

The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of England  
and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas



## MINUTES

of the Annual Assembly of Grand Council  
held on Tuesday, 15 April 2025, at Freemasons' Hall,  
60 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ

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### PRESENT

#### GRAND MASTER

M.III.Comp. Kessick John Jones, IX

#### DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

R.III.Comp. Paul Anthony Norman, IX

#### GRAND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK

R.III.Comp. Norman Dunkeld Milburn, IX

#### PAST DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

R.III.Comp. His Hon. I. D. G. Alexander, KC, IX

#### PAST GRAND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTORS OF THE WORK

R.III.Comp. Lt Col. J. C. Chambers

R.III.Comp. Richard L. Gan, JP, IX, G.Hist.

#### CUSTODIANS OF THE NINTH ARCH

R.III.Comp. J. D. Phillips, IX

R.III.Comp. G. Smith, IX

R.III.Comp. G. J. Davies, JP, IX

R.III.Comp. M. B. Jolley, IX

#### DISTRICT GRAND MASTERS

R.III.Comp. V. J. Driver ..... District Grand Master for London  
R.III.Comp. J. Harvey.....District Grand Master for Northumberland  
R.III.Comp. C. G. Lewis ..... District Grand Master for Middlesex  
R.III.Comp. N. T. Woodward .....District Grand Master for North and East Yorkshire  
R.III.Comp. D. G. Sanderson.....District Grand Master for Cumberland and Westmorland  
R.III.Comp. K. L. Downes, JP ..... District Grand Master for Wyvern  
R.III.Comp. T. M. Sharpe ..... District Grand Master for Kent  
R.III.Comp. B. F. Marchant.....District Grand Master for Sussex  
R.III.Comp. M. J. Wilson ..... District Grand Master for East Midlands  
R.III.Comp. F. J. Shaw .....District Grand Master for Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight  
R.III.Comp. M. Graham.....District Grand Master for Durham

R.III.Comp. R. J. Potts .....	District Grand Master for Essex
R.III.Comp. Gp Capt. P. J. Brindle .....	District Grand Master for Hertfordshire
R.III.Comp. F. McPherson .....	District Grand Master for West Yorkshire
R.III.Comp. B. Hughes .....	District Grand Master for Cheshire and the Marches
R.III.Comp. P. J. Wellings .....	District Grand Master for Warwickshire
R.III.Comp. K. R. S. Surry .....	District Grand Master for Somerset and Wiltshire
R.III.Comp. S. J. Bradford .....	District Grand Master for North Midlands
R.III.Comp. G. F. Spencer .....	District Grand Master for East Anglia
R.III.Comp. G. M. Peard .....	District Grand Master for Devon and Cornwall
R.III.Comp. G. Catterall .....	District Grand Master for Lancashire
R.III.Comp. W. E. Jenkins .....	District Grand Master for South Wales
R.III.Comp. W. A. Caughie .....	District Grand Master for Surrey
R.III.Comp. P. J. Purves .....	District Grand Master for Oxon, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire
R.III.Comp. J. W. A. White .....	District Grand Master for Derbyshire

#### PAST DISTRICT GRAND MASTERS

R.III.Comp. D. S. Pratt, P.Dist.G.M., Yorkshire (2003–2014)
R.III.Comp. J. R. Collison, P.Dist.G.M., North Midlands (2004–2009)
R.III.Comp. L. E. Bourne, <i>JP</i> , P.Dist.G.M., Wyvern (2006–2016)
R.III.Comp. C. D. Hellyer, P.Dist.G.M., Hertfordshire (2011–2019)
R.III.Comp. Prof. D. K. Wilson, P.Dist.G.M., Durham (2011–2017)
R.III.Comp. J. C. Jacobson, P.Dist.G.M., Essex (2012–2019)
R.III.Comp. R. S. C. Mitchell, P.Dist.G.M., Lancashire (2013–2023)
R.III.Comp. D. J. Blackburn, P.Dist.G.M., Surrey (2014–2024)
R.III.Comp. A. Beckerton, P.Dist.G.M., Derbyshire (2015–2025)

#### DISTRICT GRAND INSPECTOR

R.III.Comp. H. O. Watler .....	Grand Inspector, Jamaica and The Cayman Islands
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#### GRAND OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

R.III.Comp. His Hon. Keith Charles Cutler, <i>CBE</i> .....	Grand Chancellor
R.III.Comp. Dr N. F. J. Scott-Moncrieff .....	Grand Councillor
R.III.Comp. Dr V. Thomas, <i>JP</i> , P.G.Coun. ....	Grand Chaplain
R.III.Comp. J. R. G. Hilditch .....	Grand Treasurer
V.III.Comp. K. Young .....	President of the Executive Committee
V.III.Comp. D. M. Heath .....	Grand Recorder
R.III.Comp. G. D. Seeman, P.G.Coun. ....	Grand Director of Ceremonies
V.III.Comp. R. G. Tuthill .....	Grand Lecturer
R.III.Comp. R. L. Gan, <i>JP</i> , P.G.P.C.W., IX .....	Grand Historiographer
III.Comp. The Revd T. J. N. L'Estrange .....	Deputy Grand Chaplain
III.Comp. A. J. Baverstock .....	Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
III.Comp. J. P. Wallis .....	Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
III.Comp. G. Hughes .....	Grand Captain of the Guard
III.Comp. E. E. Clarke .....	Grand Conductor of the Council
III.Comp. D. Mersh .....	Assistant Grand Recorder
III.Comp. M. A. Thompson-O'Connor .....	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
III.Comp. D. Ursell .....	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
III.Comp. G. J. Morrison .....	Grand Sword Bearer
III.Comp. G. S. Ifill .....	Grand Standard Bearer
V.III.Comp. Dr R. A. Scott, P.G.Lect. ....	Grand Organist
III.Comp. L. G. Clement, P.G.Capt.Gd. ....	Deputy Grand Organist
III.Comp. D. E. Atterbury .....	Grand Steward
III.Comp. C. R. Des Moulins .....	Grand Manciple
III.Comp. S. P. Gaskin .....	Grand Manciple
III.Comp. Dr J. P. Shervington .....	Grand Manciple
III.Comp. P. Busby .....	Grand Sentinel

## PAST GRAND CHANCELLORS

R.III.Comp. H. K. Emmerson  
R.III.Comp. T. F. Jackson  
R.III.Comp. A. C. Sweeney  
R.III.Comp. P. R. Clement  
R.III.Comp. G. L. Flight  
R.III.Comp. J. H. Newman, *OBE*  
R.III.Comp. T. F. Auber  
R.III.Comp. R. A. H. Morrow  
R.III.Comp. M. F. Barnes  
R.III.Comp. B. W. Price  
R.III.Comp. N. A. B. Grout  
R.III.Comp. D. Baum  
R.III.Comp. C. G. Maiden  
R.III.Comp. J. H. Prizeman  
R.III.Comp. Dr P. Mycock  
R.III.Comp. E. Trodd, *KLJ*

## PAST GRAND COUNCILLORS

R.III.Comp. A. W. Bamber  
R.III.Comp. A. Glazier  
R.III.Comp. A. G. Simey  
R.III.Comp. D. G. Viggers  
R.III.Comp. D. S. Rose  
R.III.Comp. F. C. Spencer  
R.III.Comp. G. E. Bonham  
R.III.Comp. R. J. Clare  
R.III.Comp. A. W. Llewellyn  
R.III.Comp. C. H. Bull  
R.III.Comp. D. A. Garston  
R.III.Comp. D. Smith  
R.III.Comp. R. J. Bridger  
R.III.Comp. T. R. Edwards

## COMPANIONS FROM OVERSEAS

Jamaica and The Cayman Islands

III.Comp. R. S. Whorms

South and East Caribbean

V.III.Comp. R. M. Craig, *JP*, P.G.Lect., Dep.Dist.G.M.

III.Comp. R. A. Lindsay

South Africa

III.Comp. L. A. Martin, P.G.Stwd.

Flanders Council No. 177 (Unattached – Belgium)

III.Comp. D. J. L. Cross, P.A.G.D.C.

III.Comp. G. E. A. Denys, P.G.St.B.

III.Comp. P. F. Ambrody

III.Comp. P. Giotopoulos

III.Comp. G. D. Kavanagh

III.Comp. L. R. Kavanagh

III.Comp. J. Verbist

Comp. M. P. Kavanagh

## DEPUTATIONS FROM OTHER GRAND COUNCILS

The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of South East Asia  
M.III.Comp. Dr H. Y. H. Chin, G.M.  
V.III.Comp. A. S. Downes, Dep.G.D.C.

The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of India  
R.III.Comp. B. V. Epur, Dep.G.M.

The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Greece  
M.III.Comp. V. Papanikolaou, G.M.  
V.III.Comp. K. Karmalis, G.Rec.

The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri  
M.III.Comp. W. G. Snyder, P.G.M.

The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Utah  
M.III.Comp. J. C. Varner, P.G.M.

and many other Grand Officers, Past Masters and Companions.

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## Report of Proceedings

### 1. OPENING

Grand Council was opened in Ample Form by the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

### 2. IN MEMORIAM

The Most Illustrious Grand Master referred with great regret to the death of a number of Companions, mentioning in particular: R.III.Comp. Keith Stanley Carmichael, *CBE*, P.Dep.G.M.; R.III.Comp. Michael Edward Herbert, P.Dep.G.M.; R.III.Comp. Brian Anthony Vickers, IX; R.III.Comp. Michael William Guest, P.Dist.G.M. (Warwickshire); R.III.Comp. Jan Alexander Olszewski, P.Dist.G.M. (Devon and Cornwall); R.III.Comp. Leonard Stanley Starling, P.Dist.G.M. (Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire); R.III.Comp. George Alfred Aldrich, P.G.Coun.; R.III.Comp. Raymond Charles Horton, P.G.Coun.; R.III.Comp. Raymond Rooke, P.G.Coun.; and only just recently R.III.Comp. William Frederick Clemens, IX. In total, there were 72 Grand Officers detailed in the Report of the Executive Committee.

The Companions stood to order while the Grand Chaplain offered prayer.

### 3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Assembly of Grand Council held on Tuesday, 16 April 2024, having been printed and circulated with the Summons for this meeting, were taken as read and confirmed.

### 4. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On the proposition of the Grand Chancellor, seconded by the Grand Recorder, the Report of the Executive Committee for the period ending 31 December 2024, which had been printed and circulated with the Summons, was taken as read. The Report was then approved, adopted and entered on the Minutes.

### 5. REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER

The Grand Treasurer addressed Grand Council as follows:

'Most Illustrious Grand Master and Companions, I present the financial statement of accounts of Grand Council for the year ended 31 August 2024 as set out in **Appendix B** of the Summons. They show a gross income of £602 for the year. There is a small increase for the year in the value of our investments, reversing prior year losses, although I expect these gains will have been lost over the last couple of weeks. However, Companions, we are in good financial order. I also note that annual dues and other income, which

are recorded in the consolidated accounts of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, show a small increase. Most Illustrious Grand Master and Companions, I commend the accounts to you.'

#### 6. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTIONS AND REGULATIONS

On the proposition of the President of the Executive Committee, seconded by the Grand Recorder and carried by the Companions, the amendments to the Constitutions and Regulations, which had been printed and circulated with the Summons, were formally approved and adopted.

#### 7. ELECTION AND PROCLAMATION OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER

The Deputy Grand Master addressed Grand Council as follows:

'Companions, as we gather to reaffirm our commitment to a leader who characterises the very essence of Cryptic Freemasonry, and who, since 2016, with unwavering dedication to our principles, has not only guided us but has also inspired each of us to embody the values we hold dear. Under his stewardship, our Grand Council has flourished, marked by increased fellowship and charitable endeavours. He has fostered unity among us, bridging generations and enriching our bonds as brethren and Companions. His leadership has been nothing short of exemplary, demonstrating resilience and wisdom. He has been a steadfast guardian of our traditions while embracing the changes necessary for our growth. Let us today honour his contributions and express our confidence in his ability to lead us forward. Companions, I wholeheartedly propose the re-election of Most Illustrious Companion Kessick John Jones as our Grand Master.'

The proposition was seconded by the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work and carried nem con by the Companions present. The Most Illustrious Grand Master was then proclaimed by the Grand Director of Ceremonies as follows:

Be it known that KESSICK JOHN JONES, Bachelor of Arts of the Open University; Past Grand Sword Bearer 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 of 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; Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret 32nd Degree in 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 Senior Warden in the Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of England and Wales and 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 Chancellor of the Grand Senatus of the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord in the British Isles and its Districts and Consistories Overseas; Third Grand Master Mason, Holder of the VII degree, Honoris Causa, in the Worshipful Society of Freemasons, Rough Masons, Wallers, Slaters, Paviers, Plaisterers and Bricklayers; Knight Commander of the Priestly Orders of the Grand College of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom; Knight Commander of the Holy City and President of the Grand Master's Council of the Grand Priory of the Knights Beneficent of the Holy City of the Rectified Scottish Rite of England and Wales; Provincial Grand Marischal of the Provincial Grand Lodge of London and the Metropolitan Counties in the Royal Order of Scotland; Grand Master and Custodian of the Ninth Arch, etc., etc., etc.,

etc., has this day been elected Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Order of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas; whom may the Supreme Master of the Universe long preserve.

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

#### 8. APPOINTMENT AND PROCLAMATION OF THE RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

The Most Illustrious Grand Master addressed Grand Council as follows:

'In his first year in office, the Deputy Grand Master, R.III.Comp. Paul Anthony Norman, IX, has consistently demonstrated his commitment to the Order and outstanding loyalty to me. It is therefore quite right and proper that he be given further opportunity to continue to do so. In short Companions, I have no hesitations in happily re-appointing him for the ensuing year.'

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

Be it known that PAUL ANTHONY NORMAN, Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in the United Fraternity of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England; Past Grand Standard Bearer in the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England; Past Provincial Grand Master for East Anglia in the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas, and in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner; Second Great Constable 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; Knight Commander of Constantine and Grand Marshal 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 District Grand Prefect for East Anglia in the Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of England and Wales and Districts and Councils Overseas; Past Grand Counsellor of 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 Chancellor 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 VII Degree, Honoris Causa, in the Worshipful Society of Operative Freemasons, Rough Masons, Wallers, Slaters, Paviers, Plaisterers and Bricklayers; Past Grand Seventh Pillar in the Grand College of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom; Deputy Grand Master and Custodian of the Ninth Arch, etc., etc., etc., has this day been appointed and proclaimed Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master of the Order of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas; whom may the Supreme Master of the Universe long preserve;

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

#### 9. APPOINTMENT AND PROCLAMATION OF THE RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK

The Most Illustrious Grand Master addressed Grand Council as follows:

'When I appointed Norman Dunkfield Milburn as the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work last year, amongst my description of his catalogue of qualifying qualities, I mentioned that he was well known and admired especially in the north. Now, after one year in the office, he has extended that reputation to being well known and admired in the south as well as in the north. Norman, you have put your heart and soul into your role and I am delighted to re-appoint you as Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.'

The Grand Principal Conductor of the Work was then proclaimed by the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies as follows:

Be it known that NORMAN DUNKELD MILBURN, Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in the United Fraternity of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of England; Past Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah in the Provincial Grand Chapter of Cumberland and Westmorland in the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England; Past Grand Junior Overseer in the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales its Districts and Councils Overseas, and holder of Grand Rank in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner; Past Great Warden of Regalia 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, in the Ancient and Accepted Right under the Supreme Council 33rd Degree for England and Wales and its Districts and Chapters Overseas; Past Grand Chamberlain 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; Past Grand Registrar in the Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of England and Wales and Districts and Councils Overseas; Grand Superintendent and High Prelate for District No. 2, Lancashire and Cumbria, in the Grand College of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom; Grand Principal Conductor of the Work and Custodian of the Ninth Arch, etc., etc., has this day been appointed and proclaimed Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work of the Order of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas; whom may the Supreme Master of the Universe long preserve;

The Grand Principal Conductor of the Work was saluted under the direction of the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies and returned thanks.

10. ELECTION OF THE GRAND TREASURER

On the proposition of the President of the Executive Committee, seconded by the Grand Recorder and carried nem con by the Companions present, V.III.Comp. James Robert Guy Hilditch, was elected Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year.

11. APPOINTMENT OF GRAND OFFICERS 2025/2026

The Grand Recorder read the names of those Companions whom the Most Illustrious Grand Master had appointed to Grand Rank. The Most Illustrious Grand Master invested those present.

**ACTIVE OFFICERS**

Grand Chancellor.....	His Hon. Keith Charles Cutler, <i>CBE</i>
Grand Councillor.....	Dr Nigel Francis John Scott-Moncrieff
Grand Chaplain.....	Dr Vivian Thomas, <i>JP</i> , P.G.Coun.
Grand Treasurer .....	James Robert Guy Hilditch
President of the Executive Committee.....	Keith Young
Grand Recorder .....	Daniel Mark Heath
Grand Director of Ceremonies .....	Graham David Seeman, P.G.Coun.
Grand Lecturer.....	Benjamin William Dykes
Grand Historiographer .....	Richard Ludwik Gan, <i>JP</i> , P.G.P.C.W., IX
Deputy Grand Chaplain .....	The Revd Timothy John Nicholas L'Estrange
Deputy Grand Recorder.....	Alan Robert Brumwell, <i>JP</i>
Deputy Grand Directors of Ceremonies.....	Jonathan Peter Wallis Mark Anthony Thompson-O'Connor
Grand Captain of the Guard .....	Boon Sin Tan
Grand Conductor of the Council .....	Ronald Slater
Assistant Grand Chaplain .....	Anthony Russell Davis, P.G.Cond.C.
Assistant Grand Recorders.....	Derek Mersh Lt Col. Michael Charles Alexander Caseman-Jones, <i>TD</i>

Assistant Grand Directors of Ceremonies .....	David Ursell Nicholas Rupert Bacon
Grand Sword Bearer .....	Leslie Smith
Grand Standard Bearer .....	Geoffrey Declan Kavanagh
Grand Organist .....	Dr Robert Andrew Scott
Deputy Grand Organist.....	Lewis George Clement, P.A.G.D.C.
Grand Steward.....	James Etienne Payen
Grand Mancies.....	Michael Graham Stephen Charles Evans Harries Paul MacDonald Muir Stephen George Pemberton Richard Kevin Thurston
Grand Sentinel .....	Paul Busby

### PROMOTIONS

Past Grand Chancellor Austin Westbury Bamber	Bharat Venkat Epur
Past Grand Councillor Jonathan Charles Roberts Harding Overton Watler	Keith Young
Past Grand Lecturer Dr Peter Robert Dack Christopher David Davis Nicholas Keith Edwards Richard Eaglesfield Floyd Matthew Damian Hampson Paul William Hutchinson	Gareth Jones, <i>OBE</i> Bryan Kennedy The Revd Howard Thomas Pashley Graham Roderick Paskins David William Riddoch
Past Grand Captain of the Guard Ralph Mannings Apperley Geoffrey George Cheshire John Anthony Easton Robert Angus Greenlees Christopher Francis Hatton Paul Stephen Hollobone	Richard Arthur Middleton Steven Richard Leonard Rowlands Donald Christopher Smith Archibald Iain Torrance Brian Benjamin Williams
Past Grand Conductor of the Council John Derek Allen Robert James Brown Michael Bunce Ian Castledine Arthur Joseph Clark Antony Kenneth Clayton Stephen Peter Davies John Gordon Ellenger Steven Charles Frankland David John Green Danny Guy Lloyd Andrew Harrison Graeme Hutchinson David Kellet Dr Robert Ian McDarmaid	Paul Laurence Merryfellow Derek Mersh Karl Michel Stuart John David Mowbray James Frederick Peter Mulligan Antony John Nailer Revd Dr Derek John Oliver Stanley Rawcliffe Norwell Lionel Roberts, <i>QPM</i> William Roberts Eric John Sarti Edwin Schofield Keith Richard Stevens Christopher George White Paul Reginald Whitmore
Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies Paul Busby	Carl Albert McDonald

## PAST RANKS (FIRST APPOINTMENTS)

### Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

Keith Robert Beaumont	David Arthur Lucas
Gary Bodle	Graham Jeffrey Masefield
Dr Howard Carlton	James Cameron McKenna
Oliver James Coddington	<u>David Graham Penrose, JCD</u>
Stephen Richard Nigel Fenton	Dr Frans Cornelius Alwyn Roodt
John Finlay	Dr Anton Ashley Smith
Stephen John Finnigan	Ronald Dudley Walters
Ian Charles Gordon Foster	Patrick Colin Watters, JP
Richard Godwin	John David Webb
Clive Goodrum	Michael James West
Francis William Edward Hatton	David Geoffrey Weston
Dr John Walter Hawkins	Edmund Yee-Wah Wong
Anthony Vincent Hefford	Leonard Andrew Young
Ronald Glyn Hewitt	

### Past Grand Sword Bearer

Wynford Allen	Beverley John Heywood
Matthew Harold Arnold	David Thomas Hopkins
David John Austin	Stephen Richard Jones
David John Barber	Peter Stuart Lawson
Christopher Anthony Clive Brier	Christopher John Mullen
Paul Edward Burgess	Anthony John Nicholls
Scott Andrew James Cargill	Paul Leo Saunders
Dr Harold Barrington Davis	John Henry Stannard
Roger Kenneth Foster	Peter David Thomas
Anthony Joseph Charles Gorman	Neville Armstrong Topping

### Past Grand Standard Bearer

Dr John Christopher Bird	Douglas John Forster
David Anthony Bunn	Paul Anthony Kiefer
Richard James Cook	Roger William Lillicrap
Paul John Craker	Richard Anthony Lindsay
Gavin John Cumberland	Bruce Edwin Lewis
Patrice Marcel Jean David	Dr James John Roscoe
John Theophilus Jenkins Davies	

### Past Grand Steward

David Harries	David James Thompson
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## 12. APPOINTMENT OF TWO COMPANIONS TO SERVE ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Most Illustrious Grand Master announced that in accordance with Regulation 118(i) of the Constitutions and Regulations, he had appointed the following Companions to serve on the Executive Committee:

- R.III.Comp. K. L. Downes, Dist.G.M. for Wyvern
- R.III.Comp. W. E. Jenkins, Dist.G.M. for South Wales

## 13. ELECTION OF TWO COMPANIONS TO SERVE ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On the proposition of the Deputy Grand Master, seconded by the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work and carried nem con by the Companions present, the following Companions were elected to the Executive Committee in accordance with Regulation 118 (i) of the Constitutions and Regulations:

- R.III.Comp. V. J. Driver, Dist.G.M. for London
- R.III.Comp. D. G. Sanderson, Dist.G.M. for Cumberland and Westmorland

There having been no other nominations, the Most Illustrious Grand Master declared the two Companions to have been duly elected.

14. ELECTION OF TWO COMPANIONS TO SERVE AS TRUSTEES OF GRAND COUNCIL  
On the proposition of the President of the Executive Committee, seconded by the Grand Recorder and carried nem con by the Companions present, the following Companions were elected as Trustees of Grand Council in accordance with Regulation 20(i) of the Constitutions and Regulations:

R.III.Comp. J. Harvey, Dist.G.M. for Northumberland

R.III.Comp. Gp Capt. P. J. Brindle, Dist.G.M. for Hertfordshire

There having been no other nominations, the Most Illustrious Grand Master declared the two Companions to have been duly elected.

15. ELECTION OF PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED AND REGISTERED AUDITORS  
On the proposition of the President of the Executive Committee, seconded by the Grand Recorder, and carried nem con by the Companions present, Messrs Crowe UK LLP, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors, were re-appointed as auditors to Grand Council in accordance with Regulation 20(iii) of the Constitutions and Regulations.

16. SESQUICENTENARY CHARITY APPEAL

The Deputy Grand Master addressed Grand Council as follows:

'Most Illustrious Grand Master and Companions, Nelson Mandela said "It always seems impossible until it's done". In October 2023, we set out on a noble mission: to establish a legacy in celebration of our sesquicentenary. Together, through dedication, generosity and the true spirit of Cryptic Freemasonry, we have achieved something truly remarkable. That **£270,000** has been raised is no small feat – it is a testament to the strength and power of our shared purpose.

'This generosity will make a real and lasting difference, supporting 133 charities that provide vital care, relief and hope to so many. Whether offering support to the vulnerable, funding essential services, or strengthening our communities, the impact of this Legacy Appeal will be felt far and wide for years to come.

'But beyond the immediate impact, this Appeal strengthens the very foundation of our Order. It demonstrates to the world that Freemasonry is a force for good, rooted in compassion and service; it inspires the next generation of Cryptic Masons, encouraging new members to step forward, knowing they are joining an Order that genuinely makes a difference. It reaffirms our commitment to our values and deepens our knowledge of who we are and what we stand for. I urge you to take advantage of the publicity that will follow from your District presentations. Mrs Vimee Patel, the Communications and Digital Marketing Manager at Mark Masons' Hall, has provided District Grand Masters with a specific communication strategy.

'This achievement would not have been possible without the stewardship of R.III. Comp. James Newman, *OBE*, P.G.Chan., Chairman of the Appeal, whose vision and commitment have guided us to success and continues still to provide valued counsel. Sincere thanks also go to our District Grand Masters for doing the heavy lifting, not only helping raise the funds, but stepping up to the challenge of finding suitable charities that could be supported.

'Our profound thanks must go to the grants panel, Right Illustrious Companions Newman, Surry, Brindle, Auber and Milburn, and our Deputy Grand Recorder, Alan Brumwell, for their great diligence, hard work and empathy, to ensure that these funds will reach the causes where they will do the most good; to the Masonic Charitable Foundation for husbanding our resources, applying gift aid and interest payments; and to the MMH Masonic Support Services team, whose tireless efforts behind the scenes have been invaluable. A special mention must be made of Mr David O'Reilly, whose quiet but essential work ensured the

smooth running of this endeavour. And, of course, to every Brother and Companion who contributed, who gave their time, means and dedication – this success is yours. Through your generosity, we extend the hand of relief, we strengthen our bonds and we reaffirm the values that define us.

'Let us take pride in what we have done, knowing that our efforts will bring light where there was darkness, hope where there was despair, and comfort where it is needed most. I said at the launch of the festival in 2023: "Giving isn't just about making a donation, it's about making a real difference". Companions, we did it! Thank you all.'

#### 17. ADDRESS BY THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER

The Most Illustrious Grand Master addressed the Companions as follows:

'Companions, I thank the Deputy Grand Master for his concluding statement which ostensibly marks the close of the Sesquicentenary Charity Appeal. I endorse all the plaudits issued by R.III.Comp. Paul Norman and convey both yours and my gratitude to him for conceiving, developing and overseeing what has been a quite tremendous achievement.

'I say again what I said when the figures were finally revealed: your response has been nothing short of magnificent! A stunning achievement which all Districts and their Companions should be justly proud of. I am also most grateful for the donations received from outside the Order, particularly from other Companion Orders and, of course, from other sources ranging from large Craft provinces to more modestly measured units such as the Mowers. I think that you should all give yourself a round of applause – please do so.'

The Most Illustrious Grand Master called off Grand Council and addressed the Companions as follows:

'I echo and endorse all the sentiments of gratitude expressed by the Deputy Grand Master especially that concerning R.III.Comp. James Newman and ask the Grand Director of Ceremonies to present him to me.

[The Most Illustrious Grand Master presented R.III.Comp. Newman with a cheque for £7,000 for the Masonic Charitable Foundation. He then announced that a donation of £3,500 was to be made to the Mark Benvolent Fund and asked R.III.Comp. John Prizeman, P.G.Chan., Pro Grand Master of the Mark, to receive the cheque on behalf of the Trustees of the Fund. R.III.Comp. Prizeman expressed his thanks for the very generous donation on behalf of the MBF and, in particular, for recipients of aid and assistance, petitioners and the worthy causes.]

The Grand Master called on Grand Council and continued his address as follows:

'And now, Companions, after all that excitement, I will bring you down to earth by delivering my address.

'It is a distinct pleasure to welcome you all to this Annual Assembly, our special day. I do so on behalf of Grand Council and all those who work behind the scenes to prepare for this meeting and to ensure that everyone has a great time.

'Thank you for demonstrating your support and loyalty by attending in such goodly numbers. In particular I welcome not only those who have received their well merited preferment, but to all those Companions who have travelled to support their colleagues and enjoy lunch together after what I hope has been an all-round memorable occasion. I also express my gratitude to you for my election as your Grand Master. It is a fantastic privilege, and I am very conscious of the great responsibility which comes with that re-election, and I look forward to the year ahead with eager anticipation.

'I know that I speak on behalf of you all when I heartily congratulate the Companions whom I have appointed to Grand Council rank or have promoted within it. Their investiture will have been a major and memorable event in their Cryptic careers. They should not

need reminding that it doesn't stop here, and that their new status brings with it fresh responsibilities to go even further and achieve even greater goals – consider: if the sky's the limit, why are there footprints on the moon? Junior companions will now look to you for guidance and instruction, to share with them your experience and knowledge, for as Benjamin Franklin once said: "An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest".

'Continuing the theme of promotion and appointment, there have been and will be some changes at District and Inspectorate level. We have a new District Grand Master for South Africa, in the person of Paul Knight, in consequence of the retirement of Jeff Spiller. Paul had been District Grand Master from 2016–2021 but has graciously agreed to have another go! Phillip Purves was installed into charge of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire in July – this was in consequence of the sudden and very sad death of Tim Hancock. Phillip, please take a bow! The newest kid on the block is John William Anthony White, installed as recently as February as District Grand Master for Derbyshire; this was in consequence of the retirement of Dr Alan Beckerton. John, please stand and be recognised.

'Someone not quite gone (and I use that term advisedly!), still very much here, but who has announced his retirement, is the District Grand Master for London, Vincent Driver. I shall install his successor Simon White later in the year. The Grand Inspector for the Channel Islands, V.III.Comp. Ken Rondel, will also be standing down and I will invest his successor, Derek Upton, on 18 June. We all offer them our congratulations and best wishes for an enjoyable and successful tenure, and we thank their predecessors for their magnificent service and may they all enjoy a happy retirement.

'To my District Grand Masters and Grand Inspectors, of whom all within these shores are here today, I say thank you for the leadership and inspiration you give to your Districts and Inspectorates. The continued development of, and enthusiasm for, the Order is clear evidence of the success of the work you do and is worthy of special mention. I am also pleased to see the presence of several Custodians of the Ninth Arch and many Past District Grand Masters and Past Grand Inspectors today, actively supporting the Order and no doubt keeping a watchful eye on their successors.

'The Active Officers of Grand Council this year have responded magnificently whenever they have been called upon to perform their respective duties. Many travel considerable distances at their own expense, and I thank them all for their loyal support and enthusiasm. I include all of you in these plaudits, from the Deputy Grand Master and Grand Principal Conductor of the Work right through the Team Sheet to the Grand Sentinel. I also thank the President and the members of the Executive Committee for their sound judgement and wise counsel (even when not asked for!) and for keeping me within due bounds.

'The Silver Trowel and Excellent Masters programme remains firmly on track, and I am heartened to see that there is no plateauing off of enthusiasm for these degrees. During the last two meetings of Grafton Council of Anointed Kings No. 16, 16 Silver Trowel and 47 Excellent Master candidates were admitted to those degrees. I thank the members of that Council for their excellent work and also the Deputy Grand Master for presiding at the meeting in January this year when I was overseas on Masonic duties with another Order, enjoying an office which I am privileged to hold for only one year. I also express my gratitude for all the well conducted Silver Trowel conferrals executed by Installed Masters' Councils throughout the land.

'Now I will give you a glance at the activities of Grand Council since we met last year. In June, I travelled to Singapore and Kuala Lumpur on Cryptic business, where I witnessed the Council named after me, K.J.J. No. 16, in action and was privileged to be appointed a Past Grand Master of South East Asia. I thank the Grand Master, Most Illustrious Companion Harry Chin, for that honour and for his limitless hospitality during that occasion.

'In July, I was part of an unprecedented team of six Grand Masters who sojourned to South Africa, where amongst numerable other ceremonies in various Orders, in multi-tasking roles, I installed Paul Knight as District Grand Master. In my temporary absence, I was indebted to the Deputy Grand Master who graciously installed Phillip Purves as District Grand Master of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.

'The unmissable Croft Dinner was held in Tynemouth in August under the kind auspices of AMD Durham and RSM Northumberland, when their mega-raffle provided a generous donation to the 150<sup>th</sup> Charity Appeal. And in September, I visited Flanders Council in Bruges and October saw the centenary meeting of Royal Hiram Council No. 35 (Cheshire and the Marches).

In November, the Deputy Grand Master was royally entertained during a visit to Somerset and Wiltshire. In December I had the pleasure of presenting R.III.Comp. Graham Smith, P.Dist.G.M. for Kent and Past Grand Inspector of Jamaica and Cayman Islands, with his 50 year certificate at a meeting of his mother Council, Invicta Council in Canterbury.

'In January I briefly visited Keith Hind Council, a Council that brings all the District Grand Masters together, keeps them in order, but also entertains and demonstrates to a very high standard. As you have already heard, I installed R.III.Comp John White as District Grand Master for Derbyshire on 1 February. And only last month the Grand PCW attended the Annual Meeting of Cumberland and Westmoreland. And finally, as recent as last Thursday, I presented a centenary certificate to Icenian Council No. 36 in Ipswich. It has been a most interesting and rewarding year.

'I now move on to one of the most agreeable aspects of this meeting, which is the opportunity to welcome visitors from our daughter Grand Councils, from overseas and the Rulers of our Companion Orders. May I ask you to refrain from your usual affectionate acclamation until I have finished what is quite a sizable list:

From the Grand Council of South East Asia, the Grand Master, M.III.Comp. Dr Harry Chin, accompanied by III.Comp. Anthony Downes, Dep.D.C.;

From the Grand Council of Greece, the Grand Master, M.III.Comp. Vasillios Papanikolaou, accompanied by your Grand Recorder, V.III.Comp. Konstantinos Karmarlis – it was good to meet you on home soil recently;

From the Grand Council of India, the Deputy Grand Master and G.M. designate, R.III. Comp.Bharat Epur. Bharat, my personal thanks are due for looking after us in India in December and for all your help and support in Manila earlier this year;

From Sri Lanka, R.III.Comp. David Rose, P.G.Coun.;

From the Inspectorate of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, the Grand Inspector, R.III. Comp. Harding Watler, P.G.Coun., accompanied by III.Comp. Robert Whorms, and of course R.III.Comp. Graham Smith, P.G.Insp.;

From the District of South and East Caribbean, V.III.Comp. Ralph Craig, P.G.Lect., Dep. Dist.G.M., accompanied by III.Comp. Errol Clarke, P.G.Cond.C., and III.Comp. Richard Lindsay, P.G.St.B. – both recipients today;

From South Africa, III.Comp. Leslie Martin, P.G.Stwd. Leslie, I suspect that the Most Eminent & Supreme Grand Master is also delighted to see his Provincial Prior here today;

And a veritable invasion from Flanders Council No. 177 in support of my new Grand Standard Bearer, III.Comp. Geoffrey Kavanagh, in the persons of Illustrious Companions Jean Verbist, Gilbert Denys, Pierre Ambrody, David Cross, Laurence Kavanagh, Panagiotis Giotopoulos, and Comp. Michael Kavanagh;

From other Grand Councils in the USA: from Missouri, M.III.Comp. Bill Snyder, P.G.M., and from Utah, M.III.Comp. Jason Verber, P.G.M.

'It is always comforting to have the support of the Heads of our Companion Orders and with equal enthusiasm I welcome:

R.III.Comp. John Prizeman, P.G.Chan. – Pro Grand Master, Mark and RAM;  
R.III.Comp. Paul Clement, P.G.Chan. – M.E. & S.G.M. of the United Orders of the Temple;  
R.III.Comp. Graham Flight, P.G.Chan. – Grand Sovereign, Red Cross of Constantine;  
R.III.Comp. Tom Jackson, P.G.Chan. – Grand Master, Allied Masonic Degrees;  
R.III.Comp. Andrew Sweeney, P.G.Chan. – Grand Supreme Ruler, Order of the Secret Monitor;  
R.III.Comp. Dr Paul Mycock, P.G.Chan. – First Grand Master Mason of the Operatives;  
R.III.Comp. Christopher Maiden, P.G.Chan. – Grand High Priest, KTP and Order of HW;  
R.III.Comp. Vivian Thomas, JP, P.G.Coun. – Grand Master, KBHC;  
R.III.Comp. Anthony Llewellyn, P.G.Coun. – Supreme Magus, Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia;  
V.III.Comp. Gareth Jones, OBE, P.G.Lect. – Third Grand Principal, Supreme Grand Chapter of England.

'It is also wonderful to have the Past Deputy Grand Master His Hon. Ian Alexander here, and two Past Grand Principal Conductors of the Work, John Chambers and Richard Gan. Companions, our distinguished visitors.

'I make no apology for repeating and underlining the need to keep your Craft, Royal Arch and Mark Lodges actively functioning. Without them there is no us. The RA plays a pinnacle part in our mysteries and by supporting your RA Chapters, keeping them vibrant and relevant, all Royal and Select candidates will have a really good grounding. This is provided by the expansion of the legend of the Temple after the death of HA (which some of you will appreciate that I will experience later in the year!). Suitable candidates will then be ready to deepen and expand their knowledge when joining our beautiful Order.

'Now, a word about what you do in your own councils. It is essential that the best possible standards are achieved and maintained, imbuing a sense of purpose at your council meetings and doing everything possible for the candidate and his ceremony – keep him involved, keep him impressed. Every little helps, no matter how small an initiative. It will bring bigger satisfaction, success, and will almost certainly lead to further recruitment. As the Dali Lama once said: "If you think that something is too small to be effective, try sleeping with a mosquito!"

'On the subject of small initiatives that achieve big results, I commend Ill.Comp. Peter James and Comp. Stephen Farmer of Cheshire and the Marches for their "Final part of the jigsaw" innovation, now on business cards and with the keyring being launched at their District Meeting in May. Who knows, but subject to copyright and cost, we could well launch this across the Constitution. Watch this space!

'I am looking forward to the year ahead which, amongst other things will include a consecration in Warwickshire, and installations in Jersey and London. I am encouraged by the small but gradual growth in our numbers and by the way that District Grand Masters are dealing with the rarity of resignations. We are on a roll, Companions, let's keep that momentum going.

'Before I conclude it would be ungracious of me not to draw attention to those who merit our gratitude today. The Grand Recorder and his staff, for whom this meeting is a high peak in a whole range of mountainous activities, and the largely anonymous and often unsung men and ladies in the background who have contributed to today's success. Last year I referred to him as our freshly unwrapped Grand Recorder, but with a year under his belt R.III.Comp. Dan Heath has now fully established himself and commands total respect, and I add – admiration.

'To the Grand Director of Ceremonies and his team, all who have borne the heat and burden of ceremonial pressure with ease and excellence, not only today but throughout the year. And, of course, to John Vasquez and the staff of Freemasons' Hall.

'I will leave you with this thought to take back to your Districts, Inspectorates and Councils: the astronaut Jim Lovell once said, "There are people who make things happen, there are people who watch things happen, and there are some people who wonder what on earth has happened! To be successful you need to be a person who makes things happen!"

'So, I depend upon you all, Companions, to make things happen in this Order, which is very special. Please keep it so.

'Finally, Companions, be of one mind, live in peace and may the Supreme Master of the Universe delight to dwell amongst you and bless you for evermore.'

#### 18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Grand Recorder thanked the District Grand Masters, District Grand Recorders and District Executives, for their dedicated hard work on behalf of our Order and for their support given to the team at Mark Masons' Hall, and to him in his first year as Grand Recorder. The Grand Recorder also stated that he was very grateful to the team at Mark Mason's Hall for their continued support.

The Most Illustrious Grand Master then directed the Grand Director of Ceremonies to present the Grand Recorder to him and proceeded to promote him to the rank of Past Grand Councillor, thanking him for all that he had achieved in the past year, and also during his tenure as Deputy Grand Recorder.

#### 19. CLOSING

Grand Council was closed in Ample Form.

