

Provincial Grand Conclave  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023- Tapton Hall Sheffield

Distinguished Guests and Brethren,

Having already welcomed our Distinguished Guests and visitors, I now welcome the Brethren of West Yorkshire - Your support is very much appreciated and does not go unnoticed.

Today we have invested the Provincial Officers for the ensuing year. I congratulate each of you on your preferment – this is in recognition of your work and commitment over many years and I look forward to working you in the year ahead.

Today we see three Provincial Officers retire from their posts. I would like to thank -

- Wy Bro Les Boyes, standing down after 5 years as Assistant Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, and,
- Wy Bro Eric Turner standing down as Provincial Grand Almoner.
- Wy Bro Garry Milnes standing down as Prov. Grand Sword Bearer

You have both given tremendous support to the province over the years and I hope that, although no longer in office, this support will continue.

Brethren, this year I am able to look back and reflect on more than 40 Conclave meetings and it was a delight to attend all 13 Installations. I also had the pleasure of Commissioning six new Supreme Rulers within the Order.

As always, I am most grateful to those who travel throughout the Province supporting other Conclaves and we have enjoyed some memorable evenings together – with Provincial Visits to Skyrack, Westwood and Roses Conclaves - together with visits by the Grand Visitor to Bishop Blaize, Claro TF and White Rose Conclaves. All of which were well supported.

Roses Conclave continues to flourish at its new venue in Huddersfield and I hope that the move to new premises by Odersfelt Conclave also proves a success.

The close liaison with our neighbouring Province of East Lancashire continues. In July I was joined by many of our members at the Centenary celebrations of Supra Moras Conclave in Rochdale. A second visit in October was also well supported.

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During the year I had the pleasant duty of presenting certificates to the following brethren in recognition of 40 years of loyal and devoted service to the order: To

R Wy Bro Stewart Carley – of Odersfelt Conclave and  
V Wy Bro Tony Parker – of Chantry Conclave  
V Wy Bro Peter Wright – of Westwood Conclave  
Wy Bro Tom Ward – of Westwood Conclave

Each of these presentations took place in Open Conclave and were enjoyed by all those present.

In August there was a very special occasion. Together with R Wy Bro Stewart Carley I visited R Wy Maurice Bendig, the first PGSR of this Province, at his new home in Connaught Court to present him with a very special certificate. R Wy Bro Maurice was Inducted into Bishop Blaize Conclave, then meeting at Bradford, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1962 and has enjoyed continuous and distinguished service to the Province and the Order for more than 60 years. He remains the most senior Secret Monitor within our Province.

Last November at Grand Conclave the Most Worthy Grand Supreme Ruler was pleased to confer preferment on 7 Brethren of this Province - can I ask these Brethren, if present, stand, when named, and remain standing to receive acclimation. Receiving;

**Active Office**

V Wy Bro Dr Raymond Johnson	Reappointed as Grand Visitor
V Wy Bro Paul Bowen	Reappointed as Grand Organist
Wy Bro David Spivey	Assistant Grand D of C
Wy Bro Tobias Reece	Grand Steward

**Promoted in Grand Rank**

To Past Grand Visitor	V Wy Bro Alan Webster
To Past Ass Grand DC	Wy Bro Stephen Priestley

**First Appointment to**

Past Grand Bow Bearer	Wy Bro Tony Breckon.
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I extend my sincere congratulations to you all. These appointments are well deserved, and you are to be congratulated. (Be seated).

In July a donation was made to the South Yorkshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre in Rotherham. With match funding from MMH a cheque for £2000 was presented for the purchase of equipment.

Brethren, we can only continue to make donations such as this with your generosity and support - for which I am grateful. To this end I would encourage brethren to make use of the small envelope on your seats for today's collection – which will be taken on retiring.

I would also once again ask that Conclaves consider any local charities who they feel may benefit from our support in the future.

In the coming year we will undertake Provincial Visits to Odersfelt, Bawtry, Claro TF and Phoenix Conclaves - I would expect to see the Provincial Officers appointed today support these important events.

I would also like to see our brethren joining me in supporting the annual meetings of other Provinces – details of which can be seen on the web site.

I also encourage SR's to visit and support other Conclaves during their year.

Brethren as you have heard we have Inducted no less than 14 new members into the Order, and our numbers are growing, however we cannot be complacent. As I have said before we need to promote our Order, by supporting the meetings of other Orders - many of which are represented here today.

I would particularly like to mention the Order of the Scarlet Cord and I congratulate V Wy Bro Alan Webster on his recent Installation as the Provincial Grand Summus for West Yorkshire.

I would ask brethren to consider if they are able to give their support by becoming members of the order.

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Before I finish brethren, I would like to mention our newly appointed, but not invested, Provincial Grand Counsellor – Wy Bro Ian Wilkinson. Ian had a very serious fall in September and was in hospital for many weeks. We were told that it was unlikely that he would make a full recovery, However, in December he returned home after making unexpected and significant progress and he immediately began to put together his Guides report. Ian has continued to make progress, however as yet it is not possible for him to travel – he is hoping to restart visiting during the year – and we all look forward to this.

Finally, Brethren, I must give my personal thanks to those who have made today and the last 12 months a success.

1. To Wy. Bro. Richard Drury-Smith - organiser of today's meeting.
2. To Wy. Bro. Neil Davies, David Spivey, and Les Boyes for their support at Installations and organising today's ceremonial.
3. To my predecessors R Wy Bro's Stewart Carley and Graeme Hutchinson for their continued support and guidance.
4. To Wy Bro. Alan Webster my Deputy, for his tremendous support to all our Conclaves.
5. And to all of you who take time to visit and support other Conclaves.

Brethren, once again I thank you for your support - continue to enjoy our wonderful Order and the friendship which that brings, and I wish you all a safe journey home.