

Overseas Aid

How we give effective financial support

The British Association is a significant donor to the Order's overseas aid projects, says Stephen Macklow-Smith

OVERSEAS AID has become a hot topic in recent years, popularised by the activities of celebrities such as (Sir) Bob Geldof and (Sir) Bono. However, those who follow these matters in the press will be aware that the dispensing of aid in overseas

countries is fraught with difficulty: some projects become over-funded, others suffer from the need to 'lubricate' the way with local officials, and others are only 'virtual' projects (some may have seen coverage over Christmas of complaints over virtual goats).

Within BASMOM we have seen the proportion of our Direct Charitable Expenditure going to overseas aid projects climbing in recent years, but we have two great advantages that other international organisations lack. The first is that we do not charge to administer these donations, so 100% of the money finds its way to the intended destination. The second is that because of the international nature of the Order's work, we know that the projects we support are supervised by our confreres overseas, and they are able to give us an accurate picture

of how the money is spent. Our financial year has not yet finished, and we will be able to present a fuller picture in the Annual Report, but as an example we have been able to support the re-building effort in Lebanon this year to the tune of €100,000, which continues our backing for Lebanese projects stretching back three years. We have been able to get a very accurate audit trail for the way in which our donations have been spent because in every case we have been dealing directly with our Lebanese confreres, who have kept us closely in touch. Similarly over the past three years we have made regular large donations to the work of the Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem, and have been kept informed of progress out there by our confreres who serve on the International Board of Trustees.

As a consequence we are able to use the advantages of our international network to publicise the effectiveness of BASMOM as a conduit for those donors who wish to support overseas aid work. The annual report produced by Malteser International contains a wealth of knowledge and detail, and it is possible for us to get updates very quickly through the magic of the Internet. The Order is active in many countries world-wide, and we can be satisfied with the increasing contribution made by the British Association in recent years.

The Order works with elderly housebound, Romania. A picture is worth a thousand words



Message from the President

IN POPE BENEDICT XVI'S recent Encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, he emphasised that what motivates Christians is love and that this love shines through everything we do in the service of God and for our fellow man. The mission of the Order – *tuitio fidei, obsequium pauperum* – reflects this very well as we go about our charitable endeavours, treating the needs of the poor and the sick in every corner of the world. From its beginnings in Jerusalem nine centuries ago, the Order now has projects in 120 countries.

Abroad we have seen many natural catastrophes in 2006, as well as tragic civil conflicts resulting in needless loss of life. The Order has been able to offer support through medical and social care and financial assistance to many who have suffered loss of family or friends, or livelihood. In The Lebanon in July and August we provided help with an assessment team which included representation from the British Association; our financial support for the three damaged Order health centres in southern Lebanon followed immediately. We have sent participants to train with Malteser International – our international relief service – in rapid deployment units. We have provided funds for our international leprosy programmes in Cambodia, through CIOMAL, about whose work you will read more in this issue, and to help the elderly in Eastern Europe and St.Petersburg.

At home, among our many activities, we have seen the continuing expansion of the Orders of St.John Trust Care Homes, which go from strength to strength in the health care sector for old people. There has been a marked increase, too, in the attendance at our pilgrimages to Lourdes, to Walsingham and to Holywell. The Order has been associated with pilgrimage from its beginning and this ancient Christian tradition is still a very important part of the Order's life as we set out from our homes and become closely involved with the sick and suffering, united by a bond of Christian charity.

I wish you all, members and friends, a happy and prayerful 2007.

Rupert Loewenstein, President



'A special contribution'

The 2006 annual dinner attracts a sellout attendance

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION celebrated its annual dinner in November. The sellout event was attended by very many members and friends who heard the invited speaker, the Grand Chancellor of the Order, HE Jean-Pierre Mazery, describe the Order's works in the world today, in the Lebanon post conflict reconstruction, in Darfur feeding the starving, in South Asia after the tsunami, in Cambodia with our leprosy programmes, in South Africa at our AIDS hospice. 'To many of these projects the British Association has made special contribution,' he added, 'through funding and fund raising projects, as well as providing personnel and expertise. Behind these remarkable efforts, the President of your Association has been the driving force.'

In thanking the President for 'his efforts, time, and vision for the Order which have galvanised it here in Britain,' he also read a message from the Grand Master, reproduced here in its entirety:

Rupert Löwenstein and I have known each other for rather longer than either of us might like to say. I shall only mention that it is over half a century. As you know, we were up at Oxford together, both of us reading modern history, which has often been called a useless subject, but I think Rupert will agree with me that it has

been inordinately useful to us both in our positions in the Order of Malta. Our paths then diverged, he went into the business world, ending up fairly "rolling it in", thanks to the shrewd application of his talents, while I gravitated to the teaching world.

Of course, we kept in contact, and then our work coincided more and more starting with our involvement in the British Association and the activities of the Order of Malta.

Here I would like to pay tribute to your President's selflessness, to his concern for our Lords the sick and poor. In his term of office, he has raised large sums for the furthering of the charitable works of the Association. This is a great contrast with what once happened. A few elderly gentlemen met in a drawing-room, had a glass of sherry and then kindly donated ten shillings each for the Hospital. These days you are asked not for fifty pence, but for fifty pounds or more to enable us to carry on our work.

Next year Rupert and Josephine celebrate their golden jubilee, and I know you all will join me in wishing them *ad multos annos*. I take the opportunity to thank him for all that he has done as President and to wish him a long and happy retirement.

Fra' Andrew Bertie, 23rd November 2006

Orders of St John Care Trust

Chairman Nigel Stourton reports on a busy year

THE YEAR HAS BEEN busier than ever with two new homes being officially opened; in Marlborough by the Grand Master and in Woodstock by His Grace The Duke of Marlborough.

• **Oxfordshire:** further homes are under development, with the Donnington scheme the largest undertaken so far – 60 nursing beds, 20 residential places and 20 close care accommodations; redevelopment of the Chipping Norton Memorial Hospital to create a new Primary Care Facility with OSJCT having a 50 bed care home – a capital expenditure budget of over £50 million for the

county, funded through the Trust's partner in Oxfordshire, BPHA.

- **Wiltshire:** a new £240 million care provision contract for development of a major modernisation programme including Monckton House (see p4).
- **Gloucestershire:** outline of a £50 million refurbishment plan agreed in principle with the County Council and our financial partners, BPHA.
- **Lincolnshire:** purchase of a further home from the County Council and some adjoining land near finalisation.
- **Training:** launch of a programme for special training in dementia care for 2,000 staff.



The Grand Master at Coombe End



The 2006 Walsingham pilgrimage was the Order's largest ever and took place over three days (7,8,9 July)

with Holy Wells, with the burial places of Saints and with the places where they lived. Indeed we are also encouraged to visit the places where they experienced moments of vision or revelation. These can vary from the staircase at Avila where St Teresa was confronted by the Infant Christ to the Garden of Gethsemane. Once we discover the site of one of these events we are almost immediately drawn to visit it. It might be the site of the Transfiguration or merely the grave of a beloved grandmother. Either way, the visit is still 'a Pilgrimage', an event made all the more special by how we achieve it.

The achievement of a pilgrimage is generally associated with some form of penance whether it is the physical hardship of walking to Compostella or climbing Croagh Patrick or of saving up our precious holiday allowance and meagre pay so that we can get to Lourdes for a few days in May or July. A purely individual pilgrimage is possible but often we do it in the company of others – our family and friends, Our Lords the Sick, former comrades in arms and so on. This aspect of the devotion makes it fun, rewarding, entertaining and sometimes hilarious. Chaucers pilgrims enjoyed their journey, old soldiers in tears at the Menin Gate have usually had a jolly good lunch in a local hotel and we too should enjoy ourselves on Pilgrimage to Lourdes, Walsingham or wherever. That aspect of the event is part of Gods plan for us, one of the ways in which He enriches the practice of our religion, one of the ways in which He makes it possible to love one another.

To be a pilgrim

Fra Matthew Festing, the Grand Prior traces the origins and meaning of pilgrimage

IT SEEMS THAT THE ACT of going 'on pilgrimage' is common to virtually all religions, whether those 'of the Book' or others too. The reasons for this are several. To begin with, humankind associates a feeling of sanctity with particular places, often those connected with healing or the burial of holy persons. Often these places are associated with the

presence of water and thus of purification. Perhaps this stems from the almost universal feeling of the "fallen" nature of humanity - the need for cleansing not only the body but the soul too.

The practice takes many forms – those of the Order of Malta usually involve Our Lords the Sick but that is not universal. Europe is littered

Pilgrim's Progress

Lourdes, May 2006

A conversation

Sister V: Are you looking forward to going home tomorrow, David?

DW: Yes, of course, sister, but I'm a bit worried about how many people are going to ask me about my week here and whether I will ever be able to find the right adjectives to describe everything as well as I should.

Sister V: Well, if they don't know, tell them to b..... off and get over here themselves, and then they will find out what it is really like!

Supper time

Helper: David, can I butter you some bread to go with your soup?

DW: Yes please, that would be really kind.

Helper takes piece of delicious fresh French bread, butters it, and passing it across, turns hand over – to reveal a very muddy thumb.

Helper: Oh, my goodness me, I am sorry. I haven't washed my hands but at least they have just been blessed...



David Williams

First timer

David Williams, wheelchair bound, first timer at Lourdes, looks back at some special memories:

The incredible atmosphere that exists between all those who have ever been involved in a pilgrimage before. Helpers, nurses, doctors, priests, pilgrims, whoever; there was clearly a phenomenal bond of friendship,

which I honestly don't believe I've ever experienced before. My memories of the Candlelit Procession must rank as bright as the thousands of candles all around us. I am indebted to my two teams of personal helpers, who were not only quite incredible, but also a testament to the training that you are all given to look after us.

Each of the services was very special, each in its own way, and my particular favourite was the Blessing of Hands by the river. This was when I first came to understand why it was that all of you were there to help to look after us.

I would not have missed it for the world, and it is hardly surprising that I am just about to send off my application form for 2007.

Key statistics

Did you know?

The Order of Malta which is a sovereign state and a subject of public international law

- has 12,500 members
- 11,000 employees, most of whom are medical
- 80,000 permanent volunteers
- 58 organisations around the world
- Bilateral diplomatic relations with 97 countries
- Projects in 120 countries worldwide at a cost of US\$900 million per annum and
 - 1600 clinics and first aid centres helped or run by the Order
 - 40 hospitals
 - 30 ambulance corps
 - 110 homes for the elderly

Many thousands of first aiders trained in courses each year
Over 1,000,000 medical consultations per annum.

To the Baptism site

Scholars believe they have identified the site where John the Baptist baptised Our Lord. Julian Allason was there.

A JEEP WITH A MACHINE GUN mounted in the rear sits beneath a makeshift shelter. Three bored Jordanian soldiers lounge in its shade. Twenty yards to the east the River Jordan stirs sluggishly between steep, but unexpectedly narrow banks. Abstraction by the Syrians and Israelis has reduced its greenish flow from the broad waterway forded by John's disciples. For much of the year the pools in which the Baptist immersed repentant souls are dry, the scrub around them parched and brittle.

From Jordan's ramshackle capital, Amman, what is signposted as the Baptism Site, is half an hour's drive by car, ever downward. For the Dead Sea, into which the Jordan trickles, is some 1400 feet below sea level. Diverting off the Dead Sea Highway one pulls up at a dusty visitor centre, there to transfer

to a small bus for the short journey through the national historical reserve. Although this is a military area, the river forming the border with Israel, tranquillity pervades the landscape.

Little, it seems, has changed in two millennia. Badr, my guide, is a Moslem, but well versed in the Old Testament, much of which is shared by his faith. To them too, John is a respected prophet. The security man who has accompanied us thus far clambers back into the bus to sleep.

Badr lopes along a stone path, pausing to point out the spot where in 2000 Pope John-Paul celebrated an open-air Mass for a congregation of thousands. Officially Christians comprise some 5% of Jordan's population, though their number has recently been swelled by Iraqi refugees. Many make the pilgrimage here.

Tradition asserts that John immersed Our Lord here. A bowl opens up before us, its bottom muddy. After the rains it will once again become a backwater of the Jordan, filled with several feet of water. Ancient stone steps clamber down one side. It is here, tradition asserts, that John immersed Our Lord. A flimsy roof shelters the partially excavated remains of three churches, built one on top of the other successively. The earliest dates from the sixth century, and historians believe that the site had remained in continuous use for baptisms from John's time, so the location is likely to be correct.

A hundred yards beyond the golden dome of an Orthodox church glints in the morning sun. Six years old, it stands witness to Christian faith in all its colours – and to the tolerance of the Jordanian authorities. It is the only permanent structure on the site, unless one counts the nearby cave in which scholars suspect the Baptist lived, nourished by locusts and wild honey. (There are plans, however, to build a Catholic church, and the land has already been sectioned off.)

Steps lead down from the Orthodox church to a wooden platform on the riverbank. It supports a stone font, filled with clear water from the holy river, from which all impurities have been filtered. It is here that most baptisms are conducted today. On the opposite bank an Israeli flag flies above a visitors' centre resembling a bunker. Jewish archaeologists have declared a site there to be that used by John. As ever in this region unanimity remains just beyond reach. Yet there is a peace pervading the area before which such disagreements wither. This indeed is holy ground.



2007 Lourdes Pilgrimage

Friday 4 – Thursday 10 May

Booking now

For more information or a booking form, contact:
Hospitaller Ltd
Mantle Hill
Bellingham, Hexham
Northumberland NE48 2LB

Over 3 million pilgrims at the Vatican in 2006

During 2006, more than three million faithful participated in public meetings with the Pope, either in the Vatican or at his summer residence of Castelgandolfo. Statistics released by the Prefecture of the Pontifical Household, give a total of 3,222,820 people attending the Wednesday general audiences, special audiences, liturgical celebrations and Sunday Angelus prayers during the course of the year.

The Wednesday general audiences, held in St. Peter's Square and the Paul VI Hall, attracted 1,031,500 people. This figure reflects the number of tickets distributed, and does not take into account the thousands of faithful who arrive without tickets and also participate.

Foreign Aid Service

Nicolas Reuttner reports on a record year

The Foreign Aid Service's (FAS) activities continued to develop in 2006, raising a record amount of money and supporting some hugely rewarding projects.

A complete sellout

In September we held our 4th annual fundraising dinner at Boodles. As in the past, the event was a complete sell-out and raised well over £25,000 for our projects (see below). Our Lebanon appeal was very successful, with money coming in from many members and friends of the Order. We are increasingly working together with the OMV on such fundraising, and they generated 3 separate fundraising appeals of their own, raising several thousand pounds.

What we do

- **Kenya:** With £7,000, we were able to attract a further £55,000 of funding to help 30,000 people in Northern Kenya through a famine, following last year's drought. It cost about £2 per person to stop them starving to death.
- We contribute to CIOMAL, the international Order organisation to fight leprosy which is seen by many as a leader in this skill set. We spend about £300 to cure a sufferer of this debilitating

infectious disease.

- **Afghanistan:** we are helping victims of the war and post war environment, funding medical care and regeneration activities. With about £6,000 we have set up a local business, making basic food-stuffs, enabling refugee families to produce enough to eat and giving them the genesis of financial stability.
- **Russia:** we continue to fund a soup kitchen in St Petersburg. It costs 60p a day to produce a meal that can sustain a family for that day.
- **Lebanon:** the Order 12 medical centres there. During the war one was totally destroyed and several others actively threatened. Nonetheless, they continued to work as best they could and we have been supplying basic medical consumables to keep them operational.

Please keep in touch with what we do through our website www.orderofmaltaFAS.org

Give online

The FAS website now offers donor the possibility of donating online, an easy and quick way for to donate using a credit card. Donations can be one-off direct donations or by monthly subscription.



Caring for the outcast

An extract from a talk given by John de Salis, CIOMAL's President, at a fundraising event

Why are there people with leprosy in Cambodia? Because in a society where the disease exists, eradication isn't happening, as the sufferers from the disease hide themselves away, ashamed and afraid. And untreated. From biblical times, lepers have always been considered as social outcasts. Still today, they are forced to leave their villages, lose their livelihoods, be separated from their families.

Care of lepers is at the heart of the Christian tradition. They live at society's margins, they feel abandoned. Fundraising for leprosy programmes is difficult, as their cause is currently unfashionable, and they don't photograph in a way that today's society finds appealing. But the most motivational point is that leprosy is completely curable with a recently evolved treatment, multi drug therapy (MDT). If the disease is diagnosed late, **the consequences can include horrendous disfigurement, loss of fingers and toes, and blindness**, but a full cure is now the norm if a patient is diagnosed early.

It is a scandal, in the Christian sense of the word, that in a humanitarian challenge where money really is able to cure, it remains so hard to win public support – unlike so many disasters and diseases where no cheque can provide a solution. Treatment for leprosy is not

expensive. The International Committee of the Order of Malta (CIOMAL) has cured, and looked after, over 20,000 lepers in Cambodia: costs are minimal – \$9 per day in our hospital, with an average stay of 56 days. It seems cheap, doesn't it? In Cambodia, 35% of the population of 14 million live below – not at – the national poverty level of 50 US cents per day, making the cost of \$9 a day beyond anyone's dreams.

Leprosy is the long haul

Leprosy is the long haul: there is no quick fix. Caused by a bacillus which almost invariably attacks the weak and malnourished, it can have an incubation period of up to 20 years before the first symptoms appear.

The cost of medicine, which is often given free, is an irrelevance. What burns the money is outreach and diagnosis. Our medical personnel have to search in the remotest and poorest areas of the country to identify the infected. Awareness campaigns are constantly publicised, encouraging people to come forward and to conquer their deep fear of exclusion. Other recent terrors surround the Khmer Rouge regime, where lepers have been murdered on the spot **as socially useless** – actions reminiscent of the Nazis' practices on the mentally handicapped half a century ago.

To eradicate leprosy, to help people with leprosy, what is needed is funding – to seek, to find and help. And care.

For more information, or to give a donation:
CIOMAL,
Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28A
1209 GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
Phone (0041) (0)22/733.22.52
Fax (0041) (0)22/734.00.60
Email ciomal@bluewin.ch

STOP PRESS:

World day for those afflicted by leprosy

Sunday 28 January 2007 has been set aside by the Vatican for the celebration of the Fifty-fourth World Day for Those Afflicted by Leprosy. The Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care has sent a message of health and fraternal sharing to those afflicted by leprosy, observing that leprosy has become 'a forgotten disease': "But unfortunately such is not the case. The data derived from the epidemiological surveys of the World Health Organisation, which were published in early August 2006, indicate that at the beginning of that year there were still 219,826 new cases of leprosy every year and about 602 new cases every day. These were distributed geographically in the following way: Africa, 40,830; America, 32,904; South East Asia, 133,422; the East Mediterranean, 4,024; the Western Pacific, 8,646. Overall, those afflicted by leprosy in the world are still about ten million in number. The fight against leprosy is fundamentally based upon a preventive depistage of cases and 'poly-chemotherapy'. It is incumbent upon us, on this 'Fifty-Fourth World Day for Those Afflicted by Leprosy', to remember the man, on the fiftieth anniversary of his death, who achieved its creation by the United Nations in 1954. Raoul Follereau was an example and confirmation that the love of God also involves those who humbly confess: 'I do not know God but I am known by Him, and this is hope' (R. Follereau, *Le livre d'amour*, I.M.E., September 2005, p.59, n.35).

+ Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragán
President of the Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care



FAS in Kenya

RDU in action

When Malteser International called in their RDU people to help after the earthquake in Indonesia, Piers Birtwistle was among them. This is what he saw...

Indonesia, May 2006. Earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale kills 12,000, injures 30,000, leaves 200,000 homeless.

July: A blanket of heat came off the tarmac as we landed. 38 degrees and rising fast. Our Malteser International driver came to meet the plane and whisk us away from Jogjakarta airport. Just weeks beforehand, entire streets in the city had been destroyed, houses had been reduced to broken bricks and dust. Their wooden frameworks lay around like broken toothpicks. But, astonishingly, the Indonesians had already, in this short time, reorganised themselves and started to build their lives again. We saw small towers of neatly stacked bricks, already with the mortar knocked off them, in preparation for the new walls and new houses that would

have to be constructed out of the wreckage.

The earth rippled like waves through the villages

Out into the countryside. In every house, dwelling and tent we went into, we were greeted with smiling faces and hands held out to thank us for what Malteser International had done and was continuing to do to help reconstruct their world. Their positive, industrious approach



amazed us. I have been to many disaster zones and have never experienced such reactions, such resolve to get on and get things going again and not wait for others or sit shocked and doing nothing.

One of the most common injuries we came across was broken backs. People had their beds next to the walls of their bedrooms and when the earthquake struck at 0.55am on May 27th, lasting 55 seconds, it rocked the foundations of the houses with, according to eye witnesses, the earth rippling like waves through the villages. Walls collapsed onto the sleeping occupants.

And one of the most enduring images? In a town at the epicentre of the quake, reduced to rubble, we saw a group of about 30 children under a blue awning which was protecting them from the morning sun. Surrounded by the rubble, with not more than a dozen walls standing in their entire village, they were glueing silver and red glitter onto drawings of apples.

The first RDU course participants

Rapid deployment for the British

Peter Loyd, Hospitaller, describes the impact of RDU training courses

ON THE OUTBREAK of every international disaster telephones are buzzing with volunteers offering their services to work with Aid Agencies. Regrettably these are invariably refused as everyone on site needs to be highly trained for specific roles. However, a training programme by Malteser International took place in Germany last June to select volunteers to improve the rapid reaction to these disasters.

Each Association of the Order was asked to provide candidates with knowledge in medicine, logistics, administration or water and sanitation. The ability to speak English and the readiness to drop everything and fly off to the emergency at a moment's notice were essential qualifications. Quite a challenge - but the British were able to provide six volunteers: Pascal du Pré, Alexandra Hanratty, Richard Morgan and Niall Keenan from the OMV, Martin Nolan and Piers

Birtwistle from the Order.

"Great course, very concentrated, good lecturers, fine wine and I'm off to Indonesia on Thursday. Well - it is called RAPID deployment," said Piers Birtwistle after the course. Piers was later deployed to the Lebanon with the Malteser International assessment team to photograph the bomb damage last August.

Further volunteers are now needed for a second course this spring, and other opportunities are also available with Malteser International. There are constant vacancies for those wishing to take up a career in Humanitarian Relief work and six month internships are open to graduates. The first OMV graduate, Hatty Loyd, has been accepted for such a post in September 2007.

For more information: contact Peter Loyd at BASMOM, 020 7286 1414 or Ingo Radtke at Malteser International via their website: www.malteser-international.org

Prayer book hits third edition

Julian Allason's recent project is timely and much needed

SEVENTEEN YEARS and thousands of copies on from its first publication the Order's Prayer Book has just been republished in a third edition. Hardbound in red leathercloth it runs to 340 pages.

Numerous changes have been made in line with reader suggestions from all over the English-speaking world. Some are in response to recent developments such as the addition to the Rosary of the Mysteries of Light. The Stations of

the Cross have been amended following new scholarship, as have the biographies of our founder and the martyrs of the Order. The Prayer Book has also been updated to include the full text of the ceremonial for investiture, Obedience, Acceptance of a Novice, Simple Vows, and the Rite of Profession.

The core of the book remains the prayers for various occasions. These have now been reorganised more

logically and some omissions rectified.

The Order of Mass for St John's Day has now been omitted, as it is to be the subject of forthcoming liturgical change. Recent practice has anyway been to produce Mass sheets specially for each such celebration.

Copies are available from the Chancery at £25 including UK postage and packing, £30 to EU addresses. Please enclose a cheque payable to BASMOM with each order together with the delivery address. BASMOM, 58 Grove End Road, St. John's Wood, London NW8 9NE.

12th Abbot of Downside

Ian Scott was at the installation of confrère Dom Aidan Bellenger

NINE MEMBERS of the Order were present at the installation of our confrère Dom Aidan Bellenger as 12th Lord Abbot of the Monastery of St Gregory the Great at Downside, on the Feast of St Leo the Great, Friday 10th November 2006. The superb church, rising dramatically above the Somerset countryside, was built by Dunn and Hansom, and completed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. It has been embellished over the years by many artists, and the Lady Chapel by Sir Ninian Comper is arguably the most beautiful chapel in England. The church, with its soaring nave, reminiscent of a great French cathedral, provided a spectacular setting for the ceremony. The Bishop of Clifton was the principal celebrant, assisted by priests from the community and elsewhere. The music included the Five Part Mass by William Byrd, sung superbly by the school choir.

The new Abbot, wearing a 15th century chasuble with orphreys of 'Opus Anglicanum', carried a crosier decorated with a Welsh dragon. In his homily, he greeted the members of the Order who had come from far and wide for his installation.



The congregation of more than 400 schoolchildren, augmented by a further 300 guests, was generously entertained afterwards by the community. It was a memorable and moving occasion, and symbolised the great surge of optimism felt by many in the monastic communities throughout Europe today.

We send all our good wishes to the Abbot and the community of Downside, with the assurance that they can always count on the wholehearted support of the Order in all their endeavours.



Worldwide Activity Report 2007

Now available

The Activity Report gives a selection from the Order's many activities worldwide in 2005 and 2006, with a special focus on Eastern and Central Europe, and on the work of the Grand Magistris. Coverage includes the Grand Master's official visits, reports on the international conferences held, diplomatic missions undertaken and contact details for all Priors, Sub Priors, national Associations, Diplomatic Missions.



Only connect

The Hospitaller gives our members and friends vital news about our activities during the year.

If you have something we should write about, please send us details: *The Editor, The Hospitaller, at the BASMOM office or email: basmom@btconnect.com*

The vital Force

Everyone who comes into contact with 58 Grove End Road knows what it is! Caroline, we salute you and thank you endlessly for your patience, kindness, commitment and sheer hard work on behalf of the British Association of the Order.

On a musical note: St John's Hospice fundraiser

Anne Jaffray and her team organised a music soiree, held in a Chelsea home in late September to fund raise.

The evening was a great success, making £4180.00 for the Hospice.

Dates For The Diary, 2007

Birmingham Lourdes Reunion	3 Feb	Scottish Delegation Southern Ecumenical Outing	30 Jun
John Monckton Concert	8 Feb	Scottish Delegation Northern Ecumenical Outing	TBA
Dames Retreat	26 Feb-1 Mar	Scottish Delegation Study Day in Malta	7-9 Sep
Association Retreat	15-18 Mar	Scottish Delegation Ann. Requiem	8 Nov
Mid Lenten Recollection	21 Mar	Victoria Mass	8 Sep
Solemn Easter Triduum	5-8 Apr	London Lourdes Reunion	6 Oct
Order's Lourdes Pilgrimage	4-10 May	Rosary Crusade of Reparation	13 Oct
OMV Lourdes Pilgrimage	21-28 Jul	Feast Of Blessed Gerard	13 Oct
Walsingham Lourdes Pilgrimage	8-10 Jun	Chaplains' Meeting	22 Nov
Holywell	18-19 Aug	Annual Dinner	22 Nov
Corpus Christi	7 Jun	South Western Day of Recollection	25 Nov
St. John's Day	22 Jun	Formation Day	29 Nov
Venerable Order of St. John Service at St Paul's	23 Jun	Annual Requiem	29 Nov
International Association of Catholic Bioethicists 3rd International Colloquium, London	1-5 Jul	Northern Day Of Recollection	2 Dec
Scottish Delegation Knights Ball	16 Feb	Douai Day Of Recollection	2 Dec
Formation Day	31 Mar	Council Meetings	25 Jan, 3 May, 27 Sep

Order of Malta Dial-a-Journey celebrates 20th anniversary

A unique new service marks the occasion, notes Henry Lorimer

THE Stirling based Order of Malta Dial-a-Journey service continues to enhance the lives of people with disability and mobility problems throughout Central Scotland. It runs a fleet of minibuses, cars and buses to provide specialised transport for the elderly and those with disabilities and special needs.

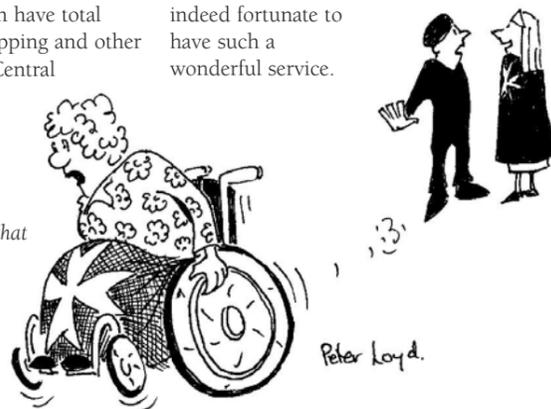
Duncan Hershman, Dial-a-Journey's general manager, recently announced a merger to take place in April with Central Shopmobility, a wheelchair/scooter power-chair loan scheme for anyone with mobility difficulties, offering them free equipment so they can have total access to tourist, shopping and other facilities throughout Central Scotland.

'This will be a unique service. It's the first time in Scotland - and maybe anywhere in the UK - that a wheelchair accessible transport service and an equipment loan scheme operate together,' says Dial-a-Journey's

Chairperson, Kathleen Welsh MBE, a prominent Companion of the Order of Malta in Scotland and a member of the Companions Council.

'Dial-a-Journey's decision to take Shopmobility under its wing meant a new life for the threatened scheme,' she explained. 'It would have folded and many thousands of users would have lost the independence they'd become accustomed to over the past 18 years.'

We wish the new organisation a successful and happy merger and may the next 20 years be even more successful than the last. The people of Central Scotland are indeed fortunate to have such a wonderful service.



In memory of John Monckton

Monckton House

2006 SAW THE OPENING OF Monckton House, the new Wiltshire County Office, by John Monckton's widow accompanied by their two daughters, and the naming of the John Monckton Training and Development suite in recognition of John's interest in this area.

John Monckton Award

The first John Monckton Award, financed by a generous donation from his colleagues in Legal and General and matched with an additional grant by the company itself, was announced at the Trust's AGM.

Open to all, individually or collectively, the project set was to demonstrate particular care within our homes.

The winner was an Oxfordshire home's project: teaching a lady of 92 to swim. We are sure that John would have enjoyed this extraordinary exercise.

John Monckton Concert

in aid of the British Association Sovereign Military Order of Malta for The Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem
With the Choir of Our Holy Redeemer and St Thomas More
and The City of London Chamber Players

Bach's Magnificat Readings by Julian Fellowes

Thursday 8th February 2007
Our Holy Redeemer and St Thomas More,
7 Cheyne Row, London SW3

7.30pm (Doors at 7pm) £40 unreserved

John Monckton was a devoted Catholic and family man and was actively involved in the work of the British Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. This Candlemas concert is being held in his memory.

Tickets:
Kim Chafer, Dora Loewenstein Associates Ltd,
4 Cromwell Place, London SW7 2JE,
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7823 8838 Fax: (0)20 7581 2053

The Knights of Malta Ball

The Assembly Rooms, George Street, Edinburgh

Friday 16 February 2006 at 7pm

Write to The Ball Secretary, Castle Craig,
Blyth Bridge, Peeblesshire
EH46 7DH

Tel 01721 725363
Email: info@castlecraig.co.uk