

BACKGROUND

The Order of Knights Templar Priests goes back to the late 1700s as records exist in Ireland of work under the Irish Early Grand Encampment of Knight Templars and various Craft Lodges who got together to confer this degree. It was then spread, mostly by masonic members of military units, to the North of England, Scotland, Bristol and elsewhere.

From 1812 there was, in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, a Council of Knights Grand Cross of the Holy Temple of Jerusalem, which included the Knight Templar Priest among its Degrees. This appears to have been operating in the 1800's, although gradually declining and almost becoming moribund, until in 1884 there was only one known member left. This was Henry Hotham, a prominent Northumberland and Yorkshire mason, and under the authority of one of the original Rules of the Order he managed to admit sufficient new Knights into the Order thus saving it from extinction.

The revived body, conscious that there was still no ruling body, decided to place itself under the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees (AMD) (formed in London in 1880), which gave a welcome to all unattached degrees. At the same time, in Newcastle-upon-Tyne under the Knights Grand Cross, a Royal Kent Tabernacle was maintained (now it is considered - 'Time Immemorial') and this continued to work the Order in the north of England. From 1890 onwards the Order returned from AMD to be under the Knights Grand Cross Orders, whence it then prospered in various locations.

In 1923 the present ruling body - Grand College - was formed to control the Order and was based in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. It subsequently moved to York, where it remains as the specified location of the headquarters of the Order.

From small beginnings and despite periods of inactivity, the Order is now thriving world-wide. There are presently more than 260 Tabernacles, spread throughout the UK and Europe, and, as far afield as the Far East, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, the Southern Americas, and the Caribbean. In 1931 a separate Grand College was set up in amity in the USA, where it is now strongly established.

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



*A Christian Order
by
Invitation*

This is an exclusively Christian Order, with candidates invited to join. To be considered for membership of this deeply significant order you must:

- Be a subscribing: Master Mason, a Royal Arch Mason and a Knight Templar.
- And declare your belief in the Trinitarian Christian Faith.

The dress of the Order is a Tunic similar to KT, with a plain white Mantle and a Mitre hat. No swords, belts, gloves or other KT regalia are worn – despite shared background with KT from their early operation under the Knights Grand Cross Orders, KTP is now a distinct and separate Order.



The gatherings of the KTP Order are called Tabernacles, and in these the delightful ceremony of admitting a Knight Templar Priest is performed. In the ceremony, the candidate is conducted round seven Pillars, placed in triangular form, where various officers deliver short readings from the Old and New Testaments, bringing to the candidate's attention his path in reaching the Light of a good life in God's care.

In 2014 the Order of Holy Wisdom (OHW) was resurrected as a separate but associated Order. The OHW had been worked up until the 1880's, but had fallen into disuse due to the complexity of the ritual and the regalia. A revised and much more practical ritual is now being worked, which retains the precepts and characterisation of the original and provides a most moving and meaningful ceremony concerning the further light of Holy Wisdom.

The overall Order is governed by the Grand College, who are by tradition based in York, with the Most Illustrious Grand High Priest at its head. The Order is divided into Districts, each presided over by a Grand Superintendent, with local Tabernacles forming the District, and each Tabernacle ruled by a Very Eminent High Priest.

Grand College controls some 33 degrees, though only two - The Knight Templar Priest and the Order of Holy Wisdom - are worked as conferring ceremonies. The others, titled the Appendant Degrees, are occasionally demonstrated at various places in the UK, often by Installed High Priests' Tabernacles – one of these is planned for this District.

The local District is Lincolnshire, No. 52, in which presently there are four Tabernacles - these each meet 2 or 3 times each year.

The current Tabernacles are: -

LINCOLN TABERNACLE NO. 49

Meeting at the Lincoln Masonic Centre
– two meetings each year, September and April.

ST. PETER TABERNACLE NO. 82

Meeting at the Skegness Masonic Hall
– three meetings each year, September, March and June.

JOHN CHARLES BOARD TABERNACLE NO. 261

Meeting at the Cleethorpes Masonic Hall
– two meetings each year, September and May.

ST. HUGH TABERNACLE OF I.H.P.'S

Meeting at various Masonic Halls in Lincolnshire
– Up to 3 meetings per year at such times as the High Priest shall direct, after consultation and agreement with the Grand Superintendent.

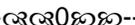
The Principal Officers of the Lincolnshire District are: -

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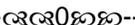
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