



# The Victor

The Supreme Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem

[www.grandprioryofthescots.org](http://www.grandprioryofthescots.org)



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## Christmas Blessings



Be still and know that I am God.  
Psalm 46:10



Praying this christmas season  
you'll gave time to reflect upon  
the goodness of God  
and enjoy memorable times  
with family and friends

H.E. Dame Patricia Tennyson Bell, GCTJ. GMTJ  
Grand Bailiff – Grand Bailiwick



Thanksgiving is within a week or two and Christmas just around the corner. As I get older, time seems to run at a very quick pace and just when you get over one holiday, the next is not far behind.

Since the last edition of the Victor, some events have taken place within the Bailiwick and the Priors.

Robin Price resigned as Treasurer and has taken a responsible position within the Priory of Robert the Bruce. I wish to thank Robin for his hard work during the time he filled the position of Treasurer within the Bailiwick. He helped us through a difficult time and we are very grateful.

I asked Richard (Rick) Novosad to take over as Treasurer and he willingly did so. He will shortly be sending out the oblation invoices via US mail. Rick is still working with Robin to make the transition smoothly and will be up and running by the first of the New Year. We really appreciate Rick taking on this very worthwhile position on the Bailiwick.

As you are aware, Allen Cummings is doing a great job as editor of The Victor. He needs articles, pictures and any Templar information you might have in order to make the newsletter successful. Allen is also the Preceptor of Rosslyn and moved from Dallas to North Carolina earlier this year. He is arranging a dinner meeting on January 19, 2019, in conjunction with the Florida Central Scottish Games. The purpose of the meeting is for discussion to re-establish the Preceptory of Rosslyn for those Scottish Knights Templar throughout the South, Southeast and mid-Atlantic states. Allen will let everyone know the time and exact location shortly. I will be attending as a guest and look forward to seeing you again.

Allen and his wife Sandra had to evacuate their home during hurricane Florence and thankfully returned home safe and sound within the week. Between Florence and Michael, it must have been a dreadful experience for everyone who were in the path of those two monstrous hurricanes. You are all in our prayers.

I attended the Convent of the Priory of Robert the Bruce on September 8<sup>th</sup> and was pleased to welcome two new members, Thomas Lee Simpson and Jo Ann Maddalena, into the Order. Cheryl Cook was elevated to Grand Officer as she is doing a wonderful job as Prior. Patrick Moffett, Scott Luekens-Taylor and Richard Strayer was elevated to Knight Commanders. Each of these Chevaliers are dedicated to helping the Order.

I was somewhat disappointed with the attendance at the Convent and ask that, in the future, we try to be available to attend both Convents of the two Priors. It is stated in our manuals that we must attend a Priory convent once a year. I know everyone is very busy and there are conflicting activities happening most weekends, but please, if possible, make sure the date and time are on your calendars. Thank you.

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H.E. Dame Patricia Tennyson Bell, GCTJ. GMTJ  
Grand Bailiff – Grand Bailiwick  
(Continued from page 2)

Charity is our primary function and your Priors, Commanders and Preceptors will appreciate your help and presence in whatever they arrange for the year. If you are in doubt as to what is on the calendar, please contact your commanding officer for further details.

Chevalier Dan Philbrick needs to receive changes regarding addresses, e-mail addresses and phone number for the roster.

The next Privy Council will take place on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

I wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving and a Happy Christmas. Keep safe.

God Bless,  
Patricia

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### *Commandery of St. Cuthbert*



The Oregon members of the Commandery of St. Cuthbert met at the Wolf Creek Inn on November 11th for an early holiday celebration and charity fundraiser. Toasts were made to honor the Veterans as we remembered the 11th Day at the 11 hour and the 11th year. Charity funds will go to the ROC in Grants Pass this year. Chev. Tom Paulson, KTJ was unable to attend as he was honored to be a Grand Marshall for the Veteran's Day parade on 11/11/18 in Roseburg, Oregon. Since we are a military order, it seems worthy to mention his service.

Chev. Tom entered the army in Dec. 1953. He was going to be drafted so he joined to get it over with. They sent him to school to become a crew chief on helicopters. He aced each school he attended and after a few years, he was sent to Warrant Officer Pilot Training to become a helicopter pilot. He stayed for 21 years, retiring in 1974 in Fairbanks AK. Tom had assignments to Korea, two tours of combat in Vietnam, a tour of Verona, Italy and finished up his career in Fairbanks, Alaska flying Chinooks and with the rank of CW4. Thank you for your service, Chev. Tom and all the others that have served throughout the world.

Chev. Mark Peterson, KCTJ  
*Commander – Commandery of St. Cuthbert's*

## *Saint Andrews Day – November 30<sup>th</sup>*



Written by Michael T R B Turnbull, author of *Saint Andrew: Myth, Legend and Reality*

Saint Andrew (who is believed to have later preached around the shores of the Black Sea), was an agile and hardy Galilean fisherman whose name means Strong and who also had good social skills. He brought the first foreigners to meet Jesus and shamed a large crowd of people into sharing their food with the people beside them. Today we might describe him as the Patron Saint of Social Networking!

Having Saint Andrew as Scotland's Patron gave the country several advantages: because he was the brother of Saint Peter, founder of the Church, the Scots were able to appeal to the Pope in 1320 (The Declaration of Arbroath) for protection against the attempts of English kings to conquer the Scots. Traditionally, Scots also claimed that they were descended from the Scythians who lived on the shores of the Black Sea in what is now Romania and Bulgaria and were converted by Saint Andrew.

As Scotland slowly became a nation it needed a national symbol to rally round and motivate the country. Saint Andrew was an inspired choice and the early Picts and Scots modelled themselves on Saint Andrew and on one of his strong supporters, the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, whose statue you can see today in York, where he visited his father, a Roman General then trying to force the Picts to go back north.

Although a pagan who worshipped the Roman sun god Sol, Constantine later became a Christian and went on to make Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire.

It all began near Rome in 312 AD when, on the night of a make-or-break battle against a rival emperor, he saw the symbol X P (Greek for the first two letters of 'Christ') in the dazzling light of the setting sun and then had a dream in which he was promised victory. Constantine ordered his troops to hold the Christian cross at the front of the army, and won.

In a similar way, around 500 years later, King Angus of the Picts, facing a larger army of Saxons at Athelstaneford in what is now East Lothian in Scotland, was overwhelmed by a blinding light the night before the battle and, during the night, had a dream. The message he was given was that he would see a Cross in the sky and would conquer his enemies in its name.

The following morning King Angus looked into the rising sun and saw the Saltire Cross in its blinding light. This filled him and his men with great confidence and they were victorious. From that time Saint Andrew and his Saltire Cross were adopted as the national symbols for an emerging Scotland.

The Saltire Cross became the heraldic arms that every Scot is entitled to fly and wear. However, its color was not white at first but silver (Argent), as in heraldry white stands for silver.

## *Saint Andrew Continued*

The first time the color of the Saltire is mentioned is in the Acts of Parliament of King Robert II in July 1385 where every Scottish soldier was ordered to wear a white Saltire. If the uniform was white, then the Saltire was to be stitched onto a black background.

Both William Wallace and King Robert the Bruce appealed to Saint Andrew to guide them in times of national emergency. The Saltire was flown on Scottish ships and used as the logo of Scottish banks, on Scottish coins and seals and displayed at the funerals of Scottish kings and queens - that of King James VI for example and of his mother, Mary Queen of Scots. At the Union of the Crowns in 1603, London was treated to the spectacle of Saint Andrew and Saint George on horseback, shaking hands in friendship. When King George IV visited Edinburgh in 1822 he was presented with a Saltire Cross made of pearls on velvet, within a circle of gold.

There is also a wider dimension. Saint Andrew and his relics at St Mary's Metropolitan Cathedral, Edinburgh provides Scots with a special link to Amalfi in Italy and Patras in Greece (where two Cathedrals named after the saint also hold his relics). The many St Andrew Societies worldwide, set up originally as self-help organizations for Scots who had fallen on hard times, form a network of Scots who are all united under the Saltire Cross of Saint Andrew. They give Scotland a European and worldwide dimension.

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## *Priory of Saint Columba*

The holidays are almost upon us and soon we will be determining our charities for 2019. The Priory is also planning to have an Investiture and Convent separately on the same day - April 27th. These events will take place in Minnesota and I hope that many of our Knights and Dames can attend and take part. The day will be capped with a pleasant Dining out. There will also be a reception for the Postulants on the evening of April 26th at your Prior's residence.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Allen for taking on the Victor in addition to organizing the Preceptory of Rosslyn which is to be centered in the Southeast. Best wishes to you Allen. I also wish to thank those members of the Army Reserve and National Guard that are serving and have served in Southeast Asia. Also those volunteers to the Coast Guard Auxiliary. I haven't forgot our Veterans either - all the best.

Since 2018 is coming to a close, I will be requesting copies of reports and minutes from all of the Commanders and Preceptors along with copies of the sign in sheets.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in Minnesota in April.

God Bless

Chev. Robert C Buie, GOTJ  
*Prior - Priory of St. Columba*

## *Priory of Robert the Bruce*

Dear Robert,

You asked that I write an article about the option on Facebook to set up a donation to a charity of your choice ahead of your birthday as a fund raiser.

I believe it was about 2 to 3 weeks ahead of my birthday that I received a notice from Facebook to let me know that they offer an opportunity to ask for donations to a charity of your choice thru Face book. I was excited to see that they do all of the donation on line and they send the funds directly to the Charity of your choice, all you have to do is select a charity and set up a goal that you would like to reach.

I chose Alzheimer's research as it is a cause that is near and dear to my heart. My father in law (my father at heart) has this disease and to watch your loved one ship away by the loss of memory is so difficult. He is healthy in his body but his mind has slipped away. He was a very vibrant individual and not only is he my father at heart but he is a dear friend. I learned how to golf so that I could golf with him as no one else in the family golfed. I was with him the first and only time I got a hole in one playing in Hawaii on the big island. We always shared or birthdays as we were born a day apart, separated by years.

I hope that this will encourage others to take advantage of this opportunity to set up a donation page for their birthday for a charity that has meaning to them. Any time we can do the smallest and simplest of things to help others is always a blessing. I know that they will not find a cure in my father at hearts time, but hope to help other families to not have to go through a loss such as this. I set a small goal of \$200 and was able to reach it. Next year I will go bigger. Remember to reach for the stars and enjoy the blessing that come your way.

Thank you,  
Dame Cheryl Cook, GOTJ  
*Prior, Priory of Robert the Bruce*

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## *British Home*

Several member of the Priory of Robert the Bruce and some additional guests provided entertainment and desserts to the seniors who reside at the British Home in Sierra Madre. Dame Sandra Moffett, DCTJ was the mistress of ceremony and kept the flow running very smoothly. We were able to be there on the day that Sophie one of the residents turned 109 years young. Chrisy Orcholski opened the entertainment, playing the bag pipes and did a mock haggis presentation before we started serving the guests dessert. The entertainment provided included Mikk Otsmaa a very accomplished pianist, Arielle Sitrick an amazing vocalist the two of them preformed 4 songs, Mark Duncan a Story teller who shared a story and a couple of poems. He also did the salute to the haggis in Gaelic with the English translation given by Robin Price. Chev. Robin Price, KTJ our weapons specialist and George Mitchell, KTJ our Charity Coordinator did a sword fighting demonstration. This always gets great attention and a few questions.

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*British Home – continued from page 6*

The guests of the home were entertained, and the interaction was wonderful with them. The pianist also played background music, some of the songs were requested by the residents as we served them dessert of a large variety. From Ice Cream which was a favorite to scones with clotted cream and lemon curd, a variety of cookies, brownies, strawberries, pies, cheese and cracker, and the home also served wine along with tea and coffee.

It is such a joy to do this event each year and to see the reactions of the residents and the interaction with all of us. A huge thank you goes out to Chev. George Mitchell and Dame Sandra Moffett for coordinating the entertainment. And to all the Templar's in attendance as well for your service.

All of the photos provided by Chev. Brian Armstrong, KTJ, thank you for sharing your talent of capturing the moments for us.

Respectfully submitted,

Dame Cheryl Cook, DCTJ  
*Prior, Priory of Robert the Bruce*

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*British Home Photos*



Announcement



Miss Sofie, 109 years old



Miss Sofie's Birthday Throne

*British Home Photos Continued*



### *Preceptory of Rosslyn*

An informal dinner meeting will be held, Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at 6:30pm, at the Seasons 52 restaurant in Altamonte Springs, Florida. It is located about 11 miles from the Central Florida Scottish Games in Winter Springs.

The purpose of the meeting is to reestablish the Preceptory for those Scottish Knights and Dames that live throughout the South and Mid-Atlantic states, whereby facilitating more active participation at the Preceptory level.

For those with non-Templar spouses, I would like to extend an invitation to them as well.

Please note that dress will be casual as well as Scottish day wear for those attending the games prior to the meeting.

Chev. G. Allen Cummings, KCTJ  
*Preceptor – Preceptory of Rosslyn*

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### *Soliciting for a Newsletter Editor*

After a decade of publishing *The Victor*, August, 2018, Chev. Robert Ryder has decided the time had come to step aside. Over his tenure as Newsletter Editor, Robert's hard work added a touch of elegance and class to our newsletter.

Robert, while serving his country in the armed forces, spent two tours of duty in Vietnam. Thank you, Robert for your service.

In the interim of finding someone interested in publishing our newsletter, Chev. G. Allen Cummings will be acting as Newsletter Editor.

Those interested in publishing the newsletter should contact their Prior, who in turn, will contact the Grand Bailiff.

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### *I'm Third*



*God is first  
Others are second  
I'm third*

## Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving holiday tradition is traced to a sparsely documented 1621 celebration at Plymouth in present-day Massachusetts, and also to a well recorded 1619 event in Virginia. The 1621 Plymouth feast and thanksgiving was prompted by a good harvest. Pilgrims and Puritans who began emigrating from England in the 1620s and 1630s carried the tradition of Days of Fasting and Days of Thanksgiving with them to New England. The 1619 arrival of 38 English settlers at Berkeley Hundred in Charles City County, Virginia, concluded with a religious celebration as dictated by the group's charter from the London Company, which

specifically required "that the day of our ships arrival at the place assigned ... in the land of Virginia shall be yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God.

Thanksgiving Day is traditionally a day for families and friends to get together for a special meal. The meal often includes a turkey, stuffing, potatoes, cranberry sauce, gravy, pumpkin pie, and vegetables. Thanksgiving Day is a time for many people to give thanks for what they have.

Unfortunately, thanksgiving festivities are short lived as it also marks the opening of the Christmas shopping season. The day after Thanksgiving is celebrated as a different type of holiday, known as Black Friday; aka, shop until you drop. Some businesses don't even wait until Friday for their sales to begin. They start their sales on Thanksgiving evening.



In light of the devastation of hurricanes Florence, Michael, and the western wild fires, thanksgiving takes on a perspective to put things in proper order. After looking at the devastation and thousands losing all of their possessions, most are heart felt for the unfortunate and the "need of thanksgiving" is profound. For those affected, there is no turkey, stuffing, potatoes, gravy or pie. There is no television to show parades or football. There is no black Friday.

We are a blessed nation with a lot to be thankful for and have a good heart to reach out to those less fortunate. Please remember the unfortunate and ask God's blessing's for them in their time of need. Please give to a charity worthy to help those in need.

Chev. G. Allen Cummings, KCTJ  
*Newsletter Editor*

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## **A Saltire**



As my wife, Sandra, and I set out for a day of fishing, I noticed that there was a Saltire in the sky above our home. It was like Saint Andrew was wishing us well for the day.

As it turned out, we had a good day fishing. We both caught several fish, while Sandra caught her first spanish mackerel.

Chev. G. Allen Cummings, KCTJ  
*Calabash, North Carolina*

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## **Yule**

by J K Annand



I'm gaun to hing a stockin up,  
I'll borrow my big brither's,  
It's bigger nor my sister's ane  
And strang-er nor my mither's.

I'll be in bed on Yule E'en  
When Faither Christmas comes.  
I ken he'll wale oor chimley oot  
Among the ither lums.

On Yule richt early I'll be up  
Afore the screich o day  
To see what ferlies Santa Claus  
Has brocht me for my play.

I hope he'll mind a cuddly bear,  
And cups for dolly's tea  
Wi lots o ither bonnie toys  
For a guid wee lass like me.

*The Grand Bailiwick of the Scots - Privy Council*

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