

**The Minutes of the Thirty First Convocation of  
the Provincial Grand Conclave of West Yorkshire.**

Held at Tapton Masonic Hall, Sheffield  
at 11:00 pm on Saturday 22nd February 2025

The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Right Worthy Brother David Crawshaw Staniforth processed into the Conclave accompanied by Provincial Officers. Distinguished visitors had previously processed into the Temple

**Opening**

The Conclave was opened in due form at 11.00am by the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Right Worthy Brother David Crawshaw Staniforth in the presence of the Officers and Brethren as recorded on the attached sheets and the distinguished guests as recorded in the Minutes.

**Officers Present**

Dep.Prov Grand Supreme Ruler	V Wy Bro Alan P K Webster PGV	(White Rose 449)
Prov G Chancellor	V Wy Bro Dr. Raymond C. Johnson PGV	(Phoenix 391)
Prov G Counsellor	Wy Bro Ian S. Wilkinson, PGSwdB	(Roses 459)
Prov G Guide	Wy Bro, Bruce E. Lowis PGStB	(Phoenix 391)
Prov G Chaplain	V Wy Bro John Marrison PGV	(Bishop Blaize 48)
Having been Elected Prov G Treasurer	Wy Bro Stuart Lines, PGADC	(White Rose 449)
Prov G Registrar	Wy Bro, Jack Acton PGSwdB	(Westwood 276)
Prov G Recorder	Wy Bro Richard E Drury-Smith, PAGDC	(Dore 329)
Prov G Director of Ceremonies	Wy Bro Neil Davies, PAGDC	(Westwood 276)
Prov G Almoner	Wy Bro Roger Powell	(Bawtry 354)
Prov DepGDC	Wy Bro David R. Spivey, AGDC	(Bawtry 354)
Prov G Visitor	Wy Bro Geoffrey Smith PGSwB	(Westwood 276)
Prov G Visitor	Wy Bro Jim Reece PGSwB	(Skyrack 32)
Prov G Visitor	Wy Bro A Daly	(Westwood 276)
Prov G Visitor	Wy Bro David Sunderland PGBB	(Roses 459)
Prov AGDC	Wy Bro John F. Clough, PAGDC	(Claro T F 4)
Prov G Sword Bearer	V Wy Bro Stephen Rhodes PGReg	(Phoenix 391)
Prov G Standard Bearer	Wy Bro Roger Baker	(Bawtry 354)
Prov G Bow Bearer	Wy Bro Alex Webster	(White Rose 449)
Prov A G Recorder	Wy Bro Dennis Schiff PGSwdB	(Roses 459)
Prov G Organist	V Wy Bro Jim Wood PGReg	(Chantry94)
Prov G Guarder	Wy Bro Graham Duffy	(Dore 329)
Prov G Stewards	Bro Graham Franklin	(Odersfelt)
	Wy Bro David Silverton	(Skyrack 32)
	Wy Bro Sean Higson	(Roses 459)
	Wy Bro Leon Pedryc	(Dore 329)
Prov G Sentinel	Wy Bro Peter Firth, PAGDC	(Bawtry 354)

**Salutations**

The Brethren saluted the Right Worthy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler R. Worthy Bro David Crawshaw Staniforth with Point Draw Pierce 7 times. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler thanked the Brethren.

The Brethren of the Provincial Grand Conclave of West Yorkshire saluted the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler Very Worthy Bro Alan Paul Kelly Webster with Point Draw Pierce 5 times. The Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler thanked the Brethren.

The Brethren saluted the Past Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers present with Point Draw Pierce 7 times. R Wy Bro Stewart G Carley and Graeme Hutchinson thanked the Brethren

The Brethren saluted R Wy Bro M Elliott Grand Chancellor with Point Draw Pierce 7 times. R Wy Bro M Elliott thanked the Brethren

The Brethren saluted the Right Worthy Brethren present with Point Draw Pierce 7 times. R Wy Bro John Stevens, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Staffordshire & Shropshire, thanked the Brethren.

**The R Wy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler welcomed and introduced our many distinguished guests:**

**Distinguished Visitors**

1. Rt Wy Bro Merrill Elliott Grand Chancellor
2. From Staffordshire & Shropshire R Wy Bro John Stevens PGSR
3. Wy Bro Ian Bennett DPGSR
4. Wy Bro Mike Baker PrAGRec
5. From East Midlands RWy Bro UddayAn Patel PGSR
6. RWy Bro Richard Ellis PGG GDC
7. Wy Bro Robin Gray PrGRec
8. Wy Bro Neil Temple PAGDC
9. Wy Bro Richard Spicer PrGGuarder
10. Wy Bro Ray Burke PrGV
11. Wy Bro Terry Cox PrGSwdB
12. Wy Bro Ray Stokes PDGStdB
13. Wy Bro Colin Burke PGStdB
14. From North & East Yorkshire RWy Bro Philip Ellenor PGSR
15. Wy Bro Stephen Cox DPGSR
16. VWy Bro Alan Hatfield PrGChan
17. Wy Bro Terry Mansell PrGRec
18. Wy Bro Jim Cooper PrGTrea
19. Wy Bro Mel Hamer PrGV
20. VWy Bro Alan Beardmore PPrGChan
21. Wy Bro Stephen Priestley PAGDC
22. From East Lancashire RWy Bro Christian Givvons PGSR
23. VWy Bro Stephen Holcroft DPGSR
24. Wy Bro Norman Lay PrGV
25. Wy Bro Alan Edge PAGDC
26. From Cheshire & N Wales RWy Bro William Stringer PGSR
27. Wy Bro Alan Harrison PrGRec
28. Wy Bro Graham Kirby PrGV
29. From Gloucestershire & Herefordshire Rt Wy Bro David Wheeler PGSR
30. Wy Bro Rob Dewbery DPGSR
31. From South Wales & Monmouthshire Rt Wy Bro Allun D Jones PGSR
32. From Norfolk Rt Wy Bro Stuart Offord PGSR
33. Wy Bro Jeffrey Rafftree PrGRec
34. From West Lancashire Rt Wy Bro John Bicknell PGSR
35. Wy Bro Francis Hatton DPGSR
36. (Wy Bro Dennis Schiff)
37. From Worcestershire Rt Wy Bro Robert Vaughan PGSR
38. Wy Bro Dr Howard Carlton DPGSR
39. From Warwickshire Wy Bro Neil Watkin DPGSR
40. VWy Bro William Lloyd GV
41. VWy Bro Tracey Williams PGV
42. From Oxfordshire, Bucks and Berk Wy Bro Ivor Hawkins DPGSR
43. Wy Bro Paul Howard PrGRec
44. From North & East VWy Bro Reece Valentine DPGSR
45. Wy Bro Ian Dixon PrGRec
46. V Wy Bro Malcolm Ross PGV
47. Wy Bro Paddy Watters PGSwdB
48. From Channel Islands VWy Bro Richard Hutton PDGReg

## **Rulers of other Orders**

R Wy Bro Stewart G. Carley Past Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler  
R Wy Bro Graeme Hutchinson Past Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler  
V Wy Bro John Marrison Past Grand Visitor, Past Provincial Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler

## **The Craft**

V WY Bro James H Newman Provincial Grand Master AND Most Excellent Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch of West Yorkshire  
R Wy Bro Stewart G. Carley Past Provincial Assistant Grand Master

## **The Holy Royal Arch**

R Wy Bro Stewart G. Carley *PProvGSR*, Most Excellent Past Grand Superintendent in and over the Province of Yorkshire, West Riding.  
V Wy Bro Alan Webster Past Assistant to the 3 Principles for Yorkshire West Riding  
Wy Bro Graham Franklin Past 3<sup>RD</sup> Provincial Grand Principal

## **Rose Croix A & M Rite**

Wy Bro Ian C **Smith**, Inspector General for Yorkshire West Riding.

## **The Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine**

V Wy Bro Dr. Raymond C Johnson *PAGDC* Right Illustrious Intendent-General West Yorkshire Division

## **The Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord**

V Wy Bro Alan P K Webster *PGV*, Provincial Grand Summus for the Province of West Yorkshire  
V Wy Bro John Marrison Past **Grand Visitor**, Past Provincial Grand Summus for the Province of West Yorkshire  
R Wy Bro Stewart G. Carley Past Grand Inspector  
Wy Bro Stephen Rhodes *PGReg* Assistant Provincial Grand Summus for West Yorks  
Wy Bro Stephen Priestley Deputy Provincial Grand Summus North & East Yorkshire

## **Allied Masonic Degree.**

Wy Bro John Clough Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master Mark Master Masons.  
Wy Bro Brian Butterfield, District Grand Prefect.  
Wy Bro Gerald Barker *PAGDC* R Wy Grand Preceptor The Commemorative Order of St Thomas of Acon Deputy Master Mason 5<sup>th</sup> degree for North East Counties of The Operatives  
Wy Bro J Stephen Priestley *PAGDC* Past Deputy District Grand Master Royal & Select N & E Yorks  
Wy Bro Ron Murtagh P Deputy District Grand Master for West Yorkshire in Royal and Select Masters.  
V Wy Bro Richard Middleton Royal & Select Masters District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work  
Wy Bro David Spivey Royal and Select Deputy District Grand Master for North & East Yorks  
Rt Wy Bro Graeme Hutchinson *PGM OF Knights Templar Derbyshire* And Provincial Prior Derbyshire  
Wy Bro J Stephen Priestley *PAGDC* Deputy Grand Master Mason & Senior Past Master of the North Eastern Counties of the Order of the Worshipful Society of Freemasons, Rough Masons, Waller's, Slater's, Pavers, Plasterers & Bricklayers (the Operatives) AND Regional Governor of Northern England and North Wales of the Masonic Order of Pilgrim Preceptors AND Senior substitute Magus and Past Secretary General of the Societas Rosicruceiana in Anglia AND Past Grand Recorder of the Grand College of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests.  
Wy Bro Anthony **Llewellyn** Most Worthy Supreme Magnus Societas Rosicruceiana in Anglia  
Wy Bro Gordon **Renton** Deputy Provincial Grand Master Royal Order of Scotland Province of Yorkshire

The *PGSR* asked the Brethren, to "Please give all our distinguished guests a real hearty West Yorkshire welcome."

The Brethren greeted the distinguished guests with loud acclamation.

## **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Thirtieth Convocation of the Province of West Yorkshire, held on the 24th February 2024 having been made available to all those attending, were accepted by the Brethren as a true record, on a

proposition by Wy Bro, I Wilkinson Prov G Counsellor and seconded by Wy Bro B Lewis Prov G Guide and were signed by the R Wy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler.

**Brethren called to the Grand Conclave above**

The Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, VWy Bro Alan P K Webster, PGV, reflected on the sad loss to the Order of those listed below.

“Where pain, distress and sorrow never penetrate, where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are ever at rest. There the harmony is unbroken and peace, perfect peace, reigns eternally supreme.

V Wy Bro	Thomas Henry Wise	PReg. PProvGRec	Chantry Conclave No 94 Lux Diei Conclave No 474	3 March 2024
Wy Bro	Ian Shevill	PAGDC PProvGCoun	Claro True Friendship No. 4	26 November 2024
M Wy. Bro	Michael William Guest	Past Grand Supreme Ruler		6 December 2024
Wy Bro	Roger Botham Glew	PPGStB	Dore Conclave No 4	December 2024
Bro	Kevin Coult		Bawtry Conclave No 354	February 2025

**Role of Provincial Officers**

The Pro.G.Recorder reported that all Officers are in attendance with the exception of two who gave their apologies.

**Role of Conclaves**

The Secretary reported all of your Conclaves are well represented.

**New Members to the Order in 2022**

The R Wy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler welcomed and introduced Bro C Oates, R Quick, T Jones, E Kuirkchian and K Kamposioas who were representing the 14 new Inductees:

**Provincial Grand Guide Report**

Wy Bro B Lewis Provincial Grand Guide provided a copy of his Report for 2024 – 2025 A copy of which is attached to these minutes. The PGSR thanked the PGG for his report.

**Provincial Accounts**

The Provincial Grand Treasurer presented the accounts for the year ended December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Wy Bro I Wilkinson, Pr.G.Cou proposed and Wy Bro B Lewis Pr.G.G seconded their adoption. The Accounts were adopted. A copy of the accounts is attached to these minutes. The PGSR thanked the Provincial Treasurer for all his efforts this year.

**Provincial Inventory**

The Provincial Grand Registrar confirmed to the Brethren present that the Inventory of the Provincial Grand Conclave was correct.

## Election of Provincial Grand Treasurer

Wy Bro Stuart Lines PAGDC, had indicated that he was willing to take the office of Treasurer, if so elected. There being no other candidate, he was declared elected Treasurer for the ensuing year. Wy Bro S Lines thanked the Brethren for their continued confidence.

## Election of Two Auditors

Wy Bro I Wilkinson PrGCo proposed and Wy Bro B Lewis Pr.G.G seconded that V Wy Bro J H Newman and Wy Bro L Boyes be appointed Provincial Account Examiners for the ensuing year, this was carried. The PGSR Thanked the Account examiners. Wy Bro L Boyes thanked the Brethren.

## Reaffirmation of Deputy

VWy Bro Alan Paul Kelly Webster, PGV was reaffirmed Deputy by the R Wy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler.

## Officers for the ensuing year

The Right Worthy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler appointed and invested his officers for the ensuing year.

Prov G Chancellor	V Wy Bro Dr. Raymond C. Johnson PGV	(Phoenix 391)
Prov G Counsellor	Wy Bro Bruce E. Lewis PGStB	(Phoenix 391)
Prov G Guide	Wy Bro, Jim Reece	(Skyrack 32)
Prov G Chaplain	V Wy Bro John Marrison PGV	(Bishop Blaize 48)
Having been Elected Prov G Treasurer	Wy Bro Stuart Lines, PAGDC	(White Rose 449)
Prov G Registrar	Wy Bro, Geoffrey Smith	(Westwood 276)
Prov G Recorder	Wy Bro Richard E Drury-Smith, PAGDC	(Dore 329)
Prov G Director of Ceremonies	Wy Bro Neil Davies, PAGDC	(Westwood 276)
Prov G Almoner	Wy Bro Roger Powell	(Bawtry 354)
Prov DepGDC	Wy Bro Alex Webster	(White Rose 449)
Prov G Visitor	Wy Bro Andrew Daly	(Westwood 276)
Prov G Visitor	Wy Bro James Marrison	(Bishop Blaize 48)
Prov G Visitor	Wy Bro Roger Baker	(Bawtry 354)
Prov G Visitor	Wy Bro Graham Franklin	(Odersfelt 35)
Prov AGDC	Wy Bro Graham Duffy	(Dore 329)
Prov G Sword Bearer	R Wy Bro Stephen Rhodes PGG	(Phoenix 391))
Prov G Standard Bearer	Wy Bro Jeremy Archer	(Chantry 94)
Prov G Bow Bearer	Wy Bro Richard Morley	(Dore 329)
Prov A G Recorder	Wy Bro Dennis Schiff PGStB	(Roses 459)
Prov G Organist	Bro Roger Quick	(White Rose 449)
Prov G Guarder	Wy Bro Richard Bentley	(White Rose 449)
Prov G Stewards	Wy Bro Michael Tyson	(Westwood 276)
	Wy Bro Marcus Higgins	(Odersfelt 35)
	Wy Bro Ian Cotton	(CTF 4 )
	Wy Bro Matthew Brelsford	(Bawtry 354)
Prov G Sentinel	Wy Bro Peter Firth, PAGDC	(Bawtry 354)

R Wy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler was also pleased to make following promotions:

To Past Provincial Grand Counsellor	V Wy Bro J Proctor Wy Bro Alan Beardmore Wy Bro David Spivey
To Past Provincial Grand Guide	Wy Bro David Archer Wy Bro Edwin Pugh Wy Bro Alan Ball
To Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer	Wy Bro D Ramsbottom Wy Bro Dennis Schiff
To Past Provincial Grand Bow Bearer	Wy Bro Ian Carling

Special thanks were given to Wy Bro's I Wilkinson, D Spivey and John Clough by the PGSR

The Active Provincial Grand Officers were saluted by the Brethren of the Province of West Yorkshire. The Provincial Grand Chancellor suitably responded.

### **The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler then addressed the Provincial Grand Conclave**

Distinguished Guests and Brethren,

Our distinguished guests from other Provinces have already been introduced, and I now welcome the Brethren of West Yorkshire – and I thank you once again for your continued support. The Provincial Officers for the ensuing year have been appointed and others have received promotions. These appointments are in recognition of your hard work and support for your Conclaves and the Province over many years – and more particularly by visiting and supporting other Conclaves throughout the year. Your preferments are all well-deserved - I congratulate each of you and look forward to working with you during the year ahead.

Today several Provincial Officers have retired from their post and, I would like to thank: -

- Wy Bro David Spivey for his 11 years of service on the Provincial Directors of Ceremonies team.
- Wy Bro Ian Wilkinson - completing 10 years - the last two as Counsellor.
- Wy John Clough – completing 10 years – as visitor, guide and councillor.
- Wy Bro Jack Acton – 7 years including three years as Provincial Visitor.
- Also standing down are Wy Bro's David Sunderland and Jim Wood.

All of you have given long and distinguished service to the Order over many years – you are examples to others and exemplify what our Order is all about. Now you have retired – I do hope that your support for the Province will continue - as much as you are able.

There were more than 40 meetings during the year – and numbers attending these meeting continue to increase – which bodes well for the future.

It was pleasing for me to attend 12 Conclave Installations, Commission 7 new Supreme Rulers and on 3 occasions act as the Installing Officer.

I am grateful for those brethren who take the time to visit other Conclaves – this is important - and as a result those who do visit have received preferment today.

There were four Provincial Visits during the year - to Dore, Bishop Blaize, Chantry and Phoenix Conclaves all of which were well supported.

As always, the Provincial DCs team have been extremely busy – attending all Provincial Visits and all Conclave Installations – and I thank them for ensuring the smooth running of the ceremonial at these special occasions.

Last November at Grand Conclave the Most Worthy Grand Supreme Ruler was pleased to confer preferment on no less than 8 of our brethren- can I ask these Brethren, if present, stand, when named, and remain standing to receive acclimation.

#### **Promoted in Grand Rank**

To Past Grand Guide	R Wy Bro Tim Crawshaw R Wy Bro Richard Middleton R Wy Bro Stephen Rhodes R Wy Bro Tony Llewellyn
To Past Ass Grand DC	Wy Bro Eric Stocks

#### **First Appointment to**

Past Grand Sword Bearer	Wy Bro Jim Reece Wy Bro Geoff Smith
Past Grand Standard Bearer	Wy Bro James Marrison

I extend my sincere congratulations to all of you – brethren they are to be congratulated. (Be seated).

In April I have the pleasant duty of presenting a cheque for £1500 to The Sheffield Hospital Radio – a charity providing audio entertainment for in-patients at all the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals.

It is also pleasing Conclaves have now identified 4 other charities worthy of our support in the future. Brethren, we can only continue to make donations such as this with your generosity and support - for which I am grateful. To this end I would encourage brethren to make use of the small envelope on your seats for today's collection.

In the year ahead there will be Provincial Visits to Roses, Skyrack and Westwood Conclaves. The Grand Visitor will also visit Westwood and Skyrack Conclaves – these are 'special occasions' and I would expect to see the Provincial Officers appointed today support these important events.

I would also like to see brethren joining me in supporting the annual meetings of other Provinces, and I also encourage SRs to visit and support other Conclaves during their year in the chair.

Looking forward there are 45 scheduled Conclave meetings during the next year. Myself and/or my Deputy will attend all Installations and Provincial Visits. We will also attend other Conclave meetings during the year. There will however be meetings where neither of us will be present and on these occasions the Provincial Visitor will be in attendance and should be considered as our personal representative. And should be afforded the courtesy that we would expect of a Senior Provincial officer.

Inductions into the Order continue to rise (with 12 this year) and as a result our numbers are rising - this demonstrates the popularity and relevance of our Order – but as always, we must not be complacent.

I would also commend the brethren of Claro True Friendship for their initiative in holding an 'open night' to which master masons were invited into the Conclave to receive a talk on our Order. This one event led to no less than 8 new members joining the Order – a marvellous result.

I have said this on many occasions – we must continue to promote our Order, by supporting the annual meetings of other Orders - many of which are represented here today.

I am grateful that the rulers of many of these Orders are active members of this Order - and I thank you all for your continued support.

I would also encourage brethren to consider membership of the Scarlet Cord - our sister Order.

I thank V Wy Bro Alan Webster, the Provincial GS, for the close cooperation that exists between our Orders.

Moving forward I wish to recognise this special bond between our orders – in like manner to that which exists between the Craft and Royal Arch, and Mark and RAM – and recognise brethren who give their support to both orders.

Before I finish brethren, I would like to thank R Wy Bro Graeme Hutchinson for the work he has done on the Provincial Web Site for many years. Graeme will be standing down from that role today and I would like to welcome Wy Bro Jim Reece who will take up this very important role.

Finally, Brethren, I must give my personal thanks to those who have contributed to a successful year.

1. To Wy. Bro. Richard Drury-Smith - organiser of today's meeting.
2. To Wy. Bro. Neil Davies, David Spivey, and John Clough for their support at Installations and organising today's ceremonial.
3. To Wy Bro. Alan Webster my Deputy, for his tremendous support to me and all our Conclaves.
4. To Wy Bro David Sunderland for the donation of a new Provincial Bow
5. And to all of you who take time to visit and support other Conclaves.

Brethren, Continue to enjoy our wonderful Order and the friendship which that brings.

### **Any Other Business**

The Recorder reported that he had received a number of apologies, all of which have been duly recorded and requested that Brethren look at the West Yorkshire website. There was no further business.

### **Collection for Masonic Charities**

A collection was taken by envelope

### **Closing**

The R Wy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler closed the Provincial Grand Conclave at 12.25 pm.

The first verse of the National Anthem was sung.

The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Right Worthy Brother David Crawshaw Staniforth, retired from the Conclave accompanied by the Provincial Officers and distinguished guests.

**R Wy Bro David Crawshaw Staniforth,  
Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler,  
22nd February 2025**