

## **The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler's Report to Provincial Grand Conclave 22 February 2025**

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.

Rt Wy David C Staniforth  
Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler