



The Healing, Teaching and Chivalric
Order of St. Raphael



www.orderofstraphael.org.uk

Newsletter - Summer 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

A Message from the Grand Master	1	“No one knows the day or the hour”	8
Annual Investiture 2014	3	Thank you from the Grand Treasurer	8
St Raphael Link	5	Conclaves Get together	10
Subscriptions.....	5	St Martin Outing	11
Consecration of Lion Rampant Conclave .	6	Key Contacts.....	12
Insignia.....	7		

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER

I write to greet the members of our Order and to congratulate you all on an exciting and fruitful year.

In late March, my wife and I travelled up to Inverurie near Aberdeen where I consecrated the Lion Rampant Conclave, the Order's first in Scotland. The meeting was very well organised and attended and I had the great pleasure of investing Excellent Chevalier David Starritt as the first Knight Commander. This was followed by a delightful Scottish-themed meal, at



which David presented the Order with a Quaich filled with malt whisky and passed it around all the members at the table.

At the Annual Meeting, this gift from our Scottish Conclave was passed round those present and this will now be the custom for all our future Annual Investitures. The Quaiche is a Highland 'loving cup' which has a long history in Scotland and King James VI of Scotland gave a quaiche to his Queen, Anne of Denmark, in 1589.

The Annual Investiture itself was held in May and was well attended. Our tireless webmaster, Right Excellent Chevalier David Haywood, has

updated the Order's website and you will find there some really good pictures of the day in the Gallery section.

During the Meeting, I consecrated our fourth Conclave, Thomas a Becket, to be held in West London under the Knight Commandership of Excellent Chevalier Norman Offield. We also invested two junior members from Scotland, which enabled me to perform this ceremony which is not often used in the Order.

In January, my wife and I went to Spain for a short holiday and I visited Cordoba to see the great Mosque, only to find that it is a city dedicated to St. Raphael. In 1274, Cordoba was first struck by an outbreak of a deadly plague and set up a hospital and cemetery



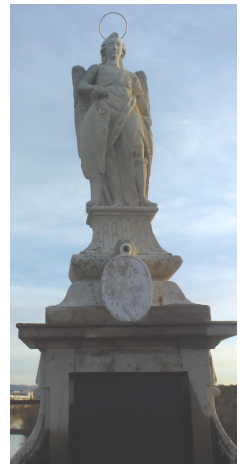
for those afflicted, situated where the statue of St. Raphael known as the Triunfo [See picture] now stands. St. Raphael is reputed to have appeared to Simon de Sousa, the headmaster of a local convent and said to him: "Tell the Bishop Don Pascual that God is very satisfied with the labour and care of his prayers for other people. Put my image on the top of the tower of the Great Mosque and celebrate my saint's day every year." After several other appearances to the faithful, it was agreed in 1655 to form a

Brotherhood of Saint Raphael which is still active today and has its own church in the city. St. Raphael is said to have appeared again to a local priest in 1349 when the city was again cursed with an outbreak of the plague, known in England as the Black Death, and the archangel told the priest that he would spare Cordoba from the worst effects of the pestilence because of the piety of the priest and Cordoba's citizens.



Once the plague had subsided, several monuments were erected to honour St. Raphael, who then became the city's patron saint.

St. Raphael is of course the patron saint of healing and there is so much in the present world which results from races and other groups focussing on their differences instead of tolerating and celebrating each other's value as members of a common humanity. It is the role of each of us in the Order to contribute, as far as we can, to this healing process by showing in our lives tolerance and humanity and teaching others the value of this approach whenever opportunity occurs.



May I conclude by wishing you and your loved ones a healthy and happy autumn and I look forward to meeting you all again in May if not earlier.

+Howard

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

ANNUAL INVESTITURE 2015

This year's meeting took place on 9th May at the Masonic Hall, Peterborough.

There was again just one postulant this year – Stan Smith, who was unable to attend the previous year, and we welcome Stan to the Order.

There were no St Raphael promotions this year, but the Grand Master then had great pleasure in promoting RE Chevalier Julian Gunnell to the rank of Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Mark in acknowledgement of his work as Grand Steward. Also promoted in the Order of St Mark were the Prior, Rt Rev'd Geoffrey Robinson, E Chevalier Alan Blackstone and Chevalier Leslie Grout, all to the rank of Knight Commander. Chevalier Clive Warham was promoted to Knight, and Chevalier Ian Cameron and Dame Sabina Cameron were admitted to the Order of St Mark in the rank of Member.

Following the service, the usual convivial meal took place, attended by only 30 members this year, and we were then introduced to Tammy Pearce, who has taken over as the new Regional Fundraiser for *Whiz-Kidz*. The Grand Master took great delight in presenting a cheque for £633 to *Whizz-Kidz*.

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

- The new Grand Treasurer produced his first set of accounts for 2014. He explained that the figures for 2012 in the accounts did not properly add up because he had not been able to obtain the financial documents of the Order, and had therefore not been able to properly carry the figures forward. The 2014 accounts were accepted by the meeting as a true record of the current situation, showing a carried forward balance of £2887.91
- Charitable donations – Chevalier John Goodenough put forward a passionate case for us to once again consider *Combat Stress* as one of our recognised charities. As an ex Services officer, John was quite forthcoming about the support that he had personally received from *Combat Stress*. Whilst no payment is to be made this year, in future years it was unanimously agreed that our financial charitable support would be equally divided between *Combat Stress* and *Whizz-Kidz*. Because of the dilution of our support, fundraising is something that will have to be given extra attention in future.
- The Custodian of Insignia reported that she has still not been able to obtain the dies from Toye Kenning Spencer. There is still an ongoing discussion with them to try and get the dies back, and a couple of members made useful suggestions to assist in this.
- There were no promotions in the Order of St Raphael today, and Commanders and Vice Chancellors are again encouraged to put names forward from their Conclaves for promotions and awards in the future.
- The GM asked those Conclave Commanders present to present reports of events, and both St Martin at Sées and Lion Rampant Conclaves have continued to maintain regular activity. The Commander of St Thomas Becket is trying to arrange a meeting of members to start the Conclave in regular activity.
- The GM confirmed that he has not yet given up hope on St William of Rochester Conclave and will continue to try to revive it.

- The Grand Chancellor, RE Chevalier Barry Uttley, has given notice to the Grand Master of his intention to step down as Grand Chancellor next year. The GM thanked Barry for all his hard work for the Order during his term of office. The GM notified the meeting that RE Chevalier David Haywood had been asked to take over from Barry and had accepted. The formal handover will take place at next year's meeting.
- The GM went on to say that he was also approaching the age of 75 and felt that it was time for him to step down and appoint a fresh leader of the Order. He will give this his due consideration over the next year and will make a formal announcement at the next meeting.
- Any other business. The Grand Treasurer has been looking at the members who have not paid subscriptions. Since there is a gap in our records for 2013, those who did not pay in 2014 will be given a further year to bring their payments up to date. However, there were thirteen who had not paid for up to five years, and after reading out the list, ten of these had their membership transferred to the inactive list and will receive no further communication, including the former Grand Treasurer. Three were to be sent a final letter at the behest of the Grand Master.

The Grand Master closed the Grand Council Meeting at 3.45pm.

New members admitted:

Chevalier Stan Smith (KSR)

Promotions:

RE Chevalier Julian Gunnell (GCSM)

Rt Rev'd Geoffrey Robinson (KCM)

E Chevalier Alan Blackstone (KCSM)

Chevalier Leslie Grout (KCSM)

Chevalier Clive Warham (KSM)

Chevalier Ian Cameron (MSM)

Dame Sabina Cameron (MSM)

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

'THE ST RAPHAEL LINK'

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

For some time now, it has been apparent that we have quite a few people on the list of members with whom we have no contact, and from whom we receive no subscriptions. The Grand Council has decided to rationalise this situation, and to remove those who continue in arrears from the membership role.

- Those who were five years in arrears have been removed with immediate effect.
- Those who are two years in arrears or more will first be contacted and given a chance to remedy the situation. As the subscriptions are due on 1st June each year, this means that if you did not subscribe in 2014, you will become two years in arrears during this year, and are liable to removal from the membership.

To make life easy for everyone (including me!) subscriptions can be paid by standing order. Contact me for details by e-mailing gt@orderofstraphael.org.uk If you prefer to pay by cheque, then please make it out to "Order of St. Raphael" and post it to the address below.

David Starritt, Grand Treasurer, The Red Lodge, Tarland, Aberdeenshire AB34 4UD

CONSECRATION OF THE LION RAMPANT CONCLAVE

This Consecration service took place on 29th March at Inverurie, Aberdeenshire.

The Grand Conclave was opened in the customary manner, led by the Grand Master, Grand Prior and Grand Chancellor, with R.E. Chevalier Julian Gunnell acting as Grand Marshal before handing over to the Conclave Marshal for the final section.

Michael Stephen, Anne Stephen, Gordon Wackett, Jeannie Wackett, Ian Ross, Sabina Cameron, John Farquharson, Lesley Farquharson, Rhoda Ross were all admitted as members of the Order. They were then all promoted to receive the accolade of Knight or Dame of the Order.

The Grand Master then consecrated the Lion Rampant Conclave, and David Starritt was appointed as the first Commander of the Conclave. He then appointed his own officers who took over their



duties immediately to close the meeting.

The Conclave was closed in traditional form, and those present retired for a banquet. Some suitable and brief toasts and speeches were proposed and given. The Grand Master was presented with a quaich for the Order. It was filled with a good single malt whisky and passed to the left around the members. The Commander promised that if the Quaich were taken to the meeting of the Order, the Lion Rampant Conclave would ensure there was something to put in it. He also promised that the Lion Rampant Conclave would give the Grand Master a suitable sum for the charitable work of the Order, but we would do this in May after we have balanced our accounts for the day. A raffle raised £120.

E Chevalier David Starritt, KCSR, GCSM

INSIGNIA

Margaret Gunnell reminds members that a variety of gifts and insignia is in stock, and that orders are now being taken. The price list appears below, and pictures of the various items appear on the website. Margaret's details can be found near the end of this newsletter.

Regalia

Breast Star		£40.00
Collarette & Jewel	(KSR)	£34.00
Bow & Jewel	(Dame)	£38.00
Collarette	(KSR)	£10.00
Collarette	(KCSR)	£18.00
Collarette & Jewel	(KCSR)	£40.00
Bow only	(DCSR)	£20.00
Miniature Jewel (Mark & Raphael)		£18.00 (Ladies bow also)
St Mark Breast Medal		£20.00
Rosette with flashes (Silver)		£ 2.00
Mantle Cross		£20.00
Mantle (Direct order from suppliers)		£117.50 inc. VAT

Miscellaneous

Cuff links	£15.00
Lapel Pins	£ 3.50
Tie of the Order	£16.00
Paper weight	£15.00

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

NO ONE KNOWS THE DAY OR THE HOUR!

Jesus said: "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaking. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then He will send His



angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.

Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near—at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”

I wonder if you have ever noticed how, when Jesus has to teach something very difficult to understand, he tends to do so by illustration and the use of a parable.



The illustration which has been used in the above portion of scripture from Saint Mark is of a fig tree. Not easy for you and I to be given such an explanation; living as we do in our part of the world, when the only encounter with figs is in biscuits or cakes!

So what is this piece of Sacred Scripture really all about? I think that the opening words are quite frightening: ‘the sun will be darkened’ – ‘the moon will loose its brightness’ – ‘the stars will fall from heaven’ – ‘the heavens will be shaken’.

Yes, very powerful words to illustrate what is to come; but I suppose that when that time does come, there will be no need for any explanation and illustrations of fig trees to be given; everyone will know without a shadow of a doubt that the end of the world is taking place!

Jesus is trying to make the point to his followers to be ready for the time when the world as we know it will end. He then goes on to make what perhaps is the more important point; that only God knows when this will come about. So what does all this really mean for you and me?

I'm afraid that we live in a world that has become something other than what God intended. Certainly in our part of the world most people are more interested in spending their time in obtaining material possessions. They would prefer to enjoy their leisure time taking holidays or pursuing recreational activities rather than living out the Gospel and worshipping God.

I am always heartened when I hear or see for myself, reports of countries or communities where Christianity is really taken very seriously indeed. A priest friend has just returned from Ecuador where he had been attending a Convention. He was full of enthusiasm; explaining how the large churches there were bulging at the seams. How when walking in the streets, he was mobbed by crowds asking for God's Blessing for themselves and their children. I have seen with my own eyes in places like Malta how the churches have to hold hourly masses starting at 5am on Sunday in order to accommodate all who wish to attend.

So I suppose that it will not be a total waste of time when God sends his holy angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the end of the world to the ends of heaven. The question is; have we been faithful to God by following the teachings of Jesus in our daily lives, for as scripture says: 'No One Knows the Day or the Hour'.

So when the time does come for God to send His Holy Angels to gather his elect, I pray that I will be counted amongst them and be found worthy to share in that heavenly inheritance.

How about you?

A THANK YOU FROM THE GRAND TREASURER

When I was appointed to this post in May, I found myself working in an information vacuum. Slowly, slowly, like working on a jigsaw, the picture has emerged. And for this I must thank everyone who has been so understanding and co-operative, the Grand Master, the Grand Chancellor, and all those Knights and Dames who had to search their records and send replacement payments. Of course, I shouldn't be surprised at this co-operation. After all, this is our Order, and we all want it to work well. But thanks anyway.

David Starritt

CONCLAVES GET TOGETHER IN 2015

The Conclaves of St Martin at Sées and The Lion Rampant are organising a joint visit to the holy site of Lindisfarne, Northumbria, during the weekend of 19-21st June 2015, and other members of the Order will be most welcome to join in if they wish.

At this stage we have no further details, but if you wish to express an interest and receive more information in due course, please contact one of the Commanders, David Haywood or David Starritt.

ST MARTIN OUTING

Following recent tradition several members of the St. Martin's Conclave met for an informal social event which included a guided tour of the



atmospheric Whalley Abbey. Members met in the car park to the Abbey which is entered through an impressive gateway suitable for a building of such importance. Members were taken on a guided tour of the site, much of which is in ruins, although there are still several majestic walls and

arches which remain to indicate the splendour of the building. Whalley Abbey was founded in 1296 by monks from Stanlow in Cheshire. Although a substantial building with a hospice/infirmary and large kitchens, only 30 monks and around 90 lay brothers actually lived there. The site contains examples of Gothic, Medieval, Tudor and even Victorian architecture as renovations have been made. The Guide was informative and interesting as well as humorous and obviously had a love of the Abbey.

Following the visit to the Abbey, members enjoyed a lunch together in a nearby hotel before visiting the local Churchyard with a view to touring the inside of the church when it opened later that



afternoon. Regretfully, the church was not opened to the public for some unexplained reason so that part of the visit was concluded by having a short service of contemplation in the churchyard. Members stood around a Celtic cross (one of three in the churchyard) and the Grand Prior led members in the 'Service of the Crosses'.

The visit concluded with members having afternoon tea together in the town of Clitheroe before making their various ways home after thanking David Haywood for organising the event.

The day proved to be one of education, pleasure, spiritual contemplation and friendship which was much enjoyed by all.

KEY CONTACTS

Grand Master

M.E. Chevalier Howard F Doe, GCSR, GCSM, Baron St Raphael
"The Warren", 21 Style Close, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 9LS
Tel: 01634 366419 email: gm@orderofstraphael.org.uk

Grand Prior

Rt Rev'd Geoffrey Robinson, SChSR, KCSM
31 Hanover St, Colne, Lancs, BB8 9HD
Tel: 01282 703177 email: gp@orderofstraphael.org.uk

Grand Chancellor

R.E. Chevalier Barry F Uttley, GCSR, GCSM, FSA Scot
Low Beckstones, The Green, Cumbria, LA18 5HZ
Tel: 01229 777793 email: gc@orderofstraphael.org.uk

Grand Herald & Grand Registrar

R.E. Chevalier David Haywood, OStJ, GCSR, KCSM
89 Haig Road, Bury, BL8 2LG
Tel: 0161 764 4786 email: gh@orderofstraphael.org.uk

Grand Treasurer

E. Chevalier David Starritt, KCSR, GCSM
The Red Lodge, Aberdeen Road, Tarland, Aberdeenshire, AB34 4UD
Tel: 01339 881271 email: gt@orderofstraphael.org.uk

Grand Custodian of Insignia

R.E. Dame Margaret Gunnell, GCSR, DCSM
Mansell Cottage, Gipsy Lane, Knebworth, Herts, SG3 6DJ
Tel: 01438 811404 email: gcoi@orderofstraphael.org.uk

Grand Steward

R.E. Chevalier Julian Gunnell, GCSR, GCSM
address as above email: gs@orderofstraphael.org.uk

The Healing, Teaching and Chivalric Order of St. Raphael

The Order is not an Order of Merit, but a stateless International Order of Chivalry. It exists for the express purpose of healing the sick, giving spiritual refreshment to those who suffer, the protection of the Wisdom Religion of the Ages and the creation of a Nobility of Spiritually Enlightened men and women to work for Universal Brotherhood.

All communications should be addressed to the Grand Chancellor, details as above: