

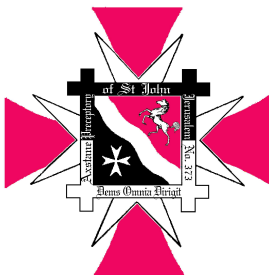
**The United Religious, Military and Masonic Order of the Temple  
and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta  
in England and Wales and Provinces Overseas**

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**Province of Kent**

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**Provincial Prior 2011  
R. E. Kt. Kessick John Jones**



**V. E. Kt. Captain A McKenzie-Smith  
Provincial Prior 1961**

**Axstane Preceptory of St. John Jerusalem  
No. 373  
Axstane Priory of St. John Jerusalem**

**Warrant Granted by Great Priory  
1<sup>st</sup> March 1961**

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

## Brother Knights,

Last year when I took over the responsibility of Registrar, I was surprised to discover the Preceptory had a storage cupboard I never knew existed.

Within this cupboard I found the first minutes book, other old records, and additional items for use on the Altar.

Browsing through the old minute books I realised there was a wealth of history which no one knew about, or had been forgotten.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all the past Registrars of the Preceptory for the records they maintained.

1961 - 1975 Em.Kt. L.F. ELVIN, P.Gt.Reg. P.P.Prov.Chancellor,  
1975 - 1990 Em.Kt. H. LUMB, P.Gt.Herald,  
1990 - 1991 Em.Kt. E.R. SMITH, P.Gt.Warden of Reg.  
1991 - 1996 Em.Kt. D.L.E. BROOKS, P.Pr.2<sup>nd</sup> Con.  
1996 - 1998 Em.Kt. K.R. AUSTIN, Banner Bearer  
1998 - 2000 Em.Kt. S.G. CADDEN, P.Pr.St.Br. (B)  
2000 - 2010 Em.Kt. K.J. LOCKYER, P.Pr.Reg.

To mark our 50th anniversary, and restore some of that lost history, I decided to produce this booklet, which I hope you will find of interest.

Additional information was sourced from,

The Hundred of Axstane Lodge 50th anniversary.  
The Hundred of Axstane Chapter, the first 25 years booklet.  
The Eglantine Lodge History.  
The National Trust.

With further thanks to,

W.Bro. P.H. CURRIE, P.Pr.G.Supt.Wks.  
W.Bro. I. WALKER, Prov.A.G.Reg.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order,  
E.Kt. S.J. GRAY, Provincial Banner Bearer.

## The Start of the 'Axstane' Masonic Family

Our founding Registrar Laurence Frederick 'Joe' Elvin was a man of many talents and interests, and active in many orders of Freemasonry. He was also an officer in the St John Ambulance, and for many years a Divisional Superintendent in the City of London Special Constabulary.

In the 1950's there was a large influx of recruits into Masonry, among those many returning from the armed services. In Lodges with large membership numbers, the latecomers saw little hope of advancement to the Chair, so many new Lodges were being created.

With this in mind, Joe had the idea of creating two new Craft Lodges, which could sustain a Royal Arch Chapter, and Knights Templar Preceptory.

Searching for suitable premises for his ideas, he discovered possibilities with an upstairs room in the Lion Hotel at Farningham.

With the establishment of the first Craft Lodge in 1960, the start of this Masonic Family was assured, and today it is recognised as:

The Hundred of Axstane Lodge No. 7722

Warranted - 1<sup>st</sup> June 1960

Consecrated at the Masonic Hall, Wrotham on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1960

Axstane Preceptory of St John Jerusalem No. 373

Warranted - 1<sup>st</sup> March 1961

Consecrated at Canterbury Cathedral on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1961

The Hundred of Axstane Chapter No. 7722

Warranted - 12<sup>th</sup> February 1964

Consecrated at the Masonic Hall, Wrotham on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1964

The Eglantine Lodge No. 8462

Warranted - 13<sup>th</sup> September 1972

Consecrated at Greenways Hotel, West Malling on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1973

## Consecration of the Axstane Preceptory of St John Jerusalem No.373

The Ceremony took place in the Chapter House at Canterbury Cathedral, on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June 1961. Luncheon was first held at the County Hotel, and Tea was later provided after the Consecration.

### Consecrating Officer

The Very Eminent Knight Capt. A. McKENZIE-SMITH,  
M.B.E., K.C.T., Provincial Prior,

### Assisted by

V.Em.Kt. F.W. FRIDAY, Gt.Registrar	Sub-Prior
Em.Kt. Rev. R.D. d'ESTERRE MEREDITH, B.d., P.Gt.Alm.	Prelate
V.Em.Kt. Major T.C.M. JOHNSON, T.D., P.Gt.Reg.	1 <sup>st</sup> Constable
V.Em.Kt. Capt. A.G. RUMBELOW, M.B.E., K.C.T.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Constable
Em.Kt. Major A.J.B. DICKSON, P.Gt.Herald	Vice-Chancellor
Em.Kt. E.N. Le FRE, P.Gt.Std.Br.(V.B.)	Marshal
Em.Kt. G.L.C. COLENSO-JONES, M.D.	Dep. Marshal
Em.Kt. J.T. MIST,	Standard Bearer (B)
Em.Kt. W.J. CRUTCH,	Standard Bearer (V.B.)
Em.Kt. A.R. JACKSON,	Banner Bearer
Kt. W/Commandr. L.C. MITCHAM,	Sword Bearer
Em.Kt. R.G. COCHRAN, P.Gt.A-de-C.	Capt. Of Guards
Kt. H.G.B.D. HULGRAVE,	Organist
Kt. L.B. ELVIDGE,	Guard

## Extracts from the Minutes of the Consecration.

The founding Knights having signed the petition, took their places in the Chapter House.

The Petitioners and visiting Knights were called to order, whilst a procession of the Provincial Prior and the consecrating officers entered.

The Provincial Prior addressed the assembled Knights stating the reason for the meeting.

Prayer was offered by the Prelate.

The Petitioners forming in the west affirmed that they acknowledged the authority of the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, that they would abide by the laws and regulations of the order, and that they approved of the Preceptor and Constables nominate.

The Provincial Vice-Chancellor read the warrant.

An oration was given by the Prelate, in which he drew attention to the connection between the new Preceptory, and the very old commandery of the Knights of the Hospital at St John Jerusalem, Sutton-at-Hone, in the Hundred of Axstane.

The Provincial Prior scattered corn upon the Preceptory, the symbol of fruitfulness and abundance, pouring wine for joy and cheerfulness, oil for peace and unanimity, and the smoke of incense representing the prayers of the Saints ascending up before God.

The lights on the Sepulchre were lit from the lights on the Altar, the new Preceptory was consecrated by the Provincial Prior to God and his service, and dedicated thereto by prayer by the Prelate.

The Banners of the Preceptory were then consecrated by the Provincial Prior, and the Prelate offered up prayer for those who fight there under.

The Axstane Preceptory of St John Jerusalem was declared duly consecrated, proclamation was made by the Heralds, and salutes given by all the assembled Knights.

The consecration ceremony was concluded with prayer and benediction.

The Provincial Prior vacated the chair in favour of the Provincial Sub-Prior, who proceeded to install the Preceptor nominate within a conclave of installed Preceptors.

All Knights were readmitted, and those of the new Preceptory saluted their Preceptor.

The Eminent Preceptor appointed and installed his officers.

The consecrating team were made honorary members of the Preceptory.

The Preceptory was duly closed.

The Eminent Preceptor, Provincial Prior, Constables, consecrating officers, and officers of Great Priory left in procession.

## Founders of the Axstane Preceptory of St John Jerusalem No.373

### Principal Officers Nominate

Em.Kt. J.D. BING  
Kt. A. WHEATLEY  
Kt. G.T. BROOKER

Eminent Preceptor  
1<sup>st</sup> Constable  
2<sup>nd</sup> Constable

### Founders

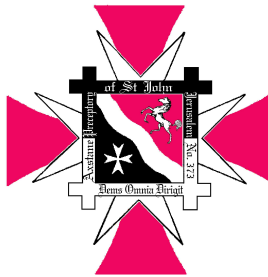
Em.Kt. S.H. MUFFETT, P.P.Alm.  
Em.Kt. J.L.J. BOAG  
Em.Kt. F.J. ROBERTS  
Em.Kt. L.F. ELVIN, P.Gt.A-de-C., Prov. Chancellor  
Em.Kt. Major A.J.B. DICKSON, P.Gt.Herald., P.P.Con., Prov. V-Chan.  
Em.Kt. M.W. BEASTALL, P.P.Reg.  
Em.Kt. R.W.L. WILSON, P.P.Reg.  
Kt. A.J. BEESON  
Kt. R. MOON  
Em.Kt. A.C. STEPHENSON, P.P.St.Br.(V.B.)  
Em.Kt. F.E. BROWN, P.P.Her.  
Kt. W.H. TURNER, M.B.E.  
Em.Kt. J.G. CULL, P.Gt.St.Br.(V.B.) P.P.Chan.

I.P. Preceptor  
Chaplain  
Treasurer  
Registrar  
Marshal  
Dep. Marshal  
Almoner  
1<sup>st</sup> Herald  
2<sup>nd</sup> Herald  
Standard Bearer (B)  
Standard Bearer (V.B.)  
Captain of Guards

There were Fifty Nine visiting Knights also present  
from the following Preceptories.

United Preceptory of Kemeys Tynte and Temple Cressing No. 45  
Holy Sanctuary No. 131  
Studholme No. 140  
Black Prince No. 146  
Shadwell Clerke No. 154  
Lullingstone No. 155  
King Edward VII No. 173  
Sancta Maria No. 183  
Preceptory of Croydon No. 196  
Victory No. 207  
Roffa's Camp No. 224  
Staines No. 253  
Crystal Palace No. 257  
St. Chad's No. 271  
St John the Evangelist No. 281  
Bromley No. 286  
Temple Ewell No. 325  
St Vincent No. 333

## The Axstane Badge



The Preceptory Badge is founded in the Order of the Knights Templar, therefore the foundation of our badge is the Red Cross. Growing out of that background is the Priory of the Knights of the Hospital, and with this Order we have a particular connection, in that the Order of St John of Jerusalem owned large tracts of land within the Hundred of Axstane, and maintained a Commandery at Sutton-at-Hone, this connection being commemorated in our title. Thus there appears the White Cross of St John.

In the centre is situated the badge of the Hundred of Axstane Lodge, from which we spring and with whom we hope to be in a special relationship from generation to generation.

The outside square frame of the Lodge badge now bears the colouring of the Beauchamp Banner, and the name and number of the Axstane Preceptory of St John Jerusalem No. 373.

The Lodge badge displays the White Horse rampant on a field Gules, and a Cross Pattee Argent on a field Sable, separated by a heraldic representation of the River Darent which flows through the Hundred of Axstane.

The White Horse of Kent is from the arms of the County Council and represents readiness to serve King and Country.

The Cross Pattee Argent is the emblem of the Order of St John of Jerusalem.

The Gules of Red represents fortitude and generosity, while the Sable or Black represents constancy.

## The Lion Hotel at Farningham, and Original By Laws



I mentioned earlier Joe Elvin had discovered possibilities with a room upstairs in the Lion Hotel at Farningham.

The room was apparently approached by a winding staircase which ended abruptly at the door, making it easy to stumble when one retired. It was small by Masonic standards, the Chapter floor cloth was painted on a 8' by 4' hardboard sheet, which allowed just enough space for perambulations. Around the sides were sets of tip-up cinema seats, at one corner was the storage room, dominated by a large Victorian wardrobe, the door of which opened to block the way. There was no emergency exit, in the winter it was freezing, and in the summer it was very hot because of no ventilation. Nevertheless with ample car parking, large dining room, it was found to be more than suitable.

By coincidence, the landlord of the Lion Hotel (Mike Reed) was also a Freemason, and to help with cost-cutting requested a peppercorn rent of only half-a-crown. Mike also became a founder of the two Craft Lodges and Chapter.

The original by-laws stated regular meeting of the Preceptory shall be held at the Lion Hotel on the first Tuesday of March and July, and the second Tuesday of October (Installation).

The fees payable were,

Installation as a Knight Templar - £5 and 5 shillings

Installation as a Knight of Malta - £1 and 1 shillings

Joining from a Preceptory held under Great Priory - £3 and 3 shillings

Joining from a Preceptory not held under Great Priory - £4 and 4 shillings

Annual Subscription - £4

Non dining Subscription - £2

## St John's Jerusalem, Sutton-at-Hone, Kent



In 1199 Robert de Basing gave his manor in Sutton-at-Hone to the Knights Hospitallers of the Order of St John of Jerusalem. At the Reformation the land and buildings were confiscated, and the Hospitallers fled to Malta.

In 1660 Abraham Hill a founder of the Royal Society, bought the former Commandery Church with 500 acres of land. He built two floors into the Church forming living accommodation, and preserved 20 feet of the east end as a private chapel.

By 1755 the property was occupied by Edward Hasted an eminent historian, who spent the next two years rebuilding the house to how it is today

In 1878 the Sovereign Order of the Hospital of St. John's Jerusalem of Rhodes and Malta was revived and its military role was renounced, the care of the sick became its main purpose.

About the same time the St. John's Ambulance Association was first formed, and in 1882 the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital was established

In 1943 the property was given to the National Trust by Sir Stephen and Lady Tallents, today it is occupied and managed by a tenant on the trust's behalf.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1962 Axstane Preceptory held its 4<sup>th</sup> regular meeting in the Chapel at St John's, dispensation having been granted. The meeting was attended by 25 Knights, and 4 Knights were admitted to the Order of Malta.

The Preceptory also returned to St John's on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1968, 28<sup>th</sup> July 1970, and 31<sup>st</sup> July 1972, conferring the Order of Malta to a further 13 Knights.

## First Regular Meeting & Knights Installed Thereafter

The Preceptory held its first regular meeting on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 1961 at 5pm. Dispensation was granted, and Companion William Dean was obligated as a serving Brother, and then appointed as Guard. The members voted in favour of the Preceptory becoming a member of the King Edward VII Preceptory of Improvement and the Treasurer was instructed to pay the years subscription of ten shillings and six pence. The members voted that the Preceptor of West Kent Preceptory be invited to our meetings as a guest. A ballot was held which proved in favour, and Dr Kenyon Carnarvon Brown was installed as a Knight of the Temple. He remained a member of the Preceptory until his death in 1999, during those 38 years he obtained the rank of P.Gt.Herald, and also became APMG for West Kent and holder of the Invicta Award.

To date including the 50th anniversary meeting, 76 Companions have been installed as Knights of this Preceptory, and are named below.

July 1961	Kenyon Brown,	Rahere Chapter 2456.
Oct 1961	John Norris,	Royal Naval & Military Chapter 2404.
Mar 1962	William Dean,	Royal Naval & Military Chapter 2404.
Oct 1962	Noel Frewin,	Irenic Chapter 4797.
Mar 1963	Fredrick Wain,	Belvidere Chapter 503.
Mar 1964	Bryan Whinnett,	Kingsway Chapter 3027.
Mar 1965	Arthur Elmitt,	Hermes Chapter 77.
Mar 1966	Sesyl Rees,	Scottish Chapter 341 (India).
July 1966	William Halls,	Priory Chapter 5819.
Mar 1967	JED Watkins,	Hermes Chapter 77.
July 1967	Thomas Philpott,	Priory Chapter 5819.
Mar 1968	Anthony Huxley,	General Gordon Chapter 4292.
July 1968	Harry Lumb,	Malling Abbey 1063.
July 1969	Kenneth Allmey,	Priory Chapter 5819.
	John Hillary,	Lothbury & Dominicos Chapter 3612.
Oct 1969	Cyril Boneham,	Bexleyheath Chapter 4918.
Mar 1970	James Gambrell,	Mount Lebanon 73.
	Alfred Spickett,	Msasa 6802 (Rhodesia).
July 1970	Thomas Schofield,	Belvidere Chapter 503.
July 1971	Leslie Souter,	Priory 5819.
Mar 1972	John Watkins,	Gundulph Chapter 1050.
July 1972	Samuel Kaye,	100 of Axstane Chapter 7722.
Mar 1975	Walter Pearse,	Sydney Chapter 829.
July 1975	Norman Bradbury,	Knole Chapter 1414.

July 1978	John Wyatt,	100 of Axstane Chapter 7722.
Oct 1978	Alfred Eacersall,	Knole Chapter 1414.
Apr 1979	Alan Service,	High Cross Chapter 4149.
Apr 1980	Fredrick Osborne,	Burton Court Chapter 3864.
July 1980	William Bryen,	Cornwallis Chapter 1536.
Sept 1980	William Spiers,	Knole Chapter 1414.
Apr 1981	Bernard Cartwright,	100 of Axstane Chapter 7722.
July 1981	Ronald Lansdown,	Blackheath Chapter 1320.
Apr 1982	Charles Steed,	Constitutional Chapter 55.
Apr 1983	Fredrick Finlayson,	Burton Court Chapter 3864.
July 1983	Colin Simmonds,	Burton Court Chapter 3864.
Apr 1984	Arthur Ellis,	Manor of Estham Chapter 5346.
July 1984	Gordon Paterson,	Kemnal Chapter 6875.
Apr 1985	David Brooks,	Greenhythe Chapter 5449.
Apr 1986	Albert Phaisey,	100 of Axstane Chapter 7722.
July 1986	Alastair McGregor,	Cornwallis Chapter 1536.
Apr 1987	Kenneth Gorringe,	100 of Axstane Chapter 7722.
July 1987	Samuel Cadden,	100 of Axstane Chapter 7722.
Apr 1968	Trevor Robinson,	Perseverance Chapter 455.
July 1968	Keith Austin,	Cornwallis Chapter 1536.
	George Dudley,	Cornwallis Chapter 1536.
Apr 1989	Robert Lawrence,	Mariston Chapter 2725.
Apr 1990	Anthony Jackson,	Hall Place Chapter 7136.
July 1990	Keith Lockyer,	100 of Axstane Chapter 7722.
July 1991	Luke Jackson,	Aretas Chapter 4268.
Apr 1992	Mark Jackson,	Aretas Chapter 4268.
July 1992	Robert Brazier,	Norbury Chapter 4046.
Apr 1993	Alexander Ross,	Aretas Chapter 4268.
July 1993	Peter Mortimer,	Nelson Chapter 700.
July 1994	Jeremy Scarlett,	Norbury Chapter 4046.
Apr 1995	Peter Kelly,	Gravesend Chapter 5337.
Apr 1996	Peter Currie,	Royal Naval & Military Chapter 2404.
Apr 1997	Ronald Jakes,	Stanley Wykeham Chapter 6599.
July 1997	Brian Wilson,	Lamorbey Chapter 5614.
July 1998	Richard Plummer,	North Kent Chapter 2499.
	Micheal Brown,	Lamorbey Chapter 5614.
July 2000	Kevin Johnson,	Bolingbroke Chapter 2417.
Apr 2001	John Pickett,	Aretas Chapter 4268.
Apr 2004	Stuart Gray,	100 of Axstane Chapter 7722.
July 2004	Denis Brown,	Aretas Chapter 4268.
Apr 2005	Peter Torres,	St Peters Chapter 4193.

July 2005,	David Ellis,	Ideal of Endeavour Chapter 7379.
	Derek Shock,	100 of Axstane Chapter 7722.
Apr 2006,	Richard Jessup,	100 of Axstane Chapter 7722.
Apr 2007,	Martyn Worlock,	100 of Axstane Chapter 7722.
July 2007,	Eric Plaistowe,	Sydney Chapter 829.
July 2008,	John Webber,	Templars Chapter 4302.
Apr 2009,	Mark Hamilton,	Eltham Chapter 8866.
July 2009,	Allingson Webber,	Avondale Chapter 2398.
Apr 2010,	Daniel Spencer,	Sir Edward Clarke Chapter 360.
Apr 2011,	Kevin Prince,	Maeides Stana Chapter 7868.
	David Shallcross,	Maeides Stana Chapter 7868.

### Joining Members

The Preceptory has also welcomed 14 Joining members.

Mar 1964,	Ronald Vallence,	West Kent Preceptory 371.
Mar 1969,	Gordon Christie,	Temple Ewell Preceptory 325.
July 1970,	William Anderson-Scott,	Pilgrims Way Preceptory 392.
Mar 1972,	Adolph Woodhouse,	Pilgrims Way Preceptory 392.
Apr 1977,	Leslie Austin,	St Saviour's Preceptory 338.
Oct 1977,	Ernest Smith,	St Vincent Preceptory 333.
July 1979,	Henry Graham,	Westwood Preceptory 433.
July 1982,	Kenneth Hedderly,	Iles Preceptory 182 (Burma).
Oct 1982,	Frederick Honess,	St Vincent Preceptory 333.
Oct 1984,	Andrew Stephenson,	Shadwell Clerke Preceptory 154.
Oct 1990,	Roy Pursell,	Sancta Maria Preceptory 183.
Apr 2006,	Rex Haworth,	Westwood Preceptory 433.
July 2006,	Alan Moore,	Roffa's Camp Preceptory 224.
July 2009,	John Stanton,	Holy Trinity Preceptory 391.

## Dedication of the Preceptory Banner

On the 10<sup>th</sup> October 1967, the Registrar reported we could be Banner Preceptory in 1969. Enquiries had already been made with a school of needle work in Folkestone, who had estimated a Banner could be produced for £40, the members voted to proceed.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> March 1969 the Banner was admitted into the Preceptory, and Prayer was offered by the Dedicating Officer Bro. Kt. Rev. W. Hutchinson.

The Hymn 'O God our help in ages past' was sung. The Provincial Prior V.E.Kt. F.W. Friday unveiled the Banner, and it was dedicated with Prayer.

An oration was given by the Dedicating Officer, part of which was as follows

What finer inscription could you have chosen, "Deus Omnia Dirigit", God lays all in a straight line, or in a clearer and freer translation, God directs us all. Now to all this you have added your Banner, and have caused it to be dedicated to the Glory of God and the adornment of your Preceptory.

In itself, it is but an assembly of wood, metal and various fabrics and fibres, so arranged as to make an harmonious whole. Yet that for which it stands is the very heart and soul of this Preceptory and the Knights belonging thereto.

May its presence here ever remind all who gaze upon it that we too, by our vows and obligations are dedicated to the Glory of God and the adornment of the life which He gave us.

The Banner with the Standards were escorted 3 times round the Preceptory, trooping the colour in a real sense. The Knights stood to Order and sung the Hymn 'Praise my Soul the King of Heaven'.

The Dedicating Officer pronounced the Patriarchial Blessing and the Knights were seated.

The eventual cost of the Banner was only £6 and 5 shillings.

## In Memoriam

Over the last 50 years, the Preceptory has sadly lost 29 subscribing members who have answered the last Roll Call.

The special words recorded in our minutes books to one of our Founders are as below, and I hope they will serve as a memory to all our departed Knights

### **Em.Kt. George Thomas Brooker**

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who was installed as a Kt. in Bromley Preceptory No. 286  
on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 1953.

was a founder on the Axstane Preceptory of St John Jerusalem No. 373  
on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1961.

was Em. Preceptor of Axstane Preceptory 9<sup>th</sup> October 1962,  
and of Bromley Preceptory 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1963.

was appointed Provincial Herald 1963, and Provincial Admiral 1964.

Deceased 5<sup>th</sup> August 1966.

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The funeral service was held at St John's Church, the old church of the Knights of the Hospital, at Sutton-at-Hone, on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 1966. Some 50 Masonic Brethren lined the path outside the church as his coffin was carried out. He was cremated at the Medway Crematorium and six members of this Preceptory were present at the commitment. The Knights Templar, and Knights of Malta ceremonies were his major interest in Masonry, he knew the ritual thoroughly and was always delighted to perform some part of the ceremonies.

So passes from our view one of our Founders. He was a man who delighted to be busy with his hands, and loved to use his skill and labour for the adornment of our Preceptory. The loss of the use of his hands was the thing he most felt when he suffered his stroke. He lived his Christian faith, and has now entered the presence of the Great Captain of our Salvation, and in whose service he is doubtless again using his hands to the Glory of God.

## Conclusion

To conclude this booklet I return to our first regular meeting. The Registrar gave an address giving thanks for all the help which had been given in furnishing the Preceptory. He drew attention to several points of interest, and explained the Preceptory Badge.

Eminent Preceptor and Brother Knights.

I feel at this our first meeting, you would like me make some expression of thanks to all those who have helped the Preceptory in so many ways to attain the present happy position.

First of all, we should express our thanks to the Master and Brethren of the Hundred of Axstane Lodge No. 7722, for the use of their unique Lodge room and the furniture and fittings as are applicable to this order.

Second our thanks to all those who have contributed articles towards the correct furnishing of this our beautiful Preceptory. I am sure all those present must have been impressed by the loveliness of our fittings, in such surroundings how can we do ought but good work.

We thank Bro. Kt. Brooker for the labour of love he has put into making the sepulchre and the base of our altar, and to the ladies who have supplied the care and stitch craft which have produced for us our banners and altar drappings, and made them the things of beauty which they are.

One or two points may be mentioned for the interest and edification of the Knights.

The helmet is a really old piece of armour provided by the kindness, and from the valuable collection of St George's School Pembury. The regalia sword on the sepulchre is made from the officer's sword carried through the First World War by a personal friend of several of the Founders, Bro. Kt. J.R. Avery whose initials it still bears.

The spurs are, I believe of particular interest, not because they belong to your Registrar, but because they were worn by him in the campaign under Lord Allenby, which finally delivered the Holy City from the hands of the Infidel. They have walked the streets of Jerusalem, stood on the Rock of Mount Moriah, the site of the Holy Temple, and on Mount Calvary, in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, a round church built by the Knights Templar of old, have been to the Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem and visited the ox's stall in the most famous stable cave in the world. They have walked on the Shepherd's fields, where the Angels made the first Christmas proclamation, have trod the ancient sand of King Solomon's quarries and climbed the Watch Tower of the Knights of the Order at Ramleh, which was the nearest point to the Holy City attained by Richard, Coeur-de-Lion, in his renowned third crusade, which ended in the year 1192.

They now come to rest on your sepulchre of this the Axstane Preceptory of St John Jerusalem. Long after your present Registrar has answered the last Roll Call, may they serve to remind the Knights of this Preceptory of the facts of the Glorious Faith for which we are still called to fight, under the Banner of the Cross.

Provincial Priors of Kent 1961 - 2011

The Very Eminent Knight Capt. A. McKENZIE-SMITH, M.B.E., K.C.T.  
Honorary Member of Axstane Preceptory 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1961

The Very Eminent Knight F. W. FRIDAY, K.C.T.  
Honorary Member of Axstane Preceptory 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1961

The Very Eminent Knight J. F. SPALDING, M.Sc., J.P.  
Honorary Member of Axstane Preceptory 28<sup>th</sup> October 1980

The Right Eminent Knight Dr. R. J. EDNEY, M.B., B.S., G.C.T.  
Honorary Member of Axstane Preceptory 26<sup>th</sup> October 1982

The Right Eminent Knight K. J. BREADING, K.C.T.  
Honorary Member of Axstane Preceptory 6<sup>th</sup> July 1993

The Right Eminent Knight K. J. JONES,