



John of Gaunt



THE MILITARY & HOSPITALLER ORDER OF ST. LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM
COMMANDERY NEWSLETTER

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From the Commander's Desk...

We are now almost at the end of our first year as a reunified Jurisdiction, and I am pleased to report that so far we have made good progress. The Executive Council, on which I am honoured to serve, has put forward a number of initiatives, one being the production of a new leaflet to attract interest in the Order. We have had a small supply professionally printed, and members of the Commandery will have received a copy with this newsletter. Please use this to promote the Order and speak to Brian Lee if you require further copies.

Last month Evelyn and I were delighted to attend the very successful first National Investiture (South) at Arundel Cathedral, and of course in John of Gaunt we were proud to host the first National Investiture (North) on 5th November, where five new members were invested into the Order, including

three from our own Commandery, and a significant number of members were promoted or received awards (details of our own new members and awards are on page 7). Although bookings were slow to begin with, in the end we had a congregation of over 100, and the day's events all ran very smoothly.

Although the country is experiencing a severe financial downturn, it is pleasing to note that our Commandery continues to hold regular fundraising and social events. Although we had a disappointing turnout to the Garden Party at Prescot due to the heavy rain, we nevertheless had a significant number of members turning up to help; the Treasure Hunt in Bolton in September attracted a record number of entrants, and another fine day beckoned us to Malcolm Bell's for the Barbeque. Elaine and Gareth Screeton have held a number of successful fundraising events at their house during the summer, and of course the Commandery Lotto run by Brian Lee continues to generate significant surpluses. In October we held a Quiz night at Fr Christopher's church hall in Penketh which raised a magnificent £600, thanks to some hard work by Fr Christopher and Tony Hilton.

Perhaps less well known, but just as important, are the regular talks about the Order given to local groups by Tony Hilton and David Green, and I am pleased to announce that David also commissioned some very nice Christmas Cards, which have completely sold out, and the Commandery will receive the full amount of the sale of these. None of this fundraising would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of many people, for which I am most grateful.

We now have just one event remaining this year, the Commandery Carol Service on 17th December, so please do try and join us if you can. At the time of writing we are still waiting to confirm the final details, but all being well it will be a morning service on Saturday 17th December followed by lunch. This change of time should help those of you that have other commitments later in the afternoon and evening.

I hope to see you at the Carol Service next month, but if not then I wish you a Happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

David

Events Corner

Further details at www.st-lazarus.org.uk calendar of events

COMMANDERY EVENTS

Saturday 17th December – St Lazarus Day Carol Service

Ainsworth Parish Church & Brightmet Golf Club

2012

21 Feb Lenten Service

19th May John of Gaunt Investiture

EVENTS ELSEWHERE

26 Nov King Offa Annual Convocation and General Meeting

3 Dec St Wilfrid Annual Carol Service

14 Dec Annual Carol Service of the Jurisdiction

17 Dec Cumbria Commandery Annual St Lazarus Day Church Service

2012

10 March Guard's Chapel (Earl Shrewsbury Invested by Grand Master)

23-27 May Grand Master's Pilgrimage to Netteral

21 Jul National Investiture (North) Southwell Minster

4 Aug Avalon Commandery Investiture

13 Oct National Investiture (South) Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff

News

We will be holding the Carol Service on Sat 17th December at **11am** so those with later commitments will be able to take part.

The Lenten Service will be held on Tuesday 21st February – please make a note in your diaries

The Commandery Lotto has now increased to 36 members and is raising £1065p.a. Surely we couldn't get it up to the maximum 49 could we?

We are intending to hold our Commandery Investiture Service on Saturday 19th May. However, unless we are able to find a postulant to be invested this will simply be a Service of Thanksgiving.

The amount raised by Easyfundraising is now over the £500 barrier, but there are still a lot of members who make purchases online who are not taking part. Please remember to refer other Charities as we receive 20% of what they raise and have now produced £30 by referrals, without any effort from us.

A link to the John of Gaunt blog can now be found in the *Commanderies* section of the England and Wales website.

St Lazarus Lotto Summary

Wednesday Lotto

The Pool 17 Jackpot of £86 was won on 24th August.

Pool 18 started on 31st August with a new player with 2 numbers.

This makes 36 numbers in play, now only 13 numbers available.

Stress management

A lecturer when explaining stress management to an audience, raised a glass of water and asked : "How heavy is this glass of water?"

Answers called out ranged from 20g to 500g.

The lecturer replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter.

It depends on how long you try to hold it.

If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem.

If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm.

If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance.

In each case, it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes."

He continued, "And that's the way it is with stress management.

If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on. "

"As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden."

"So, before you return home tonight, put the burden of work down.

Don't carry it home. You can pick it up tomorrow.

Whatever burdens you're carrying now, let them down for a moment if you can."

So, my friend, put down anything that may be a burden to you right now.

Don't pick it up again until after you've rested a while.

Here are some great ways of dealing with the burdens of life:

- * Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.
- * Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
- * Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.
- * If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
- * If you lend someone £20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
- * It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to be kind to others.

- * Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.
- * Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
- * Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
- * The second mouse gets the cheese.
- * When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- * Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.
- * You may be only one person in the world, ...but you may also be the world to one person.
- * Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.
- * We could learn a lot from crayons... Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have odd names, and all are different colours, but they all have to stay in the same box.
- * A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Visit to the Metropolitan Cathedral

Order of St Lazarus at the Cathedral



Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King hosted a visit recently for seven members of the Order of St Lazarus. The group included Canon Christopher Cunningham and Canon Philip Gillespie and included a full guided tour around the Gibberd's Cathedral and the Lutyens Crypt. The Order of St Lazarus was first founded during the Crusades to care for people suffering with leprosy, though in more recent times it has also taken to caring for people with other chronic skin diseases and now exists on an ecumenical basis admitting Christians of all denominations.

From *Catholic Pic*, the newsletter of the Archdiocese of Liverpool

Trip to Malta with Londinium Commandery

A small number of members joined the recent visit to the Islands of Malta at the invitation of the Gozo Commander, Paul Bavange. There are photos and a YouTube clip available to view from the Londinium news page on the England and Wales web site. Here is a sample.



Valletta Harbour, The Grand Master's Palace, at St John's Anglican Pro-Cathedral, The Investiture Procession, Paul Bavanage (Carmelo Saliba, Mayor of Zebugge, bottom right), At the Celebration Dinner, Wreath laying on Gozo, at Mass in Zebugge on Gozo.

Promotions, Awards and New Members

David Green to KLJ
Julie Denby to DLJ
Evelyn Haywood to DLJ
Tony Hilton to CLJ
Vincent Gillibrand to OLJ
Roy Chapman to OLJ
Gareth Screeton Bronze Medal of Merit

Elaine Screeton - Bronze Cross of Merit
David Haywood – Silver Medal of Merit

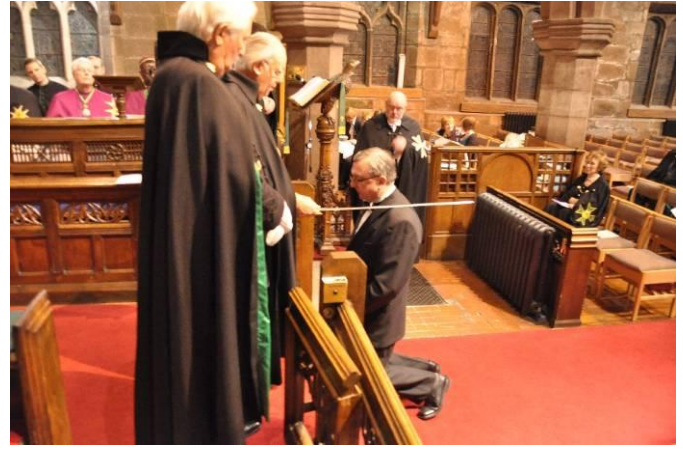
New Members

Rev'd Fr. Christopher Matthews AChLJ
Rt. Rev Doyé Agama SChLJ
Carlos Kearns MLJ

National Investiture (North)

This was held under the banner of the John of Gaunt Commandery at Grappenhall. More pictures are available on line as ever.





Promise Nepal

John of Gaunt Commandery has recently adopted the Charity as one of its supported causes, it has been supported by the Order for a number of years, and a visit has been made to their activities by Sir Chris Bonnington, a member of the Order. For the last 12 years, Promise Nepal has played a significant part in helping to eliminate Leprosy from Nepal. It has participated in leprosy elimination campaigns with the Government and the WHO, it has provided cure and care for thousands of leprosy affected people. Many of the patients have been incapacitated for up to 60 years and subjected to harmful and ineffective treatments. Because many of these people have been given the course of treatment they are



regarded as cured. Promise Nepal does not abandon these people, most live in the Khohana Leper Colony where Promise Nepal provides all the medical care and rehabilitation where possible. One of the successful projects is growing oyster mushrooms. The patients manage this and sell the mushrooms for a reasonable income, they also make briquettes from waste paper for use in cooking. Promise Nepal runs awareness campaigns and recognises that lifting people out of poverty helps to reduce the incidence of leprosy. They have also supported local people in the study of appropriate branches of medicine to provide self help. Pictured is the 15 bed Hospital operated entirely from donations by the Order.

Charter

During the visit to Malta, an interesting document was seen in the Torri Lanzun, the headquarters of the Order worldwide. It is a Charter from King Henry II of England granting the Order the sum of 40 Marks per annum, in perpetuity (ended by Henry VIII, probably). A reproduction of this charter is being prepared on parchment-like paper, complete with an English translation. If you would like a copy, contact the editor.

AD 1176 *AN Henry II*
in Tur Lond. S.


Henricus *Dei Gratia Rex Angliae dux Normandiae,*
Aquitaniae, comes Andregaviae, archiepiscopis, episcopis,
abbatibus, comitibus, baronibus, justicariis, vice-comitibus,
ministeris, & omnibus fidelibus suis, Francis & Anglis, totius
Angliae, salutem dat.

Sciatis me dedisse & presenti carta confirmasse pro salute mea &
antecessorum & successorum meorum, leprosis S. Lazari de
Jerusalem xl marcas. In perpetuam elemosinam annuatim
habendas. Et ideo praecipio baronibus meis de scaccario ut
singulis annis eas ipsis/ipsi habere faciant ad festum S. Michaelis,
ita quod ipsi inde non vexentur nec disturbentur debitore vel
aliqua alia occasione; & ita eas ibi habeant annuatim, donec ab
me vel ab heredibus meis quos volo ut hanc elemosinam ratam
habeant & in perpetuam firmiter teneant (et) eis assignentur in
certis redditibus terrarium vel ecclesiarum.

Teste

<p><i>Galfrido, filo meo</i> <i>Willielmo, comite de Albemarle</i> <i>Walter, filio Robert</i> <i>Hugone de Cressi</i> <i>William de Lanvall</i></p>	<p><i>"Tom Bass"</i> <i>Rogero de Stut</i> <i>Willielmo de Stut</i> <i>Ger' de Canwill</i></p>
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Apud Norhant



✘ Gerard's Jottings.



On August 10th 2011, Pam and I celebrated our 30th Wedding Anniversary, and, for the first time since the postal strike, the postman didn't visit us! My brother lives in Canada but I haven't seen him in years because my heart problems prevent my flying, and he is recovering from a stroke. The likelihood is that we will never meet again! It was a wonderful moment when we received an email telling us that he was resuming his live three-hour broadcasts on the radio on August 10th and we should tune in via my computer to listen. As if by magic, we enjoyed his program live from Winnipeg during which he talked about Pam and me, and played some of our favourite records from the 50's and 60's.

Here in England hooligans were causing mayhem among innocent people, and also death and destruction in our major cities. The scenes of damage, looting and violence filled me with horror; and the pitiful attempts to justify their actions subsequently made me cast my mind back to my many years as a Magistrate, and the battles I had in the three Courts which I served trying to persuade prosecution and defence councillors to stop using the term shop-lifting, and to call it what it is ... stealing, and reminding them that the Commandment says very clearly "Thou shalt not steal" (Commandment 7 or 8 depending on whose pronouncements you are reading!) I will not go on because you surely get my drift. Lives, livings, properties, goods and chattels were lost; homes containing precious memories as well as irreplaceable things of varying value, all destroyed by this mindless idiotic behaviour. Now some people, not directly affected, are complaining that the penalties being given in the Courts are too severe! I am rapidly losing patience with the sympathetic emphasis on the offenders whilst the victims seem too often to be overlooked or marginalised. These were criminal acts by people of varying ages who knew exactly what they were doing, and made a free choice to do what they did. They knew that what they were stealing did not belong to them, and the torching of other people's property was inexcusable. They should now pay the penalty for their behaviour.

Any behaviour of this nature in the 30's & 40's, on our estate of Corporation houses, would have prompted a good hiding from dad, then humiliating

propulsion through the streets to apologise to the offended party, with a request for some way to make recompense ... not monetary because we didn't have much money in the '30s, but that didn't make us go out on the rampage in this way. We were told in our schools about spiritual values and taught right from wrong. If we misbehaved we were punished, and we learned to respect authority. There seem to be few dads in evidence in the present day and age, even fewer who seem to be prepared to take any responsibility for their progeny.

Perhaps a lot of them are too busy demonstrating and declaring their 'rights'. In the balmy (perhaps that should be barmy!) days when '*free expression*' was the in-phrase, my valued friend, singing teacher and Guru, Joe, would often be heard to say; "*Man has no rights — only debts*". Joe was a very wise man, taught the Bel Canto style of singing, was very poor and had to work double shifts at the Docks in order to provide for his wife and four children. We were all devout Catholics, and would often sit in his little terraced house in Doveleys Rd, Manchester, through the night until the early hours of the morning, smoking Kent cigarettes and consuming gallons of strong tea, as we discussed Theology, comparative religions and philosophies including Zen, Subud, the inner side of Christian Worship, etc... We would often attend the Polish church for Mass. J. G. Bennett, Gurdjieff and Ouspensky interspersed with St. John of the Cross and Thomas à Kempis etc. was our bedtime reading as we tried to become an *Imitation of Christ*, whilst we struggled through our own *Dark Night of the Soul*. We truly served our time!

What was the outcome of all this study and burning of the midnight oil? An absolute conviction that: the Path I am travelling is the right one **for me** in my particular state of Spiritual development; that we are all climbing our own Spiritual mountain which is the most important project in our lives, a fact which has seemingly been forgotten in this material age in which we live and move and have our being - it totally involves the love of Almighty God and it leads inexorably to union with Him; that some paths are steeper than others and we will inevitably stumble and fall as we progress onwards and upwards to our God given destiny; that God's everlasting love for each and every one of us is an unconditional love totally beyond our comprehension; that most of the Laws concerning Right Living are common to all faiths and persuasions and,

therefore, must be obeyed whatever Path we travel; that as Christians our love of Jesus and our desire to follow in the footsteps of the Lamb must be paramount, making us shine like beacons in our thinking, acting and feeling during every moment of our existence; and that, without fear or favour, by word and deed, we should constantly teach others what Jesus taught us.

It is my opinion that Christianity gets poor coverage in the media these days, unless it is 'knocking copy', and it is time that more Christians were prepared to speak out without fear or favour as we walk together under the Banner of the Cross. Our predecessors concerned themselves with the bodies and minds of the poor unfortunates; perhaps we members of the O.L.J. should add a grave concern about their souls as well. Please take note that everything I say in my Jottings are purely my own opinion and in no way represent an official policy, direction or teaching of our Order. That was my insistence when I started these writings in Issue No 3, Winter 2002/3 and has remained so ever since!

A little while ago my wife Pam, realising that Christianity was likely to get the usual treatment on the BBC Radio 4 programme "*You and Yours*", dashed off an email; within minutes the phone rang and she found herself being interviewed live on the programme, fearlessly making the point about Christianity. She is used to broadcasting so she acquitted herself well ... and stirred up some grey matter, I'm sure! We can't all behave in that way, I know, so what can we do? Well, we can pray; and perhaps take on board the prayer written by the theologian; *Reinhold Niebuhr* :-

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can,
And wisdom to know the difference.
AMEN.

Bishop † Gerard J. Crane

The John of Gaunt Commandery newsletter is produced on a quarterly basis by Chev. David Green, to whom all articles and comments should be sent.