

**Right Worthy Brother Maurice Bendig, JP,
Grand Chancellor, Past Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler
(11 August 1933 – 29 June 2023)**

The Province is currently mourning the death of one of our 'founding fathers' – Maurice Bendig - who sadly passed to the Grand Conclave above on the 29th of June, in his 90th year. To many he was regarded as the father of our Province and was our first Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler.

Maurice was Inducted into the Order on the 6th of June 1962 at Bishop Blaize Conclave (48), then meeting at the Masonic Hall, Spring Bank Place, Bradford. He was Installed as Supreme Ruler in 1969 – the same year as the Province of Yorkshire was Constituted. He was present at that meeting when Right Worthy Brother the Reverend Alick Ibbotson was Installed as the first Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler.

His dedication to the Order, the Province and his Conclaves was recognised on the 24th of March 1982 when the Grand Supreme Ruler, Most Worthy Brother Lt. Col. John Walter Chitty, Installed him as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler of the Province of Yorkshire, at the Masonic Hall, Spring Bank Place, Bradford. He remained as the Provincial Ruler until the Province was partitioned in 1995.

On the 31st of March 1995, at Castle Grove, Leeds, the Most Worthy Grand Supreme Ruler, Col. Geoffrey Seymour Hamilton Dicker, Invested and Installed him as the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler of the new Province of West Yorkshire. A day that Maurice joked that "*he had gone from the most senior to the most junior Provincial presiding officer in the Order*". On the 23rd of March 1998 Maurice retired from his high office after 16 years at the helm.

Within our Province Maurice was a founder member of Westwood Conclave (276), and the founding Supreme Ruler of the West Yorkshire Past Supreme Rulers Conclave (429). He was also a Honorary member of Odersfelt Conclave (35), Chantry Conclave (94), Dore Conclave (329), Claro True Friendship Conclave (4), Phoenix Conclave (391) and Bawtry Conclave (354). He was also a member of Conclaves in other Provinces and for 28 years was a member of the Supreme Rulers Conclave (123).

During this time Maurice was also Assistant Provincial Grand Master in the Craft.

In 2008 his service was recognised with promotion to Grand Chancellor, and he became the highest-ranking Secret Monitor within the Province.

In 2022 Maurice and his wife Sheila moved to the Masonic Care home at Connaught Court, York.

This was the same year that he celebrated his 60 years of service to the Order of the Secret Monitor and on the 11th of August 2022 I had the privilege to present him with his Grand Conclave Certificate in recognition of his lifetime of service.



11.08.2022 - Maurice receiving his certificate from the PGSR, R Wy Bro David Staniforth, together with R Wy Bro Stewart Carley, Marinda Aydinalp (Manager) and staff at Connaught Court.

In 2009 Maurice was present at the 'birth' of the Scarlet Cord within our Province, becoming a founder member of the Scarlet Cord Conclave of West Yorkshire (538) and primus IPSR. A year later he became a founder member of Calder Vale Consistory (19TI). He held the 5th Grade of the Order and became a Right Distinguished Companion in 2019 with Promotion to Past Grand Vice Chancellor.

In February 2021 Bishop Blaize Conclave reached its Centenary – however restrictions due to the Covid Pandemic prevented any celebrations. It was not until February 2022 that this historic milestone could be recognised. However, by this time it was getting more difficult for Maurice to travel and sadly he was unable to attend - and therefore missed out on receiving his Centenary jewel.

This omission was finally rectified on the 22 May 2023 when Right Worth Brother Stewart Carley made the presentation to him in the presence of his wife Sheila at Connaught Court.



22.05.2023 Maurice, together with his wife Sheila, Receiving his Bishop Blaize Centenary jewel.

In his more than 60 years in Freemasonry he has indeed built a superstructure which is honourable to the builder – as the ritual says he has “Lived respected and died regretted”.

This is a sad time with the loss of such a revered and friendly figure – but we can all lookback with pleasure and fond memories of such a distinguished Secret Monitor.

“The Union of Hearts begun below may be found to have been but prelude to an eternal reunion of spirits in the Grand Conclave above, where pain, distress and sorrow never penetrate, where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary for ever are at rest. There the harmony is unbroken, and peace, perfect peace reigns eternally supreme”.

Our thoughts are with his wife Sheila, as she approaches her 99th birthday, and his family.

RIP Maurice Bendig