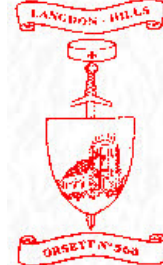


The United Religious Military and Masonic Orders of The Temple and of St. John of Jerusalem,

## Provincial Priory of Essex



### Langdon Hills Preceptory No.563

Langdon Hills Preceptory meets on 2nd Monday in October, 1st Monday in December and 3rd Monday in March (Installation) usually around 5:00 p.m.

If you want to know more about the Preceptory please email [ktessex@btopenworld.com](mailto:ktessex@btopenworld.com)

For further information on Knights Templar (KT) see below

#### History

At the beginning of the XVIIIth century all Freemasons professed belief in the Christian Trinity as a matter of course, but the Constitutions of 1723 and 1738 opened the doors to "all good men and true" irrespective of their religious persuasion, with the sole exception of atheists. This affected Roman Catholics and Protestants alike, but the lodge ballot boxes provided an adequate remedy. The Papal Bull, "In Eminenti Apostolatus Specula" of 1738 excommunicated all freemasons and any who aided them after its promulgation and registration with the Civil Authorities in the various dioceses. This produced an immediate reaction, and by about 1740 a number of degrees with a Christian background appeared in France and gradually spread over Europe. The most important of these were a masonic Templar Rite and a Rose Croix Degree, neither of which has any historical or ritual connection with the old Military Orders or with the medieval Rosicrucians. It is not known how, or precisely when, the Templar Malta Rite reached the British Isles, but traces of it are found in the 1760s and the wide variety of the ritual forms extant by the end of the century suggests that they came from different sources. In all cases the degrees appear to have been adopted by Royal Arch Chapters and, at first, worked by them under their existing Warrants. After the failure of an attempt by the Baldwyn Encampment at Bristol to organise matters on a rational basis an approach was made to Thomas Dunckerley, who received sufficient support throughout the country to form a Grand Encampment. In 1791 he presided over the first meeting of the Grand Conclave composed of seven independent Encampments.

When Dunckerley took control of the Rite he did not interfere with the form of ritual worked by the individual Encampments; but in the 1850's it was felt desirable to introduce a measure of uniformity. All the old workings were studied, and the present-day Templar ritual was built around the core of one dating from the XVIIIth century. A few years later the same was done for the Mediterranean Pass (Knight of St. Paul) and Malta degrees.

In Essex, it is known that the degree of Knight Templar was worked by some Craft Lodges in the 18th century. But it was not until 1930 that the Provincial Priory was formed by the three Preceptories then in existence. Since that time Provincial Priory has met on a regular basis and the Province now consists of 24 Preceptories meeting at Colchester, Chingford, Southend-on-Sea, Chelmsford, London (2), Upminster, Saffron Walden, Harlow, Ilford, Clacton-on-Sea, Orsett, Loughton, Manningtree, Braintree and Hutton.

#### Qualifications

The prerequisites for joining Knights Templar are that a candidate must have completed his third degree by being exalted into the Holy Royal Arch (Chapter), must express a belief in the Holy Christian Trinity and sign a declaration to that effect.

### **Ritual**

This degree commemorates the actions of a band of knights who were granted a place of habitation within the sacred precincts of King Solomon's Temple by Baldwin II King of Jerusalem in 1118. A candidate for installation is admitted in the character and garb of a pilgrim and is required to undergo a period of pilgrimage and warfare as well as to assume the vows of a crusader. Having conducted himself courageously, he is then instructed how penance and meditation play their vital part in preparation for Christian knighthood and finally he is received, armed and proclaimed a Knight of the Temple.

### **Regalia**

The regalia consists of a cap with badge, a tunic, a mantle, a sash, two jewels, black gloves, a belt and a sword and scabbard. Although the regalia costs more than most orders, very often second-hand regalia can be acquired.

### **What will you get from it ?**

Most Knights Templar will say that it is the most friendly of all orders and that if they were restricted to only one, this would be the order that they would choose. It is a pleasant mix of masonry, religion and the military with impressive and colourful ceremonies which never fail to leave a lasting impression on new candidates and old members alike.

Each Preceptory can expect regular visits from the Provincial Prior or the Sub-Prior, and these are looked forward to with eager anticipation by the knights.



A Church Service for the knights and their friends and families is held each year at Chelmsford Cathedral, with all the knights being in full regalia, a colourful sight indeed.

With a friendly welcome to members and visitors alike, Knights Templar regard it as the best order in freemasonry.

### **The Precepts of the Order**

which are recited by the Chaplain at every meeting

Love, honour, and fear God; walk after His commandments. Maintain and defend the Christian Faith and the honour, dignity and interests of our Order. Be loyal to your Sovereign, dutiful to the Grand Master and obedient to those who rule over you. Prefer honour to wealth. Be just and true in word and deed. Give no willing cause of offence to any; but, while opposing wrong and injustice, deport yourselves courteously and gently. Assist the distressed, the widow and the fatherless. Eschew all debasing employment, recreation and company; abhor pride and selfishness and so raise the standard of chivalrous honour, striving for the welfare of your Brethren.