

**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 28th February 2026

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 11.00 am 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, Bruce E. Lowis PGStB	(Phoenix 391)
Prov G Guide	Wy Bro Jim Reece PGSwdB	(Skyrack32)
Prov G Chaplain	R Wy Bro John Marrison PGG	(Bishop Blaize 48)
Having been Elected Prov G Treasurer	Wy Bro Stuart Lines, PGADC	(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 A Daly	(Westwood 276)
Prov G Visitor	Wy Bro J Marrison PGStdB	(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 PGSwdB	(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 PGSwdB	(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)

**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 thanked the Brethren

The Brethren saluted the Right Worthy Brethren present with Point Draw Pierce 7 times. R Wy Bro Richard Batchelor, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Hampshire & Isle of Wight, thanked the Brethren.

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

Distinguished Visitors

- |                                          |                                    |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. From Hampshire & Isle of Wight        | R Wy Bro Richard Batchelor         |
| 2. From North & East Yorkshire           | R Wy Bro Philip Ellenor PGSR       |
| 3.                                       | Wy Bro Stephen Cox DPGSR           |
| 4.                                       | V Wy Bro Alan Hatfield PrGChan     |
| 5.                                       | Wy Bro Mel Harmer PrGCoun          |
| 6.                                       | Wy Bro Terry Mansell PrGRec        |
| 7.                                       | R Wy Bro Michael Dufton PGV SR 442 |
| 8.                                       | R Wy Bro Alan Beardmore PPrGChan   |
| 9.                                       | Wy Bro Stephen Priestley PAGDC     |
| 10.                                      | Wy Bro Allan Armbrister            |
| 11.                                      | Bro Harpal Bansal                  |
| 12.                                      | Bro Nicholas Jacques               |
| 13.                                      | Bro David Hayes                    |
| 14. From East Lancashire                 | R Wy Bro Christian Givvons PGSR    |
| 15.                                      | V Wy Bro Stephen Holcroft DPGSR    |
| 16.                                      | Wy Bro Alan Edge PAGDC             |
| 17. From Cheshire & N Wales              | R Wy Bro William Stringer PGSR     |
| 18.                                      | Wy Bro Andrew Tong DPGSR           |
| 19.                                      | Wy Bro Alan Harrison PrGRec        |
| 20.                                      | Wy Bro Graham Kirby PrGV           |
| 21. From West Lancashire                 | R Wy Bro John Bicknell PGSR        |
| 22.                                      | Wy Bro Francis Hatton DPGSR        |
| 23.                                      | V Wy Bro Andrew Bibby GV DPrGDC    |
| 24. From Sussex                          | R Wy Bro Tan Rusby PGSR            |
| 25. From Oxfordshire, Bucks and Berk     | R Wy Bro Ivor Hawkins PGSR         |
| 26.                                      | Wy Bro Paul Howard DPGSR           |
| 27. From Staffordshire & Shropshire      | R Wy Bro Ian Bennett PGSR          |
| 28.                                      | Wy Bro David Greenway PrGRec       |
| 29.                                      | Wy Bro Stephen Ashworth PrDGDC     |
| 30. From Gloucestershire & Herefordshire | Wy Bro Robert Dewbery DPGSR        |
| 31.                                      | Bro Robert Nichols PrGTrea         |
| 32. From Warwickshire                    | V Wy Bro Neil Watkin DPGSR         |
| 33.                                      | V Wy Bro William Lloyd PGV         |
| 34.                                      | V Wy Bro Tracey Williams PGV       |
| 35. From North & East                    | V Wy Bro Reece Valentine DPGSR     |
| 36.                                      | (Wy Bro Dennis Schiff)             |
| 37. From East Midlands                   | Wy Bro Robin Gray DPGSR            |
| 38.                                      | R Wy Bro Uri Patel PPGSR           |
| 39.                                      | Wy Bro Neil Temple PrAGDC          |
| 40. From Channel Islands                 | V Wy Bro Richard Hutton PDGReg     |

**Rulers of other Orders**

**Past Rulers of our own Order**

R Wy Bro Stewart G. **CARLEY** Past Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, President of the Ex Committee  
R Wy Bro John **MARRISON** PGG, Past Provincial Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler

## The Craft

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.

VWy 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

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

VWy Bro Dr Raymond C **JOHNSON** *Past Right Illustrious Intendent-General* West Yorkshire Military Order of the Cross of Constantine

## The Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord

VWy Bro Alan P K **WEBSTER** *PGV*, Provincial Grand Summus for the Province of West Yorkshire

R Wy Bro John **MARRISON** Past Provincial Grand Summus for the Province of West Yorkshire

R Wy Bro Stewart G. **CARLEY** **Past Grand Inspector**

VWy Bro Dr Raymond C **JOHNSON** Past Assistant Provincial Grand Summus for West Yorks

R Wy Bro Stephen **RHODES** *PGG* 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.

R Wy Bro Brian **BUTTERFIELD**, District Grand Prefect for Yorkshire.

Wy Bro J Stephen **PRIESTLEY** *PAGDC* Past Deputy District Grand Master Royal & Select N & E Yorks

Wy Bro Ian **COTTON** Deputy District Grand Master for West Yorkshire in Royal and Select Masters

Rt 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

Wy Bro J Stephen **PRIESTLEY** *PAGDC* Former 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 Past Secretary General of the Societas

Rosicruciana 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 Rosicruciana 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 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025 having been made available to all those attending, were accepted by the Brethren as a true record, on a proposition by Wy Bro, B Lewis Pr G Counsellor and seconded by Wy Bro J Reece Pr 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.

Wy.Bro.	Paul Albert Levey	<b>P.G.Std B.</b>	Chantry Conclave No 94	2025
			Lux Diei Conclave No 474	13th April
Wy Bro.	Jim Johnson	<b>P.G.Std.B.</b>	Odersfelt Conclave No. 35.	2025
				12th February
Bro.	Tomas Allen		Bawtry Conclave No. 354	2025
				5th June
Wy. Bro.	Anthony Breckon	P.Prov.G.B.B.	Westwood Conclave No. 276	2025
				11th October
V Wy Bro	Edward Patnick	P.G.V.	Dore Conclave No329	2026
				15 <sup>th</sup> February

**Roll of Provincial Officers**

The **Prov.G.Recorder** reported that all Officers were in attendance, with the exception of one, who gave his apologies.

**Roll 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 those who were representing the new 10 Inductees:

**Provincial Grand Guide Report**

Wy Bro J Reece Provincial Grand Guide provided a copy of his Report for 2025 – 2026 A copy of which is attached to these minutes. The PGSR thanked the ProvGG for his report.

**Provincial Accounts**

The Provincial Grand Treasurer presented the accounts for the year ended December 31<sup>st</sup> 2025. Wy Bro B Lewis, Prov.G.Coun proposed, and Wy Bro J Reece, Prov.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 and the Account Examiners for all their 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

V Wy Bro Stuart Lines PGV, 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. V Wy Bro S Lines thanked the Brethren for their continued confidence.

## Election of Two Auditors

Wy Bro B Lowis Prov G Coun proposed and Wy Bro J Reece Prov.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

V Wy 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	R Wy Bro John Marrison PGG	<i>(Bishop Blaize 48)</i>
Prov G Counsellor	Wy Bro Bruce E. Lowis PAGDC	<i>(Phoenix 391)</i>
Prov G Guide	Wy Bro, Jim Reece PGSwdB	<i>(Skyrack 32)</i>
Prov G Chaplain	R Wy Bro Stephen Rhodes PGG	<i>(Phoenix 391)</i>
Having been Elected Prov G Treasurer	V Wy Bro Stuart Lines, PGV	<i>(White Rose 449)</i>
Prov G Registrar	Wy Bro, Geoffrey Smith PGSwdB	<i>(Westwood 276)</i>
Prov G Recorder	Wy Bro Richard E Drury-Smith PAGDC	<i>(Dore 329)</i>
Prov G Director of Ceremonies	V Wy Bro Neil Davies PGV	<i>(Westwood 276)</i>
Prov G Almoner	Wy Bro Dennis Schiff PGSwdB	<i>(Roses 459)</i>
Prov DepGDC	Wy Bro Alex Webster	<i>(White Rose 449)</i>
Prov G Visitor	Wy Bro James Marrison PGStdB	<i>(Bishop Blaize 48)</i>
Prov G Visitor	Wy Bro Roger Baker GStewd	<i>(Bawtry 354)</i>
Prov G Visitor	Wy Bro Graham Franklin	<i>(Odersfelt 35)</i>
Prov G Visitor	Wy Bro Richard Morley	<i>(Dore 329)</i>
Prov AGDC	Wy Bro Andrew Daly	<i>(Westwood 276)</i>
Prov G Sword Bearer	Wy Bro Richard Bentley	<i>(White Rose 449)</i>
Prov G Standard Bearer	Wy Bro Marcus Higgins	<i>(Odersfelt 35)</i>
Prov G Bow Bearer	Wy Bro Matthew Brelsford	<i>(Bawtry 354)</i>
Prov A G Recorder	Wy Bro Antony Bartle	<i>(Dore 329)</i>
Prov G Organist	Bro Roger Quick	<i>(White Rose 449)</i>
Prov G Guarder	Wy Bro Ian Cotton	<i>(CTF 4)</i>
Prov G Stewards	Wy Bro Michael Wrigglesworth	<i>(CTF4)</i>
	Wy Bro Martyn Nettleship	<i>(Bawtry 354)</i>
	Wy Bro Graham Coates	<i>(CTF 4)</i>
	Bro Antony McGrath	<i>(Dore 329)</i>
Prov G Sentinel	Wy Bro Peter Firth, PAGDC	<i>(Bawtry 354)</i>

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

To Past Provincial Grand Registrar	J Archer
	A Daly
	R Powell
	G Wilkins
To Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer	M Tyson
	J Simon

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,

I have already welcomed our distinguished guests from other Provinces - and I now welcome you the brethren of West Yorkshire.

And I thank you for your continued support.

It has been a pleasure to appoint the Provincial Officers of the year and confer promotions on others.

These appointments recognise the support and hard work you have undertaken over many years in your Conclaves and the Province. And more particularly your support of and visiting to other Conclaves.

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: -

- V Wy Bro Ray Johnson for his 13 years of service as an active officer – the last 7 as Provincial Grand Chancellor.
- Wy Bro Roger Powell following three years as the Provincial Grand Almoner.
- Wy Bro Graham Duffy following 9 years of service to the Province the last year as ADC
- Also standing down is Jeremy Archer – Provincial Sword Bearer

You have all given distinguished service to the province and now that you have retired – I do hope that this support will continue - as much as you are able.

At the 2024 meeting of Grand Conclave the Grand Supreme Ruler introduced the new Honorific scheme – where Conclaves may become patrons of the OSM benevolent Fund. A fund from which our Province receives generous support.

I am delighted that 3 Conclaves within the Province thought fit to support this venture and I would like to thank the brethren of Skyrack, Bishop Blaze and Phoenix Conclaves on becoming Vice Patrons of the fund. I would also encourage other Conclaves to consider patronship in the future.

There were 45 meetings during the year, and I had the pleasure of attending 11 Conclave Installations.

I was also Installed as Supreme Ruler of Phoenix Conclave – a most enjoyable year!

Skyrack Conclave is our oldest Conclave, however in recent years it has fallen on difficult times and its future looked bleak. In November they relocated to Wetherby Masonic Hall, to meet with the Maurice Bendig Consistory (OSC), in doing so they gained 10 joining members.

Hopefully the Conclave will now flourish, and I thank those brethren for their commitment and support.

The first meeting will be in May, and I encourage brethren to support them if they are able.

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.

Last year there were Provincial Visits to Skyrack, Westwood and Roses Conclaves all of which were well supported.

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

At Grand Conclave in November, the Most Worthy Grand Supreme Ruler was pleased to confer preferment on no less than 9 of our brethren. Can I ask these Brethren, if present, to stand, when named, and remain standing to receive acclamation?

### **Promoted in Grand Rank**

#### To the President of the Executive Committee

R Wy Bro Stewart Carley – recognition for a lifetime's service to the Order

To Past Grand Guide (Thereby becoming Right Worthy Brethren)

R Wy Bro John Marrison

R Wy Bro Alan Beardmore (Courtesy of North & East Yorkshire)

To Past Grand Visitor (Thereby becoming Very Worthy Brethren)

V Wy Bro Neil Davies

V Wy Bro Stuart Lines

To Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

Wy Bro Bruce Lewis

Wy Bro Tobias Reece

### **First Appointment to Active Grand Rank**

To Grand Steward

Wy Bro Roger Baker

### **First Appointment to Grand Rank**

To Past Grand Standard Bearer

Wy Bro Garry Milnes

I congratulate each of you on these appointments which are well deserved - brethren they are to be congratulated. (Be seated).

During the year I had the pleasant duty of making presentations to two local charities - £1500 to the Leeds Jewish Welfare Board (towards catering equipment) and £1000 to the Doncaster Deaf Trust (for specialist equipment to assist with balance and co-ordination).

Conclaves are now identifying good causes worthy of our support, and I look forward to making more presentations in the future. Such donations can only be made with your continued support and generosity for which I am grateful.

Looking forward there will be Provincial Visits to Claro True Friendship, Bawtry and Pheonix Conclaves. The Grand Visitor has indicated that he will visit Roses and Lux Diei Conclaves.

These are 'special occasions' and I would expect the support of the Provincial Officers appointed today at these important events.

I also encourage brethren to join me in supporting the annual meetings of other Provinces, and that Conclave rulers visit and support other Conclaves during their year in the chair.

Looking forward there are 45 scheduled Conclave meetings during the year. Myself and/or my Deputy will attend all Installations and Provincial Visits.

There will 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 be afforded the courtesy that we would expect of a Senior Provincial officer.

There will be a very special occasion during the year for R Wy Bro Michael Dufton of Chantry Conclave – inducted in 1976 – 50 years ago!

Michael will receive the recognition that such service deserves and will receive his Jubilee Certificate from the Most Worthy Grand Supreme Ruler at Grand Conclave in November. I urge as many members of the Province as possible join me in supporting Michael on that day.

We welcomed (10) new members to the Order – and I am pleased that most conclaves will be Inducting new candidates during the year ahead.

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 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.

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, Alex Webster, and Graham Duffy for their support at Installations and organising today's ceremonial.
3. To VWy Bro. Alan Webster my Deputy, for his tremendous support to me and all our Conclaves.
4. To Wy Bro Jim Reece for his work on the Provincial Web Site.
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. Wy Bro G Renton made a donation to the OSM Charity fund from Conclave Claro True Friendship. 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,**

28<sup>th</sup> February 2026