

The United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St John of
Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta in England & Wales and Provinces Overseas
Provincial Priory of Oxfordshire, Berkshire & Buckinghamshire

Provincial Prior

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To all the Knights of the Province.

It is that time of year when we are preparing for the Festive Season ahead of us. It certainly has been a busy year for us all and our membership has been increasing month on month, thanks to the continuing efforts of our members, one of whom, in fact, is in the process of proposing *eight* new knights.

I sincerely hope you have a Happy & Peaceful Christmas and you fulfil your wishes for 2024.

However, it is now, with great sadness that I must inform you of my decision to stand down as the Provincial Prior of this wonderful Province, effective January 1st 2024. This decision has been a very difficult one for me to make, but it is necessary due to my recent diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.

Recently, I have been experiencing health challenges that have impacted my ability to perform my duties as effectively as I would like. Despite my best efforts to manage these, it has become increasingly clear that I need to prioritise my well-being and focus on my health.

E. Kt. Dean White will become Sub-Prior-In-Charge on the 1st of January 2024. I have written to the Most Eminent & Supreme Grand Master and he has acknowledged my decision in a very kind and thoughtful reply. I know you will afford Dean your full support in this transition period.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to you for the support you have given me during my time in office. I have truly valued every minute. I will continue to support our Province and will be out and about support my successor in whatever way I am able.

Thank you once again for your understanding. I wish you all continued success.

With kindest regards and in the bonds of the Order

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

R.E. Kt. Graham J. McGowan-Smyth,
PROVINCIAL PRIOR