

# **Knight Templars & Hospitallers in my Backyard**

**By The Kernowkid**



## **The Holy Land**



The Holy Land mass is located between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea but also includes the Eastern Bank of the Jordan River. Historically, it is synonymous with both the land of Israel and Palestine, the Lebanese Republic, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. It is considered holy by certain Jews, Christians and Muslims. The land stems from the religious significance of Jerusalem, the holiest city to Judaism, the historical region of Jesus's ministry, and Islam prophet Mohammad Isra and Mi'raj journey and Mount Nebo, where Moses may have died.



The perceived holiness of the land to Christianity was part of the motivation for embarking on the Crusades when European Christians sought to win the Holy Land back from the Muslim Seljuk Turks. The Turks had command over the Holy Land after defeating the Muslim Arabs, who in turn conquered the area from the Christian Byzantine Empire.

The Holy Land have long been pilgrimage destinations for adherents of the Abrahamic religions, Jews, Christians, Muslims, and Bahá'ís. Pilgrims visit the Holy Land to touch and see physical manifestations of their faith.

## **The Crusades**



The Crusades were a series of religious wars fought between Christians and Muslims over control of the Holy Land. Traditionally, they took place between 1095 and 1291. The Holy Land was and remain religious faiths for the three major religions Islam, Judaism, and Christianity.

There were several crusades. The most important and largest Crusades took place from the 11th century to the 13th century. In total there were nine sweeping Crusades during this period. The smaller Crusades continued to the 16th century, until the Renaissance and Reformation. The Crusades crashed through much of the

Byzantine Empire, leaving wholesale destruction, many thousands of deaths, cruel injuries and torture in its wake. A real rough and fanatical ferocious rumble.

It is possible many joined the Crusades for other than religion, pillage, economic and political gain. All wars require substantial financial support, as they do today.

The First Crusade was proclaimed by Urban II in the year 1095. The Pope saw in the crusade an opportunity among the quarrelling nobles when the English barons were on verge of revolt. King John of England depended on the two Knightly Orders of the Temple and St. John to channel their warring fervour for the glory, financial and political gain.

The early impetus behind the crusade was probably religious. The first wave was composed mostly of peasants, but they were followed by military contingents in subsequent waves. In 1099 they actually took control of Jerusalem from the Muslims and formed the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem. This Kingdom lasted until 1187 until Jerusalem was re-taken by the Muslims. One military historian has estimated the casualty rate for the First Crusade at an appalling 75 percent. The Crusades ended two centuries after they had begun, achieving only mixed results? The crusades ended with the Fall of Acre in 1291.



## Knights Templars



The Knights Templar can be traced their origin back to shortly after the First Crusade around 1119. A French nobleman from the Champagne region, Hugues de Payens, arranged eight of his knighted relatives including Godfrey de Saint-Omer began the Order. Their declared objective was to protect pilgrims on their journey to visit the Holy lands. King Baldwin II of Jerusalem permitted the Knights to set up a headquarters on the Temple Mount 'Dome of the Rock' the site of the Jewish Temple, known to

Christians and throughout the Muslim occupation of Jerusalem as the Holy of Holies. The Dome of the Rock became a Christian church, the '*Emplum Domini*', the Temple of the Lord. But the Templars were lodged in the 'Aqsa Mosque' known as the '*Templum Solomonic*' the site of Solomon's Temple.



The knights by association became known as the '*Pauperes Commilitones Christi Templique Solomonic*' – the Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon, which was eventually shortened to "Knights Templars".

The Knights Templar were the elite fighting force of their day. Well trained, and equipped, highly motivated. One of the tenets of their religious order was that they were forbidden from retire in battle unless outnumbered three to one. Even then only by order of their commander, or if the Templar flag went down. The Templars were also good tacticians in the belief that a small force, under the right conditions, could defeat a much larger number of adversaries.



By 1150, the Order's original mission of escorting pilgrims transposed

into a mission of guarding their valuables through an innovative way of issuing letters of credit with high interest, an early precursor of modern 'shylock' banking. Pilgrims could visit a Templar house in their home country, depositing their deeds and valuables. The Templars would then give them a letter which would describe their holdings.

Their acumen by fair or foul ways Templar's success attracted concern among other Orders. The two most powerful rivals being the Knights Hospitaller and the Teutonic Knights. Various noble elite also raised financial concerns about the Templars and nervous about a growing independent army that was able to move freely through porous borders.



The long-famed military acumen of the Templars began to stumble in the 1180s. On July 4, 1187, came the disastrous Battle of the Horns of Hattin, Saladin decisively defeated the Crusaders at the battle. Two hundred of the Templar and Hospitaller Knights were taken prisoner and summarily executed on Saladin's orders, with the exception of the Grand Master of the Temple. The executions were by decapitation. Saint Nicasius, a Knight Hospitaller venerated as a Christian martyr, is said to have been one of the victims.

Saladin's forces were able to conquer a great part of the Kingdom of Jerusalem with little opposition, among them the city of Acre. On 2 October 1187 Gerard de Ridefort, Grand Master of the Templars was killed and Jerusalem fell. It was a turning point in the Crusades. But in the early 1190s, in a short and savage effective campaign, Richard the Lionheart King of England and leader of the Third Crusade, together with his allies the Templars, delivered a series of effectual blows against Saladin and recovered much of Christian territory but their outlines were much diminished.

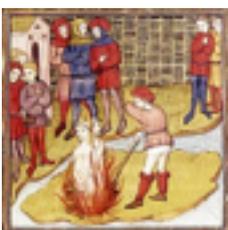


But after the Siege of Acre in 1291, the Templars were forced to relocate their headquarters to the island of Cyprus.

In 1312, after the Council of Vienne, and under extreme pressure from King Philip IV, Pope Clement V issued an edict officially dissolving the Order.

Much of the Templar property outside France was transferred by the Pope to the Knights Hospitaller. Many surviving Templars were accepted into the Hospitaller Order.

Even with the absorption of Templars into other Orders, there are still questions as to what became of all of the tens of thousands of Templars across Europe. There had been 15,000 "Templar Houses", and an entire fleet of ships.



In France hundreds of Templars were rounded up and arrested, tortured and burned at the stake together with De Molay the Grand Master. The Templars in England were tried but not executed. The extensive archives of the Templars, with detailed records of all of their business holdings and financial transactions were not recovered. By papal Bull the holdings may have been transferred to the Hospitallers and perhaps manipulated by sleight of hand?

## The Hospitaller Knights Of St. John



The Order's origins are obscure. It was possibly a group of Amalfitan merchants who established a hospital/hospice attached to Monastery of St Mary of the Latins in Jerusalem, then ruled by Turkish Emirs. The hospital seems to have been manned by a religious community of layman headed by an otherwise shadowy figure called Gerard, possibly originally an Amalfitan merchant.

The Jerusalem hospital used the neighbouring church of John the Baptist as its chapel, situated on supposed site where an angel announced the conception of the Baptist.

The hospital catered for western pilgrims. Jerusalem had three different sets of rulers in the 1090s. This led to an increase in pious pilgrim visits from western Europe. It led to the hospital being given property and estates in Europe by grateful donors. By 1113, the community that ran the hospital had acquired a distinct corporate identity and status. Two hospitals or guest houses were built.

Men dedicated themselves to St. John and women to St. Mary Magdalene. The Order was based on religion and charity. The Knights called themselves 'The Servants of the Poor and Christ'. Admission was by a solemn religious ceremony during which the candidate was clothed with a mantle bearing the cross with eight points called the Maltese Cross. He was told the eight points denoted the beatitudes of the Gospel, which we must strive after, and the white cross denoted that purity life which the Christian soldier must follow devoted to the care of guests and management of the estates.



The emphasis was on rest, nursing, palliative care and diet rather than intervention, the latter being in this period was not very effectual.

The hospital was open to all men and came to be catered for by the Order of Lazarus.

The house of the Knights were mainly centres of hospitality. Any stranger could demand three days hospitality. Gatherings of men in preceptories was beneficial to them. News, prices and information, gathered from the network spread across Europe. The main thread was in hand that of the Grand Master.

In 1338 Accounts Return to the Grand Master showed all the possessions of the Knights in England giving the income and each Preceptory. The sources of mansions, gardens, dove cotes and pigeons houses. The profit from water and wind mills, rents of arable land, meadows at so much per acre. Market tolls profits of stock and grants of benefactors, parish tithes, rents from tenants.

The assessed rents in England in 1338 amounted to sterling 2,1137s 3/4d. The voluntary contributions amounted to sterling 884 4s 3d. The expenses included food for the Knights and their household, their guests, clothing and pensioners who received fixed amounts for food. In 1338 the total profits of the Order in England amounted to sterling 6,840 4s was sent across the sea to the Treasurer of the Grand Master.

## Militarisation

In 1115 the hospital work was developed into a military basis under the name of Knights of St. John or the Hospital. Later they were known as the Knights of Rhodes or of Malta. The members vowed poverty, obedience and chastity to the care of the pilgrims and to bear arms in defence. The members were in three classes. Knights, Esquires (from whom the Knights were chosen) and Chaplains, clergy members of the Order.



The Order and their rival Order of the Temple also grew in wealth and power. It is said that their '*hospitium*' at Jerusalem could shelter 2,000 pilgrims at a time. At the beginning of the fourteenth century the Hospitallers are said to have possessed 19,000 manors of which ninety-three were in England.

One key aspect of the Order was that it never lost its charitable role as a nursing and medical order. Even when militarised, knights expected to serve their turn in the wards. However, a number of factors changed the Order to adopt a military role.

The Order hired mercenaries with the Templars taking a role in manning fortresses. Together they could produce a standing army many thousands strong and defence force.

The Hospitaller Order survived its first crisis at the Siege of Acre 1291 as the Order was better organised. In contrast to the Templars whose powers diminished. The Hospitallers retained a charitable function that operated beyond the narrowly political fate of Christian holdings in the Levant. The decision to conquer Rhodes from the Greeks secured a strategic base away from predatory western rulers retaining a military role against Islam. The Order established a lucrative position on eastern Mediterranean trade routes for commerce including piracy. Concurrently, the Hospitallers benefitted financially from suppression of Templars in 1312 by papal decree, inheriting much of their lands such as Temple in London and St John's Wood (1323). In the later middle ages the Order of St. John was probably the greatest single ecclesiastical landlord in England.



St. John's Gate 16th-century gatehouse once formed the entrance to the Priory of Clerkenwell. It was built in 1504 by Prior Thomas Docwra. The south entrance shows the inner precinct of the Priory of the Knights of Saint John Hospitallers. Run according to the Augustinian rule, it was the residence of the Hospitallers' Grand Prior in England, and was thus their English headquarters. The Gate is one of the few tangible remains from Clerkenwell's monastic past. Their work in England on the site of their ancient home on Clerkenwell is a foundation of the St. John Ambulance Association.



## Knights of Trebeigh or Trebighan



At the time of the Norman Conquest there was a farm in South East Cornwall with the Cornish name of "Trebighan", meaning "Little Farm". This farm was part of the estates of the Abbot of Tavistock and the tenant farmer was Oswulf.

After William, Duke of Normandy, was crowned on Christmas Day 1066 he took all the land and distributed it amongst his own Norman knights. Trebighan was given to his half brother Robert, Count of Mortain.

The entry in the Domesday Book for Trebighan reads:

*"The land of the Count of Mortain. Oswulf held it before 1066, and paid tax for 1 ferling (30 acres); 1/2 hide there, (a hide approx. 120 acres) however. Land for 2 ploughs (farms on the manor), 3 smallholders, Pasture 200 acres. Value formerly 20s. value now 5s."*

Under the ownership of the Count we read that Trebighan became almost like a royal palace, with a courtfleet, a steward, a bailiff and a prison. It had the right to try small offences and punish for debts and damages.

When Robert of Mortain died, the new owner was King Stephen, who on his death left it to King Henry II. King Henry gave the manor of Trebighan, now called 'Trebeigh,' to the Knight's Templars in 1150.

For more than 150 years the Templars lived their quiet, orderly lives in the monastery at Trebeigh and then came trouble. Stories and accusations were invented to bring about their downfall. Even in St Ives Church, Giles, the rector appointed by the Templars, was involved in a scandal and had to leave. His successor was the first rector to be appointed by "The Prior to the Holy House of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem in England", received all Templar properties including Trebeigh. It became the centre for the administration of all the estates in Cornwall.

The monastic life continued peacefully at Trebeigh. Pilgrims on their way to the Holy Land could find refuge and refreshment before they reached St. Michael's Mount and Mousehole harbour points of departure from Cornwall.

Shortly, the Order became short of men. Many had been lost as a result of the Black Death scourge and the shortage was felt all over England. Trebeigh became united with Anstey in Wiltshire under Robert Botyll, the only Preceptor to rise to any prominence in the Order. In 1440 he became Grand Prior of England and as such was a trusted advisor to Henry VI.

When Henry VIII confiscated all the Templar lands the estates were leased to Sir John Chamond and John Welsh. The dissolution made very little difference to the tenants. Sir John remained until his lease expired and was followed by Robert Gardyner who had leased the estate from Edward VI at an annual rent of £48.

Queen Tudor (Bloody) Mary (1516 -1558) returned Trebeigh to the Templars but Queen Elizabeth the First finally abolished the Order and assigned the estate by 'Letters Patent' to Henry Welbye and George Blythe and to their heirs. From them it passed to Henry Killigrew of Wolston to his daughter by marriage to John Wrey. The manor became their residence and much of the old Preceptory was pulled down to make way for a new mansion to be built on the site. So it was in 1584 when John Norden wrote his "Descriptions of Cornwall". His entry reads:

*"Trebeigh, the house and manor of William Wraye, priviledged with a large franchise"*

The Wrey family made Trebeigh their home for about a hundred years. Then the heir married a young lady of the wealthy Bouchier family and they moved to her home at Tawstock near Barnstaple. The status of Trebeigh declined to that of a farm and was let to a succession of tenants for nearly 300 years. It was in 1960 that the farm was purchased by members of the Gillbard family from Sir Bouchier Wrey. These were the third generation of that family to have farmed it as tenants.

The farm house still has a buttressed wall on the south east corner. The lintel of carved granite on the north west wall has designs resembling Maltese Crosses which have become weathered by time. The head of the front staircase is adorned with huge figured granite and the dog tooth pattern at the base suggests the early English style of architecture. The windows at the front and back are Tudor design and the chimney wall hides a Tudor fireplace. This was uncovered in 1982 and revealed a hearth of enormous proportions complete with a cloam oven and iron chimney bar. Upstairs is a small chamber, still with beams and plaster, hidden in a wall.

There are stories and traditions handed down - that Church Park, the field immediately below the Church, must never be ploughed. Another says that a secret tunnel links Trebeigh to the Church. Trebeigh is now known locally as "Trebeth", in the Cornish language this means 'the farm with a grave', thus giving credence to the story that Church Park is an old burial ground.

Trebeigh lies in a sheltered valley with a good supply of water and surrounded by woods. One hopes the property's historical past is not forgotten.

The Templars were suppressed in 1308. From registers of John de Grandisson the Bishop of Exeter there was an entry the return of the possessions to the Hospitallers in Cornwall. The St.Ivo Church 1336 is dedicated to St Ivo an early Cornish Saint. At first, the Church was associated with the Templars in Cornwall. They had their Preceptory nearby Trebeigh. (*Pilgrims Trebeigh Way, church and 16th Century Inn below*)



## The Receipts for the Year 1338 for the Preceptory of Trebeigh & Landithy Madron

Manson House with Garden		16s	8d
Water Mill		10s	6d
200 ares of land at 3d per acre	2 pound	11s	0d
3 acres land at 1d		3s	0d
Assessed rental from holders	1 pound	10s	0d
Glebe of Church of St. Ive			9d
Glebe of Church of St. Madden			9d
Glebe of Church of St. Cleer		13s	4d
Pension from Vicar of St.Maddern	2 pound	13s	4d
Appropriation of St. Maddern	28 pound	13s	4d
Appropriation of St. Trebeigh	18 pound	13S	4d
Voluntary offering which used to be worth (21 pound 6s 8d)	18 pound	13 s	4d
	Total	74 pound	18s 4d
Receipts			

## Payment Expenses of the House

Bread 12 qrs of flour at 3s per qrs winter wheat 2s 8d per qr	4 pound	12s	4d
Beer 40qrs oat malt 1s & 12 qrsbarley malt at 2s 8d	3 pound	6s	8d
Flesh & fish for kitchen 1s 6d per week	3 pound	18s	0d
Clothes for Knights	1 pound	11s	4d
Commons for the Chaplain	1 pound	0s	0d
Wages for Servants	1 pound	11s	4d
Preceptor & Guest Horses 20qr oats @1s	1 pound	0s	0d
	Whole Expenses	16 pound	19s 8d
Sent to Treasurer	56 pound	19s	4d

## Trebeigh Manor & Cottage and BuildingsToday



## **Fall of Acre to Rhodes**

The Christian Kingdom of Jerusalem came to an end in 1291 at the fall of Acre. The Knights of St. John fortified Island of Rhodes and forts can still be seen. To support the great costly undertaking the Knights turned the living of Madron Cornish preceptory from a rectory into a vicarage.

In 1522 the Turks drove the Knights from Rhodes and settled in Malta. The cost of the war with the Turks like all wars and fortifications was extremely high. It was found the Knights sold the right presentation to Madron twice in about twenty years in the early sixteenth century.

The head House in England was at St. John's, Clerkenwell, where at the gatehouse is today the headquarters of St. John Ambulance work. St. John's Church, Clerkenwell is the chancel of the old Priory church. In the street outside marks the foundations of the ancient round nave for the church once the rival of the Temple church. Both were built as copies of the Rotunda of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem.

In 1540, under King Henry VIII, the Order was suppressed in England and its possessions confiscated by the Crown.

The Lord Prior of Clerkenwell was a man of importance. He ranked as the senior baron of England and often held high office in the State. The first Prior, one Thomas Docwra (1501-1527), was appointed to ride by the side of the King of England at the field with a Cloth of Gold.

Prior Robert de Hales was Lord Treasurer of England a lucrative appointment but was beheaded by Wat Tyler in 1381.

The last sub-prior was John Mableston admitted in 1536 but resigned in 1540. In his will dated 1552, John Mableston, the sub-Prior says moved to Madron parish to live with his brother Thomas in retirement.

The Knights held possession of Malta till it was captured by Napoleon in 1798 leaving magnificent buildings still standing, a testament to power and wealth.

Their work in England on the site of their ancient home on Clerkenwell under the name of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. The St. John Ambulance Association is the foundation of the Order.



St John Ambulance today is a trade name used by a number of affiliated organisations in different countries, counties, states or provinces dedicated to the teaching and practice of medical first aid and the provision of ambulance and community volunteer services. All of which derive their origins from the St John Ambulance Association founded in 1877 in the United Kingdom. The active uniformed first-aiders known as the St John Ambulance Brigade or Community Services were introduced in 1887. The brand name and logo are owned by the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. An international office is located in Hong Kong my backyard. The St. John Ambulance Association (香港聖約翰救護機構) established in 1884, followed by the Ambulance Brigade in 1916 and the Council in 1949.

## Knights of Madron

The writer, as a son of Cornwall's peninsula rough rugged storm beaten cliffs, wild moors and ancient stones, was familiar with Madron village history, and its possession by the Knights. The officials, pilgrims and traders could find shelter and hospitality at Madron (Treasury Rolls for 1373 and 1374).



Local tradition has it that pilgrims travelling from Ireland were in the habit of avoiding the hazards of sailing around rough Lands End seas chose to go overland through Cornwall. One can easily imagine pilgrims leaving to and returning from the Holy Lands Spain, Rome and Palestine landing at Mousehole (Mouzel), a medieval important port at the time Mounts Bay, Cornwall. In the time of Edward III (1312 – 21 June 1377) government officials were sent from London to Mousehole on business connected with the King's shipping.



Depending on wind and tide the pilgrims alternatively could stop at St. Michael's Mount 8.5 hectare island across Mounts Bay. In 1135 a Benedictine Priory linked to the Mount's twin in France endured until the early 15th century when warrior King Henry V declared war on France and seized the Mount. In 1424 the links between the monasteries were severed. It later began a castellated fortress and captured and recaptured over the centuries before it metamorphosed into a shrine for pilgrims. The castle features an armoury, cannons and 14th century Church now the property of the St. Aubyn family since 1659. (*The writer raced a yacht kept on the Mount*)



One can easily imagine pilgrims returning from the Holy Lands, Spain, Rome and Palestine landing at Mousehole, an important port in Mounts Bay after a long voyage and happy back on terra firma rather than sail further up the English Channel or Ireland. They would climb the steep hill to Paul village and follow the wayside centuries old crosses which still stand arriving in Madron where they could rest for three days free of charge with tales of adventure and perhaps sadness but with praise of the hospitality of the Order. The officials, pilgrims and traders would find shelter and hospitality at Madron (Treasury Rolls for 1373 and 1374). Madron residents would have been in touch with the world in the Middle Ages through the hospice for travellers kept by the Knights of St. John until the sad day 7th May 1540 when the Order was suppressed and its possessions confiscated by the King. The rival Order, the Knight Templars had been suppressed 200 year before.

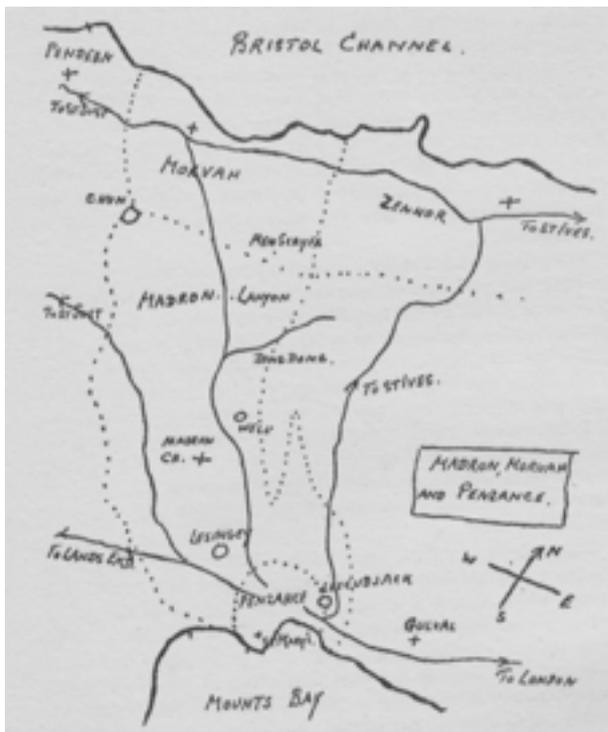


After the suppression of the Order, its property in Madron was held for some time by the Crown. Queen Elizabeth 1st. granted the Advowson and Landithy a right of presentation to a church or benefice to Nicholas Fleming. The monument to his son Thomas is still in the church.

The right of patronage (*ius patronatus*) to the vicarage was sold several times until it was finally purchased by John Borlase of Pendeen. His representatives gave their right to the Bishop of Truro in 1922. Landithy and Trengwainton became the property of Colonel Bolitho D.S.O. Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall.

Early in the nineteenth century, the English branch of the Order (which came into existence in 1130, but had been dormant since the Reformation) was revived. In 1888 the status of the Order was confirmed by Queen Victoria who granted a new Charter which until 1926 controlled the work of the English Grand Priory and its departments. In that year HM King George V granted a Charter which extended the work of the Order for the British Dominions Overseas.

### Madron Early Parish Boundery



The officials, pilgrims and traders could find shelter and hospitality at Madron (Treasury Rolls for 1373 and 1374).

Madron Preceptory at Landithy the hospice kept by the Knights of St. John would be a boon for travellers until the sad day, 7th May 1540, when the Order was suppressed and its possessions confiscated. The rival Order, the Knight Templars had been suppressed earlier.



It was not until 1877 that the St. John Ambulance Association officially came into existence as a department of the Order of St. John. In 1879 the

first manual of ambulance instruction was published and a stores depot at St. John's Gate. The primary object of the

Association is the instruction of persons in First Aid and kindred subjects.

### Madron Church

The church original east end was erected about 1260 or 1270 and enlarged in 15th century. The community's parish church was the religious, spiritual, and economic hub of the village. It stands on a knob of rock with fill 400 feet on a shelf above sea level with a churchyard retaining circular wall and marked the 'Lan' or sacred enclosure of Landithy and a cluster of huts or cells occupied by one Brother.



A natural spring to the Baptistry, wishing well, and waterfall to the north side all the way via an open leat to Penzance must have been a double sacred blessing for the superstitious villagers.



Evidence found proved the antiquity of the site. An inscribed chipped stone measured six feet by three feet at the base hidden away in the south-west wall of the church for 900 years until it was only discovered in 1936. It may have been a pillar Bronze Age stone turned into a memorial stone commemorating a Cornish Princess  
Inscription tentatively; "Qorna Filia Tannae". The wall and arch over the stone is considered pre-

Norman about 1150. The east wall of the south aisle appears to be the same date and south aisle are twelfth-century.



When Madron became the property of the Knights who lived at Landithy immediately just across the road Norman traces remained in the font. Carvings above the windows outside in the south responds to east and west of the present nave. The present chancel and south arcade were built before 1336.

in 1282 Walter de Toothill or Tothayle was Chaplain of St. Margaret's Church. His brother William de Tothill became Lord Prior of the Knights of St. John and appropriated Madron in 1310.

In 1331 the Bishop of Cornwall on the petition of Prior of Clerkenwell removed the interdict halting activities at the Temple Church after the Knights of St. John came into possession of the property of the suppressed and excommunicated Templars.

In 1336 the Vicar of Madron, William de Beverley, came from a wealthy family. He could still afford a living out of Madron after it had been impoverished by the loss of rectorial right in 1309. He gave up the glebe (about a quarter of an acre) in 1336. The Knights needed all the income possible to pay for the fortifications and Grand Master's palace of Rhodes (*Left*).



Robert de Beverley was the King's mason employed in building the palace of Westminster (Exchequer Rolls of Bishop Stapleton 1275). It included the Royal Chapel of St. Stephen given to the Commons of England as place of assembly. St. Stephen's Porch the entrance to the Houses of Parliaments is still called the Porch. He was also the

architect of Choir of Westminster Abbey.

### The Church Consecration

The consecration of Madron Church chancel had to wait until 13 July 1336. The tower was constructed in two stages. The lower is of 1336 and the second added in 1390 while masons were building Morvah church. There was some indication they intended to raise a spire on the tower.

Bishop of Cornwall Grandisson set out with a large retinue, legal officers, archdeacons and most importantly, the Lord Prior of Clerkenwell. Perhaps the only

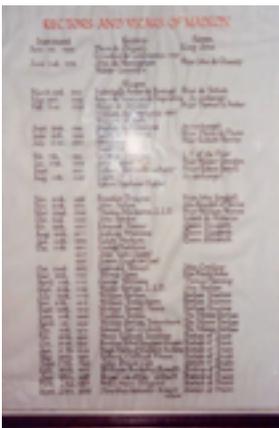
time Madron was honoured by the Lord Prior Philip de Thame. The busy Bishop between first of July 1331 and ninth August consecrated fourteen churches, some of them already constructed for a few years waiting for this important occasion.



In about 1500 the north aisle of the church was constructed during the time of Vicar Benedict Tregos both vicar of Madron and St. Just in Penwith. The Knights were rather occupied fighting for their lives and freedom in Europe and had insufficient money to support the fight let alone construction of churches. The vicar among others was also wealthy and may have enlarged the church and beautiful roof with 250 carved gilded bosses.

Over the decades there were important historical additions such as the rood-screen dated 1450, pulpit, sixteen century belfry-screen. Following around 1500 the church was completed, a parallelogram eighty feet long by fifty-five broad, divided into three aisles of nearly equal width by the two arcades. The screen was removed in 1750 to make room for an orchestra.

## Madron Records



The Register Books of Madron were well preserved. Marriages and burials began in 1577 and Baptisms in 1592. In those days many people had no proper surnames and were called after their village in which they lived. In 1579 there were 155 buried in the churchyard from June to December. The mortality from the plague may have been 10% of the Madron and Penzance population. (*Rectors & Vicars from 1203*)

From 13 March 1815 to 4 June 1817 Vicar Tremeneere copied by hand the earlier volumes. The valuable Register records burials revealing tragedies, devastating epidemics sweeping the country such as the plague between 1647 to 1648.

There was a complete set of beautifully written and detailed Poor Law books from 1757 to 1841 when the old Poor Law authorities gave place to the Boards of Guardians throwing light on rural life of the times. There were several reed hatched poor houses in the parish. The detailed expenses of the poor houses were well preserved. There was no mention of tea, coffee or cocoa, luxuries for the wealthy. The paupers wore an M.P. in red on their sleeves. The workhouse was a larger establishment serving a district. The Marazion and Madron workhouses were given up in 1832.



## Church Yard

Unfortunately, in 1877 the earlier church Minute Books of the Easter Vestry were destroyed thinking it was not necessary to keep them. There is still a complete set of Churchwarden Accounts from 1750 and parish accounts from 1770-1841 to the present time.



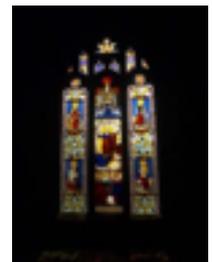
The churchyard burials quickly filled and the old yard closed for burials on 30 June 1878. From time to time the churchyard was extended and the new ground was consecrated by the Bishop of Truro in 1879. Further additional ground was found and consecrated in August 1933 by the seventh Bishop of Truro Dr. Frere.

During the Reformation of 1882 much of the ancient tracery of the windows were removed. Five old bench-ends were found hidden under the floor and can still be seen today. *(Photo left)*

## The Church Music & Glass



Till the middle of the 18th century the prayer book contemplated a choir of choral service. The first records found among the (Churchwarden Accounts 1765-1781) of music at Madron began in 1765. The ancient carved painted screen was removed in 1751 for one of Handel's Oratorios. Singers were originally paid supplemented by an orchestra in 1807. A barrel organ was purchased in 1840 and again in 1845 and 30 October 1859 another new one part of which was



still in use to 1936. Perhaps the orchestra was dispensed with after this.

The English countryside would not be without the melodious peals of hand crafted church bells call to the faithful along heaven's path.

Most Cornish churches had three bells. Certain towers had five as at St. Michael's Mount, a few have six. At the beginning of the 18th century Madron had three bells. During the 112 years from 1712 to 1824 eighty-three peals of bells were cast for Cornish churches. Not out-done, Madron sold their old bells in 1761 for sterling 109 pounds 18s. 6d to buy a new peal of five. Regrettably, the new casted third bell was a bit of a disaster and had to be recast three times. In 1822 two other bells had to be recast. Madron had five bells to 1898 when a treble sixth was added in memory of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee making six.

The gift of the church clock was from Thomas Robins Bolitho inscribed,

***“Watch and Pray, Time Hastens Away”***



## Freemasonry and Knight Templar & St. John

It is worth mentioning here for those who might think there is a clear lineal connection between the Crusader Knights and Freemasonry.

The earliest documented link between Freemasonry and the Crusades is an 1737 oration of the Chevalier Ramsay claiming that European Freemasonry came about from an interaction between Templar crusader masons and the Knights Hospitaller.

At the beginning of the 18th century Freemasons were required to profess the belief in the Christian Trinity. The Constitutions of 1723 and 1738 opened the doors to 'all good men and true' irrespective of their religious persuasion.

A Papal Bull of 1738 excommunicated all freemasons. There was an immediate reaction. In about 1740 it spawned a number of Masonic degrees with a Christian bent appearing in France and across Europe. The masonic Templar Rite and a Rose Croix degrees were considered the most important.

Freemasonry general disclaims that no one Masonic organization a direct heritage to the medieval Knights Templar. Certain Degrees and Orders are patterned after the medieval Order with their regalia and swords. These maybe best described as "commemorative orders" or degrees. The masonic Knight Templars are basically an international philanthropic Chivalric Order affiliated with Freemasonry branches.



The Knights Templar full title of this Order is "The United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta". The word "United" in this title indicates there are more than one historical tradition and one Order controlled within one system. In 1879 it became the national Great Priory of England as a part of the Covenant-General.

The official motto of the Knights Templar is "In Hoc Signo Vincens", the rendition in Latin of the Greek phrase meaning "in this [sign] you will conquer".



The Order derives its name from the historical Knights Templar, but does not claim any direct lineal descent from the original Templar Order.



The Order is a popular one in many countries today working degrees. The ritual draws upon the traditions of medieval Knights Templar, using them to impart moral instruction consistent with the biblical teachings of the Christian tradition. The members wear the Templar and St. John regalia and swords used in the ritual.

There are other organizations called "Knights Templar" like the Order of the Solar Temple, and a notorious drug cartel in Mexico and no way related to Masonic Knights Templar, history, hierarchy, or ritual.

## A Masonic Preceptory & Priory in my Backyard



An Order of the masonic Temple (Knight Templar) was established in Shanghai China under the 'Celestial Preceptory,' Chartered on 3 October 1862,

An 'Encampment' entitled Victoria Preceptory & Priory No. 78 E.C. was warranted on 6 April 1864 to meet in Victoria Hong Kong China.



Shanghai was the only body in Northern China under any Constitution which conferred the degrees of Masonic Knighthood. This body ceased to exist on 11 May 1900. Efforts to revive the Order in 1911 proved successful. A petition was signed on 18 November 1911 for the formation of the Shanghai Preceptory & Priory of Shanghai No.195 EC. A Dispensation was granted dated 6 December 1911 by Field-Marshal H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught & Strathearn K.G. G.C.T., Sovereign of the United Orders in the United

Kingdom, Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master of the Great Priory of England & Wales and Dependencies granting permission for the Preceptory to commence working. A Charter was subsequently issued dated St. Nicholas Day 6 December 1911 to meet at the Masonic Hall 30 The Bund Shanghai.



The first regular meeting of the Preceptory was held on 5 February 1912 A.D. 794 Anno Ordinis in the Masonic Hall No. 30 Bund Shanghai. The Preceptory was opened in full form by the Em. Kt. John Reside Hykes who had previously been duly installed by the Em. Kt. James Spencer Hough, in Victoria Preceptory No. 78 at Hong Kong under instructions from H.R.H.

The Grand Master. The Preceptory was solemnly consecrated in accordance with ancient usage and the first officers were installed.

Shanghai's geographical was rather unique, as many jurisdictions and nationalities worked together in harmony.



The Masonic Hall at 30 Bund in 1928 was demolished in 1928. The construction of the new hall at 1623 Avenue Road in 1931 Shanghai proceeded accordingly. The Preceptory took up residence there until the Japanese occupation in WW II and to about the promulgation of the Peoples Republic of



China in 1949. The Order was transferred to Hong Kong in about 1951. (left & right)

The Preceptory joined the Provincial Priory of China in 1927. Its first members were appointed to Provincial Office by the Provincial Prior, the V.Em. Kt. Sir Paul Chater C.M.G., K.C.T. ( P.Prov.Prior 1885-1926) of Hong Kong.



The Provincial Priory of the Far East was reconstituted on 2 December in 1991 separated into two Provinces to meet in Hong Kong, with Victoria Preceptory No. 78 EC and Shanghai Preceptory No. 195 EC; the Provincial

**Priory of the South East Asia included the East Preceptory No. 227 Singapore and Golden Chersonese Preceptory & Priory No. 290.**

**The Order of St. John and its legacy today embraces a Jerusalem eye hospital, a maternity clinic in Bethlehem, grand iconic ruins such as Krak des Chevaliers in Syria, leafy St John's Wood and the St John's Ambulance service. All these derive in some direct way from a hospital for western European Christian pilgrims founded in Jerusalem probably around the year 1080.**

### **Madron and Mousehole Local History**

**As a youth the writer freely rambled the byways and across Madron fields and adjacent parishes. Walking past the over 2,500 year old granite stone megalithic monuments, ancient Celtic and Iron and Neolithic bronze mysterious 'cromlech'. Crawling through the hole of 'Men an Tol' the 'stone with hole' wondering whether one might turn into a toad offending one's Celtic ancestor's ritual place.**



**We learned of the sack of Mousehole and Penzance by marauding Spanish during the Anglo-Spanish war of 1585-1604. It was conducted by a Spanish naval squadron from Brittany, France. On 2 August 1595 Spanish forces landed at Mount's Bay, burning the peasant fishing villages of Mousehole, including Paul church, Newlyn and Penzance. The only surviving building in Mousehole was the 'Keigwin Arms', a local inn now a residence. Outside the Keigwin Arms is a plaque with the wording "Squire Jenkyn Keigwin was killed here 23 July 1595 defending this house against the Spaniards".**

**The news of the death of Vice Admiral Horatio Nelson following the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 was received first in England by the arrival of HMS Pickle en route to Falmouth under the command of Lieut. John Richards Lapenotiere in Mount's Bay. It is believed a fishing vessel from Penzance passed the news to the shore which was formally announced from the balcony of the Assembly Rooms (now the Union Hotel) in Chapel Street, Penzance. Since the mother church of Penzance was at Madron, the Mayor of Penzance took up a procession which made its way to Madron where a memorial service was held and the Nelson banner was paraded for the first time. The banner is still displayed in the church and the Service continues today.**

**The many crosses reminds us of the Knights Templar and St. John at Madron. The writer's closest agnostic friend and I used to walk these fields and moors frequently. We were reverent and sensitive towards our Cornish ancient environment and history.**

**One morning at school with a frown on his forehead and complexed, my dear friend approached me in a serious manner as if he had seen a ghost. He said he was 'sparking' with his girlfriend walking through a field close on Landithy where the Knight Hospitaller encampment was held. He said it was getting dusk and very quite. They both suddenly heard the sound of a horse close behind them. But there was no horse! The sound of a horse became louder and closer. He and his lass clasped hands and started to run faster as the sound continued until they both scrambled over the hedge the other side sweating. He still claimed years later that they could hear the sound of a horse galloping but no horse in sight. He believed**

that they were crossing medieval knight's ground. I have never forgotten his tale. I never ventured to try out his proposition to go there for myself!

### Return to Madron & Mousehole

Any opportunity to return to Penzance, Madron, Moushole and St. Michael's Mount and Cornish picturesque moors and old harbours from Hong Kong, was a must.



First chore was to locate the Vicar of Madron living close to the church. I found the vicar to find he was a former Hong Kong Port Chaplain. He kindly gave me a guided tour of the church and yard and historical icons. The ancient mysterious monument to the Cornish Princess was still there. Delighted to see the Nelson banner and plaque was on the wall with the Banner of St. Maddern from which the village name derives and knightly church.



Importantly, one found real evidence of knightly possession of Madron (See below)



Mousehole today's pilgrim "emmetts" (tourists) arrive by train to Penzance and by car clogging the narrow roads designed for donkey carts seeking balmy summer sunshine and sea breezes. A change of intention from the different medieval peasant pilgrim zealots seeking out the holy land. (Photo 1900 & today)



Remembering the rude sacking of Mousehole by the Spanish in 1595 the virtual only house standing Keigwin Arms survives today. (Early photo of the inn then and now, a residence.



To leave the West Penwith long history behind before returning to Hong Kong the last stop on this journey was necessary to visit the former possessed lands of the Knight Templar and Hospitallers magical St. Michael's Mount. Once pilgrims could seek rest and hospitality from the Mount's Benedictine monks and where the writer sailed in and out of the castle's harbour to race.



## Conclusion

The Holy Land Crusade bloody wars still attracts interest to historians and school boys armed with wooden swords, and in some parts, boys armed with assault rifles.

Muslim East was powerful and wealthy. From the time of Mohammed, Muslims successfully sought to conquer the Christian world. After centuries of steady conquests, Muslim armies by the end of the eleventh century Islam had captured two-thirds of the Christian world.

Some may claim that the crusading Christians attacked Muslims without provocation to seize their lands and forcibly convert them. Did the pilgrims visit faraway lands to atone for their sins and salvation by doing good works? Or, were some nobles and their many camp followers were seeking wealth and simply used religion as a cover for their human cravings? Many noble families impoverished themselves participating in the crusades. What little booty followers acquired would be spent on the journey.

Has the medieval Crusades led to the terrorist attacks against the West today because the Muslim world is still brooding over the dark brutal tit for tat transgressions of the Crusaders?

Eight hundred years after the Fourth Crusade, Pope John Paul II twice expressed sorrow for the events of the Fourth Crusade for the Fourth Crusade sack of Constantinople in 1204.

Pope Urban II called for the First Crusade in 1095 and he created a model that would be followed for centuries for strike and counter strike.



**“Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends”**

