



# The Healing, Teaching and Chivalric Order of St. Raphael

[www.orderofstaphael.org.uk](http://www.orderofstaphael.org.uk)



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The Grand Master.  
Julian K. Gunnell GCSR, GCSM

## Welcome to the Winter Newsletter

*It is pleasing to know that the Order has been quite active this year, and as well as two National events the Conclaves have also had well-attended meetings. Reports of these can be found in the newsletter and I hope that you will be able to find time to read through these. Great efforts have been made to make our work fit in with our motto of "Healing, Teaching and Chivalric", but the Order is only as good as its Officers and Members, and I would encourage each and every one of you to try and support the Order's events, either nationally, locally, or both.*

*Next year's Investiture will take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May at Peterborough, and we already have three confirmed candidates for admission, with a further three in the pipeline, possibly more. I hope, therefore, that as many members as possible will make the effort to attend and show support to these new members. If you would like to join us for an informal meal on the Friday evening, please contact Penny Bell-Wright who is making the necessary arrangements.*

*As you will read in the Grand Master's remarks, the annual Church Service is likely to be moved to make it more accessible. Further details to follow.*

*I wish all our members and their families a joyous and peaceful Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year.*

*David Haywood, Grand Chancellor*

## **From the Grand Master**

Dear Knights, Dames & Friends,

It's that time of year when our thoughts turn to the forthcoming festivities of the Christmas Season; being with friends and families, good food and the giving and receiving of gifts. Whilst there is nothing wrong with that let us try, if only for a brief period, turn our thoughts to those less fortunate than us particularly those who are not enjoying the best of health. Let us all try and gift them the gift of love through prayer remembering one of the main focuses of our Order is healing! Perhaps we could set aside a brief 5 minutes to all focus our minds on a small healing prayer for those in need; I shall aim for 6 p.m. on Christmas Day and I am sure that the might of our collective prayers will be effective. Never underestimate the power of prayer!

A number of us have been thinking of ways to bring us together during the year, not only for ceremonial but for social reasons too. That was the reason for the Service of Thanksgiving, which this year 2019 was very well attended, after being moved to August. However we accept that, beautiful that Rugeley Cathedral is, there is not much left to do after the service other than a pub lunch. Therefore it was thought that we cancel the August Service at Rugeley and substitute it with an Annual Service in the Guildhall in Lichfield. A suggested itinerary is as follows but nothing is compulsory.

First Saturday or Sunday in Advent when the Christmas Market is running.

10:30am – tea/coffee for early arrivals

11am – Annual Church service of the Order at the Guildhall, Lichfield

12 noon – light buffet lunch in the Guildhall

12:15 (whilst members eating lunch) – talk on Chivalry by Chevalier Leslie Grout

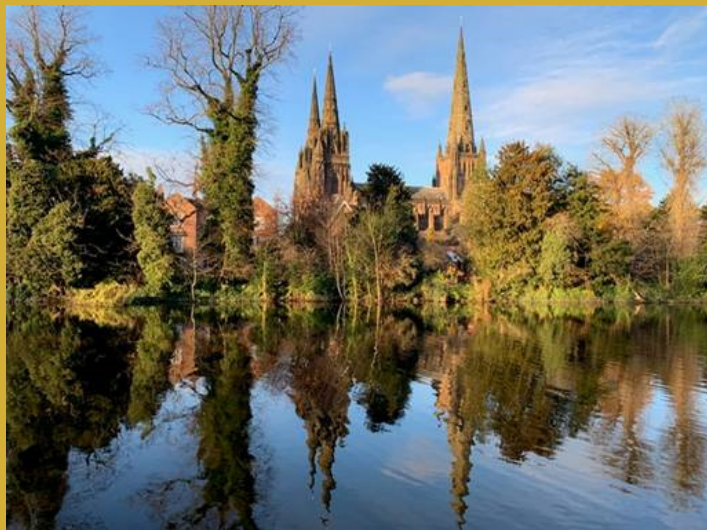
1pm onwards – chance for members to wander around the Christmas markets and city centre

5pm – attend the Advent Carol service together at Lichfield Cathedral for those so inclined

7pm – dinner in the Cathedral Café (Chapters, the Café in the Close). It is available for private bookings in the evenings, but we would probably have to meet a minimum number requirement. They offer a one, two or three course Christmas menu throughout Advent. Alternatively, there are plenty of restaurants close by where we could dine together.

The above itinerary would give all members the opportunity to take part in some or all the elements, and to either travel on the day or stay over. We thought that the varied programme might encourage more members to travel, where they may be reluctant to do so just for a service and lunch.

Lichfield is close to the M6 Toll for those driving, with plenty of parking, and there is a Premier Inn close by for those wishing to stay



over. It is also on the Trent Valley railway line with easy access to all parts of the country including London.

As your Grand Master and on behalf of Margaret too, please let me wish you and your families the happiest of Christmases and a really special New Year.

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

Julian Gunnell GCSR GCSM  
Grand Master,  
The Healing, Teaching & Chivalric Order of Saint Raphael

## **ANNUAL CHURCH SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING**

This was once again held at the delightful Cathedral of the Old Catholic Church in Rugeley, Staffordshire, in August, and we were absolutely thrilled that 25 members of the Order and their guests were able to attend.

Those members in mantles were able to join the parade into and out of the church for a lovely service kindly put together by the Grand Prior, who led the service assisted by Most Rev'd John Lycett, who will be joining the Order next year. The lessons were read by various members of the Order.

Following the service, we had a talk in the Cathedral by Dame Helen Wilson on the subject of healing oils and soul midwifery, where members of the nursing profession assist people in the final few days of their life. It was a talk that those present found very interesting, and we thank Helen for her valuable contribution to the event.



We then moved a couple of miles down the road to a local restaurant for a very sociable lunch, where members and guests were able to mingle informally over a drink or two. As you will have read, the service will be repeated again next year, but with a different venue and format, and we very much look forward to more members of the Order joining us for this occasion.

## 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](mailto:csm@orderofstraphael.org.uk)

### FORTHCOMING EVENT

23<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 - The Conclave are once again organising a visit to the "Nine Lessons and Carols" service at Ripon Minster followed by a meal at 'Prima', which is situated nearby. The proposed itinerary is as follows:

3.00pm Meet for afternoon tea at Booths Cafeteria Ripon - HG4 2BT

3.45pm Wander through Ripon to the Minster in readiness for the carol service

5.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols in the Minster

7.00pm Meal at Prima Italian Restaurant

Depart at Leisure

Please contact Dame Pamela or Bishop Geoffrey if you would like to join us.

### LION RAMPANT CONCLAVE

The Commander is E Chevalier Ian R. Cameron,

You can contact Ian at [clr@orderofstraphael.org.uk](mailto:clr@orderofstraphael.org.uk)



### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

22nd September 2019 Kintore Arms Hotel, Inverurie

Present:

Chevalier	Ian Cameron	KSR OSM	Commander
ME Chevalier	Julian Gunnell	GCSR GCSM	Grand Master
ME Dame	Margaret Gunnell	DGCSR DGCSM	Past Grand Custodian
Chevalier	Brian Everett	KSR MSM	Grand Treasurer
RE Chevalier	David Gibb	GCSR MSM	Grand Marshall
Chevalier	Michael Stephen	KSR OSM	Chaplain
RE Chevalier	David Starritt	GCSR GCSM	
Dame	Elaine Starritt	DSR MSM	Vice-Chancellor
Dame	Jeannie Wackett	DSR MSM	Banner Bearer
Chevalier	Gordon Wackett	KSR MSM	Treasurer
Dame	Rhoda Ross	DSR MSM	
Chevalier	Richard Scott	KSR	Sword Bearer
Demoiselle	Melanie McLellan	Junior member	Almoner
Esquire	Ross A. McLellan	Junior member	Marshall

Guests:



Mr.	Ross McEwen	Postulant
Mrs.	Sabina Cameron	
Mrs.	Anne Stephen	

#### Opening:

The Lion Rampant Conclave was opened in the customary manner, including a parade in.

#### Apologies for absences:

Chevalier	Grahame J. Smith	KSR	Deputy Marshall
Dame	Isobel Smith	DSR	Captain of the Guard
Dame	Moira Scott	DSR	Lecturer

Obituaries: none

#### The minutes of the June meeting:

had been previously circulated. Adoption of the minutes was proposed by David Starritt and seconded by Michael Stephen. The members of the Conclave then agreed unanimously that they were an accurate record. There were no matters arising.

#### Treasurer's report:

Gordon Wackett presented his accounts. They had been audited by Ian Cameron and by Mrs. Sabina Cameron. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by David Starritt and seconded by Michael Stephen. They were then accepted unanimously by the members.

#### Election of Treasurer:

Richard Scott was elected as treasurer for the coming year. He was proposed by David Starritt and seconded by Gordon Wackett. The proposal was passed unanimously.

It was agreed that the list of bank account signatories would need to be updated. It would fall to the new Treasurer to organise this. Current signatories are (we believe) Ian Cameron, David Starritt, Elaine Starritt, Rhoda Ross, Sabina Cameron and Gordon Wackett. Richard Scott should be added, and, as she is no longer a member, Sabina Cameron removed.

#### Appointments and promotions:

The Grand Master promoted Ian Cameron to the rank of Knight Commander (KCSR), invested him with the appropriate collarette, and presented him with a certificate, He also promoted Dame Rhoda Ross to the rank of Officer in the Order of St. Mark (OSM) and presented her with a certificate.



Ian Cameron KCSR,OSM then appointed the following officers for the ensuing year:

Deputy Commander	Chevalier	Michael Stephen	KSR	OSM
Chaplain	Chevalier	Michael Stephen	KSR	OSM
Vice Chancellor	RE Chevalier	David Starritt	GCSR	GCSM
Marshal (Hon.)	Esquire	Ross A. McLellan		
Lecturer	Dame	Elaine Starritt	DSR	MSM
Almoner (Hon.)	Demoiselle	Melanie McLellan		
Deputy Marshal	Chevalier	Grahame J. Smith	KSR	
Sword Bearer	Chevalier	Gordon Wackett	KSR	MSM
Banner Bearer	Dame	Jeannie Wackett	DSR	MSM
Captain of Guard	Dame	Isobel Smith	DSR	

Michael Stephen and Moira Scott were appointed as Examiners of Books.

#### Change in the Bye-Laws:

A change to our meeting dates had been tabled at the June meeting. It was now proposed by David Starritt and seconded by Jeannie Wackett that our meeting dates be changed to the last Sunday of June and the last Sunday of September. This was approved unanimously.

#### Suggestions on fund-raising:

A discussion on whether to hold another bag pack at Morrisons this December was inconclusive. There was disquiet about Morrisons taking 25% for their own charity. On the other hand, it gives us public exposure. However we can get exposure at the presentation of our funds to whichever good cause may be on the receiving end.

Marks and Spencer was mentioned, but it is very hard to get a slot there.

Rhoda Ross suggested applying for Community Funds from the Co-op, but the view was that you had to be a registered charity to apply.

We currently have no chosen beneficiary for our giving. Ian Cameron encouraged everyone to give some thought to this.

Ian Cameron suggested that instead we should each pay in a small amount (he suggested £5) monthly by standing order. No decision was taken today. We are to mull this over and discuss it further at our next meeting.

#### Regalia:

Ian Cameron suggested that the Conclave purchase mantles for those in office. This also to be mulled over. The Grand Master thought it a good idea, and discuss this with David Haywood.

#### Recruitment and retention:

We have Mr. Ross McEwen about to join us, and a possible postulant in Mr. Norman Peters. Ian Cameron asked us to keep an eye out for likely future members, but warned us that it is

important that we maintain the happy circle of friends that we are in the Lion Rampant Conclave, and so must be careful not to introduce anyone who might endanger that harmony.

The Vice-Chancellors report:

Elaine Starritt gave a brief but succinct report:

Since our last AGM, we packed bags at Morrisons in December, and raised about £450

We presented cheques for:

£1500 to Inspire toward the sensory room at St. James's Court.

£133 to Clic Sargeant, and

£600 to BHF towards a defibrillator.

We met in June and enjoyed a BBQ at the home of Richard and Moira Scott

There have been no new members found, and no losses.

Commander's address:

The Commander said that although we had a good variety of ages within the Conclave, he would like to see more younger members. Our efforts have been "stupendous", and to achieve the same each year will be difficult. He hopes to continue to lead the Conclave for another 2 or 3 years with this amazingly good crew.

Next meeting:

is scheduled for Sunday 28th June. The venue and arrangements to be organized by the Lecturer.

AOCB: none

Closing:

The Lion Rampant Conclave was closed in traditional form, including a parade out. The members then retired for a banquet. A modest profit of £2 was made on each diner, making £54 in all for the Conclave.



## CONCLAVE OF ST THOMAS BECKET – MARTYR

The Conclave Commander is **E. Chevalier Lawrence Bell-Wright**, KCSR, GCSM

You can contact Lawrence at [ctb@orderofstraphael.org.uk](mailto:ctb@orderofstraphael.org.uk) or telephone: 0208 7154206

Annual Meeting of the Conclave and Dinner - Saturday 7th September 2019 at 6pm

## Civil Service Club Old Scotland Yard London SW1

There were 12 Dames, Knights and Chevaliers and Ross Manson McEwen who is due to be invested in May 2020, and after a brief interlude of greetings and purchasing drinks from the bar everyone sat down at the table.

Attending: E Chevalier Bell-Wright, Dame Penelope Bell-Wright, M E Chevalier Howard Doe and Dame Lesley Doe, Dame Elizabeth Murray, Chevalier Leslie Grout, Chevalier Simon Mcilwaine, Chevalier Steve Turner, Chevalier Fabrice Mogini, Chevalier Lawrence Malpas, Ross Manson McEwen and Dame Antonella Honegger.

Dame Penny opened the meeting by presenting the apologies from our Grand Master, Julian Gunnell and Grand Chancellor David Haywood and Harold Beber who had not been well but was now home gradually getting back to full health.

Then the minutes from the previous annual meeting were presented and a brief report from the annual leisure outing in April. It transpired that a small group of the conclave had been given a tour of Windsor by the very erudite historian Chevalier Lesley Grout and everyone thoroughly enjoyed his wonderful explanations. Afterwards a pleasant lunch was had in a local pub.

Proposals were then presented for a future outing for possibly around March 2020. The most popular idea seemed to be the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London, and also a visit to the London Eye. Chevalier Simon also made another suggestion for which he appears to have helpful contacts.

Chevalier Steven then gave a summary of the accounts, and was able to reassure the assembly that the Conclave is financially sound and approximately £300+ in credit.

Dame Penny then proposed two possible charities and circulated a leaflet about them. Life Lights was unanimously chosen on the grounds that results are more tangible and small amounts can make a difference for some children. A sum of £250 pounds was decided to be devolved to the chosen Charity.

After the meal Chevalier Howard gave a brief introduction of the Order, and the conversation seemed to proceed in an interesting way about languages and history which everybody seemed to enjoy - particularly of interest was the conversation about Scottish Gaelic and Irish Gaelic.

Our Commander Lawrence gave a brief closing speech, thanking everyone for attending, and then Chevalier Simon entertained everyone with many tales and anecdotes of military and other Orders and foreign legions. In the end there was almost no time for Dame Penny to discuss some administration matters and sourcing difficulties for regalia in particular clasp designs.

Some promotional items were presented for purchasing including small torches, and pens with the St Raphael's Insignia.



## FROM THE GRAND PRIOR'S DESK

### The Sacraments of the Universal Church

The Lord Jesus Christ touches our lives through the Seven Sacraments which are a sign to us of His presence and grace. The One Holy Catholic & Apostolic Church then, celebrates these sacraments, which can be divided into three categories.



1. The Sacraments of Initiation: which include Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist.

2. The Sacraments at the Service of Communion: which include Marriage and Holy Orders.

3. The Sacraments of Healing: which include Penance and the Anointing of the Sick.



Earlier this year following the Annual Service of Praise and Thanksgiving, members of the Order of Saint Raphael were given an interesting talk about the use of Aromatherapy in the Palliative Care of the sick. Though different from the oils used by the church; we learned how some health care professionals like nurses, nursing assistants and auxiliary nurses carry out complementary therapies, like aromatherapy, therapeutic touch and homeopathy.

These forms of massage are becoming more widely available to seriously ill patients in hospitals, care homes and hospices. The medical profession is carrying out controlled and well-conducted studies to research the effectiveness of these therapies in supportive and palliative care.

Christians of many denominations do also use oils which are dedicated and consecrated for religious and sacred purposes. The Church makes use of three such holy oils. Each has a distinctive purpose within the Church.

#### Oil of the Sick:

Is pure olive oil, which is used for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick which should ideally be celebrated with the community during the Mass or Service of Holy Communion. This sacrament can also be administered at any time and in any place. The priest lays hands on the sick or elderly person, says special prayers and anoints the person by placing oil in the form of a cross on the forehead and hands.

Through this sacrament, God gives the sick person grace and strength to bear the illness or infirmity. In addition, many Christians have witnessed the power of this anointing to bring spiritual, emotional and even physical healing.

#### Oil of the Catechumens

Prior to baptism, both adults and infants are anointed with the oil of the catechumens, which is also pure olive oil. For adults, this pre-baptismal anointing often takes place during a special ceremony as part of preparation to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

This rite often takes place in church prior to Holy Communion. The priest or deacon anoints the catechumens with prayer that God will instil them with wisdom for discernment and with the strength necessary to avoid evil during their future life with Christ.

In a similar way, an infant is anointed just before receiving the waters of baptism. This anointing is to help the child ward off evil, avoid temptation and possess the faith necessary to carry the cross of Christ throughout life.

### Holy Chrism Oil

Is olive oil mixed with fragrant balsam. The oil symbolizes strength, and the balsam represents the “aroma of Christ” (2 Cor 2:15). Anointing with chrism oil signifies the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is used to consecrate someone or something into God’s service.

Chrism oil also forms part of the baptismal rite. Immediately following an infant’s baptism with water, the cross with chrism oil is traced on the crown of the child’s head, the mark of a Christian. Anointing on the head is also administered at the baptism of an adult if the person does not immediately receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Holy Chrism Oil is used as well during the ordination of a priest and at the consecration of a bishop. It is the anointing used in the consecration of a church and the blessing of an altar, sacred vessels and religious ornaments.

Each year the bishops bless enough new oils for use by his priests.

Once blessed in this way, the chrism and the other oils are no longer ordinary ointments. Instead, they are a holy, precious gift from God to the Church, signifying cleansing and strengthening, healing and comfort, and the life-giving grace of the Holy Spirit which Christ’s first Apostles received on the Day of Pentecost.

++Geoffrey

*Most Rev’d Dr Geoffrey S Robinson CJ, EGCSR*

### INSIGNIA

Dame Penny Bell-Wright 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. Penny can be contacted on 0208 7154206 or at [penny\\_b\\_w@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:penny_b_w@yahoo.co.uk)

Members of the Order are encouraged to purchase and wear the items of insignia appropriate to their rank but this is not mandatory.

### Regalia

Breast Star (Silver or gold {GCSR})		£20.00
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
Pocket torch	£3.00
Order ballpoint pen	£1.00

Prices are as of 2019 and subject to change as stock is replenished, so please check with Dame Penny before placing any orders.

### Tales from Llandudno!

The following email was received from a former Grand Prior of the Order, Bishop Gerard Crane, who some members will remember. I am sure Bishop Gerard will not take offence at this being printed!

You may recall that I had to send my apologies last year because I was ill? Unfortunately, having struggled through the year, my condition has not improved. I am expecting to be called for surgery any time soon, I have already had my pre-med so as soon as a bed becomes available I will be summoned!

Additionally, my old car failed its MOT big time and had to be disposed of. We decided that the time had come to hang-up my driving gloves after 65 years! In consequence I no longer have the means whereby I can get out to meetings so I have had to severely curtail my activities. I even have to get Taxis to take me to and from Hospital for my regular examinations. I am under four Consultants across three Hospitals! (Pam says; "*It's cheaper than car tax & Ins. etc.!*")

I joined the O. of St. R. some thirty years ago, being Initiated into Gundolph Conclave on December 18th. 1988, and served as Grand Lecturer, Senior Chaplain and Grand Prior. I also assisted with the Reconstitution of the O. of St. Mark as Chaplain-General and was awarded Knight Grand Cross on August 31st., 1996. So with that and giving several lectures on the subject of Spiritual Healing, plus articles for the Newsletter etc., I reckon I have '*served my time*'! The upward mobility of many friends mentioned in the publications fill me with pride and warmth, in the words of the old song; '*It's been good to know them*'.

Please record my sincere apologies and I pass on every Blessing to you all. Perhaps, Deo Volente, our paths may cross once again someday.

To all my friends gathered there may I say, in the words of that lovely Spiritual Poet and Guide, Rumi :-

“Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field. I will meet you there.”

In the Bonds of St. Raphael, I remain yours aye, + *Gerard*.

#### CONTENT FOR NEWSLETTERS

Is there anything that you would like to see in the newsletter? Have you held events and could send in reports or photos to share with other members?

Please contact the Grand Chancellor (details below) with any ideas.

The Newsletter Editor is Grand Chancellor R.E. Chev. David Haywood  
Articles for publication should be sent to [gh@orderofstraphael.org.uk](mailto:gh@orderofstraphael.org.uk)

**ALL OTHER COMMUNICATIONS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE MUST BE TO:**

**Grand Chancellor**

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