

CONSTITUTION

of the

ORDER OF THE TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM AND THE INDUSTRIAL TEMPLE GRAND PRIORY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR IN ENGLAND & WALES



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RULE

1. Foundation

- The Order of the Temple of Jerusalem is a chivalric association of ecumenically-minded Christians who take their inspiration from the highest ideals of the medieval Order of Knights Templar, founded by Hugh de Payens and eight companions in Jerusalem circa 1118.
- The Grand Priory of Knights Templar in England and Wales follows in the tradition of the following founding acts:
 - The Rule prepared under the guidance of St Bernard of Clairvaux for the medieval Order and enacted by the Council of Troyes circa 1128
 - The letter of St Bernard of Clairvaux, “De laude novae militiae” (“In praise of the new knighthood”), written to Hugh de Payens, first Grand Master of the medieval Order, before 1136
 - The Papal Bull “Omne Datum Optimum” of Pope Innocent II, dated 1139, which confirmed the medieval Order’s Rule
 - The Declaration of Principles issued in 1841, after a General Assembly in Paris, which committed the modern Order of the Temple to the principles of ecumenical Christianity and active charity.

2. Motto

- The motto reminds Templars that they join the Order not to be served, but to serve others, and to give themselves to the service of God.
 - Non nobis, Domine, non nobis; sed Nomini Tuo da gloriam – Not to us, O Lord, not to us; but to Your Name give the glory.

3. Rule of Life

“Here begins the prologue to the Rule of the Temple: We speak first to all those who secretly despise their own will and desire with a pure heart to serve the Sovereign King as a knight and with studious care desire to wear, and wear permanently, the very noble armour of obedience.” (from the introduction to the Primitive Rule of St Bernard of Clairvaux for the Templars)

- The Rule of Life of the modern Order, the “Regula Moderna”, was approved by the International Theological Convention of the Chaplains of the Order in November 1962.

Chapter 1: On the Temple and its Service

- Remember that you are a Templar, an inheritor of the “Poor Fellow Soldiers of the Temple”, so called because the first headquarters of our noble Order were in the precinct of the Temple in Jerusalem.
- Think on the word “Temple” and its meaning continually. As divine scripture says: “One thing have I desired of the Lord which I will require; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the fair beauty of the Lord and to visit his Temple.” (*Psalm 27; verse 4*)

Chapter 2: On Love for the Church

- Consider with joy “that we are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building being bonded together grows into a holy Temple to the Lord, and in whom we are built together as a dwelling of God through the Spirit.” (*St Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians; chapter 2; verses 19 to 22*)

Chapter 3: On Discipline of the Body

- Read over again the original Rule given to us by St Bernard of Clairvaux and seek to put it into practice in modern life. With all thankfulness for God’s good gifts, resist temptation and be master of your body.

Chapter 4: On Knightly Combat

- Be mindful that you are on the crusade of the King of Kings. “Unless you take up your cross and follow me, you have no part with me”, said our Master. (*St Matthew’s Gospel: chapter 16; verse 24*) Do not be afraid to confess the King who is like no other King.
- May the white cloak remind you that we fight a holy war in all truthfulness; and may the red cross remind you that sacrifices must be made; for “we do not fight against flesh and blood, but against potentates and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, and against spiritual wickedness in the cosmos.” (*St Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians: chapter 6; verse 12*)

Chapter 5: On Brotherhood

- Remember that you stand beside your brother at all times, as he fights under the same banner as you. Obey your superiors, honouring Christ in them. We have only one Master, Christ; but we are all brothers. Feel responsible for your brother, for God will also ask you one day: “Where is your brother?”
- As a knight, stand up for the weak, above all for women and children, widows and orphans who need your help. Avail yourself of the worldwide

community of the Order to correspond with your brothers and sisters and visit them whenever you have the opportunity.

“Now we have told you the things which you should do and what you should guard against . . . and we have not told you everything we need to tell you, but you will ask it. And may God let you say and do well.”

4. Code of Chivalry

And now as a model . . . we will briefly set forth the life and virtues of these knights of Christ. Let us see how they conduct themselves at home . . . how they appear in public, and in what way the knight of God differs from the knight of the world.

In the first place discipline is in no way lacking and obedience is never despised. . . They live as brothers in joyful and sober company . . . They dwell united in one family . . . careful to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (from “de Laude Novae Militiae” by St Bernard of Clairvaux.)

- The following extracts come from the Primitive Rule of the Templars:
 - Each brother of the Temple should know that he is not committed to anything so much as to serve God, and each one should apply all his study and understanding to this. (Article 279)
 - Each brother is required to do all noble actions and to say all good words. (Article 325)
 - Each brother should strive to live honestly and to set a good example to secular people and to other orders in everything, in such a way that those who see him cannot notice anything bad in his behaviour . . . nor in any of his actions and works. (Article 340)
 - Each brother should ensure that the other brothers, especially his companions, behave well like worthy men . . . and that the others do not let themselves go nor elevate themselves and do things which are against the honesty and good customs of our house. (Article 367)

“There is no distinction of persons among them, and deference is shown to merit rather than to noble blood. They rival one another in mutual consideration, and they carry one another’s burdens, thus fulfilling the law of Christ. . .

They think not of glory and seek to be formidable rather than flamboyant. At the same time, they are not quarrelsome, rash or unduly hasty, but soberly, prudently and providently drawn up into orderly ranks . . .

Thus in a wondrous and unique manner they appear gentler than lambs, yet fiercer than lions. I do not know if it would be more appropriate to refer to them as monks or soldiers, unless it would be better to recognize them as being

both. Indeed they lack neither monastic meekness nor military might. What can we say of this, except that “this has been done by the Lord and it is marvellous in our eyes.”

5. Personal Commitment

- For Templars the Order is a way of life (“ordo vitae”) according to the Rule, freely chosen but nonetheless binding on their honour.
- Prayers and participation in the life of the Church help Templars to lead the Christian life to which they are bound.
- Moral obligations in personal, family, professional and public life follow from the claims which chivalry makes on Templars.
- Templars are under an obligation to take part in the community life of the Order, particularly in events and meetings organised by the Order.
- Templars contribute financially to furthering the work of the Order, as best as their personal means allow.

STATUTES

1. Legal Form

- The association is, under the laws of England and Wales, an unincorporated society of persons associated together for social reasons and for purposes concerned with the advancement of religion, education and social welfare.
- The constitution, as set out in this document, is deemed to form the terms of a contract between the subscribing members of the association.
- The Grand Priory Chapter constitutes the governing committee of the association.
- Property (such as books, seals, banners and ceremonial furnishings), which may be acquired by the association, together with the association's funds belong jointly to all the subscribing members of the association. The governing committee act as trustees in the administration of the property and funds, except where the association passes any property or funds to a registered charity.

2. Name

- The name of the association is the “Order of the Temple of Jerusalem and the Industrial Temple – Grand Priory of Knights Templar in England and Wales” (“the Grand Priory”).

3. Territorial Definition

- The Grand Priory covers the territory of the mainland of England and Wales, together with the surrounding islands, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

4. Aims

- The aims of the Grand Priory are:
 - To promote ecumenical Christian charitable and chivalrous behaviour
 - To uphold civic virtues and to pursue excellence in the workplace and in daily life to the greater glory of God
 - To protect human rights and to promote international peace and justice
 - To increase our understanding, as Christians, of other faiths
 - To support a Christian presence in the Holy Land
 - To assist persons undertaking pilgrimages, both spiritual and physical
 - To relieve human suffering by the support of the poor, the sick and all in need
 - To assist in the preservation of monuments and sites associated with the medieval Order of Knights Templar

- To maintain archives and foster research into the history of the Knights Templar

5. Membership

- The Grand Priory has two ancillary ranks:
 - Postulant – a person who has applied for membership of the Order but not yet been admitted
 - Novice – a person who has been admitted into the Order but not yet invested or inducted
- The Grand Priory has three classes of full membership:
 - Dame - who is a member of the laity
 - Knight - who is a member of the laity
 - Chaplain - who is a minister of religion
- Full membership of the Order within the Grand Priory is open to any Christian aged at least eighteen, who is willing and able to serve God and humanity according to the Rule, Statutes and Regulations as set out in the Constitution of the Grand Priory.
- The Grand Priory has four ranks of seniority in each class:
 - Member
 - Commander
 - Grand Officer
 - Grand Cross
- Promotion is earned by undertaking an office, a project or another duty that the Grand Priory Chapter considers to be a notable contribution to the work of the Order.
- The Grand Priory has two types of associate membership:
 - Honorary member – who holds an honorary rank
 - Friend – who holds no rank
- Affiliate membership is open to individual members of other branches of the Order that are recognised by the Grand Priory. Affiliate members continue to pay membership dues and exercise the right to vote in their home branch.
- Full membership, with the approval of the relevant Chapters, is also open to members of other branches of the Order that are recognised by the Grand Priory. In such cases the member concerned pays membership dues and exercises voting rights into the Grand Priory of England and Wales.

- Membership of the Order, and the ranks and titles within it, do not confer any rank, title or social privilege outside of the Order.
- Termination of membership occurs when either:
 - a member formally notifies the Grand Priory Chapter of a wish to leave the Order and that notification is accepted; or
 - a member is dismissed from the Order as a result of a disciplinary decision of the Grand Priory Chapter
- Full members and novices pay annual membership dues and are thereby subscribing members of the Grand Priory. In cases of hardship, the Grand Priory Chapter may agree that all or part of the membership dues of a subscribing member be met out of funds under the authority of the Almoner.

6. Grand Priory Chapter

- Subject to the Constitution, the Grand Priory Chapter has full authority to administer the property, funds and affairs of the Grand Priory.
- Officeholders of the Grand Priory Chapter are elected by the General Assembly of the Grand Priory for individual, renewable terms of four years.
- The minimum number of officeholders of the Grand Priory Chapter is three.
- The Grand Priory Chapter is called to meet by the Grand Prior, or by at least three officeholders, with at least one month's notice, at least twice a year and at such other times as business may require.
- The quorum for a meeting of the Grand Priory Chapter is half the number of serving officeholders, or three officeholders, whichever is the greater. Participation in a meeting may be by conference call or other electronic means.
- The powers of the Grand Priory Chapter include:
 - Recommendation to the Annual General Assembly of individuals as candidates for office on the Grand Priory Chapter, and the co-option of individuals to fill any unexpected vacancies which occur in the Grand Priory Chapter subject to the approval of the next following General Assembly of the Grand Priory;
 - Appointment of individuals to such Assistant Offices as are specified in the Constitution or otherwise approved by the General Assembly of the Grand Priory;
 - Acceptance of individuals as applicants, postulants, novices, honorary members, friends and affiliates of the Order in the Grand Priory;

- Promotion of members to higher rank, and the making of awards for distinguished service;
 - In the event of a breach of the Constitution of the Grand Priory by a member, disciplinary action including reduction in rank and, in serious cases, dismissal from the Order, in which case the member concerned has the right to be heard by the Grand Priory Chapter, accompanied by a friend, before a final decision is made;
 - Creation of Preceptories within the Grand Priory;
 - Appointment and dissolution of sub-committees to carry out specific functions, provided that the acts and proceedings of such sub-committees are regularly reported back to the Grand Priory Chapter;
 - Operation of bank accounts in the name of the Grand Priory, providing that such accounts are controlled by any two out of at least three signatories, one of whom is the Treasurer;
 - Issuance of insignia and brevets of membership and office;
 - Cooperation with charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities in furtherance of the aims of the Grand Priory;
 - Conduct of relations with those other branches of the Order that are recognised by the General Assembly of the Grand Priory;
- The Officeholders of the Grand Priory Chapter, in alphabetical order, are:
 - The Almoner, who is responsible for the programme of charitable donations and humanitarian aid in the Grand Priory and for the welfare of its members;
 - The Chancellor, who is responsible for the programme of national events, schedule of projects and their co-ordination with the local Preceptories in the Grand Priory;
 - The Chaplain General, who is responsible for the conduct of religious services within the Grand Priory and for the spiritual care of its members;
 - The Clerk, who is responsible for the secretariat of the Grand Priory, including correspondence, literature, the website, journals and official minutes;
 - The Grand Prior, who presides at the Grand Priory Chapter and at the General Assembly, who represents the Grand Priory at international meetings of the Order, and who has the authority to invest Knights and Dames and to induct Chaplains into the Order in the Grand Priory;
 - The Marshal, who is responsible for the habit, insignia, heraldry, ceremonial furnishings and the conduct of ceremonies in the Grand Priory;
 - The Seneschal, who is responsible for the recruitment process, register of membership and the training of members in the Grand Priory;
 - The Sub Prior, who deputises for the Grand Prior during the absence or incapacity of the Grand Prior on any occasion, or during any time that the office of Grand Prior is vacant;
 - The Treasurer, who is responsible for the finances of the Grand Priory including the collection of membership subscriptions and the keeping of proper accounts;
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- The responsibilities of any vacant office may be allocated by the Grand Priory Chapter to one of the other officeholders.
- The Grand Priory Chapter also includes the Preceptors, who are responsible for any Preceptories established within the Grand Priory.

7. General Assembly

- The General Assembly of the Grand Priory consists of all subscribing members, who each have one vote.
- Associates, postulants and affiliate members may attend meetings of the General Assembly but have no vote.
- The General Assembly is called to meet by the Grand Priory Chapter, with at least one month's notice, at least once a year, and at such other times as ordinary business may require. In the case of extraordinary business, the General Assembly may also be called by at least ten subscribing members.
- The General Assembly is chaired by the Grand Prior or, in his absence, by the Sub Prior. If neither the Grand Prior nor the Sub Prior is present, the General Assembly may elect a full member to chair the meeting.
- The quorum for an ordinary meeting of the General Assembly is at least half the current subscribing members present in person or by written proxy. Decisions at an ordinary meeting required a simple majority of the quorum, with the presiding Officer having a casting vote.
- The business for an ordinary meeting of the General Assembly is tabled by the Grand Priory Chapter and includes:
 - Electing officeholders to vacancies on the Grand Priory Chapter and/or confirming co-opted officeholders;
 - Discussing the annual report of the Grand Priory Chapter on the activities of the Grand Priory;
 - Approving the annual accounts of the Grand Priory, which are subject to independent examination;
 - Approving the level of membership subscriptions;
 - Approving novices for investiture as knights or dames, or for induction as chaplains;
 - Approving the creation of new Preceptories within the Grand Priory;
 - Approving any amendments to the Regulations for the Grand Priory;
 - Approving any amendments to the Services and Ceremonies of the Grand Priory.
- The quorum for an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly is at least two-thirds of the current subscribing members present in person or by written proxy.

Decisions on extraordinary business require a two-thirds majority of the subscribing membership, with the presiding Officer having a casting vote.

- The business for an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly, which must be tabled by the Grand Priory Chapter or by ten subscribing members of the Grand Priory, includes:
 - Approving any amendments to the Rule or Statutes of the Grand Priory;
 - Approving any proposal for the Grand Priory to join or leave an international association of the Order;
 - Approving any proposal to dissolve a Preceptory within the Grand Priory;
 - Voting on any motion of confidence in any officeholder of the Grand Priory Chapter.
- In cases of urgency, the Grand Priory Chapter, or ten subscribing members of the Grand Priory, may present extraordinary business to the General Assembly by means of a postal and/or electronic ballot, with decisions requiring a two-thirds majority of the subscribing members.

8. Preceptories

- A Preceptory is a local unit of at least four full members, usually defined by appropriate borough, district, county or regional boundaries within the territory of the Grand Priory.
- A Preceptory is headed by a Preceptor, elected by a simple majority of the subscribing members of the Preceptory, and confirmed in office by the General Assembly of the Grand Priory.
- The subscribing members of the Preceptory may elect individuals to such offices on the Preceptory Chapter, modelled on the offices of the Grand Priory Chapter, as may be required for the administration of the Preceptory.
- A Preceptory may adopt such local by-laws as are necessary to govern its affairs, providing that they do not conflict with the Constitution of the Grand Priory.

9. Validity of Decisions and Candidature

- Except where stated otherwise, decisions in meetings of Chapters and of sub-committees within the Grand Priory are taken by a simple majority, with the presiding officeholder having a casting vote.
- Candidature for the elective posts within the Grand Priory is open to all full members, unless they are restricted by a disciplinary decision of the Grand Priory Chapter.

- Any subscribing member of the Grand Priory who fails to pay the annual subscription by the due date, and who has provided no explanation to the Grand Priory Chapter, loses the right to vote until such time as the arrears are paid.

10. Mantle and Insignia

- The Badge of the Order is the traditional red eight-pointed Templar cross patée.
- The Banner of the Order, known as Beauceant, is divided into two horizontal bars, black above and white below.
- The Mantle of the Order is white, with the Badge of the Order sewn over the left breast.
- The Insignia of the Order is the traditional red eight-pointed Templar cross patée.

REGULATIONS

1. Admission Process

- An applicant is required to provide a curriculum vitae containing: personal details; religious denomination; academic, vocational and professional qualifications; membership of other charitable organisations, learned societies and orders; the names and addresses of two referees.
- An applicant is expected to provide evidence: of a personal spiritual pilgrimage as a follower of Christ; of an understanding of the concept of a rule of life; and of engagement in both public and private Christian worship.
- As soon as possible after approval of an application to join the Order, the Seneschal allocates a knight, dame or chaplain mentor to the postulant, normally from the closest Preceptory. The support of the mentor is available for both the periods to admission and also to investiture or induction.
- Ceremonies of admission for novices, investiture for knights and dames and induction for chaplains take place within the context of a church service.
- After admission into the Order, a novice usually serves at least six months before being considered for investiture or induction.
- On admission, a novice receives and signs a copy of the Constitution of the Grand Priory.
- In order to be considered for investiture or induction, a novice is expected to serve by:
 - completing a project as approved by the Seneschal
 - showing commitment to the local community and to the Order
 - providing evidence of spiritual development
- On investiture or induction the dame, knight or chaplain receives a brevet signed by the Grand Prior. Further brevets may be issued on promotion.

2. Proceedings of General Assembly, Chapter and Sub-Committee Meetings

- Meetings of the General Assembly, the Grand Priory Chapter, Preceptory Chapters, and of any sub-committees, are subject to written agendas.
- Minutes of Chapter and sub-committee meetings are recorded, approved at the next following meeting of the Chapter or sub-committee concerned, and signed by the presiding officeholder.

- Past officeholders of the Grand Priory Chapter are titled “emeritus”, and may be invited to attend meetings of the Grand Priory Chapter in an advisory capacity at the discretion of the Grand Prior or other presiding officeholder.

3. Financial Year and Annual Membership Dues

- The financial year of the Grand Priory runs from 1st April to 31st March.
- Subscribing members, other than those supported by the Almoner, are expected to pay their annual membership dues to the Treasurer of the Grand Priory by 31st May each year.
- Someone who becomes a subscribing member during a financial year pays an appropriate portion of the annual membership due.
- The costs of insignia and mantle are payable by a subscribing member according to the appropriate class and rank of membership, unless the member concerned is supported by the Almoner.

1. Assistant Officeholders

- The Grand Priory Chapter may appoint the following assistant officeholders and determine the period of their service:
 - The Historian, who assists the Seneschal and is responsible for official documents relating to the history of the Order and for historical research in the Grand Priory;
 - The Webmaster/Webmistress, who assists the Clerk and manages the website of the Grand Priory;
 - The Editor, who assists the Clerk and is responsible for publishing the journals of the Grand Priory;
 - The Warden of Insignia, who assists the Marshal and is responsible for stock of insignia held by the Grand Priory
 - The Standard Bearer, who assists the Marshal in the conduct of ceremonies in the Grand Priory;
 - The Delegate, who assists the Grand Prior and is responsible for liaison with such other branches of the Order in England & Wales and overseas as are recognised by the General Assembly of the Grand Priory.

2. Titles and Styles

- The titles and styles of the Order, and the post nominal letters attaching to them, may only be used within the Order and not in other social circumstances.
 - Dames/Knights/Chaplains of the Temple of Jerusalem

- DTJ/KTJ/ChapTJ
 - Dames/Knights/Chaplains Commander of the Temple of Jerusalem
 - DCTJ/KCTJ/ChapCTJ
 - Dames/Knights/Chaplains Grand Officer of the Temple of Jerusalem
 - DGOTJ/KGOTJ/ChapGOTJ
 - Dames/Knights/Chaplains Grand Cross of the Temple of Jerusalem
 - DGCTJ/KGCTJ/ChapGCTJ
- It is customary to address members of the Order as “Sister” or “Dame” and “Brother” or “Chevalier” in formal correspondence or in the conduct of ceremonies.

3. Wearing of Insignia and Mantles

- The insignia of the Order may only be worn at Templar functions and at other functions to which the Order has been specifically invited. Members are encouraged, however, to wear the lapel badge whenever possible in order to show their membership of the Order.
- In keeping with the simplicity of the Order’s motto, the insignia of the Order is worn as a neck cross on a ribbon by all classes and ranks of the Order, and as a pendant cross on a cord by novices.
- When attending international events of the Order, members may be requested to conform the wearing of insignia to the relevant dress code of the country and the event in which they are participating.
- At church services and during ceremonies, dames, knights and chaplains of all ranks wear the mantle of the Order with the eight-pointed red Templar cross patée sewn over the left breast.
- At church services and during ceremonies, novices wear a plain white mantle without the eight-pointed red Templar cross patée.
- Transitional arrangements apply to those who are already members of a branch of the Order at the time of creation of the Grand Priory. Such members may continue to wear their existing insignia and mantles for their lifetime, if they wish.

4. Awards

- The Grand Priory has two awards given by the Grand Priory Chapter for distinguished service:
 - The Certificate of Honour, awarded to associate or non members of the Order
 - The Certificate of Merit, awarded to full or affiliate members of the Order

APPENDICES

The items in the appendices are expected to include:

- The International Statutes of OSMTH as legally registered in Switzerland
- Document confirming the Order of the Temple of Jerusalem - Grand Priory of Knights Templar in England and Wales as a member body of OSMTH
- Charity Commission registration certificate of the Templar Pilgrimage Trust (OTJ)
- Charity Commission registration certificate, when granted, of the Templar Heritage Trust (OTJ)
- 1841 Declaration of Principles of the Order of the Temple