

The Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees
of England and Wales and Districts and Councils Overseas



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GRAND COUNCIL

held in the Grand Temple, Freemasons' Hall
60 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ

on Tuesday, 24 October 2023

PRESENT

GRAND MASTER

M.W.Bro. Thomas Firth Jackson

AS DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

R.W.Bro. Clive Robert Manuel, P.Dep.G.M.

M.W.Bro. M. D. Dupee, *KStJ*, P.G.M.

R.W.Bro. Wg Cdr B. W. Price, *OBE*, P.Dep.G.M.

R.W.Bro. Lt Col. J. C. Chambers, P.Dep.G.M.

DISTRICT GRAND PREFECTS

R.W.Bro. B. R. Mansell.....District Grand Prefect for Spain
R.W.Bro. C. R. Woodcock, *MBE* District Grand Prefect for London
R.W.Bro. J. E. Crosby..... District Grand Prefect for Cumberland and Westmorland
R.W.Bro. R. SlaterDistrict Grand Prefect for Severn
R.W.Bro. R. A. Mayers, *JP* District Grand Prefect for South and East Caribbean
R.W.Bro. M. F. Wilson..... District Grand Prefect for East Lancashire
R.W.Bro. G. G. Cheshire District Grand Prefect for Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire
R.W.Bro. G. P. Snape District Grand Prefect for West Lancashire
R.W.Bro. J. L. Conway District Grand Prefect for Essex
R.W.Bro. D. Guy District Grand Prefect for Northumberland and Durham
R.W.Bro. P. Talbot, *JP* District Grand Prefect for Cheshire and North Wales
R.W.Bro. G. A. Keer..... District Grand Prefect for East Anglia
R.W.Bro. M. J. L. Whelan, *JP* District Grand Prefect for Southern Counties
R.W.Bro. E. R. Earland..... District Grand Prefect for Sussex
R.W.Bro. B. W. Slade District Grand Prefect for Devon and Cornwall
R.W.Bro. J. P. A. McCollum District Grand Prefect for West Midlands
R.W.Bro. B. Butterfield..... District Grand Prefect for Yorkshire
R.W.Bro. S. G. Barratt District Grand Prefect for East Midlands
R.W.Bro. Sqn Ldr R. W. Chevin..... District Grand Prefect for Thames Valley
R.W.Bro. B. A. Ward District Grand Prefect for Kent

GRAND OFFICERS 2022/2023

R.W.Bro. K. J. Jones, P.G.S.W.	as Grand Senior Warden
R.W.Bro. R. F. Knight	Grand Junior Warden
W.Bro. Revd H. T. Pashley, A.G.Chap.	as Grand Chaplain
R.W.Bro. P. Magnay, DL, P.G.J.W.	Grand Registrar
R.W.Bro. J. C. Roberts, P.G.J.W.	President of the Executive Committee
R.W.Bro. R. A. Williams, <i>OSTJ</i> , P.G.J.W.	Grand Secretary
V.W.Bro. G. R. Goddard	Grand Director of Ceremonies
R.W.Bro. Wg Cdr B. W. Price, <i>OBE</i> , P.Dep.G.M.	Grand Historiographer
V.W.Bro. D. M. Heath	Deputy Grand Secretary
W.Bro. M. D. Hampson	Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
W.Bro. M. Rankin	Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
W.Bro. G. L. Gill, <i>SLMM</i>	Grand Senior Deacon
W.Bro. P. D. Warner	Grand Junior Deacon
W.Bro. M. E. Gannaway	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W.Bro. P. G. Orton	Grand Sword Bearer
W.Bro. T. J. Wheeler	as Grand Standard Bearer
W.Bro. M. P. Conn, <i>JP</i>	Grand Organist
W.Bro. N. J. Page	Deputy Grand Organist
W.Bro. A. A. Black	Grand Inner Guard
W.Bro. D. P. Barden	Grand Steward
W.Bro. I. N. Clark	Grand Steward
W.Bro. G. J. Shackelton	Grand Steward
W.Bro. A. J. Vasis	Grand Steward
W.Bro. P. Busby	as Grand Tyler

PAST DISTRICT GRAND PREFECTS

R.W.Bro. R. W. Freeman, P.Dist.G.Pref. (Devon & Cornwall)
R.W.Bro. C. M. Wilson, P.Dist.G.Pref. (Sussex)
R.W.Bro. R. S. H. Hussey, P.Dist.G.Pref. (Surrey)
R.W.Bro. R. W. Davis, P.Dist.G.Pref. (East Midlands)
R.W.Bro. R. J. Bridger, P.Dist.G.Pref. (Thames Valley)
R.W.Bro. R. A. Dunleavy, P.Dist.G.Pref. (Southern Counties)
R.W.Bro. A. S. McLaren, P.Dist.G.Pref. (East Lancashire)
R.W.Bro. R. J. Clare, P.Dist.G.Pref. (Essex)
R.W.Bro. T. F. Auber, P.Dist.G.Pref. (East Anglia)
R.W.Bro. C. H. Bull, P.Dist.G.Pref. (West Midlands)
R.W.Bro. R. F. Richardson, P.Dist.G.Pref. (Sussex)
R.W.Bro. A. D. Vickery, P.Dist.G.Pref. (Devon & Cornwall)
R.W.Bro. M. H. Thomas, P.Dist.G.Pref. (Far East)

PAST GRAND SENIOR WARDENS

R.W.Bro. N. A. B. Grout, P.G.S.W.
R.W.Bro. M. W. Guest, P.G.S.W.
R.W.Bro. P. T. Coles, P.G.S.W.
R.W.Bro. A. C. Sweeney, P.G.S.W.
R.W.Bro. G. L. Flight, P.G.S.W.
R.W.Bro. His Hon. I. D. G. Alexander, <i>KC</i> , P.G.S.W.
R.W.Bro. R. A. H. Morrow, P.G.S.W.
R.W.Bro. S. C. L. Middleton, P.G.S.W.

PAST GRAND JUNIOR WARDENS

R.W.Bro. D. G. Viggers, P.G.J.W.
R.W.Bro. J. S. Wood, P.G.J.W.
R.W.Bro. K. D. Kennedy, P.G.J.W.
R.W.Bro. B. Taylor, P.G.J.W.
R.W.Bro. D. A. C. Niven, <i>CSTJ</i> , P.G.J.W.
R.W.Bro. D. Jordan, P.G.J.W.
R.W.Bro. T. J. Spinks, P.G.J.W.

OVERSEAS BRETHREN

Spain:

W.Bro. I. M. Crawford, P.G.St.B.

W.Bro. R. A. Mitchell, P.G.St.B.

W.Bro. D. J. Clayton, P.G.I.G.

BRETHREN FROM GRAND COUNCILS OF OTHER CONSTITUTIONS

The Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America:

M.Ven.Bro. W. B. Rigdon, Sovereign Grand Master

M.Ven.Bro. D. A. Surratt, Past Sovereign Grand Master

M.III.Bro. R. E. Bridges, Grand Chancellor of the Grand Colleges

R.Ven.Bro. J. D. Cashion, Grand Tyler

Ven.Bro. D. Ladd

The Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of France:

M.W.Bro. C. Amine, Past Sovereign Grand Master

The Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of India:

M.W.Bro. B. V. Epur, Grand Master

The Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of South East Asia:

R.W.Bro. A. R. Arul, Deputy Grand Master

V.W.Bro. Dr I. P. Ellston, Past Grand Chaplain

HEADS OF ORDERS

V.W.Bro. J. H. Prizeman, P.G.Reg.

R.W.Bro. P. R. Clement, P.Dist.G.Pref. (Severn)

R.W.Bro. G. L. Flight, P.G.S.W.

R.W.Bro. K. J. Jones, P.G.S.W.

R.W.Bro. A. C. Sweeney, P.G.S.W.

W.Bro. Dr P. Mycock, P.G.J.D.

Bro. C. G. Maiden

W.Bro. Dr V. Thomas, P.G.J.D.

W.Bro. A. W. Llewellyn, P.G.J.D.

Pro Grand Master – Mark

Grand Master – KT

Grand Sovereign – RCC

Grand Master – RSM

Grand Supreme Ruler – OSM

First Grand Master Mason – The Operatives

Grand High Priest – KTP

Grand Master – KBHC

Supreme Magus – SRJA

and a large number of Past Grand Officers, Masters, Past Masters and other Brethren.

Report of Proceedings

1. OPENING

Grand Council was opened in Ample Form.

2. IN MEMORIAM

The Most Worshipful Grand Master referred with great regret to the death of a number of Brethren, including fifty-six Grand Officers, which had occurred since the previous Annual Meeting of Grand Council. He made particular reference to R.W.Bro. John Norman George Howitt, P.G.J.W., who was for the last ten years our Grand Treasurer; R.W.Bro. Frank Page, P.G.J.W.; R.W.Bro. Derek William Southgate, P.G.J.W.; and R.W.Bro. Revd Trevor John Walker, P.G.J.W., who looked after our spiritual needs as Grand Chaplain for twelve years.

The Brethren stood to order while the acting Grand Chaplain offered prayer.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Grand Council held on 25 October 2022, having been printed and circulated with the summons for the meeting, were taken as read and confirmed.

4. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Report of the Executive Committee for the twelve months ended 31 August 2023, having been printed and circulated as **Appendix A** in the summons, was taken as read, approved and adopted.

5. AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2022/23

On the proposition of the Grand Secretary, seconded by the Grand Registrar, the Audited Statement of Accounts of the Order for the financial year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022, having been printed and circulated as **Appendix B** in the summons, was formally approved and adopted.

6. REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER

The Grand Secretary presented the Report on the Accounts of Grand Council for the financial year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023.

7. ELECTION AND PROCLAMATION OF THE GRAND MASTER

On the proposition of the acting Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Clive Robert Manuel, and seconded by the Grand Registrar, R.W.Bro. Peter Magnay, Most Worshipful Brother Thomas Firth Jackson was re-elected with acclamation as Grand Master for the ensuing year.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master was then proclaimed by the Grand Director of Ceremonies as follows:

Be it known that THOMAS FIRTH JACKSON, Past Senior Grand Deacon in the United Fraternity of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England; Past Assistant Grand Sojourner in the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England; Past Grand Senior Warden in the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas, and a member of the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council, Honoris Causa, in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner; Knight Commander of the United Orders in the Great Priory of the United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta of England and Wales and its Provinces Overseas; Grand Elected Knight Kadosh 30th Degree, Knight of the Black and White Eagle, of the Ancient and Accepted Rite under the Supreme Council 33rd Degree for England and Wales and its Districts and Chapters Overseas; Knight Commander of Constantine of the Grand Imperial Conclave for England and Wales and its Divisions and Conclaves Overseas of the Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and of St John the Evangelist; Past Grand Chancellor in the Grand Council of the Order of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas; Past Grand Counsellor in the Grand Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor, or Brotherhood of David and Jonathan, in the British Isles and its Districts and Conclaves Overseas; Past Grand Lecturer in the Grand Senatus of the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord in the British Isles and its Districts and Consistories Overseas; Holder of the Grand High Priest's Award in the Grand College of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom; Past Grand Registrar in the Grand Priory of the Knights Beneficent of the Holy City of the Rectified Scottish Rite of England and Wales; Grand Master, etc., etc., etc., etc., has this day been elected and proclaimed Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of England and Wales and Districts and Councils Overseas; whom may the Great Disposer of all long preserve.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master was saluted under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies. The Most Worshipful Grand Master returned thanks.

8. APPOINTMENT AND PROCLAMATION OF THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

The Most Worshipful Grand Master announced that he was reappointing R.W.Bro. Ian Bailey as Deputy Grand Master for the ensuing year and addressed Grand Council as follows:

'R.W.Bro. Bailey has settled into his job very well and is getting used to the steep learning curve and the strange habits of the Grand Master! As you will have noticed, R.W.Bro. Bailey is not here today, partly at my instruction. His wife Carol is rather poorly in hospital, and I suggested that his place is by her bedside. Brethren, family must come first – we are in constant calls, and I know that he sends his apologies and best wishes to you all. I will report back to him in the morning. As you can see his vacant seat has been very well occupied by his predecessor, R.W.Bro. Clive Manuel and I thank him for filling the gap!'

The Deputy Grand Master was then proclaimed by the Deputy G.D.C. as follows:

Be it known that IAN ANTHONY BAILEY, Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in the United Fraternity of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England; Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England; Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas; Past Provincial Herald in the Provincial Priory of Oxfordshire, Berkshire, and Buckinghamshire in the Great Priory of the United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta of England and Wales and its Provinces Overseas; Past Divisional Warden of Regalia in the Division of Thames in the Grand Imperial Conclave for England and Wales and its Divisions and Conclaves Overseas of the Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and of St John the Evangelist; District Grand Manciple of the District of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire in the Grand Council of the Order of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas; Deputy Grand Master, etc., etc., etc., has this day been re-appointed and proclaimed Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of England and Wales and Districts and Councils Overseas; whom may the Great Disposer of all long preserve.

9. ELECTION OF THE GRAND TREASURER

The Grand Secretary announced that following the sad passing of R.W.Bro. John Howitt, P.G.J.W., a new Grand Treasurer had been identified. However, he was unable to take up the role due to present commitments but would soon be available, at which time he would be elected and invested before next year's meeting.

10. APPOINTMENT AND INVESTITURE OF GRAND OFFICERS

The Grand Secretary read the names of the Brethren whom the Most Worshipful Grand Master had appointed to Grand Rank for 2023. The Most Worshipful Grand Master invested those present.

GRAND OFFICERS 2023/2024

Grand Senior Warden	Christopher David Davis
Grand Junior Warden	Dr Glyn Jackson Davies, <i>JP</i>
Grand Chaplain	The Revd Justin Trevelyan Parker
Grand Treasurer	<i>vacant</i>
Grand Registrar	Peter Magnay, <i>DL</i> , P.G.J.W.
President Executive Committee	Jonathan Charles Roberts, P.G.J.W.
Grand Secretary	Ryan Andrew Williams, <i>OSTJ</i> , P.G.J.W.
Grand Director of Ceremonies	Glyn Raymond Goddard
Grand Historiographer	Wg Cdr Brian Ward Price, <i>OBE</i> , P.Dep.G.M.
Deputy Grand Secretary	Daniel Mark Heath
Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies	Martin Rankin
Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies	Mark Eric Gannaway
Grand Senior Deacon	Graham Bainbridge
Grand Junior Deacon	Mark Robert Constant
Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Kerry John Parkes
Assistant Grand Chaplain	Revd Howard Thomas Pashley
Grand Sword Bearer	Ivor Michael Henry Bennett
Grand Standard Bearer	Graham Samuel Kirby
Grand Organist	Michael Peter Conn, <i>JP</i>
Deputy Grand Organist	Nicholas John Page
Grand Inner Guard	Dr Colin Thompson Howard
Grand Steward	Lewis George Clement
Grand Steward	John Bruce Coulton
Grand Steward	David Eric Easton
Grand Steward	Marc William Lester Goldsworthy
Grand Steward	Kenneth Urquhart Robson
Grand Steward	Sam Sammakia
Grand Tyler	Paul Busby

PROMOTIONS

Past Grand Junior Warden

John Herbert Prizeman

Thomas James Spinks

Past Grand Registrar

William Terence Andrew

John Charles Bicknell

George John Deacon

John Harvey

Graeme Hutchinson

Ian Herbert Macklin

Peter John Sacre

Brian Anthony Sarre

William Richard Graham Skym

Dr Anthony John Strachan

Past Grand Senior Deacon

David William Abbott

Douglas Dennis Black

Ian Michael Crawford

John Gordon Ellenger

Graham Roderick Paskins

John Clive Penpraze

Past Grand Junior Deacon

John David Aslatt

Alan John Brockwell

Leslie Alan Darby

Michael Alan Evans

Ernest Gavan

John Bamborough Gibson

Simon Russell Gillas

Francis William Edward Hatton

Raymond Keith Lamb

William Malcolm

Laurindo Nunes Monteiro

Howard Stephen Nuttall

Gary Michael Peard

David John Russell

Derek Smith

John Stafford Stevens

Frederick Richard Thomas

Colin Paul Tunbridge

Neil Webster

Past Grand Standard Bearer

Malcolm Lewis Hill

PAST RANKS (FIRST APPOINTMENTS)

Past Grand Junior Deacon

Michael Woodcock

Past Grand Sword Bearer

Stephen Richard Nigel Fenton

Patrick Langdown

Frank Cornelis Johannes Poot

Norman Barry Smethurst

Past Grand Standard Bearer

Edward Thomas Allcock

Donald Auld

Carl Wilshire Zachary Bethel, *KC*

Dr MC Black

Allan Reginald Brindley

Vicente Climente-Valero

Clive Copley

Charles David Crocker

Dr Scott James Dunn

John William Elliott

Dr John Anthony Elmore

Julian Alan Nicholas Frost

Jeffrey Michael Green

Mark Steven Guzam

Michael John Herman

Eric Holmes

Oliver Paul Insanally

Thomas Richard Eirian Jones

Michael John Marchant

Robert Alexander McMillan

Marlon Neilson Munroe

Anthony James Padley

Simon Edwin Polkinghorne

Allan Edgar Powell

David John Roach

Harvey Andrew Roland

Allan Martin Shields

Michael Bernard Squires

Major Alfred Athelston Taylor

James Stephen Tilston

Julian Trought

Paul Reginald Whitmore

William Herbert Winter

Past Grand Inner Guard

Stuart Burrows

Brian Ronald Chapman

Craig Malcolm Clarke

Paul William Hutchinson

Brian Thomas Jeffs

John Kershaw

David James Major

Daniel James McMeeken

John Patrick Murphy

Matthew Richards

Michael Joseph Scard

Frank Hogg Wallace

Neil Edwin Austin Watkin

The Grand Secretary stated that in the ordinary course of business that would have competed the appointments and investitures this year, but he understood that the Grand Master may have a further item of business. The Most Worshipful Grand Master then proceeded to promote W.Bro. Daniel Mark Heath, Dep.G.Sec., to the rank of Past Grand Registrar and addressed Grand Council as follows: 'Brethren, in the past the Deputy Grand Secretary has kept things from me, events have happened and I've had no forewarning of what was taking place. Today, I've got my own back!'

11. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

On the proposition of the President of the Executive Committee, seconded by the Grand Secretary and carried by the Brethren, Messrs Crowe UK, LLP, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors, were appointed as auditors for Grand Council.

12. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENTS

The Most Worshipful Grand Master announced that in accordance with Rule 117 (i) of the Constitutions and Regulations, he had reappointed the following Brethren to membership of the Executive Committee:

R.W.Bro. A. S. McLaren, P.Dist.G.Pref. (East Lancashire)

R.W.Bro. C. H. Bull, P.Dist.G.Pref. (West Midlands)

13. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – ELECTION

The Grand Secretary reported that in accordance with Rule 117 (i) of the Constitutions and Regulations, nominations for election to the Executive Committee had been received in respect of:

R.W.Bro. R. W. Freeman, P.Dist.G.Pref. (Devon & Cornwall)

R.W.Bro. P. A. Norman, P.Dist.G.Pref. (East Anglia)

The Most Worshipful Grand Master announced that there being only two nominations for two places on the Executive Committee, he declared these two Brethren duly elected.

14. ADDRESS BY THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER

The Most Worshipful Grand Master addressed Grand Council as follows:

Brethren, I must begin by thanking you all for attending our annual meeting in such excellent numbers. It is very encouraging for us all, especially the recipients. It adds greatly to their enjoyment when they see their friends coming to support them. I do appreciate that it is continuing to be difficult to plan visits to London and elsewhere – if it's not trains, then it's the 'rains', but hopefully things will improve in the future.

As I have already said, today is a very special day for the Brethren who have just received their first Grand Rank and also those who have been promoted in Rank. We can all just about remember the day when we were in the same position! I do hope that these honours will encourage you to continue with your good work. It is very much appreciated especially by my Prefects and myself.

This year has seen the retirement of R.W.Bro. Peter Brockbank, the District Grand Prefect for Kent. He has given devoted service to both his District and to the Order in general for which I thank him. In consequence of Peter's retirement, on 18 February I installed his successor R.W.Bro. Brian Alan Ward and we wish him well in his new job. I know he is enjoying it. On Wednesday, 15 March, we went to Constable country in East Anglia and consecrated the Dedham Vale Council No. 284, which meets in Clare. It was another very enjoyable and happy occasion and our Order continues to grow. Plans are in hand for two new Councils, one in Thessaloniki in Northern Greece and one on the island of Malta. We have also had a request to repon two Councils in South Africa, so all good news, Brethren. The development of the Order is due in no small measure to all the hard work which our District Grand Prefects put in, not only in their own Districts but also in supporting their colleagues at their District meetings across the country. It makes such a difference and shows genuine commitment to our Order; thank you all, keep up the good work. The 17th of November marks the retirement of R.W.Bro. Eddie Crosby as the District Grand Prefect for Cumberland and Westmorland. He has served this large District well over many years. On the 18th of November I will have the pleasure of installing as his successor W.Bro. Lawrence Hinde, and we wish him well for the future.

Brethren, time passes so quickly. It does not seem that long since I had the pleasure of investing the officers of the year and here I am thanking them for the support which they

have all given me over the last twelve months, and for their friendship, which I know will continue in the future. I must make special reference to our past Senior Warden who is having serious health problems at present; we all wish him well for the future and will keep him in our thoughts and prayers. I know he will be thinking of us today.

As usual, our Annual Meeting has been well supported by the Heads of the other Orders. Please delay your applause till I have finished what is rather a long list:

From the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons we have the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John Prizeman, who I had the pleasure of promoting today to the rank of P.G.J.W., congratulations; from the Knights Templar, we have the Right Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Paul Clement, P.Dist.G.Pref. (Severn); from the Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine, we have the Grand Sovereign, R.W.Bro. Graham Flight, P.G.S.W., who very kindly acted as our Grand Senior Warden today owing to R.W.Bro. Michael Spencer's health problems; from the Order of the Secret Monitor, we have the Grand Supreme Ruler, R.W.Bro. Andrew Sweeney, P.G.S.W.; from the Operatives, we have the First Grand Master Mason, W.Bro. Dr Paul Mycock, P.G.J.D.; from the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom, we have the Grand High Priest, Bro. Christopher Gavin Maiden; from the Knights Beneficent of the Holy City, we have the Grand Master, W.Bro. Dr Vivian Thomas, *JP*, P.G.J.D.; and from the Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia, we have the Supreme Magus, W.Bro. Anthony William Llewellyn, P.G.J.D.

We are again delighted to welcome M.W.Bro. Matt Dupee, *KStJ*, who I had the pleasure of investing as a Past Grand Master when I visited the United States for their Masonic week in 2014. From Spain, we have R.W.Bro. Barrie Roy Mansell, District Grand Master, and his supporters; from the Grand Council of the U.S.A, I am delighted to welcome M.V.Bro. Berry Rigdon, Sovereign Grand Master; M.V.Bro. Allen Surratt, Past Sovereign Grand Master; M.III.Bro. Russell Bridges, Grand Chancellor of the Grand Colleges; R.Ven.Bro. David Cashion, Grand Tyler; and Ven.Bro. David Ladd – you are all most welcome; from the Grand Council of France, we are delighted to welcome their Past Grand Master, Christian Amine, who looked after the Deputy Grand Secretary and I so well when we visited Paris in April; from the Grand Council of India, we again welcome their Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Bharat Epur, P.G.S.D.; and from the Grand Council of South East Asia, we welcome the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Andre Arul and their Past Grand Chaplain, V.W.Bro. Dr Ian Ellston. Brethren, please pass on our very best wishes to our good friend Dr Boo Khean Khoo and we hope that he is making good progress. Brethren, you are all most welcome, and I hope that you have an enjoyable stay with us.

I am now commanded to bring you all the very best wishes of our Past Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Michael Herbert. Michael now finds travelling to London very difficult and though he made the supreme effort to come to the Royal and Select Masters he finds it very draining. I shall as always, give him a full report on Wednesday, but his bush telegraph is possibly better than mine!

Brethren, recent major events, and there have been some extra large ones this month, have obviously given the Grand Secretary and his team some headaches. But as we have come to expect they have risen to the occasion, letters of appointment have been delivered, follow ups done and designated seats reserved, hopefully the right ones. We are therefore indebted to the Grand Secretary and all his staff for their hard work and they deserve our thanks, well done. I had better not forget to thank the Grand Director of Ceremonies, and his teams, for the professional manner which they have undertaken their duties. All has gone according to plan and you too can go home fully satisfied in the knowledge that your hard work has paid off – again, very well done.

In conclusion Brethren, I must also thank you for your support and encouragement, not just today but over the last year; it makes my job so easy and enjoyable. I hope that refreshment awaits, and I don't want to delay you any longer. Continue to enjoy your Allied Masonry and God Bless you all.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Grand Secretary announced he had nothing further to bring before Grand Council.

16. CLOSING

Grand Council was closed in Ample Form.