

THE MALTA DEGREE

The historic "Knights of the Order of St John of Jerusalem" (Knights Hospitaller) were founded in Jerusalem during the first Crusade, about the year 1099, by the association of many pious Knights with the Brothers of St John's Hospital, which had been founded earlier that same century, for the relief of pilgrims travelling to worship at the Holy Sepulchre.

In Masonic terms, the Malta Degree is conferred on Candidates who have already been Installed as Knights Templar. The regalia and ceremony are very different from that of Knights Templar Freemasonry as the Malta degree is in fact a separate Sovereign Order; hence the full name of the Great Priory being "The Great Priory of The United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of The Temple and of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta of England and Wales and its Provinces Overseas".



*Knight Reginald Brittan
in Malta regalia*

The ceremony is based on the movement of the Knights Hospitaller from their inception in Jerusalem, to their settling on the Island of Malta in 1522 (having travelled via Palestine and Rhodes), where they would remain in control for some 270 years.

The Masonic ceremony of Installation of a Knight of Malta is a very colourful one which includes moments of drama and historic background. The Rank structure within the Degree is similar to that of the Knights Templar with a few slight differences. The Officers titles are very different and unique to the Degree.

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Hopefully after reading this introductory leaflet, either as a member or as someone interested to learn more about our Order, you will gain a greater understanding of the United Orders and our activities.

If you are a Royal Arch mason and interested in joining the Order of Knights Templar, or require further information, please refer to the Provincial Website

**[lincsikt.org](http://lincsikt.org)**

or contact the Provincial Vice Chancellor (Michael Carter)

Phone: 01526 388625 or Mobile: 07780 664949

Woodside, Baumber Road, Horsington, Woodhall Spa Lincs. LN10 5HA.



# The Provincial Priory of Lincolnshire

## INTRODUCTION

### THE ORDER of KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

The Provincial Prior of Lincolnshire, Malcom Bilton hopes you will find this leaflet interesting and informative. It is an introduction to the Masonic and Military Orders of the Temple and of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta, commonly known as the "United Orders", or simply "KT". They are beautiful Christian masonic orders with a rich and colourful history and have flourished in Lincolnshire since 1879. The Province now consists of 9 units, known as Preceptories, situated within the old County boundary of Lincolnshire.

The Orders are thriving and popular, with meetings being well attended. As well as experiencing some of the most challenging and meaningful ritual in Masonry, members enjoy a great camaraderie at meetings.

Entry into the Orders is in two distinct stages, each with its own ceremony: Firstly, the Templar degree, then on a later occasion the Malta degree. Different regalia is available for the Malta degree, but initially the (white) Templar regalia can be worn for both degrees.

In addition to the Preceptory meetings, we have for many years held our annual Provincial meeting in Lincoln Cathedral. Our wives, guests etc. are always invited to join us on these occasions and can attend both the service before the meeting and the lunch which is held afterwards.

The Knights of the Province also enthusiastically support the chosen charity of Great Priory: The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. This is a charitable foundation of the (non-Masonic) Venerable Order of St John, the oldest charity in the world. The Hospital is located in East Jerusalem and was founded in 1882.



*Knight Mark Drifill  
in regalia of the Order*

## CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS

To be considered for membership of this deeply significant order you must be: -

- 1) A Master Mason in good standing.
- 2) A Companion of the Holy Royal Arch in good standing.
- 3) And, Profess the Trinitarian Christian Faith.

## PRECEPTS of the ORDER

- ✚ 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.

## BACKGROUND

According to legend, the Order of Knights Templar was founded in 1118 to protect pilgrims heading for Jerusalem and the Christian Holy places, where the small band of warrior monks established a headquarters. In the year 1118 AD King Baldwin II granted the Templars quarters on the Temple Mount and this forms the link to the Royal Arch.

Many men, of noble birth, joined the ranks of the Templar Order. Those who were unable to join often gifted the Templars with land and other valuables.

Modern Masonic association with these Medieval defenders of the Christian Holy Places is linked by the ceremony of Installation in which the Candidate takes the part of a Pilgrim who, by symbolically embarking on a Crusade, is elevated to Knighthood.

The ceremony is very realistic and the regalia spectacular, based upon that worn by the Medieval Knights.

## LINCOLNSHIRE PRECEPTORIES

The Provincial Priory of Lincolnshire presently administers nine Preceptories dispersed within the Masonic Province of Lincolnshire.

The current Preceptories are: -

### TEMPLE BRUER PRECEPTORY No.134

Lincoln Masonic Centre, 116 Nettleham Road, Lincoln, LN2 1RR

### SUTCLIFFE PRECEPTORY No.190

Masonic Hall, Cambridge Road, Grimsby, DN34 5SZ

### HENEAGE PRECEPTORY NO 301

Masonic Hall, Chambers St., Grantham, Lincs, NG31 8BL.

### ALL SAINTS PRECEPTORY No.320

Masonic Hall, 32 North Marsh Rd., Gainsborough, Lincs, DN21 2RR.

### CARMELITE PRECEPTORY No.349

Boston Masonic Hall, Main Ridge, Boston, Lincs, PE21 6QQ.

### ST. PAULS PRECEPTORY No 466

Masonic Hall, Holly Road, Skegness, Lincs PE25 3TE.

### WOLDS PRECEPTORY No 553

Moved to Grimsby Masonic Hall on a Temporary Arrangement

### CHAPTER HOUSE PRECEPTORY No 609

Held at Lincoln Cathedral Chapter House and other venues in Lincolnshire.

### LINCOLNSHIRE CENTENARY DAYLIGHT PRECEPTORY No 680

Lincolnshire, Peripatetic Meetings