Within the Order, Chevalier Ian Cameron has been promoted to the rank of Officer of the Order of St. Mark (OSM) and has also been made Grand Herald. David has been promoted to GCSR, will be standing down as Grand Treasurer, and will take up Grand Registrar as Elaine wishes to relinquish this duty.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be scheduled for Sunday 24th September. This will be opened and closed in full ritualistic form. We have two for admission to the Order. We may work a ceremony of admission, or perhaps the Grand Master will attend and undertake this plus the conferring of knighthood. This will be held at the Masonic Lodge, Inverurie, at 10:30, followed by lunch at the Kintore Arms.

AOCB: It was suggested that the Order might consider applying for Charitable status. Donations then could be Gift Aided. DS will pass this on. This was followed by a wonderful spread, thanks to Sabina, good company and good conversation.

Grace was given by our Chaplain, Chevalier Michael Stephen KSR OSM.

Annual General Meeting – 24th September 2017



Today we had our AGM. We had a visit by the Deputy Grand Master, and we admitted two new members to our Order. Good company, good food, what more could you ask for!

**Dame Moira Scott, Grand Chancellor, R.E.
Chevalier David Haywood, and Chevalier
Richard Scott**



*A Happy bunch o' Quines & Loons.
Or
Mony a mickle maks a muckle*

Loons are Boys or Young Men
~ **Quines** are Girls or Young Women ~ **Mony** is Many and
Mickle is Small/little whilst
Muckle is Big / Large

Morrison Bag Pack We have now fixed our date for the bag pack as the 20th December 2017, we have at present 5 volunteers and hopefully we can persuade some family members to assist.

And finally: The new date for the **FIZZY TEA PARTY** is Saturday 3rd February. 2018, Members, Friends, Family are all welcome to what should be a fun day for all.

CONCLAVE OF ST THOMAS BECKET – MARTYR

The Conclave Commander is **E. Chevalier Lawrence Day**, CStJ, KCSR

You can contact Alan at ctb@orderofstraphael.org.uk or telephone: 0208 3904642

St Thomas Becket – Martyr - Annual General Meeting 2016

At the previous meeting and at the Grand meeting in Peterborough as well as by email correspondence members of the St William of Rochester Conclave had decided that it would be sensible to place the Conclave into abeyance and transfer into St Thomas Becket – Martyr. Following a brief discussion at which the Kent members present had voiced their agreement with this view and following a proposal from Penny Bell-Wright seconded by Peter Robins, the members of St Thomas Becket – Martyr voted unanimously to accept the Kent members. A general discussed then ensued and it was agreed that all members should be encouraged to attend and that those who did not generally respond should be telephoned.

It was agreed that a Conclave meeting would be held in Kent, probably at Dartford, on a date to be decided. It was also agreed that a Dinner would be held on the Friday before the 29th September each Year, three courses excluding drinks. To encourage members to become more active, 3 or 4 activities per year would also be arranged. The following initial suggestions were put forward, a tour of Windsor Castle, to be arranged with Leslie Grout, renowned expert, a trip on the London Eye and a trip down the River to Greenwich, possibly with a meal in the O2.



CHEVALIER BRIAN EVERETT, GRAND TREASURER

MBE, KSR, BA, FRAeS, FIMgt, FCIPS, MCIT, MSOE, MIRTE

Brian's first career started in the Royal Air Force following National Service in the 1950's and after a brief spell working as a civil servant, he returned to the RAF in 1958. In the subsequent years he served in many parts of the world and held a number of senior operational and staff appointments. In 1972, he was awarded the MBE for military operations in the Middle East.

There then followed a variety of positions in the Ministry of Defence during which he was appointed MOD Escort Officer to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, accompanying them on many of their official overseas visits throughout the late 1970s.

In 1985, he decided to leave the RAF whilst there was still time to develop a second career and to exercise management skills in a more commercially competitive environment. Initially, becoming Assistant Director of Planning and Transportation for the City of Westminster and nominal Chief of Staff for six other divisions. It was during this period that he successfully absorbed many of the tasks, previously carried out by the Greater London Council, with no additional resources and against an almost impossible time-scale. Once this was achieved he was given the task of implementing "Privatisation Reviews" and setting each of the identified areas on a fully commercial basis before becoming Director of Commercial Operations with responsibility for moving these businesses into the private sector.

Having successfully completed this task, he left to set up his own business. In the years that followed he became Chairman and Chief Executive of the Capital Group, a group of companies involved in the design, implementation and operation of city centre parking schemes throughout Europe. He worked on many projects both at home and overseas, the including major schemes in Spain, Mexico, Malta, Africa and the Far East. The Group was eventually sold to a French multi-national in 1991, Six months later he was invited to join London Transport to take on the role of contracts management and eventually, in conjunction with the Department of Transport and others, he played a major role in the successful privatisation of London Buses. Subsequently, he was appointed a main board director, assuming the regulatory and contracting role as Procurement and Infrastructure Director for London Bus Services Limited and London River Services Limited, with an annual budget of almost £1 billion (1993 values). The work included the introduction and development of the bus and river networks for London, the procurement of bus and boat services and infrastructure. He was made a Freeman of the City of London in 2001.

When he retired from London Transport, as well as taking on voluntary roles, he became a director of one of the London Bus operating companies, helping them to restructure and putting their company on a more solid financial footing. In addition to owning and running a country house hotel in the Scottish Borders he also created and managed Translink Consultancy, a company operating in a several specialist areas including transportation, parking, finance, procurement, contract management, infrastructure and engineering.

In the years that followed, he became a non-executive director of NHS Darlington Primary Care Trust, Chairman of NHS County Durham & Darlington Community Health Services, Chairman of the South Durham U3A, Church Warden and President of British Gymnastics. Having been an international athlete, he takes an active interest in all sport. Over the past 17 years he has been involved in fund raising for many charities; climbed many of the world’s major mountains and competitively walked, run and cycled many thousands of miles in the process



Charity Challenge 2017



Simulated walk across the American Continent (or the equivalent of completing the Tour de France)

For over 17 years I’ve been undertaking a number of challenges for different charities. These range from climbing mountains and volcanoes in Europe, Africa, Asia and South America, at altitudes up to 21,000 ft; long distance walks across the UK and Africa; and long-distance cycle rides in excess of 1,000 miles, averaging 72 miles a day. In the process I have raised over £150,000 for various charities.

This year I’m supporting a different charity and you could say, at the age of 82, I’m investing in the future! As I have many other commitments, I can’t afford to be away for almost a year whilst transiting America so I’m doing the equivalent mileage where ever and whenever I can. Some days 5 miles and on others up to 25 miles. Since the first of January this year I’ve completed 1182 miles, reached the equivalent height of 30,090 ft and in the process burned off 474,607 calories, so I’m on target, slightly ahead if I’m crossing America; slightly behind if it’s the Tour de France.

As in previous years, I will be paying all my own expenses, so that every penny raised goes to the charity concerned.. Donations can be made, through either the web page which is www.justgiving.com/Brian-Everett2017 which is then paid directly to the charity or forward it to the charity (quoting Brian Everett’s Fund Raising) or send it to me at the address below. If you are a UK tax payer you can Gift Aid your contribution at no extra cost to yourself but make sure you give your address and a statement to that effect.

Brian D.Everett, MBE,
4, Mowden Hall Drive,
Darlington, DL3 9BJ
Tel: 01325-360423 or Mob: 07508-595960
bd.everett@ntlworld.com

EVENTS / OCCASIONS

Annual outings are one which many of our members enjoy, as it enables them to get to know each other better in informal surroundings, whilst at the same time allowing us to participate in the Order’s objectives of Healing and Teaching, and to raise a small amount of money for the Order’s charity.

Please advise on any events planned for this year or next year. Also I can include in the section below any members you wish to include?

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with you.		
Name	Reason for prayers	Submitted by

Accounts ~ The Order of St. Raphael ~ 2016

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Subscriptions	£1260.00	£1020.00
Admission Fees	£100.00	£50.00
Sales of Regalia	£108.00	£358.00
Donations	£377.00	£435.81
Dining Fees	£775.00	£1792.00
Interest	£0.37	£0.12
	<u>£2620.37</u>	<u>£3655.93</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
To Conclaves	£100.00	£190.00
Regalia	£38.84	£1376.89
Donations	£633.00	£700.00
Catering	£950.00	£1857.00
Bank Charges	£0.00	£0.00
Postage & Stationery	£0.00	£64.70
Website & Newsletter	£222.83	£0.00
	<u>£1944.67</u>	<u>£4188.59</u>
Drop in Value of Stock	£347.00	£-8.00
Surplus (Deficit) for the period	£327.80	£-524.66

Balance Sheet as at 31st. December

Balances as at 1st. January	Current. a/c	£1065.34	£3313.51
	Deposit a/c.	£1701.82	£202.19
	Cash	£34.00	£0.00
	Float	£87.41	£48.57
	Assets	£2856.80	£2509.80
Add surplus (deficit) for year		£328.80	£-524.66
		<u>£6074.07</u>	<u>£5549.41</u>

Represented by Assets

Insignia Stock	£2393.00	££2401.00
Ceremonial Cushions /Sword & Gavel.	£62.00	£62.00
Chains of Office	£54.80	£750.80
Closing Balance	Current a/c	£3313.51
	Deposit a/c.	£202.19
	Cash	£0.00
	Float	£48.57
		<u>£6074.07</u>
		<u>£5549.41</u>

I, the undersigned submit this statement of accounts as a true and accurate record of the accounts of the Order for the year ending 31st. December 2016: E. Chevalier David R. Starritt, KCSR, GCSM., Grand Treasurer.

Examiners Report: I have examined the books and vouchers of these accounts and am satisfied that the above is a true record of the accounts and funds for the year ending 31st. December 2016:

Dame Rhoda W. Ross, DSR, Examiner of Books

Dated: 21st. February 2017

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND TREASURER

I am pleased to report that our finances are sound and in order to secure those funds and to improve our charitable works we have three methods by which members can pay their oblation (subscription) for the current year.

- 1) **On-line banking, Pay Order Bank Account – State your name on payment (A.N. Other ~ Sub/2018)**
- 2) **Standing order ~ ask me for an STO form and give it to your bank.**
- 3) **OR ~ Send a Cheque to the address detailed below**

E. Chevalier Brian Everett, MBE, KSR, 4 Mowden Hall Drive, Darlington, DL3 9BJ.

Cheques payable to: "Order of Saint Raphael" ~ Sort Code:30-98-74 ~ Acct. No: 03007698

ABSTRACT RAMBLINGS FROM THE GRAND HERALD

As the Grand Herald for the Order of St. Raphael. I said I would attempt to bring new and interesting items and articles along with thought-provoking content to the Order of St. Raphael Newsletter. Also, if you feel that there is some aspect of your Conclave that helps promote the Order or have some ideas on this newsletter and its format, please contact myself in the first instance, either by Telephone or e-mail and I will be more than happy to review your comments or suggestions.

- (a) **It is important that we know our members throughout the Order and that's what I think the newsletter is intended to promote and broadcast. So, please let me know of your Interests, thoughts and Aspirations for yourselves and the Order in General.**

*I personally have embarked on a restoration project for a two-wheeled tractor unit (Howard Clifford 700). I also do quite a bit of Landscaping at our Converted Farm Steading including Dry Stone Walling and Fencing. We also have chickens (Fresh Eggs) and Grandchildren (Laughter & tears) here on the Steading so life is always full on, I am also a Member of the Local **MENS SHED** and Secretary/Scribe / Recorder of 3 Masonic Organisations and an Office Bearer in 3 more Local and Provincial Orders along with being an active member in 2 other Non-Masonic Organisations which all raise considerable amounts of money for good causes.*

- (b) **New Members are the life blood of any organisation, let us know how you think that we can encourage likeminded Individuals to become part of our organisation**

I have two applicants in mind for joining, but it is important that we ensure applicants have the inclination to participate in our Orders with both Philosophical and practical efforts on behalf of our fellow human beings. I have taken a slow but sure approach with invitations to our events and promoting our ideals. Hopefully, this will inspire them to take further participation in our order as I sometimes believe we are too quick to ask people to join without ensuring that their own personal circumstances and beliefs match our Orders ideals.

- (c) **Raising money for our charitable donations is a very worthwhile aspiration, how we do it is more problematical. New ideas based on new technologies like EASY FUND RAISING is one way we can improve our contributions to charity, old ideas are just as important, they bring together our members and possible new members who have similar interests. The dissemination of these ideas is one of the benefits of our Newsletter and I would therefore encourage you to share those ideas with our members through this newsletter.**

*One of our youngest members brought up the idea of a Raffle board, a simple but most effective way of raising money and has been very successful in raising funds for our Local Charitable Causes. This came about because we engaged with the young adults and responded positively to their ideas. The moral of this story is: Listen & Learn as you are never too old to learn new tricks I also am using “easy Fundraising” it does not cost me anything and sends the contribution direct to **The Order of St. Raphael Lion Rampant Conclave** If we all used this system, we could raise Hundreds of Pounds without any effort on our parts.*

*Other ideas like Bag packing days at local supermarkets can raise Hundreds of Pounds and are fairly easy to organise, Contact the Supermarkets Customer Service and they will put in touch with their Local Champion (They will then advise you on dates available and also what criteria you need to meet to operate in their shops, (Some only do registered Charities) I’ve managed this year to sort a day at **MORRISONS SUPERMARKETS**. If we are successful we should hopefully raise £200 – £300 and also raise the profile of our Group locally*

You will need the following to be successful:

- 1 Plastic Tubs / buckets with your organisation and who you raise money for clearly visible.
- 2 Enthusiastic Bag Packers with personality to chat to customers as you are packing.
- 3 1 Spare person to enable others to take breaks ~ no more than ½ hour packing is advisable.
- 4 A Table display is good way of publicising your organisation and having a spare collection bucket on the table helps increase donations from shoppers who just want to help your charity.

OUR ORDERS AIMS & BELIEFS - WHAT ARE WE ABOUT?

PRAYER

The main purpose of our Order has always been to aid the cure of those who are sick in mind or body. We do this by way of PRAYER. It is our belief, in common with many other religions, that God listens to prayer, and that the greater the volume of prayer towards any specific end, the more likely that it will be granted. Therefore, we pray for the sick, in our homes and at our meetings. It was to fulfil this purpose that the Order was instituted by a Charter dated 1st January 1953, by the Pope of the Catholic Apostolic Church. Before this the Order had existed on a less formal basis.

ECUMENICAL We are an Ecumenical Order, and admit both men and women on an equal basis. Any CHRISTIAN may join provided he or she signs a Declaration of Faith which forms part of the application form. Some members have a belief in, and practise, 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 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.

KNOWLEDGE: The second purpose of our Order is to acquire and preserve esoteric knowledge, and to pass on such knowledge to others. We are especially concerned the wisdom of philosophers and teachers, past and present, should not be lost to Mankind. How many of us have read the writings of, or are even conversant with the works of early and erudite teachers, such as Ignatius? How many have read the words of those whose thoughts did not find favour with the authorities of their times? Even those who were not Christian often had a message of importance, and deserve to be studied. We encourage members to read and study such teachers of all disciplines, in the belief that the work of all great thinkers deserves to be considered and discussed. It must be stressed that not everything that is considered is accepted. We wish to broaden our educational horizons, and the discussion of all topics widens our understanding of the conditions that created such ideas.

MEETINGS Throughout the year we organise meetings that any member may attend to hear speakers on various subjects. At the local level Conclaves arrange their own programme, to suit the requirements of the members. Typically, this consists of three meetings a year at dates acceptable to its members - usually a social occasion, a learning occasion and an Investiture to welcome and admit new members. There are opportunities to unite with other Orders to learn their aims and objectives.

Our aims are best summarised in the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy:

1~Feed the hungry ~ 2~ Give drink to the thirsty ~ 3~Clothe the naked with a garment ~ 4~Visit and ransom the captives, 5~Shelter the homeless ~ 6~Visit and relieve the Sick ~ 8~Bury the dead.

CHIVALRIC In addition to the Charter granted by the Catholic Apostolic Church, the Order has a second Charter, one granted on 17th June 1954, by the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order of the Levant. By virtue of this second Charter we may now grant our members the grades and ranks handed down from the Teutonic Order of St Mary, founded in 1190 AD, when pilgrims to the Holy Land from Bremen and Lubeck, wished to administer and protect a new hospital in Jerusalem, which had been built to replace a much older one.

HISTORY The Grand Master of any may permit another existing Order to perform some functions of his own Order. This is what happened in the aftermath of the Second World War when the Teutonic Knights found they had problems in Europe. Rather than lose the traditions of an Order that went back more than 750 years, they were transferred to the protection of our Order in England, on 17th June 1954. We then became a Chivalric Order.

CHARITY the Order undertakes charitable fundraising at its meetings. Each Conclave chooses a small local charity to support, thus giving maximum support and gaining invaluable publicity for both the charity and the Order.

GENERAL Our Order believes that **NOW** is the time when people are seeking a Spiritual Base from which to study the Great Mystery of Life. We hope that our members find Peace of Mind and a strengthening of Faith in their association with the Order, for we are guided by the writings of St James, Chapter 5 verses 14, 15 & 16.

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the Elders of the Church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the Prayer of Faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

CEREMONY Ceremonial meetings are usually held in a Church which may be of any recognised denomination. From the earliest days of Knighthood aspirants spent the evening before investiture in Vigil before the altar. Early next day the Accolade having been administered all would partake in Holy Communion. Our ceremony of Admission and the creation of Knights and Dames is beautiful and meaningful, and takes place in Peterborough each year.

The Order also administers, as an Order of Merit, **The Most Meritorious, Spiritual and Military Order of St Mark** to recognise the efforts of members on behalf of St Raphael.

MEMBERSHIP The membership of the Order is inexpensive as we believe that knowledge should be, and we wish to encourage participation in all our activities. You will, however, be expected to pay for the insignia of your rank prior to its presentation on Admission.

INSIGNIA

Dame Margaret Gunnell reminds members that a variety of gifts and insignia are 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 contact details are below.

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 as of 2016 and subject to change as stock is replenished, so please **check** with Dame Margaret before placing any orders. gcoi@orderofstraphael.org.uk

The newsletter is written by the herald, Chevalier Ian Cameron. Articles for publication should be sent to him at gh@orderofstraphael.org.uk

ALL OTHER COMMUNICATIONS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE MUST BE TO:

Grand Chancellor

R.E. Chevalier David Haywood, OStJ, GCSR, GCSM

89 Haig Road, Bury, BL8 2LG.

Tel: 0161 764 4786

email: gc@orderofstraphael.org.uk

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR GRAND MASTER

JULIAN K GUNNELL GCSR, GCSM

Dear Knights, Dames & friends,

At this time of year our thoughts turn to the Festive Season and quite rightly there is much excitement about welcoming relatives and friends into our homes. There's a special pleasure in having friends round on Christmas Day or just simply relaxing quietly in front of the fire, whatever suits you best. However, let us not forget those less fortunate than us. Those that do not have friends or family to support them, those struggling financially and last but by no means least, those fighting illness and disease. As a member of our Christian Healing Order, I ask you to spare a little time on Christmas Day, say at 5 p.m., find somewhere tranquil and offer up a short prayer for these unfortunate people. If we are able to do this, the combined outpouring of love cannot fail to be heard by our Lord. Never underestimate the power of prayer!

Finally, Margaret and I wish you all a very Happy & Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order and with the Blessings of St Raphael,

Julian Gunnell, Grand Master,



OBITUARIES

Patricia (Patti) Dorothy Ansell 1933-2017



On Thursday, 9th November 2017, Dianne and I attended the funeral of **Dame Patti Ansell DGCSR** at The Fenland Crematorium, March, Cambridgeshire. Also present was our Grand Master Julian Gunnell and his wife Margaret.

The funeral ceremony, conducted by Gemma Christina, was extremely dignified and started with the film theme *Somewhere in Time* by the John Barry Orchestra. We were all welcomed by Gemma who then invited Beverley Ansell, Patti's daughter-in-law to recite the poem *Death is nothing at All* by Canon Henry Scott Holland (1847-1918). The recital was followed by a eulogy and life story of Patti prepared and read by Chris Ansell, Patti's son; it was a thoughtful tribute and much appreciated by all present. After a few moments silence we recited the Lord's Prayer and then listened to the Choir of York Minster singing *Abide with Me*. Gemma Christina then read a few words of comfort and the proceedings were concluded by Cat Stevens singing *Morning Has Broken*. Donations were readily given for Parkinson's UK. We then retired to the Oliver Cromwell Hotel, March for refreshments.

Patti was a long-standing and enthusiastic supporter of The Healing, Teaching and Chivalric Order of St. Raphael and she fully supported her husband Keith. Keith was the Grand Chancellor of The Order for many years until he passed away 11 years ago. In the early years of The Order most new candidates had their mantles made privately and Patti made many of these mantles before we approached regalia manufacturers in recent times. For her work in this area and her loyalty to The Order, Patti received the accolade of honorary Dame Grand Cross of St. Raphael.

It was an Honour to have known Dame **Patti Ansell**.

Chevalier Barry Uttley, Deputy Grand Master Emeritus

Margaret and I were privileged to be able to attend the funeral and celebration of the life of Dame Patti Ansell, DGCSR, late of our Order. The service took place 9th. November 2017 at Fenland Crematorium, Cambridgeshire. The setting was lovely and very conducive to saying one's farewell with dignity. Barry & Diane Uttley, long term friends of the family travelled down and also represented the Order with us. Her son, Chris Ansell, gave a detailed and slightly humorous eulogy to his mother and the obvious fun they had growing up. The service was a moving tribute to Patti and her very full life, from her years travelling the world with Keith her husband who was in the RAF at the time and also a former Chancellor of this Order; her time in Yorkshire, then March in Cambridgeshire and her devotion to her family throughout all that time.

Patti's health eventually failed her and she needed care from 2015, and it was whilst in the Care Home she slipped away on 24th October 2017. She will be sadly missed, a true stalwart both of life and of our Order.

Julian Gunnell, Grand Master

ANNUAL INVESTITURE 2017

This year's meeting again took place at the Masonic Hall, Peterborough on 13th May. The Grand Master opened the meeting and the Grand Chancellor read out the apologies.

There were three postulants this year – Chevalier Brian Everett, Dame Olive Ward and the Rt Rev'd Michael Ward, and we welcome them all to the Order. Prior to the Investiture Ceremony, a short vigil was introduced this year for the postulants, led by the Grand Prior, to focus the postulants' minds on the step that they are about to take.

There was just one St Raphael promotion this year, with Chevalier David Starritt promoted to Knight Grand Cross, and the Grand Prior was invested with the newly created decoration of Ecclesiastical Grand Cross. The Grand Master then had great pleasure in making a number of awards in the Order of St Mark.

The Grand Master then appointed E Dame Pamela Robinson as Commander of the Conclave of St Martin at Sées – the first female to achieve this in our Order. This being his first Investiture as GM, certificates were presented to all Grand Officers present. The full list of Grand Officers can be found on the website.

After the service, the usual convivial meal took place, attended by 26 members and guests.

The Grand Council meeting took place after lunch, and items discussed were as follows:

- The Grand Chancellor announced that although a few minor changes to the Constitution and Statutes were approved last year, several further changes were now proposed and had been circulated to members of the Grand Council by email. These were approved unanimously and a copy of the revised document can be found on the Order's website.
- At the beginning of the morning service, the Grand Chancellor had announced that we were using a temporary Ritual booklet since changes needed to be made following the change of GM. The Grand Prior now explained that we had introduced some extra items into the service, namely a Bible Reading, short intercessions, and a short section allowing those who wished to receive healing oils. There were no objections from members and so these will be introduced into the Ritual on a permanent basis.
- The Grand Prior went on to say that he had produced a St Raphael Prayer book to enable Conclaves, especially those with no ordained Prior, to have something to use at local meetings, with prayers and blessings that can be said by a lay person. It can also be used by members to assist with prayer, and covers various eventualities when prayer may be required. At the moment it is still a work in progress, but copies have been initially given to Conclaves to use and provide feedback.
- The Grand Chancellor said that a lot of positive reports were received following the service at Rugeley, and in order to build on this suggested an annual Service of Thanksgiving in the autumn of each year at Rugeley, but with a more informal lunch. This would give members of the Order an extra opportunity to meet, and it would not matter too much if the response was not huge. The Grand Prior confirmed that we could use the Cathedral at any time we wished. Full details and application forms will be sent out later in the summer. The date now set is Saturday 7th October, at 11am.
- The Grand Treasurer circulated a copy of the accounts to 31st December 2015, which showed a deficit for the year of £524.66, due mainly to the extra cost incurred in the Installation of the Grand Master and new Chains of Office and Batons. Only one member is now in arrears with subscriptions, and it is reported that he is very poorly. The accounts had been independently examined by Dame Rhoda Ross. The accounts were accepted by the meeting and thanks given to David and Rhoda for their work. David went on to say that he is stepping down as Treasurer at the end of the year, and the GM has appointed Chevalier Brian Everett to take over at that time.

- The GT went on to add that following today's raffle, and with membership donations and donations from Conclaves we had around £600 to distribute to our nominated Charities. The Grand Master said that he wished to change our distribution process and split this between the Conclaves to enable them to choose and distribute to local charities. Not only will this ensure that the money goes to small worthy charities, but the publicity opportunity is also much greater, and it is hoped that all Conclaves will make the most of this. The only criteria are that the charity must have a "human healing" aspect to it, and that details of any charities chosen must be submitted to the Grand Hospitaller and Grand Chancellor for approval before the cheques are issued by the Grand Treasurer. Commanders are to invite the local press and radio to any donations to ensure a photo opportunity.

If the press does not attend, it is the Commander's responsibility to ensure photos are taken and the copy written for the press. Photos and the "written copy" are to be sent to the Grand Hospitaller and Grand Chancellor for inclusion in the newsletter, Facebook and the website.

- Each of the three Conclave Commanders gave brief reports of their activities, and it is pleasing that we now have three active Conclaves. Copies of the reports or events can be found on the website.
- Chevalier Steven Turner spoke about a new organisation of which he is a founder. The Grand Master of the International Order of St Stanislas thought that it was about time that the *alleged* illegitimate or unrecognised Orders had their own association. He therefore created the International Confederation of Chivalric Orders (ICCO) and has sent invitations to various Orders around the World inviting them to join. At the moment and for the next few Years there will be no Fees and all costs will be met by St Stanislas; when sufficient Orders have joined a Council will be formed with each Order having representation. All Orders will remain independent as the purpose of the ICCO is to create strength in numbers and to allow exchange of ideas and possibly members.
A discussion then took place amongst the Grand Council as to whether or not we should join. There was a small number against but the majority agreed that we should give it a try and the Order of St Raphael will therefore join the ICCO for an initial period of three years.
- Steven Turner talked about the benefits of "*easyfundraising*", which enables people shopping or searching on the internet to have a small amount donated to their charitable cause. It was agreed that each Conclave should set up its own "*easyfundraising*" page and accrue the donations received in its own Conclave account for distribution in due course.

The Grand Master closed the Grand Council Meeting at 3.30pm.

The date for the 2018 Investiture is Saturday 12th May. @ 11am.

New members admitted:

Chevalier Brian Everett, MBE (KSR)
 Dame Olive Ward (DSR)
 Rt Rev'd Michael Ward (SchSR)

St Mark Awards:

RE Dame Margaret Gunnell (DGCSM)
 E Steven Turner (KCSM)
 Dame Dianne Uttley (DCSM)
 Chevalier Ian Cameron (OSM)
 Dame Susan Austin (MSM)
 Chevalier Mike Boxall (MSM)

Promotions:

E Chevalier David Starritt (GCSR)

Photographs of the event can be viewed in the Gallery on the website.
www.orderofstraphael.org.uk

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING - SATURDAY 7TH. OCTOBER 2017

Cathedral of the Old Catholic Church UK, Rugeley

Members of the Order, some travelling from Scotland, Darlington and London, gathered at the Cathedral for the first of what is hoped to be a regular annual event. The old cathedral is a beautiful building and the ambiance was magnificent. The service was led by the Great Prior, Right. Rev'd. Geoffrey Robinson with reading from Pamela Robinson, David Haywood and me. We also had the Archbishop, Most Rev'd John Lycett with three visiting priests to join us.

It was a very pleasant event and afterwards we went to a local pub for lunch. This turned out to be a very pleasant indeed as it was "Buy 1 Get 1 Free"! A perfect ending to a perfect day! Next year we hope that more will come along.



I am indebted to Geoffrey & David for the work they put in organising the event, to Geoffrey for writing the service and to the Archbishop, John Lycett, for allowing us the use of the cathedral.

Julian Gunnell GCSR GCSM, Grand Master

SOME PERIODIC RAMBLINGS OF THE PRIOR

June 2017 (Issue 30)

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. I have also reprinted Issue 30 as I feel it is a message we should not allow to dim in our daily thoughts and actions

Dear Members

As Christians, we need to play a very important role in society these days, when social structures are collapsing, family life breaking up and everyone appears to be only concerned about pleasing themselves. But there are still those people who look to Christians to provide the answers, and we can only help society find the right solutions, when we set a good example ourselves. So, as followers of Christ, our lives should be an example of true Christian teaching. Any conduct falling short of this will only invite criticism and will inevitably further restrict the growth of the Church.

The example of Christ should be central to our life and faith so that our minds are characterised by the self-giving attitude of Christ, the Good Shepherd. In Biblical times the Shepherd cared for his sheep, called them by name, led them to pasture and water, found shelter for them during inclement weather, defended them against bandits and wolves, and willingly laid down his life for them. Unfortunately, this image of the Good Shepherd does not move us as it did the people of Israel, and the early Christians. But if we really want to understand the Scriptures and to know our true relationship with God, we must understand the image of the Shepherd and his sheep. Shepherds and sheep are not very common or relevant in today's high tech, computerized world. And we do not like to think of ourselves as dumb, submissive animals.

We are sophisticated human beings, or so we think! We have an intellect and a free will, to go where we please and do what we want. And we don't like sheep dogs yapping and snapping at our feet. But perhaps we are more like sheep than we really care to admit: Because, like sheep we seem to be oblivious of everything

except the plot of grass that surrounds us here and now. We spend all of our time feathering our little nest here, as if it will go on forever.

Just like sheep, we are not conscious of the ravenous wolves that surround us in the counter-culture in which we live – though we really should be. To say nothing of the wolves that come to us in sheep's clothing. And just like sheep, we always think that the grass is greener on the other side, so we stray from the flock. Now, whether we appreciate it or not, the image of the Good Shepherd and his sheep is enshrined forever in the Bible and in Christianity. In very truth it fits every generation, even our own. So, what a great blessing it is for us Christians, to follow Jesus and his Apostles with great joy and confidence, wherever they may lead us. Amen.

+Geoffrey

Around the Conclaves - News & Events

CONCLAVE OF MARTIN AT SEES

The Conclave Commander is E. Dame Pamela Robinson, DCSR, CSM

You can contact Helen at csm@orderofstraphael.org.uk

Recently Dame Pamela Robinson presented a cheque of £310.00 to 'Autism Ventures' who were founded in the early 1970s in the Merseyside region, Autism Initiatives remains a parent-led charity. They are a founder member of the Autism Alliance and connected with regional and national autism networks and strategy groups.



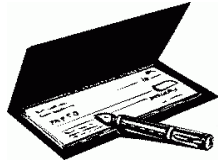
Pictured on the right is the presentation of the cheque to "Sam" and Cathy from Autism Ventures in Southport.



LION RAMPANT CONCLAVE

The Commander is E Chevalier David Starritt, KCSR, GCSM

You can contact David at clr@orderofstraphael.org.uk



I am very proud to report that virtually all members of the Lion Rampant Conclave turned out this morning for the visit to St James's Court, for the presentation of a cheque for £400 to Inspire, and for the draw for Melanie's lucky square. We were shown the sensory area that we helped equip last year, and the donation today will help equip it further...

Pictured on the right is the winner of the Lucky draw, our latest new postulant, Mrs Moira Scott, which was drawn by one of the staff from "INSPIRE" at St. James House in Inverurie, Aberdeenshire.

R.E. David R. Starritt GCSR GCSM and Melanie McLellan, who organized the Lucky Draw, are pictured presenting the prize of a basket of Fruit & flowers to Mrs Moira Scott alongside Hon. Almoner Ross McLellan and Vice Chancellor Dame Elaine Starritt.



Since winning the Lucky Draw, Moira has joined the Order of St. Raphael at our Meeting in August in the Masonic Temple, Inverurie, along with her husband Richard Scott, who were both inducted into the Conclave by the Grand Chancellor.

Abbreviated Minutes of our Meeting held at Mosseye Steading, Oldmeldrum, 25th June 2017

Matters arising: It was agreed that we would invite Albert Thomson and other members of the Confraternity of Knights of the Most Holy Trinity to our AGM in September. DS will do this. It was agreed to repeat Melanie's lucky square fundraiser. The squares will be £1 each, that each member will be given 13 numbers to sell, and would each contribute £5 to the cost of the prize, a Christmas hamper. The draw will take place in December at the same time as the donation. Ian Cameron is still trying to get us a bag packing slot at M&S, Inverurie, but it is uncertain whether the application will be successful. He will now attempt to get the same at Morrison's, Inverurie.

Treasurer's report: Gordon Wackett presented a summary of the present state of the accounts. These were accepted. The bank balance stands at £305. It was agreed that we again donate to Inspire, amount to be decided at the AGM.

"Easy fundraising" is up and going, but we have not seen yet any money coming through to us. everyone was reminded to try and make use of this. **Members** were

encouraged to pay their oblations in good time as this increases the amount that comes back to us from the main Order. Standing Orders were encouraged. The Order used to give hefty donations to national causes once a year. They have changed this, and will send money through to the Conclaves for us to use locally. We can expect to receive £250 for this purpose.

Fund-raising: Moira and Anne offered to raise money through a tea party in a village hall. This was welcomed. We shall await the details.

Recruitment and retention: We are a small group and must gain new members, and endeavor to at least get back to our original number of 16 members. Each member was encouraged to try to recruit suitable people. Though not yet members, Richard and Moira were also encouraged to try to enroll new members.

Promotions: Within the Order, Chevalier Ian Cameron has been promoted to the rank of Officer of the Order of St. Mark (OSM) and has also been made Grand Herald. David has been promoted to GCSR, will be standing down as Grand Treasurer, and will take up Grand Registrar as Elaine wishes to relinquish this duty.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be scheduled for Sunday 24th September. This will be opened and closed in full ritualistic form. We have two for admission to the Order. We may work a ceremony of admission, or perhaps the Grand Master will attend and undertake this plus the conferring of knighthood. This will be held at the Masonic Lodge, Inverurie, at 10:30, followed by lunch at the Kintore Arms.

AOCB: It was suggested that the Order might consider applying for Charitable status. Donations then could be Gift Aided. DS will pass this on. This was followed by a wonderful spread, thanks to Sabina, good company and good conversation.

Grace was given by our Chaplain, Chevalier Michael Stephen KSR OSM.

Annual General Meeting – 24th September 2017



Today we had our AGM. We had a visit by the Deputy Grand Master, and we admitted two new members to our Order. Good company, good food, what more could you ask for!

**Dame Moira Scott, Grand Chancellor, R.E.
Chevalier David Haywood, and Chevalier
Richard Scott**



*A Happy bunch o' Quines & Loons.
Or
Mony a mickle maks a muckle*

Loons are Boys or Young Men
~ **Quines** are Girls or Young Women ~ **Mony** is Many and
Mickle is Small/little whilst
Muckle is Big / Large

Morrison Bag Pack We have now fixed our date for the bag pack as the 20th December 2017, we have at present 5 volunteers and hopefully we can persuade some family members to assist.

And finally: The new date for the **FIZZY TEA PARTY** is Saturday 3rd February. 2018, Members, Friends, Family are all welcome to what should be a fun day for all.

CONCLAVE OF ST THOMAS BECKET – MARTYR

The Conclave Commander is **E. Chevalier Lawrence Day**, CStJ, KCSR

You can contact Alan at ctb@orderofstraphael.org.uk or telephone: 0208 3904642

St Thomas Becket – Martyr - Annual General Meeting 2016

At the previous meeting and at the Grand meeting in Peterborough as well as by email correspondence members of the St William of Rochester Conclave had decided that it would be sensible to place the Conclave into abeyance and transfer into St Thomas Becket – Martyr. Following a brief discussion at which the Kent members present had voiced their agreement with this view and following a proposal from Penny Bell-Wright seconded by Peter Robins, the members of St Thomas Becket – Martyr voted unanimously to accept the Kent members. A general discussed then ensued and it was agreed that all members should be encouraged to attend and that those who did not generally respond should be telephoned.

It was agreed that a Conclave meeting would be held in Kent, probably at Dartford, on a date to be decided. It was also agreed that a Dinner would be held on the Friday before the 29th September each Year, three courses excluding drinks. To encourage members to become more active, 3 or 4 activities per year would also be arranged. The following initial suggestions were put forward, a tour of Windsor Castle, to be arranged with Leslie Grout, renowned expert, a trip on the London Eye and a trip down the River to Greenwich, possibly with a meal in the O2.



CHEVALIER BRIAN EVERETT, GRAND TREASURER

MBE, KSR, BA, FRAeS, FIMgt, FCIPS, MCIT, MSOE, MIRTE

Brian's first career started in the Royal Air Force following National Service in the 1950's and after a brief spell working as a civil servant, he returned to the RAF in 1958. In the subsequent years he served in many parts of the world and held a number of senior operational and staff appointments. In 1972, he was awarded the MBE for military operations in the Middle East.

There then followed a variety of positions in the Ministry of Defence during which he was appointed MOD Escort Officer to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, accompanying them on many of their official overseas visits throughout the late 1970s.

In 1985, he decided to leave the RAF whilst there was still time to develop a second career and to exercise management skills in a more commercially competitive environment. Initially, becoming Assistant Director of Planning and Transportation for the City of Westminster and nominal Chief of Staff for six other divisions. It was during this period that he successfully absorbed many of the tasks, previously carried out by the Greater London Council, with no additional resources and against an almost impossible time-scale. Once this was achieved he was given the task of implementing "Privatisation Reviews" and setting each of the identified areas on a fully commercial basis before becoming Director of Commercial Operations with responsibility for moving these businesses into the private sector.

Having successfully completed this task, he left to set up his own business. In the years that followed he became Chairman and Chief Executive of the Capital Group, a group of companies involved in the design, implementation and operation of city centre parking schemes throughout Europe. He worked on many projects both at home and overseas, the including major schemes in Spain, Mexico, Malta, Africa and the Far East. The Group was eventually sold to a French multi-national in 1991, Six months later he was invited to join London Transport to take on the role of contracts management and eventually, in conjunction with the Department of Transport and others, he played a major role in the successful privatisation of London Buses. Subsequently, he was appointed a main board director, assuming the regulatory and contracting role as Procurement and Infrastructure Director for London Bus Services Limited and London River Services Limited, with an annual budget of almost £1 billion (1993 values). The work included the introduction and development of the bus and river networks for London, the procurement of bus and boat services and infrastructure. He was made a Freeman of the City of London in 2001.

When he retired from London Transport, as well as taking on voluntary roles, he became a director of one of the London Bus operating companies, helping them to restructure and putting their company on a more solid financial footing. In addition to owning and running a country house hotel in the Scottish Borders he also created and managed Translink Consultancy, a company operating in a several specialist areas including transportation, parking, finance, procurement, contract management, infrastructure and engineering.

In the years that followed, he became a non-executive director of NHS Darlington Primary Care Trust, Chairman of NHS County Durham & Darlington Community Health Services, Chairman of the South Durham U3A, Church Warden and President of British Gymnastics. Having been an international athlete, he takes an active interest in all sport. Over the past 17 years he has been involved in fund raising for many charities; climbed many of the world’s major mountains and competitively walked, run and cycled many thousands of miles in the process



Charity Challenge 2017



Simulated walk across the American Continent (or the equivalent of completing the Tour de France)

For over 17 years I’ve been undertaking a number of challenges for different charities. These range from climbing mountains and volcanoes in Europe, Africa, Asia and South America, at altitudes up to 21,000 ft; long distance walks across the UK and Africa; and long-distance cycle rides in excess of 1,000 miles, averaging 72 miles a day. In the process I have raised over £150,000 for various charities.

This year I’m supporting a different charity and you could say, at the age of 82, I’m investing in the future! As I have many other commitments, I can’t afford to be away for almost a year whilst transiting America so I’m doing the equivalent mileage where ever and whenever I can. Some days 5 miles and on others up to 25 miles. Since the first of January this year I’ve completed 1182 miles, reached the equivalent height of 30,090 ft and in the process burned off 474,607 calories, so I’m on target, slightly ahead if I’m crossing America; slightly behind if it’s the Tour de France.

As in previous years, I will be paying all my own expenses, so that every penny raised goes to the charity concerned.. Donations can be made, through either the web page which is www.justgiving.com/Brian-Everett2017 which is then paid directly to the charity or forward it to the charity (quoting Brian Everett’s Fund Raising) or send it to me at the address below. If you are a UK tax payer you can Gift Aid your contribution at no extra cost to yourself but make sure you give your address and a statement to that effect.

Brian D.Everett, MBE,
4, Mowden Hall Drive,
Darlington, DL3 9BJ
Tel: 01325-360423 or Mob: 07508-595960
bd.everett@ntlworld.com

EVENTS / OCCASIONS

Annual outings are one which many of our members enjoy, as it enables them to get to know each other better in informal surroundings, whilst at the same time allowing us to participate in the Order’s objectives of Healing and Teaching, and to raise a small amount of money for the Order’s charity.

Please advise on any events planned for this year or next year. Also I can include in the section below any members you wish to include?

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with you.		
Name	Reason for prayers	Submitted by

Accounts ~ The Order of St. Raphael ~ 2016

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Subscriptions	£1260.00	£1020.00
Admission Fees	£100.00	£50.00
Sales of Regalia	£108.00	£358.00
Donations	£377.00	£435.81
Dining Fees	£775.00	£1792.00
Interest	£0.37	£0.12
	<u>£2620.37</u>	<u>£3655.93</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
To Conclaves	£100.00	£190.00
Regalia	£38.84	£1376.89
Donations	£633.00	£700.00
Catering	£950.00	£1857.00
Bank Charges	£0.00	£0.00
Postage & Stationery	£0.00	£64.70
Website & Newsletter	£222.83	£0.00
	<u>£1944.67</u>	<u>£4188.59</u>
Drop in Value of Stock	£347.00	£-8.00
Surplus (Deficit) for the period	£327.80	£-524.66

Balance Sheet as at 31st. December

Balances as at 1st. January	Current. a/c	£1065.34	£3313.51
	Deposit a/c.	£1701.82	£202.19
	Cash	£34.00	£0.00
	Float	£87.41	£48.57
	Assets	£2856.80	£2509.80
Add surplus (deficit) for year		£328.80	£-524.66
		<u>£6074.07</u>	<u>£5549.41</u>

Represented by Assets

Insignia Stock	£2393.00	££2401.00
Ceremonial Cushions /Sword & Gavel.	£62.00	£62.00
Chains of Office	£54.80	£750.80
Closing Balance	Current a/c	£3313.51
	Deposit a/c.	£202.19
	Cash	£0.00
	Float	£48.57
		<u>£6074.07</u>
		<u>£5549.41</u>

I, the undersigned submit this statement of accounts as a true and accurate record of the accounts of the Order for the year ending 31st. December 2016: E. Chevalier David R. Starritt, KCSR, GCSM., Grand Treasurer.

Examiners Report: I have examined the books and vouchers of these accounts and am satisfied that the above is a true record of the accounts and funds for the year ending 31st. December 2016:

Dame Rhoda W. Ross, DSR, Examiner of Books

Dated: 21st. February 2017

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A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND TREASURER

I am pleased to report that our finances are sound and in order to secure those funds and to improve our charitable works we have three methods by which members can pay their oblation (subscription) for the current year.

- 1) **On-line banking, Pay Order Bank Account – State your name on payment (A.N. Other ~ Sub/2018)**
- 2) **Standing order ~ ask me for an STO form and give it to your bank.**
- 3) **OR ~ Send a Cheque to the address detailed below**

E. Chevalier Brian Everett, MBE, KSR, 4 Mowden Hall Drive, Darlington, DL3 9BJ.

Cheques payable to: "Order of Saint Raphael" ~ Sort Code:30-98-74 ~ Acct. No: 03007698

ABSTRACT RAMBLINGS FROM THE GRAND HERALD

As the Grand Herald for the Order of St. Raphael. I said I would attempt to bring new and interesting items and articles along with thought-provoking content to the Order of St. Raphael Newsletter. Also, if you feel that there is some aspect of your Conclave that helps promote the Order or have some ideas on this newsletter and its format, please contact myself in the first instance, either by Telephone or e-mail and I will be more than happy to review your comments or suggestions.

- (a) **It is important that we know our members throughout the Order and that's what I think the newsletter is intended to promote and broadcast. So, please let me know of your Interests, thoughts and Aspirations for yourselves and the Order in General.**

*I personally have embarked on a restoration project for a two-wheeled tractor unit (Howard Clifford 700). I also do quite a bit of Landscaping at our Converted Farm Steading including Dry Stone Walling and Fencing. We also have chickens (Fresh Eggs) and Grandchildren (Laughter & tears) here on the Steading so life is always full on, I am also a Member of the Local **MENS SHED** and Secretary/Scribe / Recorder of 3 Masonic Organisations and an Office Bearer in 3 more Local and Provincial Orders along with being an active member in 2 other Non-Masonic Organisations which all raise considerable amounts of money for good causes.*

- (b) **New Members are the life blood of any organisation, let us know how you think that we can encourage likeminded Individuals to become part of our organisation**

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I have two applicants in mind for joining, but it is important that we ensure applicants have the inclination to participate in our Orders with both Philosophical and practical efforts on behalf of our fellow human beings. I have taken a slow but sure approach with invitations to our events and promoting our ideals. Hopefully, this will inspire them to take further participation in our order as I sometimes believe we are too quick to ask people to join without ensuring that their own personal circumstances and beliefs match our Orders ideals.

- (c) **Raising money for our charitable donations is a very worthwhile aspiration, how we do it is more problematical. New ideas based on new technologies like EASY FUND RAISING is one way we can improve our contributions to charity, old ideas are just as important, they bring together our members and possible new members who have similar interests. The dissemination of these ideas is one of the benefits of our Newsletter and I would therefore encourage you to share those ideas with our members through this newsletter.**

*One of our youngest members brought up the idea of a Raffle board, a simple but most effective way of raising money and has been very successful in raising funds for our Local Charitable Causes. This came about because we engaged with the young adults and responded positively to their ideas. The moral of this story is: Listen & Learn as you are never too old to learn new tricks I also am using “**easy Fundraising**” it does not cost me anything and sends the contribution direct to **The Order of St. Raphael Lion Rampant Conclave** If we all used this system, we could raise Hundreds of Pounds without any effort on our parts.*

*Other ideas like Bag packing days at local supermarkets can raise Hundreds of Pounds and are fairly easy to organise, Contact the Supermarkets Customer Service and they will put in touch with their Local Champion (They will then advise you on dates available and also what criteria you need to meet to operate in their shops, (Some only do registered Charities) I’ve managed this year to sort a day at **MORRISONS SUPERMARKETS**. If we are successful we should hopefully raise £200 – £300 and also raise the profile of our Group locally*

You will need the following to be successful:

- 1 Plastic Tubs / buckets with your organisation and who you raise money for clearly visible.
- 2 Enthusiastic Bag Packers with personality to chat to customers as you are packing.
- 3 1 Spare person to enable others to take breaks ~ no more than ½ hour packing is advisable.
- 4 A Table display is good way of publicising your organisation and having a spare collection bucket on the table helps increase donations from shoppers who just want to help your charity.

OUR ORDERS AIMS & BELIEFS - WHAT ARE WE ABOUT?

PRAYER

The main purpose of our Order has always been to aid the cure of those who are sick in mind or body. We do this by way of PRAYER. It is our belief, in common with many other religions, that God listens to prayer, and that the greater the volume of prayer towards any specific end, the more likely that it will be granted. Therefore, we pray for the sick, in our homes and at our meetings. It was to fulfil this purpose that the Order was instituted by a Charter dated 1st January 1953, by the Pope of the Catholic Apostolic Church. Before this the Order had existed on a less formal basis.

ECUMENICAL We are an Ecumenical Order, and admit both men and women on an equal basis. Any CHRISTIAN may join provided he or she signs a Declaration of Faith which forms part of the application form. Some members have a belief in, and practise, 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 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.

KNOWLEDGE: The second purpose of our Order is to acquire and preserve esoteric knowledge, and to pass on such knowledge to others. We are especially concerned the wisdom of philosophers and teachers, past and present, should not be lost to Mankind. How many of us have read the writings of, or are even conversant with the works of early and erudite teachers, such as Ignatius? How many have read the words of those whose thoughts did not find favour with the authorities of their times? Even those who were not Christian often had a message of importance, and deserve to be studied. We encourage members to read and study such teachers of all disciplines, in the belief that the work of all great thinkers deserves to be considered and discussed. It must be stressed that not everything that is considered is accepted. We wish to broaden our educational horizons, and the discussion of all topics widens our understanding of the conditions that created such ideas.

MEETINGS Throughout the year we organise meetings that any member may attend to hear speakers on various subjects. At the local level Conclaves arrange their own programme, to suit the requirements of the members. Typically, this consists of three meetings a year at dates acceptable to its members - usually a social occasion, a learning occasion and an Investiture to welcome and admit new members. There are opportunities to unite with other Orders to learn their aims and objectives.

Our aims are best summarised in the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy:

1~Feed the hungry ~ 2~ Give drink to the thirsty ~ 3~Clothe the naked with a garment ~ 4~Visit and ransom the captives, 5~Shelter the homeless ~ 6~Visit and relieve the Sick ~ 8~Bury the dead.

CHIVALRIC In addition to the Charter granted by the Catholic Apostolic Church, the Order has a second Charter, one granted on 17th June 1954, by the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order of the Levant. By virtue of this second Charter we may now grant our members the grades and ranks handed down from the Teutonic Order of St Mary, founded in 1190 AD, when pilgrims to the Holy Land from Bremen and Lubeck, wished to administer and protect a new hospital in Jerusalem, which had been built to replace a much older one.

HISTORY The Grand Master of any may permit another existing Order to perform some functions of his own Order. This is what happened in the aftermath of the Second World War when the Teutonic Knights found they had problems in Europe. Rather than lose the traditions of an Order that went back more than 750 years, they were transferred to the protection of our Order in England, on 17th June 1954. We then became a Chivalric Order.

CHARITY the Order undertakes charitable fundraising at its meetings. Each Conclave chooses a small local charity to support, thus giving maximum support and gaining invaluable publicity for both the charity and the Order.

GENERAL Our Order believes that **NOW** is the time when people are seeking a Spiritual Base from which to study the Great Mystery of Life. We hope that our members find Peace of Mind and a strengthening of Faith in their association with the Order, for we are guided by the writings of St James, Chapter 5 verses 14, 15 & 16.

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the Elders of the Church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the Prayer of Faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

CEREMONY Ceremonial meetings are usually held in a Church which may be of any recognised denomination. From the earliest days of Knighthood aspirants spent the evening before investiture in Vigil before the altar. Early next day the Accolade having been administered all would partake in Holy Communion. Our ceremony of Admission and the creation of Knights and Dames is beautiful and meaningful, and takes place in Peterborough each year.

The Order also administers, as an Order of Merit, **The Most Meritorious, Spiritual and Military Order of St Mark** to recognise the efforts of members on behalf of St Raphael.

MEMBERSHIP The membership of the Order is inexpensive as we believe that knowledge should be, and we wish to encourage participation in all our activities. You will, however, be expected to pay for the insignia of your rank prior to its presentation on Admission.

INSIGNIA

Dame Margaret Gunnell reminds members that a variety of gifts and insignia are 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 contact details are below.

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 as of 2016 and subject to change as stock is replenished, so please **check** with Dame Margaret before placing any orders. gcoi@orderofstraphael.org.uk

The newsletter is written by the herald, Chevalier Ian Cameron. Articles for publication should be sent to him at gh@orderofstraphael.org.uk

ALL OTHER COMMUNICATIONS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE MUST BE TO:

Grand Chancellor

R.E. Chevalier David Haywood, OStJ, GCSR, GCSM

89 Haig Road, Bury, BL8 2LG.

Tel: 0161 764 4786

email: gc@orderofstraphael.org.uk

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR GRAND MASTER

JULIAN K GUNNELL GCSR, GCSM

Dear Knights, Dames & friends,

At this time of year our thoughts turn to the Festive Season and quite rightly there is much excitement about welcoming relatives and friends into our homes. There's a special pleasure in having friends round on Christmas Day or just simply relaxing quietly in front of the fire, whatever suits you best. However, let us not forget those less fortunate than us. Those that do not have friends or family to support them, those struggling financially and last but by no means least, those fighting illness and disease. As a member of our Christian Healing Order, I ask you to spare a little time on Christmas Day, say at 5 p.m., find somewhere tranquil and offer up a short prayer for these unfortunate people. If we are able to do this, the combined outpouring of love cannot fail to be heard by our Lord. Never underestimate the power of prayer!

Finally, Margaret and I wish you all a very Happy & Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order and with the Blessings of St Raphael,

Julian Gunnell, Grand Master,



OBITUARIES

Patricia (Patti) Dorothy Ansell 1933-2017



On Thursday, 9th November 2017, Dianne and I attended the funeral of **Dame Patti Ansell DGCSR** at The Fenland Crematorium, March, Cambridgeshire. Also present was our Grand Master Julian Gunnell and his wife Margaret.

The funeral ceremony, conducted by Gemma Christina, was extremely dignified and started with the film theme *Somewhere in Time* by the John Barry Orchestra. We were all welcomed by Gemma who then invited Beverley Ansell, Patti's daughter-in-law to recite the poem *Death is nothing at All* by Canon Henry Scott Holland (1847-1918). The recital was followed by a eulogy and life story of Patti prepared and read by Chris Ansell, Patti's son; it was a thoughtful tribute and much appreciated by all present. After a few moments silence we recited the Lord's Prayer and then listened to the Choir of York Minster singing *Abide with Me*. Gemma Christina then read a few words of comfort and the proceedings were concluded by Cat Stevens singing *Morning Has Broken*. Donations were readily given for Parkinson's UK. We then retired to the Oliver Cromwell Hotel, March for refreshments.

Patti was a long-standing and enthusiastic supporter of The Healing, Teaching and Chivalric Order of St. Raphael and she fully supported her husband Keith. Keith was the Grand Chancellor of The Order for many years until he passed away 11 years ago. In the early years of The Order most new candidates had their mantles made privately and Patti made many of these mantles before we approached regalia manufacturers in recent times. For her work in this area and her loyalty to The Order, Patti received the accolade of honorary Dame Grand Cross of St. Raphael.

It was an Honour to have known Dame **Patti Ansell**.

Chevalier Barry Uttley, Deputy Grand Master Emeritus

Margaret and I were privileged to be able to attend the funeral and celebration of the life of Dame Patti Ansell, DGCSR, late of our Order. The service took place 9th. November 2017 at Fenland Crematorium, Cambridgeshire. The setting was lovely and very conducive to saying one's farewell with dignity. Barry & Diane Uttley, long term friends of the family travelled down and also represented the Order with us. Her son, Chris Ansell, gave a detailed and slightly humorous eulogy to his mother and the obvious fun they had growing up. The service was a moving tribute to Patti and her very full life, from her years travelling the world with Keith her husband who was in the RAF at the time and also a former Chancellor of this Order; her time in Yorkshire, then March in Cambridgeshire and her devotion to her family throughout all that time.

Patti's health eventually failed her and she needed care from 2015, and it was whilst in the Care Home she slipped away on 24th October 2017. She will be sadly missed, a true stalwart both of life and of our Order.

Julian Gunnell, Grand Master

ANNUAL INVESTITURE 2017

This year's meeting again took place at the Masonic Hall, Peterborough on 13th May. The Grand Master opened the meeting and the Grand Chancellor read out the apologies.

There were three postulants this year – Chevalier Brian Everett, Dame Olive Ward and the Rt Rev'd Michael Ward, and we welcome them all to the Order. Prior to the Investiture Ceremony, a short vigil was introduced this year for the postulants, led by the Grand Prior, to focus the postulants' minds on the step that they are about to take.

There was just one St Raphael promotion this year, with Chevalier David Starritt promoted to Knight Grand Cross, and the Grand Prior was invested with the newly created decoration of Ecclesiastical Grand Cross. The Grand Master then had great pleasure in making a number of awards in the Order of St Mark.

The Grand Master then appointed E Dame Pamela Robinson as Commander of the Conclave of St Martin at Sées – the first female to achieve this in our Order. This being his first Investiture as GM, certificates were presented to all Grand Officers present. The full list of Grand Officers can be found on the website.

After the service, the usual convivial meal took place, attended by 26 members and guests.

The Grand Council meeting took place after lunch, and items discussed were as follows:

- The Grand Chancellor announced that although a few minor changes to the Constitution and Statutes were approved last year, several further changes were now proposed and had been circulated to members of the Grand Council by email. These were approved unanimously and a copy of the revised document can be found on the Order's website.
- At the beginning of the morning service, the Grand Chancellor had announced that we were using a temporary Ritual booklet since changes needed to be made following the change of GM. The Grand Prior now explained that we had introduced some extra items into the service, namely a Bible Reading, short intercessions, and a short section allowing those who wished to receive healing oils. There were no objections from members and so these will be introduced into the Ritual on a permanent basis.
- The Grand Prior went on to say that he had produced a St Raphael Prayer book to enable Conclaves, especially those with no ordained Prior, to have something to use at local meetings, with prayers and blessings that can be said by a lay person. It can also be used by members to assist with prayer, and covers various eventualities when prayer may be required. At the moment it is still a work in progress, but copies have been initially given to Conclaves to use and provide feedback.
- The Grand Chancellor said that a lot of positive reports were received following the service at Rugeley, and in order to build on this suggested an annual Service of Thanksgiving in the autumn of each year at Rugeley, but with a more informal lunch. This would give members of the Order an extra opportunity to meet, and it would not matter too much if the response was not huge. The Grand Prior confirmed that we could use the Cathedral at any time we wished. Full details and application forms will be sent out later in the summer. The date now set is Saturday 7th October, at 11am.
- The Grand Treasurer circulated a copy of the accounts to 31st December 2015, which showed a deficit for the year of £524.66, due mainly to the extra cost incurred in the Installation of the Grand Master and new Chains of Office and Batons. Only one member is now in arrears with subscriptions, and it is reported that he is very poorly. The accounts had been independently examined by Dame Rhoda Ross. The accounts were accepted by the meeting and thanks given to David and Rhoda for their work. David went on to say that he is stepping down as Treasurer at the end of the year, and the GM has appointed Chevalier Brian Everett to take over at that time.

- The GT went on to add that following today's raffle, and with membership donations and donations from Conclaves we had around £600 to distribute to our nominated Charities. The Grand Master said that he wished to change our distribution process and split this between the Conclaves to enable them to choose and distribute to local charities. Not only will this ensure that the money goes to small worthy charities, but the publicity opportunity is also much greater, and it is hoped that all Conclaves will make the most of this. The only criteria are that the charity must have a "human healing" aspect to it, and that details of any charities chosen must be submitted to the Grand Hospitaller and Grand Chancellor for approval before the cheques are issued by the Grand Treasurer. Commanders are to invite the local press and radio to any donations to ensure a photo opportunity.

If the press does not attend, it is the Commander's responsibility to ensure photos are taken and the copy written for the press. Photos and the "written copy" are to be sent to the Grand Hospitaller and Grand Chancellor for inclusion in the newsletter, Facebook and the website.

- Each of the three Conclave Commanders gave brief reports of their activities, and it is pleasing that we now have three active Conclaves. Copies of the reports or events can be found on the website.
- Chevalier Steven Turner spoke about a new organisation of which he is a founder. The Grand Master of the International Order of St Stanislas thought that it was about time that the *alleged* illegitimate or unrecognised Orders had their own association. He therefore created the International Confederation of Chivalric Orders (ICCO) and has sent invitations to various Orders around the World inviting them to join. At the moment and for the next few Years there will be no Fees and all costs will be met by St Stanislas; when sufficient Orders have joined a Council will be formed with each Order having representation. All Orders will remain independent as the purpose of the ICCO is to create strength in numbers and to allow exchange of ideas and possibly members.
A discussion then took place amongst the Grand Council as to whether or not we should join. There was a small number against but the majority agreed that we should give it a try and the Order of St Raphael will therefore join the ICCO for an initial period of three years.
- Steven Turner talked about the benefits of "*easyfundraising*", which enables people shopping or searching on the internet to have a small amount donated to their charitable cause. It was agreed that each Conclave should set up its own "*easyfundraising*" page and accrue the donations received in its own Conclave account for distribution in due course.

The Grand Master closed the Grand Council Meeting at 3.30pm.

The date for the 2018 Investiture is Saturday 12th May. @ 11am.

New members admitted:

Chevalier Brian Everett, MBE (KSR)
 Dame Olive Ward (DSR)
 Rt Rev'd Michael Ward (SchSR)

St Mark Awards:

RE Dame Margaret Gunnell (DGCSM)
 E Steven Turner (KCSM)
 Dame Dianne Uttley (DCSM)
 Chevalier Ian Cameron (OSM)
 Dame Susan Austin (MSM)
 Chevalier Mike Boxall (MSM)

Promotions:

E Chevalier David Starritt (GCSR)

Photographs of the event can be viewed in the Gallery on the website.
www.orderofstraphael.org.uk

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING - SATURDAY 7TH. OCTOBER 2017

Cathedral of the Old Catholic Church UK, Rugeley

Members of the Order, some travelling from Scotland, Darlington and London, gathered at the Cathedral for the first of what is hoped to be a regular annual event. The old cathedral is a beautiful building and the ambiance was magnificent. The service was led by the Great Prior, Right. Rev'd. Geoffrey Robinson with reading from Pamela Robinson, David Haywood and me. We also had the Archbishop, Most Rev'd John Lycett with three visiting priests to join us.

It was a very pleasant event and afterwards we went to a local pub for lunch. This turned out to be a very pleasant indeed as it was "Buy 1 Get 1 Free"! A perfect ending to a perfect day! Next year we hope that more will come along.



I am indebted to Geoffrey & David for the work they put in organising the event, to Geoffrey for writing the service and to the Archbishop, John Lycett, for allowing us the use of the cathedral.

Julian Gunnell GCSR GCSM, Grand Master

SOME PERIODIC RAMBLINGS OF THE PRIOR

June 2017 (Issue 30)

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. I have also reprinted Issue 30 as I feel it is a message we should not allow to dim in our daily thoughts and actions

Dear Members

As Christians, we need to play a very important role in society these days, when social structures are collapsing, family life breaking up and everyone appears to be only concerned about pleasing themselves. But there are still those people who look to Christians to provide the answers, and we can only help society find the right solutions, when we set a good example ourselves. So, as followers of Christ, our lives should be an example of true Christian teaching. Any conduct falling short of this will only invite criticism and will inevitably further restrict the growth of the Church.

The example of Christ should be central to our life and faith so that our minds are characterised by the self-giving attitude of Christ, the Good Shepherd. In Biblical times the Shepherd cared for his sheep, called them by name, led them to pasture and water, found shelter for them during inclement weather, defended them against bandits and wolves, and willingly laid down his life for them. Unfortunately, this image of the Good Shepherd does not move us as it did the people of Israel, and the early Christians. But if we really want to understand the Scriptures and to know our true relationship with God, we must understand the image of the Shepherd and his sheep. Shepherds and sheep are not very common or relevant in today's high tech, computerized world. And we do not like to think of ourselves as dumb, submissive animals.

We are sophisticated human beings, or so we think! We have an intellect and a free will, to go where we please and do what we want. And we don't like sheep dogs yapping and snapping at our feet. But perhaps we are more like sheep than we really care to admit: Because, like sheep we seem to be oblivious of everything

except the plot of grass that surrounds us here and now. We spend all of our time feathering our little nest here, as if it will go on forever.

Just like sheep, we are not conscious of the ravenous wolves that surround us in the counter-culture in which we live – though we really should be. To say nothing of the wolves that come to us in sheep's clothing. And just like sheep, we always think that the grass is greener on the other side, so we stray from the flock. Now, whether we appreciate it or not, the image of the Good Shepherd and his sheep is enshrined forever in the Bible and in Christianity. In very truth it fits every generation, even our own. So, what a great blessing it is for us Christians, to follow Jesus and his Apostles with great joy and confidence, wherever they may lead us. Amen.

+Geoffrey

Around the Conclaves - News & Events

CONCLAVE OF MARTIN AT SEES

The Conclave Commander is E. Dame Pamela Robinson, DCSR, CSM

You can contact Helen at csm@orderofstraphael.org.uk

Recently Dame Pamela Robinson presented a cheque of £310.00 to 'Autism Ventures' who were founded in the early 1970s in the Merseyside region, Autism Initiatives remains a parent-led charity. They are a founder member of the Autism Alliance and connected with regional and national autism networks and strategy groups.



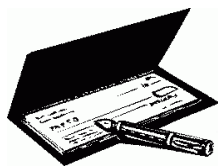
Pictured on the right is the presentation of the cheque to "Sam" and Cathy from Autism Ventures in Southport.



LION RAMPANT CONCLAVE

The Commander is E Chevalier David Starritt, KCSR, GCSM

You can contact David at clr@orderofstraphael.org.uk



I am very proud to report that virtually all members of the Lion Rampant Conclave turned out this morning for the visit to St James's Court, for the presentation of a cheque for £400 to Inspire, and for the draw for Melanie's lucky square. We were shown the sensory area that we helped equip last year, and the donation today will help equip it further...

Pictured on the right is the winner of the Lucky draw, our latest new postulant, Mrs Moira Scott, which was drawn by one of the staff from "INSPIRE" at St. James House in Inverurie, Aberdeenshire.

R.E. David R. Starritt GCSR GCSM and Melanie McLellan, who organized the Lucky Draw, are pictured presenting the prize of a basket of Fruit & flowers to Mrs Moira Scott alongside Hon. Almoner Ross McLellan and Vice Chancellor Dame Elaine Starritt.



Since winning the Lucky Draw, Moira has joined the Order of St. Raphael at our Meeting in August in the Masonic Temple, Inverurie, along with her husband Richard Scott, who were both inducted into the Conclave by the Grand Chancellor.

Abbreviated Minutes of our Meeting held at Mosseye Steading, Oldmeldrum, 25th June 2017

Matters arising: It was agreed that we would invite Albert Thomson and other members of the Confraternity of Knights of the Most Holy Trinity to our AGM in September. DS will do this. It was agreed to repeat Melanie's lucky square fundraiser. The squares will be £1 each, that each member will be given 13 numbers to sell, and would each contribute £5 to the cost of the prize, a Christmas hamper. The draw will take place in December at the same time as the donation. Ian Cameron is still trying to get us a bag packing slot at M&S, Inverurie, but it is uncertain whether the application will be successful. He will now attempt to get the same at Morrison's, Inverurie.

Treasurer's report: Gordon Wackett presented a summary of the present state of the accounts. These were accepted. The bank balance stands at £305. It was agreed that we again donate to Inspire, amount to be decided at the AGM.

"Easy fundraising" is up and going, but we have not seen yet any money coming through to us. everyone was reminded to try and make use of this. **Members** were

encouraged to pay their oblations in good time as this increases the amount that comes back to us from the main Order. Standing Orders were encouraged. The Order used to give hefty donations to national causes once a year. They have changed this, and will send money through to the Conclaves for us to use locally. We can expect to receive £250 for this purpose.

Fund-raising: Moira and Anne offered to raise money through a tea party in a village hall. This was welcomed. We shall await the details.

Recruitment and retention: We are a small group and must gain new members, and endeavor to at least get back to our original number of 16 members. Each member was encouraged to try to recruit suitable people. Though not yet members, Richard and Moira were also encouraged to try to enroll new members.

Promotions: Within the Order, Chevalier Ian Cameron has been promoted to the rank of Officer of the Order of St. Mark (OSM) and has also been made Grand Herald. David has been promoted to GCSR, will be standing down as Grand Treasurer, and will take up Grand Registrar as Elaine wishes to relinquish this duty.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be scheduled for Sunday 24th September. This will be opened and closed in full ritualistic form. We have two for admission to the Order. We may work a ceremony of admission, or perhaps the Grand Master will attend and undertake this plus the conferring of knighthood. This will be held at the Masonic Lodge, Inverurie, at 10:30, followed by lunch at the Kintore Arms.

AOCB: It was suggested that the Order might consider applying for Charitable status. Donations then could be Gift Aided. DS will pass this on. This was followed by a wonderful spread, thanks to Sabina, good company and good conversation.

Grace was given by our Chaplain, Chevalier Michael Stephen KSR OSM.

Annual General Meeting – 24th September 2017



Today we had our AGM. We had a visit by the Deputy Grand Master, and we admitted two new members to our Order. Good company, good food, what more could you ask for!

**Dame Moira Scott, Grand Chancellor, R.E.
Chevalier David Haywood, and Chevalier
Richard Scott**



*A Happy bunch o' Quines & Loons.
Or
Mony a mickle maks a muckle*

Loons are Boys or Young Men
~ **Quines** are Girls or Young Women ~ **Mony** is Many and
Mickle is Small/little whilst
Muckle is Big / Large

Morrison Bag Pack We have now fixed our date for the bag pack as the 20th December 2017, we have at present 5 volunteers and hopefully we can persuade some family members to assist.

And finally: The new date for the **FIZZY TEA PARTY** is Saturday 3rd February. 2018, Members, Friends, Family are all welcome to what should be a fun day for all.

CONCLAVE OF ST THOMAS BECKET – MARTYR

The Conclave Commander is **E. Chevalier Lawrence Day**, CStJ, KCSR

You can contact Alan at ctb@orderofstraphael.org.uk or telephone: 0208 3904642

St Thomas Becket – Martyr - Annual General Meeting 2016

At the previous meeting and at the Grand meeting in Peterborough as well as by email correspondence members of the St William of Rochester Conclave had decided that it would be sensible to place the Conclave into abeyance and transfer into St Thomas Becket – Martyr. Following a brief discussion at which the Kent members present had voiced their agreement with this view and following a proposal from Penny Bell-Wright seconded by Peter Robins, the members of St Thomas Becket – Martyr voted unanimously to accept the Kent members. A general discussed then ensued and it was agreed that all members should be encouraged to attend and that those who did not generally respond should be telephoned.

It was agreed that a Conclave meeting would be held in Kent, probably at Dartford, on a date to be decided. It was also agreed that a Dinner would be held on the Friday before the 29th September each Year, three courses excluding drinks. To encourage members to become more active, 3 or 4 activities per year would also be arranged. The following initial suggestions were put forward, a tour of Windsor Castle, to be arranged with Leslie Grout, renowned expert, a trip on the London Eye and a trip down the River to Greenwich, possibly with a meal in the O2.



CHEVALIER BRIAN EVERETT, GRAND TREASURER

MBE, KSR, BA, FRAeS, FIMgt, FCIPS, MCIT, MSOE, MIRTE

Brian's first career started in the Royal Air Force following National Service in the 1950's and after a brief spell working as a civil servant, he returned to the RAF in 1958. In the subsequent years he served in many parts of the world and held a number of senior operational and staff appointments. In 1972, he was awarded the MBE for military operations in the Middle East.

There then followed a variety of positions in the Ministry of Defence during which he was appointed MOD Escort Officer to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, accompanying them on many of their official overseas visits throughout the late 1970s.

In 1985, he decided to leave the RAF whilst there was still time to develop a second career and to exercise management skills in a more commercially competitive environment. Initially, becoming Assistant Director of Planning and Transportation for the City of Westminster and nominal Chief of Staff for six other divisions. It was during this period that he successfully absorbed many of the tasks, previously carried out by the Greater London Council, with no additional resources and against an almost impossible time-scale. Once this was achieved he was given the task of implementing "Privatisation Reviews" and setting each of the identified areas on a fully commercial basis before becoming Director of Commercial Operations with responsibility for moving these businesses into the private sector.

Having successfully completed this task, he left to set up his own business. In the years that followed he became Chairman and Chief Executive of the Capital Group, a group of companies involved in the design, implementation and operation of city centre parking schemes throughout Europe. He worked on many projects both at home and overseas, the including major schemes in Spain, Mexico, Malta, Africa and the Far East. The Group was eventually sold to a French multi-national in 1991, Six months later he was invited to join London Transport to take on the role of contracts management and eventually, in conjunction with the Department of Transport and others, he played a major role in the successful privatisation of London Buses. Subsequently, he was appointed a main board director, assuming the regulatory and contracting role as Procurement and Infrastructure Director for London Bus Services Limited and London River Services Limited, with an annual budget of almost £1 billion (1993 values). The work included the introduction and development of the bus and river networks for London, the procurement of bus and boat services and infrastructure. He was made a Freeman of the City of London in 2001.

When he retired from London Transport, as well as taking on voluntary roles, he became a director of one of the London Bus operating companies, helping them to restructure and putting their company on a more solid financial footing. In addition to owning and running a country house hotel in the Scottish Borders he also created and managed Translink Consultancy, a company operating in a several specialist areas including transportation, parking, finance, procurement, contract management, infrastructure and engineering.

In the years that followed, he became a non-executive director of NHS Darlington Primary Care Trust, Chairman of NHS County Durham & Darlington Community Health Services, Chairman of the South Durham U3A, Church Warden and President of British Gymnastics. Having been an international athlete, he takes an active interest in all sport. Over the past 17 years he has been involved in fund raising for many charities; climbed many of the world’s major mountains and competitively walked, run and cycled many thousands of miles in the process



Charity Challenge 2017



Simulated walk across the American Continent (or the equivalent of completing the Tour de France)

For over 17 years I’ve been undertaking a number of challenges for different charities. These range from climbing mountains and volcanoes in Europe, Africa, Asia and South America, at altitudes up to 21,000 ft; long distance walks across the UK and Africa; and long-distance cycle rides in excess of 1,000 miles, averaging 72 miles a day. In the process I have raised over £150,000 for various charities.

This year I’m supporting a different charity and you could say, at the age of 82, I’m investing in the future! As I have many other commitments, I can’t afford to be away for almost a year whilst transiting America so I’m doing the equivalent mileage where ever and whenever I can. Some days 5 miles and on others up to 25 miles. Since the first of January this year I’ve completed 1182 miles, reached the equivalent height of 30,090 ft and in the process burned off 474,607 calories, so I’m on target, slightly ahead if I’m crossing America; slightly behind if it’s the Tour de France.

As in previous years, I will be paying all my own expenses, so that every penny raised goes to the charity concerned.. Donations can be made, through either the web page which is www.justgiving.com/Brian-Everett2017 which is then paid directly to the charity or forward it to the charity (quoting Brian Everett’s Fund Raising) or send it to me at the address below. If you are a UK tax payer you can Gift Aid your contribution at no extra cost to yourself but make sure you give your address and a statement to that effect.

Brian D.Everett, MBE,
4, Mowden Hall Drive,
Darlington, DL3 9BJ
Tel: 01325-360423 or Mob: 07508-595960
bd.everett@ntlworld.com

EVENTS / OCCASIONS

Annual outings are one which many of our members enjoy, as it enables them to get to know each other better in informal surroundings, whilst at the same time allowing us to participate in the Order’s objectives of Healing and Teaching, and to raise a small amount of money for the Order’s charity.

Please advise on any events planned for this year or next year. Also I can include in the section below any members you wish to include?

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with you.		
Name	Reason for prayers	Submitted by

Accounts ~ The Order of St. Raphael ~ 2016

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Subscriptions	£1260.00	£1020.00
Admission Fees	£100.00	£50.00
Sales of Regalia	£108.00	£358.00
Donations	£377.00	£435.81
Dining Fees	£775.00	£1792.00
Interest	£0.37	£0.12
	<u>£2620.37</u>	<u>£3655.93</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
To Conclaves	£100.00	£190.00
Regalia	£38.84	£1376.89
Donations	£633.00	£700.00
Catering	£950.00	£1857.00
Bank Charges	£0.00	£0.00
Postage & Stationery	£0.00	£64.70
Website & Newsletter	£222.83	£0.00
	<u>£1944.67</u>	<u>£4188.59</u>
Drop in Value of Stock	£347.00	-£8.00
Surplus (Deficit) for the period	£327.80	-£524.66

Balance Sheet as at 31st. December

Balances as at 1st. January	Current. a/c	£1065.34	£3313.51
	Deposit a/c.	£1701.82	£202.19
	Cash	£34.00	£0.00
	Float	£87.41	£48.57
	Assets	£2856.80	£2509.80
Add surplus (deficit) for year		£328.80	£-£524.66
		<u>£6074.07</u>	<u>£5549.41</u>

Represented by Assets

Insignia Stock	£2393.00	££2401.00
Ceremonial Cushions /Sword & Gavel.	£62.00	£62.00
Chains of Office	£54.80	£750.80
Closing Balance	Current a/c	£3313.51
	Deposit a/c.	£202.19
	Cash	£0.00
	Float	£48.57
		<u>£6074.07</u>
		<u>£5549.41</u>

I, the undersigned submit this statement of accounts as a true and accurate record of the accounts of the Order for the year ending 31st. December 2016: E. Chevalier David R. Starritt, KCSR, GCSM., Grand Treasurer.

Examiners Report: I have examined the books and vouchers of these accounts and am satisfied that the above is a true record of the accounts and funds for the year ending 31st. December 2016:

Dame Rhoda W. Ross, DSR, Examiner of Books

Dated: 21st. February 2017

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND TREASURER

I am pleased to report that our finances are sound and in order to secure those funds and to improve our charitable works we have three methods by which members can pay their oblation (subscription) for the current year.

- 1) **On-line banking, Pay Order Bank Account – State your name on payment (A.N. Other ~ Sub/2018)**
- 2) **Standing order ~ ask me for an STO form and give it to your bank.**
- 3) **OR ~ Send a Cheque to the address detailed below**

E. Chevalier Brian Everett, MBE, KSR, 4 Mowden Hall Drive, Darlington, DL3 9BJ.

Cheques payable to: "Order of Saint Raphael" ~ Sort Code:30-98-74 ~ Acct. No: 03007698

ABSTRACT RAMBLINGS FROM THE GRAND HERALD

As the Grand Herald for the Order of St. Raphael. I said I would attempt to bring new and interesting items and articles along with thought-provoking content to the Order of St. Raphael Newsletter. Also, if you feel that there is some aspect of your Conclave that helps promote the Order or have some ideas on this newsletter and its format, please contact myself in the first instance, either by Telephone or e-mail and I will be more than happy to review your comments or suggestions.

- (a) **It is important that we know our members throughout the Order and that's what I think the newsletter is intended to promote and broadcast. So, please let me know of your Interests, thoughts and Aspirations for yourselves and the Order in General.**

*I personally have embarked on a restoration project for a two-wheeled tractor unit (Howard Clifford 700). I also do quite a bit of Landscaping at our Converted Farm Steading including Dry Stone Walling and Fencing. We also have chickens (Fresh Eggs) and Grandchildren (Laughter & tears) here on the Steading so life is always full on, I am also a Member of the Local **MENS SHED** and Secretary/Scribe / Recorder of 3 Masonic Organisations and an Office Bearer in 3 more Local and Provincial Orders along with being an active member in 2 other Non-Masonic Organisations which all raise considerable amounts of money for good causes.*

- (b) **New Members are the life blood of any organisation, let us know how you think that we can encourage likeminded Individuals to become part of our organisation**

I have two applicants in mind for joining, but it is important that we ensure applicants have the inclination to participate in our Orders with both Philosophical and practical efforts on behalf of our fellow human beings. I have taken a slow but sure approach with invitations to our events and promoting our ideals. Hopefully, this will inspire them to take further participation in our order as I sometimes believe we are too quick to ask people to join without ensuring that their own personal circumstances and beliefs match our Orders ideals.

- (c) **Raising money for our charitable donations is a very worthwhile aspiration, how we do it is more problematical. New ideas based on new technologies like EASY FUND RAISING is one way we can improve our contributions to charity, old ideas are just as important, they bring together our members and possible new members who have similar interests. The dissemination of these ideas is one of the benefits of our Newsletter and I would therefore encourage you to share those ideas with our members through this newsletter.**

*One of our youngest members brought up the idea of a Raffle board, a simple but most effective way of raising money and has been very successful in raising funds for our Local Charitable Causes. This came about because we engaged with the young adults and responded positively to their ideas. The moral of this story is: Listen & Learn as you are never too old to learn new tricks I also am using “easy Fundraising” it does not cost me anything and sends the contribution direct to **The Order of St. Raphael Lion Rampant Conclave** If we all used this system, we could raise Hundreds of Pounds without any effort on our parts.*

*Other ideas like Bag packing days at local supermarkets can raise Hundreds of Pounds and are fairly easy to organise, Contact the Supermarkets Customer Service and they will put in touch with their Local Champion (They will then advise you on dates available and also what criteria you need to meet to operate in their shops, (Some only do registered Charities) I’ve managed this year to sort a day at **MORRISONS SUPERMARKETS**. If we are successful we should hopefully raise £200 – £300 and also raise the profile of our Group locally*

You will need the following to be successful:

- 1 Plastic Tubs / buckets with your organisation and who you raise money for clearly visible.
- 2 Enthusiastic Bag Packers with personality to chat to customers as you are packing.
- 3 1 Spare person to enable others to take breaks ~ no more than ½ hour packing is advisable.
- 4 A Table display is good way of publicising your organisation and having a spare collection bucket on the table helps increase donations from shoppers who just want to help your charity.

OUR ORDERS AIMS & BELIEFS - WHAT ARE WE ABOUT?

PRAYER

The main purpose of our Order has always been to aid the cure of those who are sick in mind or body. We do this by way of PRAYER. It is our belief, in common with many other religions, that God listens to prayer, and that the greater the volume of prayer towards any specific end, the more likely that it will be granted. Therefore, we pray for the sick, in our homes and at our meetings. It was to fulfil this purpose that the Order was instituted by a Charter dated 1st January 1953, by the Pope of the Catholic Apostolic Church. Before this the Order had existed on a less formal basis.

ECUMENICAL We are an Ecumenical Order, and admit both men and women on an equal basis. Any CHRISTIAN may join provided he or she signs a Declaration of Faith which forms part of the application form. Some members have a belief in, and practise, 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 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.

KNOWLEDGE: The second purpose of our Order is to acquire and preserve esoteric knowledge, and to pass on such knowledge to others. We are especially concerned the wisdom of philosophers and teachers, past and present, should not be lost to Mankind. How many of us have read the writings of, or are even conversant with the works of early and erudite teachers, such as Ignatius? How many have read the words of those whose thoughts did not find favour with the authorities of their times? Even those who were not Christian often had a message of importance, and deserve to be studied. We encourage members to read and study such teachers of all disciplines, in the belief that the work of all great thinkers deserves to be considered and discussed. It must be stressed that not everything that is considered is accepted. We wish to broaden our educational horizons, and the discussion of all topics widens our understanding of the conditions that created such ideas.

MEETINGS Throughout the year we organise meetings that any member may attend to hear speakers on various subjects. At the local level Conclaves arrange their own programme, to suit the requirements of the members. Typically, this consists of three meetings a year at dates acceptable to its members - usually a social occasion, a learning occasion and an Investiture to welcome and admit new members. There are opportunities to unite with other Orders to learn their aims and objectives.

Our aims are best summarised in the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy:

1~Feed the hungry ~ 2~ Give drink to the thirsty ~ 3~Clothe the naked with a garment ~ 4~Visit and ransom the captives, 5~Shelter the homeless ~ 6~Visit and relieve the Sick ~ 8~Bury the dead.

CHIVALRIC In addition to the Charter granted by the Catholic Apostolic Church, the Order has a second Charter, one granted on 17th June 1954, by the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order of the Levant. By virtue of this second Charter we may now grant our members the grades and ranks handed down from the Teutonic Order of St Mary, founded in 1190 AD, when pilgrims to the Holy Land from Bremen and Lubeck, wished to administer and protect a new hospital in Jerusalem, which had been built to replace a much older one.

HISTORY The Grand Master of any may permit another existing Order to perform some functions of his own Order. This is what happened in the aftermath of the Second World War when the Teutonic Knights found they had problems in Europe. Rather than lose the traditions of an Order that went back more than 750 years, they were transferred to the protection of our Order in England, on 17th June 1954. We then became a Chivalric Order.

CHARITY the Order undertakes charitable fundraising at its meetings. Each Conclave chooses a small local charity to support, thus giving maximum support and gaining invaluable publicity for both the charity and the Order.

GENERAL Our Order believes that **NOW** is the time when people are seeking a Spiritual Base from which to study the Great Mystery of Life. We hope that our members find Peace of Mind and a strengthening of Faith in their association with the Order, for we are guided by the writings of St James, Chapter 5 verses 14, 15 & 16.

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the Elders of the Church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the Prayer of Faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

CEREMONY Ceremonial meetings are usually held in a Church which may be of any recognised denomination. From the earliest days of Knighthood aspirants spent the evening before investiture in Vigil before the altar. Early next day the Accolade having been administered all would partake in Holy Communion. Our ceremony of Admission and the creation of Knights and Dames is beautiful and meaningful, and takes place in Peterborough each year.

The Order also administers, as an Order of Merit, **The Most Meritorious, Spiritual and Military Order of St Mark** to recognise the efforts of members on behalf of St Raphael.

MEMBERSHIP The membership of the Order is inexpensive as we believe that knowledge should be, and we wish to encourage participation in all our activities. You will, however, be expected to pay for the insignia of your rank prior to its presentation on Admission.

INSIGNIA

Dame Margaret Gunnell reminds members that a variety of gifts and insignia are 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 contact details are below.

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 as of 2016 and subject to change as stock is replenished, so please **check** with Dame Margaret before placing any orders. gcoi@orderofstraphael.org.uk

The newsletter is written by the herald, Chevalier Ian Cameron. Articles for publication should be sent to him at gh@orderofstraphael.org.uk

ALL OTHER COMMUNICATIONS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE MUST BE TO:

Grand Chancellor

R.E. Chevalier David Haywood, OStJ, GCSR, GCSM

89 Haig Road, Bury, BL8 2LG.

Tel: 0161 764 4786

email: gc@orderofstraphael.org.uk

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR GRAND MASTER

JULIAN K GUNNELL GCSR, GCSM

Dear Knights, Dames & friends,

At this time of year our thoughts turn to the Festive Season and quite rightly there is much excitement about welcoming relatives and friends into our homes. There's a special pleasure in having friends round on Christmas Day or just simply relaxing quietly in front of the fire, whatever suits you best. However, let us not forget those less fortunate than us. Those that do not have friends or family to support them, those struggling financially and last but by no means least, those fighting illness and disease. As a member of our Christian Healing Order, I ask you to spare a little time on Christmas Day, say at 5 p.m., find somewhere tranquil and offer up a short prayer for these unfortunate people. If we are able to do this, the combined outpouring of love cannot fail to be heard by our Lord. Never underestimate the power of prayer!

Finally, Margaret and I wish you all a very Happy & Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order and with the Blessings of St Raphael,

Julian Gunnell, Grand Master,



OBITUARIES

Patricia (Patti) Dorothy Ansell 1933-2017



On Thursday, 9th November 2017, Dianne and I attended the funeral of **Dame Patti Ansell DGCSR** at The Fenland Crematorium, March, Cambridgeshire. Also present was our Grand Master Julian Gunnell and his wife Margaret.

The funeral ceremony, conducted by Gemma Christina, was extremely dignified and started with the film theme *Somewhere in Time* by the John Barry Orchestra. We were all welcomed by Gemma who then invited Beverley Ansell, Patti's daughter-in-law to recite the poem *Death is nothing at All* by Canon Henry Scott Holland (1847-1918). The recital was followed by a eulogy and life story of Patti prepared and read by Chris Ansell, Patti's son; it was a thoughtful tribute and much appreciated by all present. After a few moments silence we recited the Lord's Prayer and then listened to the Choir of York Minster singing *Abide with Me*. Gemma Christina then read a few words of comfort and the proceedings were concluded by Cat Stevens singing *Morning Has Broken*. Donations were readily given for Parkinson's UK. We then retired to the Oliver Cromwell Hotel, March for refreshments.

Patti was a long-standing and enthusiastic supporter of The Healing, Teaching and Chivalric Order of St. Raphael and she fully supported her husband Keith. Keith was the Grand Chancellor of The Order for many years until he passed away 11 years ago. In the early years of The Order most new candidates had their mantles made privately and Patti made many of these mantles before we approached regalia manufacturers in recent times. For her work in this area and her loyalty to The Order, Patti received the accolade of honorary Dame Grand Cross of St. Raphael.

It was an Honour to have known Dame **Patti Ansell**.

Chevalier Barry Uttley, Deputy Grand Master Emeritus

Margaret and I were privileged to be able to attend the funeral and celebration of the life of Dame Patti Ansell, DGCSR, late of our Order. The service took place 9th. November 2017 at Fenland Crematorium, Cambridgeshire. The setting was lovely and very conducive to saying one's farewell with dignity. Barry & Diane Uttley, long term friends of the family travelled down and also represented the Order with us. Her son, Chris Ansell, gave a detailed and slightly humorous eulogy to his mother and the obvious fun they had growing up. The service was a moving tribute to Patti and her very full life, from her years travelling the world with Keith her husband who was in the RAF at the time and also a former Chancellor of this Order; her time in Yorkshire, then March in Cambridgeshire and her devotion to her family throughout all that time.

Patti's health eventually failed her and she needed care from 2015, and it was whilst in the Care Home she slipped away on 24th October 2017. She will be sadly missed, a true stalwart both of life and of our Order.

Julian Gunnell, Grand Master

ANNUAL INVESTITURE 2017

This year's meeting again took place at the Masonic Hall, Peterborough on 13th May. The Grand Master opened the meeting and the Grand Chancellor read out the apologies.

There were three postulants this year – Chevalier Brian Everett, Dame Olive Ward and the Rt Rev'd Michael Ward, and we welcome them all to the Order. Prior to the Investiture Ceremony, a short vigil was introduced this year for the postulants, led by the Grand Prior, to focus the postulants' minds on the step that they are about to take.

There was just one St Raphael promotion this year, with Chevalier David Starritt promoted to Knight Grand Cross, and the Grand Prior was invested with the newly created decoration of Ecclesiastical Grand Cross. The Grand Master then had great pleasure in making a number of awards in the Order of St Mark.

The Grand Master then appointed E Dame Pamela Robinson as Commander of the Conclave of St Martin at Sées – the first female to achieve this in our Order. This being his first Investiture as GM, certificates were presented to all Grand Officers present. The full list of Grand Officers can be found on the website.

After the service, the usual convivial meal took place, attended by 26 members and guests.

The Grand Council meeting took place after lunch, and items discussed were as follows:

- The Grand Chancellor announced that although a few minor changes to the Constitution and Statutes were approved last year, several further changes were now proposed and had been circulated to members of the Grand Council by email. These were approved unanimously and a copy of the revised document can be found on the Order's website.
- At the beginning of the morning service, the Grand Chancellor had announced that we were using a temporary Ritual booklet since changes needed to be made following the change of GM. The Grand Prior now explained that we had introduced some extra items into the service, namely a Bible Reading, short intercessions, and a short section allowing those who wished to receive healing oils. There were no objections from members and so these will be introduced into the Ritual on a permanent basis.
- The Grand Prior went on to say that he had produced a St Raphael Prayer book to enable Conclaves, especially those with no ordained Prior, to have something to use at local meetings, with prayers and blessings that can be said by a lay person. It can also be used by members to assist with prayer, and covers various eventualities when prayer may be required. At the moment it is still a work in progress, but copies have been initially given to Conclaves to use and provide feedback.
- The Grand Chancellor said that a lot of positive reports were received following the service at Rugeley, and in order to build on this suggested an annual Service of Thanksgiving in the autumn of each year at Rugeley, but with a more informal lunch. This would give members of the Order an extra opportunity to meet, and it would not matter too much if the response was not huge. The Grand Prior confirmed that we could use the Cathedral at any time we wished. Full details and application forms will be sent out later in the summer. The date now set is Saturday 7th October, at 11am.
- The Grand Treasurer circulated a copy of the accounts to 31st December 2015, which showed a deficit for the year of £524.66, due mainly to the extra cost incurred in the Installation of the Grand Master and new Chains of Office and Batons. Only one member is now in arrears with subscriptions, and it is reported that he is very poorly. The accounts had been independently examined by Dame Rhoda Ross. The accounts were accepted by the meeting and thanks given to David and Rhoda for their work. David went on to say that he is stepping down as Treasurer at the end of the year, and the GM has appointed Chevalier Brian Everett to take over at that time.

- The GT went on to add that following today's raffle, and with membership donations and donations from Conclaves we had around £600 to distribute to our nominated Charities. The Grand Master said that he wished to change our distribution process and split this between the Conclaves to enable them to choose and distribute to local charities. Not only will this ensure that the money goes to small worthy charities, but the publicity opportunity is also much greater, and it is hoped that all Conclaves will make the most of this. The only criteria are that the charity must have a "human healing" aspect to it, and that details of any charities chosen must be submitted to the Grand Hospitaller and Grand Chancellor for approval before the cheques are issued by the Grand Treasurer. Commanders are to invite the local press and radio to any donations to ensure a photo opportunity.

If the press does not attend, it is the Commander's responsibility to ensure photos are taken and the copy written for the press. Photos and the "written copy" are to be sent to the Grand Hospitaller and Grand Chancellor for inclusion in the newsletter, Facebook and the website.

- Each of the three Conclave Commanders gave brief reports of their activities, and it is pleasing that we now have three active Conclaves. Copies of the reports or events can be found on the website.
- Chevalier Steven Turner spoke about a new organisation of which he is a founder. The Grand Master of the International Order of St Stanislas thought that it was about time that the *alleged* illegitimate or unrecognised Orders had their own association. He therefore created the International Confederation of Chivalric Orders (ICCO) and has sent invitations to various Orders around the World inviting them to join. At the moment and for the next few Years there will be no Fees and all costs will be met by St Stanislas; when sufficient Orders have joined a Council will be formed with each Order having representation. All Orders will remain independent as the purpose of the ICCO is to create strength in numbers and to allow exchange of ideas and possibly members.
A discussion then took place amongst the Grand Council as to whether or not we should join. There was a small number against but the majority agreed that we should give it a try and the Order of St Raphael will therefore join the ICCO for an initial period of three years.
- Steven Turner talked about the benefits of "*easyfundraising*", which enables people shopping or searching on the internet to have a small amount donated to their charitable cause. It was agreed that each Conclave should set up its own "*easyfundraising*" page and accrue the donations received in its own Conclave account for distribution in due course.

The Grand Master closed the Grand Council Meeting at 3.30pm.

The date for the 2018 Investiture is Saturday 12th May. @ 11am.

New members admitted:

Chevalier Brian Everett, MBE (KSR)
 Dame Olive Ward (DSR)
 Rt Rev'd Michael Ward (SchSR)

St Mark Awards:

RE Dame Margaret Gunnell (DGCSM)
 E Steven Turner (KCSM)
 Dame Dianne Uttley (DCSM)
 Chevalier Ian Cameron (OSM)
 Dame Susan Austin (MSM)
 Chevalier Mike Boxall (MSM)

Promotions:

E Chevalier David Starritt (GCSR)

Photographs of the event can be viewed in the Gallery on the website.
www.orderofstraphael.org.uk

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING - SATURDAY 7TH. OCTOBER 2017

Cathedral of the Old Catholic Church UK, Rugeley

Members of the Order, some travelling from Scotland, Darlington and London, gathered at the Cathedral for the first of what is hoped to be a regular annual event. The old cathedral is a beautiful building and the ambiance was magnificent. The service was led by the Great Prior, Right. Rev'd. Geoffrey Robinson with reading from Pamela Robinson, David Haywood and me. We also had the Archbishop, Most Rev'd John Lycett with three visiting priests to join us.

It was a very pleasant event and afterwards we went to a local pub for lunch. This turned out to be a very pleasant indeed as it was "Buy 1 Get 1 Free"! A perfect ending to a perfect day! Next year we hope that more will come along.



I am indebted to Geoffrey & David for the work they put in organising the event, to Geoffrey for writing the service and to the Archbishop, John Lycett, for allowing us the use of the cathedral.

Julian Gunnell GCSR GCSM, Grand Master

SOME PERIODIC RAMBLINGS OF THE PRIOR

June 2017 (Issue 30)

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. I have also reprinted Issue 30 as I feel it is a message we should not allow to dim in our daily thoughts and actions

Dear Members

As Christians, we need to play a very important role in society these days, when social structures are collapsing, family life breaking up and everyone appears to be only concerned about pleasing themselves. But there are still those people who look to Christians to provide the answers, and we can only help society find the right solutions, when we set a good example ourselves. So, as followers of Christ, our lives should be an example of true Christian teaching. Any conduct falling short of this will only invite criticism and will inevitably further restrict the growth of the Church.

The example of Christ should be central to our life and faith so that our minds are characterised by the self-giving attitude of Christ, the Good Shepherd. In Biblical times the Shepherd cared for his sheep, called them by name, led them to pasture and water, found shelter for them during inclement weather, defended them against bandits and wolves, and willingly laid down his life for them. Unfortunately, this image of the Good Shepherd does not move us as it did the people of Israel, and the early Christians. But if we really want to understand the Scriptures and to know our true relationship with God, we must understand the image of the Shepherd and his sheep. Shepherds and sheep are not very common or relevant in today's high tech, computerized world. And we do not like to think of ourselves as dumb, submissive animals.

We are sophisticated human beings, or so we think! We have an intellect and a free will, to go where we please and do what we want. And we don't like sheep dogs yapping and snapping at our feet. But perhaps we are more like sheep than we really care to admit: Because, like sheep we seem to be oblivious of everything

except the plot of grass that surrounds us here and now. We spend all of our time feathering our little nest here, as if it will go on forever.

Just like sheep, we are not conscious of the ravenous wolves that surround us in the counter-culture in which we live – though we really should be. To say nothing of the wolves that come to us in sheep's clothing. And just like sheep, we always think that the grass is greener on the other side, so we stray from the flock. Now, whether we appreciate it or not, the image of the Good Shepherd and his sheep is enshrined forever in the Bible and in Christianity. In very truth it fits every generation, even our own. So, what a great blessing it is for us Christians, to follow Jesus and his Apostles with great joy and confidence, wherever they may lead us. Amen.

+Geoffrey

Around the Conclaves - News & Events

CONCLAVE OF MARTIN AT SEES

The Conclave Commander is E. Dame Pamela Robinson, DCSR, CSM

You can contact Helen at csm@orderofstraphael.org.uk

Recently Dame Pamela Robinson presented a cheque of £310.00 to 'Autism Ventures' who were founded in the early 1970s in the Merseyside region, Autism Initiatives remains a parent-led charity. They are a founder member of the Autism Alliance and connected with regional and national autism networks and strategy groups.



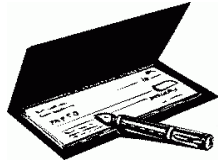
Pictured on the right is the presentation of the cheque to "Sam" and Cathy from Autism Ventures in Southport.



LION RAMPANT CONCLAVE

The Commander is E Chevalier David Starritt, KCSR, GCSM

You can contact David at clr@orderofstraphael.org.uk



I am very proud to report that virtually all members of the Lion Rampant Conclave turned out this morning for the visit to St James's Court, for the presentation of a cheque for £400 to Inspire, and for the draw for Melanie's lucky square. We were shown the sensory area that we helped equip last year, and the donation today will help equip it further...

Pictured on the right is the winner of the Lucky draw, our latest new postulant, Mrs Moira Scott, which was drawn by one of the staff from "INSPIRE" at St. James House in Inverurie, Aberdeenshire.

R.E. David R. Starritt GCSR GCSM and Melanie McLellan, who organized the Lucky Draw, are pictured presenting the prize of a basket of Fruit & flowers to Mrs Moira Scott alongside Hon. Almoner Ross McLellan and Vice Chancellor Dame Elaine Starritt.



Since winning the Lucky Draw, Moira has joined the Order of St. Raphael at our Meeting in August in the Masonic Temple, Inverurie, along with her husband Richard Scott, who were both inducted into the Conclave by the Grand Chancellor.

Abbreviated Minutes of our Meeting held at Mosseye Steading, Oldmeldrum, 25th June 2017

Matters arising: It was agreed that we would invite Albert Thomson and other members of the Confraternity of Knights of the Most Holy Trinity to our AGM in September. DS will do this. It was agreed to repeat Melanie's lucky square fundraiser. The squares will be £1 each, that each member will be given 13 numbers to sell, and would each contribute £5 to the cost of the prize, a Christmas hamper. The draw will take place in December at the same time as the donation. Ian Cameron is still trying to get us a bag packing slot at M&S, Inverurie, but it is uncertain whether the application will be successful. He will now attempt to get the same at Morrison's, Inverurie.

Treasurer's report: Gordon Wackett presented a summary of the present state of the accounts. These were accepted. The bank balance stands at £305. It was agreed that we again donate to Inspire, amount to be decided at the AGM.

"Easy fundraising" is up and going, but we have not seen yet any money coming through to us. everyone was reminded to try and make use of this. **Members** were

encouraged to pay their oblations in good time as this increases the amount that comes back to us from the main Order. Standing Orders were encouraged. The Order used to give hefty donations to national causes once a year. They have changed this, and will send money through to the Conclaves for us to use locally. We can expect to receive £250 for this purpose.

Fund-raising: Moira and Anne offered to raise money through a tea party in a village hall. This was welcomed. We shall await the details.

Recruitment and retention: We are a small group and must gain new members, and endeavor to at least get back to our original number of 16 members. Each member was encouraged to try to recruit suitable people. Though not yet members, Richard and Moira were also encouraged to try to enroll new members.

Promotions: Within the Order, Chevalier Ian Cameron has been promoted to the rank of Officer of the Order of St. Mark (OSM) and has also been made Grand Herald. David has been promoted to GCSR, will be standing down as Grand Treasurer, and will take up Grand Registrar as Elaine wishes to relinquish this duty.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be scheduled for Sunday 24th September. This will be opened and closed in full ritualistic form. We have two for admission to the Order. We may work a ceremony of admission, or perhaps the Grand Master will attend and undertake this plus the conferring of knighthood. This will be held at the Masonic Lodge, Inverurie, at 10:30, followed by lunch at the Kintore Arms.

AOCB: It was suggested that the Order might consider applying for Charitable status. Donations then could be Gift Aided. DS will pass this on. This was followed by a wonderful spread, thanks to Sabina, good company and good conversation.

Grace was given by our Chaplain, Chevalier Michael Stephen KSR OSM.

Annual General Meeting – 24th September 2017



Today we had our AGM. We had a visit by the Deputy Grand Master, and we admitted two new members to our Order. Good company, good food, what more could you ask for!

**Dame Moira Scott, Grand Chancellor, R.E.
Chevalier David Haywood, and Chevalier
Richard Scott**



*A Happy bunch o' Quines & Loons.
Or
Mony a mickle maks a muckle*

Loons are Boys or Young Men
~ **Quines** are Girls or Young Women ~ **Mony** is Many and
Mickle is Small/little whilst
Muckle is Big / Large

Morrison Bag Pack We have now fixed our date for the bag pack as the 20th December 2017, we have at present 5 volunteers and hopefully we can persuade some family members to assist.

And finally: The new date for the **FIZZY TEA PARTY** is Saturday 3rd February. 2018, Members, Friends, Family are all welcome to what should be a fun day for all.

CONCLAVE OF ST THOMAS BECKET – MARTYR

The Conclave Commander is **E. Chevalier Lawrence Day**, CStJ, KCSR

You can contact Alan at ctb@orderofstraphael.org.uk or telephone: 0208 3904642

St Thomas Becket – Martyr - Annual General Meeting 2016

At the previous meeting and at the Grand meeting in Peterborough as well as by email correspondence members of the St William of Rochester Conclave had decided that it would be sensible to place the Conclave into abeyance and transfer into St Thomas Becket – Martyr. Following a brief discussion at which the Kent members present had voiced their agreement with this view and following a proposal from Penny Bell-Wright seconded by Peter Robins, the members of St Thomas Becket – Martyr voted unanimously to accept the Kent members. A general discussed then ensued and it was agreed that all members should be encouraged to attend and that those who did not generally respond should be telephoned.

It was agreed that a Conclave meeting would be held in Kent, probably at Dartford, on a date to be decided. It was also agreed that a Dinner would be held on the Friday before the 29th September each Year, three courses excluding drinks. To encourage members to become more active, 3 or 4 activities per year would also be arranged. The following initial suggestions were put forward, a tour of Windsor Castle, to be arranged with Leslie Grout, renowned expert, a trip on the London Eye and a trip down the River to Greenwich, possibly with a meal in the O2.



CHEVALIER BRIAN EVERETT, GRAND TREASURER

MBE, KSR, BA, FRAeS, FIMgt, FCIPS, MCIT, MSOE, MIRTE

Brian's first career started in the Royal Air Force following National Service in the 1950's and after a brief spell working as a civil servant, he returned to the RAF in 1958. In the subsequent years he served in many parts of the world and held a number of senior operational and staff appointments. In 1972, he was awarded the MBE for military operations in the Middle East.

There then followed a variety of positions in the Ministry of Defence during which he was appointed MOD Escort Officer to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, accompanying them on many of their official overseas visits throughout the late 1970s.

In 1985, he decided to leave the RAF whilst there was still time to develop a second career and to exercise management skills in a more commercially competitive environment. Initially, becoming Assistant Director of Planning and Transportation for the City of Westminster and nominal Chief of Staff for six other divisions. It was during this period that he successfully absorbed many of the tasks, previously carried out by the Greater London Council, with no additional resources and against an almost impossible time-scale. Once this was achieved he was given the task of implementing "Privatisation Reviews" and setting each of the identified areas on a fully commercial basis before becoming Director of Commercial Operations with responsibility for moving these businesses into the private sector.

Having successfully completed this task, he left to set up his own business. In the years that followed he became Chairman and Chief Executive of the Capital Group, a group of companies involved in the design, implementation and operation of city centre parking schemes throughout Europe. He worked on many projects both at home and overseas, the including major schemes in Spain, Mexico, Malta, Africa and the Far East. The Group was eventually sold to a French multi-national in 1991, Six months later he was invited to join London Transport to take on the role of contracts management and eventually, in conjunction with the Department of Transport and others, he played a major role in the successful privatisation of London Buses. Subsequently, he was appointed a main board director, assuming the regulatory and contracting role as Procurement and Infrastructure Director for London Bus Services Limited and London River Services Limited, with an annual budget of almost £1 billion (1993 values). The work included the introduction and development of the bus and river networks for London, the procurement of bus and boat services and infrastructure. He was made a Freeman of the City of London in 2001.

When he retired from London Transport, as well as taking on voluntary roles, he became a director of one of the London Bus operating companies, helping them to restructure and putting their company on a more solid financial footing. In addition to owning and running a country house hotel in the Scottish Borders he also created and managed Translink Consultancy, a company operating in a several specialist areas including transportation, parking, finance, procurement, contract management, infrastructure and engineering.

In the years that followed, he became a non-executive director of NHS Darlington Primary Care Trust, Chairman of NHS County Durham & Darlington Community Health Services, Chairman of the South Durham U3A, Church Warden and President of British Gymnastics. Having been an international athlete, he takes an active interest in all sport. Over the past 17 years he has been involved in fund raising for many charities; climbed many of the world’s major mountains and competitively walked, run and cycled many thousands of miles in the process



Charity Challenge 2017



Simulated walk across the American Continent (or the equivalent of completing the Tour de France)

For over 17 years I’ve been undertaking a number of challenges for different charities. These range from climbing mountains and volcanoes in Europe, Africa, Asia and South America, at altitudes up to 21,000 ft; long distance walks across the UK and Africa; and long-distance cycle rides in excess of 1,000 miles, averaging 72 miles a day. In the process I have raised over £150,000 for various charities.

This year I’m supporting a different charity and you could say, at the age of 82, I’m investing in the future! As I have many other commitments, I can’t afford to be away for almost a year whilst transiting America so I’m doing the equivalent mileage where ever and whenever I can. Some days 5 miles and on others up to 25 miles. Since the first of January this year I’ve completed 1182 miles, reached the equivalent height of 30,090 ft and in the process burned off 474,607 calories, so I’m on target, slightly ahead if I’m crossing America; slightly behind if it’s the Tour de France.

As in previous years, I will be paying all my own expenses, so that every penny raised goes to the charity concerned.. Donations can be made, through either the web page which is www.justgiving.com/Brian-Everett2017 which is then paid directly to the charity or forward it to the charity (quoting Brian Everett’s Fund Raising) or send it to me at the address below. If you are a UK tax payer you can Gift Aid your contribution at no extra cost to yourself but make sure you give your address and a statement to that effect.

Brian D.Everett, MBE,
4, Mowden Hall Drive,
Darlington, DL3 9BJ
Tel: 01325-360423 or Mob: 07508-595960
bd.everett@ntlworld.com

EVENTS / OCCASIONS

Annual outings are one which many of our members enjoy, as it enables them to get to know each other better in informal surroundings, whilst at the same time allowing us to participate in the Order’s objectives of Healing and Teaching, and to raise a small amount of money for the Order’s charity.

Please advise on any events planned for this year or next year. Also I can include in the section below any members you wish to include?

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with you.		
Name	Reason for prayers	Submitted by

Accounts ~ The Order of St. Raphael ~ 2016

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Subscriptions	£1260.00	£1020.00
Admission Fees	£100.00	£50.00
Sales of Regalia	£108.00	£358.00
Donations	£377.00	£435.81
Dining Fees	£775.00	£1792.00
Interest	£0.37	£0.12
	<u>£2620.37</u>	<u>£3655.93</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
To Conclaves	£100.00	£190.00
Regalia	£38.84	£1376.89
Donations	£633.00	£700.00
Catering	£950.00	£1857.00
Bank Charges	£0.00	£0.00
Postage & Stationery	£0.00	£64.70
Website & Newsletter	£222.83	£0.00
	<u>£1944.67</u>	<u>£4188.59</u>
Drop in Value of Stock	£347.00	£-8.00
Surplus (Deficit) for the period	£327.80	£-524.66

Balance Sheet as at 31st. December

Balances as at 1st. January	Current. a/c	£1065.34	£3313.51
	Deposit a/c.	£1701.82	£202.19
	Cash	£34.00	£0.00
	Float	£87.41	£48.57
	Assets	£2856.80	£2509.80
Add surplus (deficit) for year		£328.80	£-524.66
		<u>£6074.07</u>	<u>£5549.41</u>

Represented by Assets

Insignia Stock	£2393.00	££2401.00
Ceremonial Cushions /Sword & Gavel.	£62.00	£62.00
Chains of Office	£54.80	£750.80
Closing Balance	Current a/c	£3313.51
	Deposit a/c.	£202.19
	Cash	£0.00
	Float	£48.57
		<u>£6074.07</u>
		<u>£5549.41</u>

I, the undersigned submit this statement of accounts as a true and accurate record of the accounts of the Order for the year ending 31st. December 2016: E. Chevalier David R. Starritt, KCSR, GCSM., Grand Treasurer.

Examiners Report: I have examined the books and vouchers of these accounts and am satisfied that the above is a true record of the accounts and funds for the year ending 31st. December 2016:

Dame Rhoda W. Ross, DSR, Examiner of Books

Dated: 21st. February 2017

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A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND TREASURER

I am pleased to report that our finances are sound and in order to secure those funds and to improve our charitable works we have three methods by which members can pay their oblation (subscription) for the current year.

- 1) **On-line banking, Pay Order Bank Account – State your name on payment (A.N. Other ~ Sub/2018)**
- 2) **Standing order ~ ask me for an STO form and give it to your bank.**
- 3) **OR ~ Send a Cheque to the address detailed below**

E. Chevalier Brian Everett, MBE, KSR, 4 Mowden Hall Drive, Darlington, DL3 9BJ.

Cheques payable to: "Order of Saint Raphael" ~ Sort Code:30-98-74 ~ Acct. No: 03007698

ABSTRACT RAMBLINGS FROM THE GRAND HERALD

As the Grand Herald for the Order of St. Raphael. I said I would attempt to bring new and interesting items and articles along with thought-provoking content to the Order of St. Raphael Newsletter. Also, if you feel that there is some aspect of your Conclave that helps promote the Order or have some ideas on this newsletter and its format, please contact myself in the first instance, either by Telephone or e-mail and I will be more than happy to review your comments or suggestions.

- (a) **It is important that we know our members throughout the Order and that's what I think the newsletter is intended to promote and broadcast. So, please let me know of your Interests, thoughts and Aspirations for yourselves and the Order in General.**

*I personally have embarked on a restoration project for a two-wheeled tractor unit (Howard Clifford 700). I also do quite a bit of Landscaping at our Converted Farm Steading including Dry Stone Walling and Fencing. We also have chickens (Fresh Eggs) and Grandchildren (Laughter & tears) here on the Steading so life is always full on, I am also a Member of the Local **MENS SHED** and Secretary/Scribe / Recorder of 3 Masonic Organisations and an Office Bearer in 3 more Local and Provincial Orders along with being an active member in 2 other Non-Masonic Organisations which all raise considerable amounts of money for good causes.*

- (b) **New Members are the life blood of any organisation, let us know how you think that we can encourage likeminded Individuals to become part of our organisation**

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I have two applicants in mind for joining, but it is important that we ensure applicants have the inclination to participate in our Orders with both Philosophical and practical efforts on behalf of our fellow human beings. I have taken a slow but sure approach with invitations to our events and promoting our ideals. Hopefully, this will inspire them to take further participation in our order as I sometimes believe we are too quick to ask people to join without ensuring that their own personal circumstances and beliefs match our Orders ideals.

- (c) **Raising money for our charitable donations is a very worthwhile aspiration, how we do it is more problematical. New ideas based on new technologies like EASY FUND RAISING is one way we can improve our contributions to charity, old ideas are just as important, they bring together our members and possible new members who have similar interests. The dissemination of these ideas is one of the benefits of our Newsletter and I would therefore encourage you to share those ideas with our members through this newsletter.**

*One of our youngest members brought up the idea of a Raffle board, a simple but most effective way of raising money and has been very successful in raising funds for our Local Charitable Causes. This came about because we engaged with the young adults and responded positively to their ideas. The moral of this story is: Listen & Learn as you are never too old to learn new tricks I also am using “easy Fundraising” it does not cost me anything and sends the contribution direct to **The Order of St. Raphael Lion Rampant Conclave** If we all used this system, we could raise Hundreds of Pounds without any effort on our parts.*

*Other ideas like Bag packing days at local supermarkets can raise Hundreds of Pounds and are fairly easy to organise, Contact the Supermarkets Customer Service and they will put in touch with their Local Champion (They will then advise you on dates available and also what criteria you need to meet to operate in their shops, (Some only do registered Charities) I’ve managed this year to sort a day at **MORRISONS SUPERMARKETS**. If we are successful we should hopefully raise £200 – £300 and also raise the profile of our Group locally*

You will need the following to be successful:

- 1 Plastic Tubs / buckets with your organisation and who you raise money for clearly visible.
- 2 Enthusiastic Bag Packers with personality to chat to customers as you are packing.
- 3 1 Spare person to enable others to take breaks ~ no more than ½ hour packing is advisable.
- 4 A Table display is good way of publicising your organisation and having a spare collection bucket on the table helps increase donations from shoppers who just want to help your charity.

OUR ORDERS AIMS & BELIEFS - WHAT ARE WE ABOUT?

PRAYER

The main purpose of our Order has always been to aid the cure of those who are sick in mind or body. We do this by way of PRAYER. It is our belief, in common with many other religions, that God listens to prayer, and that the greater the volume of prayer towards any specific end, the more likely that it will be granted. Therefore, we pray for the sick, in our homes and at our meetings. It was to fulfil this purpose that the Order was instituted by a Charter dated 1st January 1953, by the Pope of the Catholic Apostolic Church. Before this the Order had existed on a less formal basis.

ECUMENICAL We are an Ecumenical Order, and admit both men and women on an equal basis. Any CHRISTIAN may join provided he or she signs a Declaration of Faith which forms part of the application form. Some members have a belief in, and practise, 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 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.

KNOWLEDGE: The second purpose of our Order is to acquire and preserve esoteric knowledge, and to pass on such knowledge to others. We are especially concerned the wisdom of philosophers and teachers, past and present, should not be lost to Mankind. How many of us have read the writings of, or are even conversant with the works of early and erudite teachers, such as Ignatius? How many have read the words of those whose thoughts did not find favour with the authorities of their times? Even those who were not Christian often had a message of importance, and deserve to be studied. We encourage members to read and study such teachers of all disciplines, in the belief that the work of all great thinkers deserves to be considered and discussed. It must be stressed that not everything that is considered is accepted. We wish to broaden our educational horizons, and the discussion of all topics widens our understanding of the conditions that created such ideas.

MEETINGS Throughout the year we organise meetings that any member may attend to hear speakers on various subjects. At the local level Conclaves arrange their own programme, to suit the requirements of the members. Typically, this consists of three meetings a year at dates acceptable to its members - usually a social occasion, a learning occasion and an Investiture to welcome and admit new members. There are opportunities to unite with other Orders to learn their aims and objectives.

Our aims are best summarised in the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy:

1~Feed the hungry ~ 2~ Give drink to the thirsty ~ 3~Clothe the naked with a garment ~ 4~Visit and ransom the captives, 5~Shelter the homeless ~ 6~Visit and relieve the Sick ~ 8~Bury the dead.

CHIVALRIC In addition to the Charter granted by the Catholic Apostolic Church, the Order has a second Charter, one granted on 17th June 1954, by the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order of the Levant. By virtue of this second Charter we may now grant our members the grades and ranks handed down from the Teutonic Order of St Mary, founded in 1190 AD, when pilgrims to the Holy Land from Bremen and Lubeck, wished to administer and protect a new hospital in Jerusalem, which had been built to replace a much older one.

HISTORY The Grand Master of any may permit another existing Order to perform some functions of his own Order. This is what happened in the aftermath of the Second World War when the Teutonic Knights found they had problems in Europe. Rather than lose the traditions of an Order that went back more than 750 years, they were transferred to the protection of our Order in England, on 17th June 1954. We then became a Chivalric Order.

CHARITY the Order undertakes charitable fundraising at its meetings. Each Conclave chooses a small local charity to support, thus giving maximum support and gaining invaluable publicity for both the charity and the Order.

GENERAL Our Order believes that **NOW** is the time when people are seeking a Spiritual Base from which to study the Great Mystery of Life. We hope that our members find Peace of Mind and a strengthening of Faith in their association with the Order, for we are guided by the writings of St James, Chapter 5 verses 14, 15 & 16.

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the Elders of the Church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the Prayer of Faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

CEREMONY Ceremonial meetings are usually held in a Church which may be of any recognised denomination. From the earliest days of Knighthood aspirants spent the evening before investiture in Vigil before the altar. Early next day the Accolade having been administered all would partake in Holy Communion. Our ceremony of Admission and the creation of Knights and Dames is beautiful and meaningful, and takes place in Peterborough each year.

The Order also administers, as an Order of Merit, **The Most Meritorious, Spiritual and Military Order of St Mark** to recognise the efforts of members on behalf of St Raphael.

MEMBERSHIP The membership of the Order is inexpensive as we believe that knowledge should be, and we wish to encourage participation in all our activities. You will, however, be expected to pay for the insignia of your rank prior to its presentation on Admission.

INSIGNIA

Dame Margaret Gunnell reminds members that a variety of gifts and insignia are 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 contact details are below.

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 as of 2016 and subject to change as stock is replenished, so please **check** with Dame Margaret before placing any orders. gcoi@orderofstraphael.org.uk

The newsletter is written by the herald, Chevalier Ian Cameron. Articles for publication should be sent to him at gh@orderofstraphael.org.uk

ALL OTHER COMMUNICATIONS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE MUST BE TO:

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