

**REPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND GUIDE TO THE
PROVINCIAL GRAND CONCLAVE OF WEST YORKSHIRE 2026**

Right Worthy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Distinguished Visitors, Worthy Brethren all.

I am honoured to present my report for the past year in my capacity as Provincial Grand Guide. It has been a privilege to support the Province and to witness the continued commitment of our Conclaves to the values of friendship, care, and fraternal duty that define the Order of the Secret Monitor.

It is my pleasant duty to thank the Provincial Grand Visitors for their service during the year: Wy Bros Andrew Daly, James Marrison, Graham Franklin, and Roger Baker. Except for one meeting, every Conclave has received a visit from either a Visiting Deacon or me personally. Wy Bro Daly now retires in rotation, and I thank him sincerely for the exemplary way he has performed his duties. Wy Bro Richard Morley will be joining the team, and I look forward to working with the Provincial Grand Visitors again in the coming year.

On many occasions, they have stepped in to support Conclave officers while still fulfilling their Provincial responsibilities with diligence and good humour.

Attendance across the Province has remained steady, though there continues to be noticeable variation between Conclaves. Several units enjoy consistently strong participation, while others have experienced reduced numbers at regular meetings. In many cases, this has been linked to a lack of ongoing engagement with members who have become less active.

The average attendance during the year has remained stable, with an overall average of 18 (2024: 19). Inductions averaged 21 attendees; Princes Degrees 18; Installations 19; and lectures and business meetings 14. There has been a slight increase in the percentage of brethren staying for the festive board—from 94% to 95% with several Conclaves regularly achieving between 98% and 100%.

The overall average number of visitors was 7 (2024: 7), analysed as follows:

Ceremony Type	Average Past/Current SRs	Average Other Visitors	Average Total Visitors	Average Current Visiting SRs Attending
Inductions	7 (6)	1 (1)	8 (7)	1 (1)
Princes	6 (7)	1 (1)	6 (9)	2 (1)
Installations	7 (6)	1 (0)	7 (7)	2 (1)
Other	4 (3)	1 (1)	4 (4)	1 (1)

I do hope the Supreme Rulers will continue to consider the importance of visiting. It not only strengthens the bonds of support between Conclaves but often results in reciprocal visits that enrich the life of the Province.

When circumstances demand it, our Supreme Rulers and members have shown remarkable commitment. This was demonstrated most clearly when a struggling Conclave received the support of ten Brethren who joined to help secure its future - a truly commendable act of fraternal solidarity.

The average ritual score for Supreme Rulers has risen to 4.35 (2025: 4.22), with variations across ceremonies but an overall upward trend. This improvement reflects the effort and pride invested in our ceremonies. The average score for those taking part in the ritual has also increased to 4.65 (2025: 4.31), supported by the excellent ritualists within our Conclaves. The general standard of ritual across the Province continues to improve.

Brethren, I must highlight the vital importance of the Visiting Deacons. Their role is not merely ceremonial; it is pastoral, relational, and central to the well-being of our Order. The Visiting Deacon is often the first point of contact for a brother who may be struggling, isolated, or quietly drifting away from the life of the Conclave.

Across the Province, I have seen excellent examples of Visiting Deacons who maintain regular contact with their charges - checking in, offering support, and ensuring that no brother feels forgotten. However, I have also seen instances where no contact has been made, and where the appointed Visiting Deacon has been absent from meetings without submitting a report. While these cases are not widespread, they are concerning. They remind us that the strength of our Order lies not in numbers, but in the quality of our fraternal care. A simple phone call, message, or visit can make all the difference.

I urge all Conclaves to continue strengthening their bonds of friendship and to ensure that the Visiting Deacons - our frontline ambassadors of care - are supported, encouraged, and held to the high standard their office demands.

I encourage all Conclaves to continue monitoring attendance patterns and to ensure appropriate follow-up when a brother has been absent for several meetings. The ethos of mutual support is demonstrated not only in our ceremonies but in the quiet, consistent care we extend to one another.

The total subscribing membership stands at 260, with a further twenty-one honorary members. There have been 8 Inductees during the year. Sadly, I must also report 4 deaths. These brethren will be missed by their Conclaves and by us all. Almost all resignations were due to ill health or age-related reasons.

Right Worthy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, both you and your Deputy, V Wy Bro Alan P K Webster, continue to set examples that inspire the full support of the brethren and especially your Provincial Officers. Your Provincial Team visits continue to make Conclave meetings special occasions, and your readiness to assist Conclaves facing difficulties reflects your deep commitment to the Order and its members. For these reasons, the Province is in good health, and I am confident that we can look forward to many successful years under your leadership.

I look forward to continuing to support you and the Province.

Wy Bro Arthur James Reece
Provincial Grand Guide

February 2026