

Members wear the same regalia as in a Tabernacle without the mitre but with a cordelier which may also be worn in a Tabernacle.

Grand College

From 1894, the Order continued under the Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees, until, by mutual consent, it separated and became the Grand College. Grand College had its first meeting on 15 May 1924 in Newcastle upon Tyne, but has since moved to York, where it remains today.

The Order is world wide, with around 270 Tabernacles formed in over 50 Districts in countries such as Australia, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Isle of Man, Jamaica, Jersey, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Paraguay, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa and Togo. In 1935, the Grand College of America was granted a Patent to form Tabernacles in the United States.

Grand College of the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom

Grand High Priest

Most Illustrious Knight Priest Christopher Gavin Maiden

Deputy Grand High Priest

Most Eminent Knight Priest Ian Paterson Duff

Grand Recorder

Right Eminent Knight Priest John Stephen Priestley

Telephone 01904 622102

e-mail gchraktp@googlemail.com

web www.knighttemplarpriests.com

The Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom



An Exclusive Christian Order

To qualify for membership one must be -

A subscribing Master Mason in the Craft

A subscribing Royal Arch Mason

A subscribing Knight Templar Mason

Make the Statement of Faith

Knight Templar Priests

The History

The Order of Knight Templar Priests goes back to the Anahilt Union Band in County Down, Ireland in 1792. So far, over 60 Union Bands have been identified in Ireland with only a small number being identified under the Early Grand Encampment and even fewer being “banded” with one or more Lodges. During this period, there was no ruling body.

In 1807, the Early Grand Conclave of Scotland warranted the Joppa Encampment of Knights Templar in Sunderland. This Encampment was also authorised to work a number of other degrees, including the Knight Templar Priest. In 1812, the Newcastle upon Tyne members petitioned the Grand Conclave of England for a Warrant. This was granted in the name of the Royal Kent Encampment.

The Order of Knight Templar Priest appears only to have worked spasmodically as was the Royal Kent Conclave, eventually coming under the Aegis of the Council of Knights Grand Cross of the Holy Temple of Jerusalem, formed in Newcastle upon Tyne in 1845.

Henry Hotham, a Yorkshireman, being the last Installed Master, or High Priest, of the independent Chapter of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, on Good Friday, 23 March 1894, admitted nine Knights into the Order. Henry Hotham died on 17 May 1895. The revived Tabernacle, in conjunction with the Knights Grand Cross, being conscious of the efforts of the Council of Allied Masonic Degrees in London to found a “Grand Council of Rites”, agreed that with its then 24 appendant degrees to become the Royal Kent Tabernacle, Time Immemorial.

The Order

The gatherings of this delightful Order are called Tabernacles and is where the ceremony of admitting a Knight Templar Priest is worked. The remaining 31 Degrees are conferred in name only in a short, but impressive part of the

ceremony. Some of the Appendant Degrees are now demonstrated by various Tabernacles.

During the ceremony, the candidate is conducted round seven Pillars placed in triangular form. Readings are given from the Old and New Testaments and each Pillar Officer has a word referring to the Lamb of God who opened the seven seals, so revealing the seven spirits of God.

The Symbol of the Order is an equilateral triangle on which are inscribed certain letters alluding to the secrets of the Order. The head of the Tabernacle is called the High Priest, and he is assisted by seven Knight Priests who each officiate at one of the seven Pillars, and a Conductor, the equivalent of a Deacon in Craft Masonry.

Regalia

A Knight Templar Priest wears a white tunic with a red cross on the front, a plain white mantle and a mitre with a cross on the front and back. A High Priest wears a taller mitre with a patriarchal cross.

Advancement

As in other Masonic Orders, advancement is through the various Offices of a Tabernacle to culminate in reaching the Chair as High Priest. Grand College Rank may be conferred two years after the completion of a year as High Priest. There are no intermediate District (Provincial) ranks, other than Grand Superintendent and his assisting Officers.

Order of Holy Wisdom

In 2014 the ceremony of the Order of Holy Wisdom was reintroduced. Gatherings of this Order are called Congregations. The senior Officer is called High Prelate and is usually filled by the District Grand Superintendent, though he may delegate the duties to another member. The Candidate represents Publius who is converted to the Christian faith.