



The Healing, Teaching and Chivalric Order of St. Raphael



www.orderofstraphael.org.uk

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The Grand Master.
Julian K. Gunnell GCSR, GCSM

Welcome to the Summer Newsletter

As is the case with all other organisations, our plans for this summer have been decimated by the restrictions placed on us all in the wake of the Coronavirus outbreak. This newsletter, therefore, is substantially shorter than usual, but it was felt that we should continue to keep contact with our members, albeit in reduced format.

David Haywood, Grand Chancellor

From the Grand Master

Dear Knights, Dames & Friends,

I am writing to you in the middle of the worst pandemic the world as a whole has suffered for a generation. As an Order it is important that we maintain the links with one another during lockdown and the restricted movement that is to come as lockdown lifts in stages. Many of you are in other Orders and various units but that is not a reason not contact friends in our Order. Some of you are lucky enough to have gardens and the health to go for socially distanced walks but there are others on their own, in lockdown in small flats. We must not let them feel forgotten!

In view of the cancellation of our AGM at Peterborough I decided that all Grand Officers would remain in post for a further year. In addition, I am delighted to say that Dame Helen Wilson has accepted the Office of Grand Almoner, an office that she is eminently suited to, given her Caring background. This office has been vacant since the retirement of Dame Helen Neaves-Wilde and it was a concern to me that an Order such as ours did not have an active Almoner. I am also delighted that one of newest members, Ross McEwan, who was only admitted in May at the virtual meeting, has stepped up and volunteered to assume the office of Grand Steward. I am sure that they will make a success of their roles.

When the pandemic hit, we were all concerned that the postulants in waiting, Michel-Cat Le Huy, Ross McEwan and Father Graham Bayley, may feel rejected if we did nothing. To that end our Chancellor David Haywood assisted by the Grand Prior Most. Rev. Geoffrey Robinson put together what I can only describe as a very meaningful spiritual ceremony of admission. The postulants could not have the full ceremony, as part of that is dependent upon face to face contact. This will be completed at the next AGM at Peterborough, hopefully next May 2021. After the ceremony, they all said they had greatly enjoyed the experience and I am indebted to David and Geoffrey for all their efforts.

Speaking of virtual meetings, the Commander of St Thomas Beckett Martyr Conclave, Lawrence Bell-Wright, recently organised an informal Zoom meeting which was successful. I am sure we are all becoming familiar with this Zoom facility. Many of us in numerous units will have had several such virtual get-togethers but it would be nice if Conclave Commanders organised such virtual informal get-togethers on a regular (monthly?) basis. It is good way to have a chat over things whilst maintaining semi personal contact. I'll leave the Commanders to decide what works best for their Conclave.

If your charitable efforts are for the same ones that have already been approved by the Grand Hospitaller, Ian Tough, then there is no need to go back to him again. However, if there have been changes in the charity's ethos or management, please seek his advice. For all new charities please speak with Ian also.

I am indebted to all my officers for their support during this difficult time. Without good backing, no Order can thrive and we are thriving!

Finally, it is not in our remit to question the health advice given by the Government. However, it is blatantly obvious that if you don't want to get burned and possibly burn your nearest and dearest, don't put your hand in the fire! Resist the temptation to push the envelope and think things are normal. They are not! Please don't put yourself at risk and those around you by ignoring safety advice. I sincerely want to see you all come out of this unscathed, if only with a bit of cabin fever!

God bless you all and keep safe.

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 Investiture 2020

With three new members eagerly waiting to be invested, hopes were high for a good attendance at Peterborough in May. As the first warning signs of the virus came out in March, we were still hopeful that the event might go ahead, but the rest, as they say, is history, and the Grand Master soon had to take the decision to suspend all gatherings of the Order until further notice.

As the consequences of this decision started to register, the Grand Chancellor and Grand Prior started to work on a plan to hold a “virtual” Investiture. Nothing like this has ever been done in the Order, and many obstacles needed to be overcome before progress could be made.

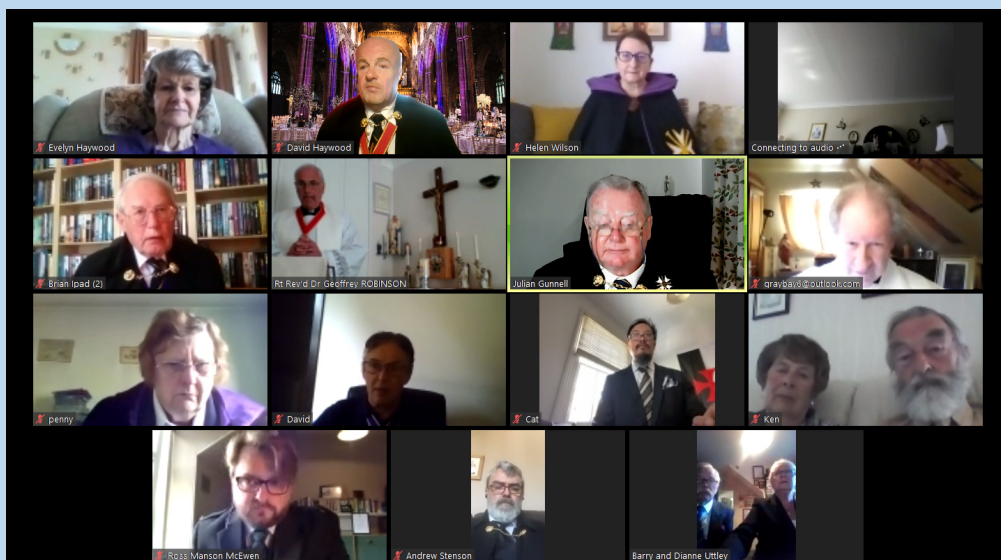
After gaining support of the Grand Master and other senior Officers, a special Resolution was put to members of the Grand Council, and following their unanimous support the plan of action was starting to take shape.

The Executive Council had been meeting since the beginning of the year using “Zoom” technology, which allows a number of people to meet face to face over the internet. However, it was noted that many of our members are not technically minded, so a series of sessions were held to ensure that those that needed to be involved were familiarised with the requirements, and this included the three postulants. These test sessions worked very well, so all was now in place for this new initiative to proceed.

A new Ritual was produced and circulated to all members of the Order with an invitation to join us for the Investiture Ceremony on the day of the originally scheduled event. It was pleasing that over 20 members and guests were able to dress for the occasion and witness the investing of the three new members, and at least five others would have joined in but unfortunately struggled with connection difficulties. The total attendance, therefore, was

very similar to what we have experienced at the Peterborough event over recent years, which was very pleasing. The screenshot below was taken during the service.

It was not felt appropriate for the new members to join the Order at Equestrian Rank without receiving this award



personally from the Grand Master, so all joined at one level below, and will be promoted at the first available opportunity. Our congratulations, therefore, to Ross McEwen, Michel-Cat Le Huy and Fr Graham Bayley on their admission to the Order, and we wish you a long and happy association with our organisation.

This “virtual” ceremony was a great success, and we may make further use of the technology in future, but of course we all look forward to meeting each other in person very soon.

GRAND OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

Since the Investiture was unable to take place this year, the Grand Master has extended the appointments of all Grand Officers for a further year, to the date of the next Investiture.

The position of Grand Almoner was vacant, and the Grand Master has appointed Dame Helen Wilson to this post. Helen is a dedicated nhs worker, and so ideally suited to this role. Should you become aware of any member of the Order being unwell, physically or mentally, please do let Helen know so that she can offer support on behalf of the Order.
ga@orderofstraphael.org.uk

Helen's previous role of Grand Steward will now be taken by Confreere Ross McEwen. Ross will be in touch in due course about the next Investiture.

AROUND THE CONCLAVES - NEWS & EVENTS

CONCLAVE OF MARTIN AT SEES

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

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

LION RAMPANT CONCLAVE

The Commander is E Chevalier Ian R. Cameron, KCSR, OSM

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



SUMMER MEETING

12th July 2020 at 3pm Online using Zoom

Since the Conclave is still unable to meet physically, the business part of the meeting will go ahead using Zoom. Meeting details are available from the Vice Chancellor. A full report will appear in the Winter newsletter.

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 or telephone: 0208 7154206

Annual Meeting of the Conclave

Saturday 6th June 2020 at 11am Online using Zoom

Unfortunately the meeting cannot take place due to lockdown, but the Commander has made arrangements for this to be held using Zoom, and joining instructions have been sent to members of the Conclave. A full report of the meeting will appear in the Winter newsletter.

FROM THE GRAND PRIOR'S DESK

During the present season of Pentecost, I am delighted to hear that a copy of the June Newsletter is about to be circulated to all Members later this month. It is inevitable that by the time you read it, Pentecost will be over, and liturgically the Church will have moved into the Ordinary Time of the Year. Nonetheless, I do hope that these few words, inspired by the Gospel set for the Day of Pentecost, will be found relevant to each one of us in our present-day difficulties.



An aircraft had just taken off from one of Britain's Airports; it was full of holiday makers who were looking forward to spending some time in rest and relaxation at their chosen holiday destinations. Unfortunately, only a short time into the three-hour flight, an announcement came over the public address system to say that the buffet service would not take place, it then went on to ask all passengers to securely fasten their seat-belts.

Only a short time elapsed, before the skies began to darken and a severe thunderstorm broke out. Then suddenly, lightning hit the aircraft, which caused a dramatic and uncontrolled descent.

Some passengers began to scream, some began to pray; but amidst all the panic, a young girl travelling alone calmly continued reading her book. Occasionally, the girl would change her posture; but throughout the ordeal, she remained perfectly calm and totally unperturbed about what was happening. Thankfully, the storm began to subside, and the aeroplane was able to return to its flight path. In due course, it landed safely at its original destination. Now an elderly man sitting opposite the young girl had observed her throughout the difficult flight and asked her why she remained so calm. "Well", she said: "My Father is the Pilot, and is taking me safely home". What absolute trust that girl had in her Father.

Pentecost is the time when church liturgy directs our thoughts to the Holy Spirit. Unfortunately, some people so rarely talk about the Holy Spirit that you would think they could get along without Him very well. Others want to talk about nothing but the Spirit and you might even get the impression there was no Father or Son. Nevertheless, the Good News is that our ignorance of the Holy Spirit, or the fact that from time to time, either ignore Him or thrust Him ahead of the Father and Son does not stop Him from working on our behalf. He still glorifies the Father and Son; He still opens our eyes, deepens our faith and enriches our lives in holiness.

Jesus says: "Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father". So, the reality is; that whatever happens in our lives, we need is to trust God in all that we do.

That young girl on the aircraft had complete and absolute trust in her Father, who was the pilot of the aircraft. How much more then, should we put our trust in God's Holy Spirit who has the power to keep us safe during the present troubled times. Then eventually, our faithfulness will lead us all to experience God's love at our last awakening into our Heavenly Home; and there to remain happy with Jesus forever and ever. Amen.

++Geoffrey

Most Rev'd Dr Geoffrey S Robinson CJ, EGCSR, EGCSM

ACCOUNTS

The accounts for the Order for year ended 31st December 2019 appear below

Order of St Raphael Accounts 2019

Balance Sheet 1st January 2019 to 31st December 2019

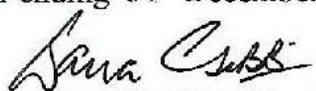
<u>Balances at start of year</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Lloyds Current Account Balance	1312.93	2193.31
Lloyds Deposit Account Balance	202.43	202.51
Cash in hand	0.00	0.00
Total Chapter Funds	<u>£1515.24</u>	<u>£2395.82</u>
<u>Income</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Subscriptions/Admissions	930.00	1115.00
Dining Fees	756.00	694.00
Raffle/donations	163.08	194.32
Bank Interest	0.12	0.12
Sales of regalia	18.00	539.49
Bank contra entry	563.00	0.00
Total income for the year	<u>£2530.20</u>	<u>£2542.93</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Conclaves/Refunds	597.00	468.00
Catering	728.00	693.00
Hall Rental	25.00	25.00
Donations	0.00	0.00
Refund	28.00	0.00
Expenses/purchases	176.62	175.86
Bank contra entry	563.00	0.00
Website, newsletter	0.00	0.00
Regalia	0.00	90.00
Total expenditure for the year	<u>£2117.62</u>	<u>£1401.86</u>
<u>Balances at end of year</u>	<u>1 Jan 2019</u>	<u>1 Jan 2020</u>
Lloyds Current Account Balance	2193.31	3536.89
Lloyds Deposit Account	202.51	202.68
Cash in Hand	0.00	0.00
	<u>£ 2395.82</u>	<u>£3739.57</u>
**Less uncleared cheque		90.00



Brian Everett (Treasurer)

29th February 2020

The Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2019 have been audited and found correct.



David Gibb (Auditor)

16 March 2020

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

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.

The Newsletter Editor is Grand Chancellor R.E. Chev. David Haywood
Articles for publication should be sent to 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