

The Order welcomes the new Lord Prior

Professor Anthony Mellows OBE TD is Installed by HRH The Grand Prior



On behalf of The Queen, the Sovereign Head of the Order of St John, the Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior, installed Professor Anthony Mellows as the new Lord Prior of the Order at Priory Church, St John's Square in London on 20th November 2008.

The Rt Revd Jack Nicholls, Prelate of the Order, conducted the ceremony which was attended by members of the Priories, Commanderies and Associations of the Order from around the world, as well as members of The St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem and other distinguished guests.

The congregation were treated to the beautiful voices of the Choir of the Chapels Royal HM Tower of London during the ceremony. The Choir is one of the three choirs of Chapels Royal, the others being based at St James's Palace and Hampton Court Palace.

Professor Mellows takes over the position of Lord Prior from Lt Colonel Eric Barry, who has held the position for the last six years. Speaking of his appointment Professor Mellows says "I feel very honoured to have been appointed to be the Lord Prior of St John. I applaud Eric Barry for the significant initiatives which he took, and I will strive

to the utmost of my ability to enable St John to progress as a united, relevant and forward-looking organisation."

During the ceremony, the Lord Prior set out his vision for the organisation in a short address, which you can read in full from our website

www.orderofstjohn.org. Turn the page to read an interview with Professor Mellows.



Order of Service

The Processions: The Director of Ceremonies invites congregation to stand as the Processions enter the Priory Church and take their places.

His Royal Highness the Grand Prior's arrival is announced and the Processional Hymn is sung

The Prelate welcomes guests and begins the ceremony with a bidding prayer

'The Lesson' read by the Immediate Past Lord Prior, Lieutenant Colonel Eric Barry

The Choir sing Psalm 150 - Laudate Domimum

Appreciation given to the immediate past Lord Prior followed by the Installation of the new Lord Prior by HRH The Grand Prior

Deputy Lord Prior reads out the Warrant of Appointment

The Lord Prior makes his address to the congregation

The Prelate leads the closing prayers and the blessing

All sing the National Anthem

The Installation in photos.....



The Senior Officers of the Order: back right, Mr John Talbot - Order Hospitaller; Front row from left, Sir Norman Lloyd Edwards - Deputy Lord Prior; Professor Anthony Mellows - Lord Prior; HRH The Duke of Gloucester - Grand Prior; Rt Rev Jack Nicholls - Prelate; Professor Willis Marshall - Sub Prior; Mr Andrew Gough - Secretary General of the Order.



The guest list...

The Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, the Herrenmeister of the Johanniterorden, and the leaders of the Orders of St John in The Netherlands and Sweden participated, together with other senior members of those Orders.

Representatives of the Order of the Garter, the Order of the Thistle, the Order of the Bath, the Order of St Michael and St. George and the Order of the British Empire attended.

Also present, the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London and Lady Brewer, the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey and the Lord Lieutenant of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright.

The Governor-General of St. Lucia, the Governor-General of the Solomon Islands, the High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda, the High Commissioner for Barbados, the High Commissioner for Mauritius, the High Commissioner for Singapore, the High Commissioner for South Africa, the Deputy High Commissioner for Cyprus, the Governor of Gibraltar, the First Secretary of the Jordanian Embassy and the Defence Attaché of the Sri Lankan High Commission attended.



Middle left, Mr & Mrs Bobby Lim and Dr Chen from St John Singapore and Mr Doug Kelson, St John Papua New Guinea; Middle right, Professor Mellows and HRH The Duke of Gloucester during the Installation ceremony; Bottom, Mrs Zanele Mbeki and the South Africa High Commissioner, Her Excellency Ms Lindiwe Mabuza arriving at Priory Church

'One St John'

The Lord Prior's vision for The Order

Gemma Mullick from the Order Secretariat speaks to Professor Mellows to find out more about his new role and his future hopes for the Order.

Describe your position of Lord Prior

Ultimate authority over the Order of St John lies with the HM Queen Elizabeth II, as the Sovereign Head of the Order, and by HRH The Duke of Gloucester, as Grand Prior of the Order. The Lord Prior of the Order of St John is the most senior non-Royal member of the organisation.

What are your key responsibilities?

The Lord Prior of St John is the principal adviser to The Grand Prior and acts on his behalf when he is not available, including at events and Order occasions. Subject to the Sovereign Head and The Grand Prior, he is the head of the Order in its aspect as an Order of Chivalry.

The Lord Prior provides leadership of the Order in its charitable activities by promoting policy and presiding at meetings of the Order's Grand Council and other worldwide governing bodies - as well as seeking to maintain the ethos and traditions of the Order.

What's your future vision for the Order?

Many people are involved in the caring activities of St John around the world and I want them to feel that they are part of one organisation, that there is 'One St John'.

"Whether a uniformed volunteer of St John Ambulance; a full time First Aid trainer or a doctor at the St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem - they are all vital to the work of St John."

To create such a feeling, depends on knowledge of what we are all doing, and knowledge depends on communication. I see a considerable emphasis being placed on communication in the coming years.

We are all naturally concerned with our own particular activities and the community we serve. I will seek to encourage an attitude of not being concerned solely with our own immediate environment, but of always looking outwards - looking beyond ourselves. Lastly, St John needs to be constantly vigilant and to stand back and see what the real needs of the community we serve are and then look to see how best we can meet those needs. By doing this we can ensure we are always evolving and moving forward.



What is it about the Order of St John that makes it such an important and unique organisation?

The Order is unique in the sense that it encompasses three aspects; one as an Order of Chivalry; another as a Christian Order and also as a modern international charity. Today, the Order continues to be a Christian Order but I should stress that it is a Christian Order which is not in the slightest bit exclusive - but one which warmly welcomes those of any faith or of no faith, who are motivated to share in its work.

St John will always be a care-giving organisation and in giving that care it earns trust. History has shown us that this trust enables St John to work in places where others cannot go, and to do things which others cannot do. I believe the organisation has a remarkable potential for reconciliation - by providing care to all of those in need, without discrimination. Examples which come to mind are St John in South Africa during apartheid and in the Troubles in Northern Ireland. More recently St John was very active in supporting those affected during conflicts in Sri Lanka and Kenya as well as the Eye Hospital in Jerusalem which continues to care for Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities.

Tell us a bit more about you...

Professionally I was an academic lawyer, as a Professor of Law in the University of London as well as being a practitioner as the senior partner in a law firm in one of the Inns of Court. Before that I served as a Reserve Officer in the Intelligence Corps and on the General Staff.

I am married to Elizabeth, who is also very actively involved in the work of the Order and is a member of the Order in her own right. We live in London.

To read the full, unedited version of the Lord Prior's interview and the Installation address, please visit **www.orderofstjohn.org**

News in brief from around the Order....

Caribbean regional meeting

The Caribbean Regional Meeting took place in November 2008 and was hosted by St John in Bermuda.



The meeting was a huge success, with fantastic interaction between the Islands and continued agreement on ways to work together more as a Region. A full report of the meeting will be available on our website, www.orderofstjohn.org.

Cameroon

The Order of St John would like to welcome St John in Cameroon to the family.

St John in Cameroon came into existence on the 1st January 2008 with a status of 'provisionally registered' by the Order. The Priory for South Africa is acting as the 'god parent' to the new organisation, to help it grow and develop programmes in First Aid and home-based care over the next few years. It is then hoped that this will eventually lead to full recognition of the organisation as a St John Association.

Malta and Merseyside to the Rescue

Eight members of the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service - Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) Team took part in a five-day intensive training camp in Malta during October, as guests of the St John Rescue Corps.

St John Rescue Corps is a uniformed voluntary NGO that assists the local authorities in rescue operations in Malta and overseas. Together with St John Ambulance Malta, they make up the St John Association of Malta.

The training camp helped get the two teams to work together in different environments, as well prepare the USAR Team for overseas rescues. "Exercise Blue Watch" simulated terrorist attack on a hotel which left devastating effects on both structure and people. Teams from the St John Rescue Corps, the Armed Forces of Malta Explosives Disposal Unit, Combat Engineers and Air Wing, the Accident & Emergency Units from Mater Dei Hospital, St John Ambulance, Red Cross, Civil Protection Department and the Malta Police rushed to the site to safely secure the affected buildings and rescue over thirty "casualties."

The local emergency and rescue organisations were also able to observe the Merseyside USAR Team make use of their latest state-of-the-art search and rescue equipment to effectively locate and rescue the 'casualties' trapped under the rubble. The Merseyside USAR Team shared their knowledge on rapid aerial ropeway rescue techniques, shoring techniques, as well as safe breaching for access.

Captain Reuben Lanfranco, Commissioner for St John Rescue Corps said, "The close link between Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service and the St John Rescue Corps goes back a number of years and we have benefited greatly from the generous donations of rescue equipment and training which Merseyside has been providing for its members." More information on the St. John Rescue Corps may be found on the Corps' website www.stjohnrescuecorps.org.



Dates for the diary

- ✓ **Order Secretariat closes for Christmas: 19th December 2008 - 5th January 2009**
- ✓ **Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting: 23rd-24th February 2009**
- ✓ **STAPLE workshop: Singapore, 25th February 2009**
- ✓ **Grand Council, Malta: 4th-8th May 2009**
- ✓ **Mediterranean Regional Meeting: 11th-12th May 2009**

If you have any stories you would like to be covered in The Link or you would like any information on any of the news featured in this edition, please contact Gemma Mullick at the Order Secretariat at gemma@orderofstjohn.org or 0044 (0)207 251 3292.

Seasons Greetings

The Order Secretariat would like to wish everyone a very happy festive season.