

**MINUTES OF THE INSTALLATION OF THE RW PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER
and the
ANNUAL MEETING OF PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE**

Held at Croydon District Masonic Halls, Oakfield Road, Croydon, Surrey.

On Saturday 18th March 2023.

Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in form at 11am by the Presiding Officer RW. Bro. Raymond Henry Stanley Hussey P.Prov.G.M, assisted by the Provincial Grand Lodge Officers.

There were present: The Pro Grand Master, M.W. Bro. John Prizeman, 13 Provincial Grand Masters, 7 other RW Brethren, 7 Deputy Provincial Grand Masters, 7 Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, 12 Assisting Grand Lodge Officers, 52 other honoured guests and 181 Surrey Mark Masons, all of whose names and ranks have been duly recorded- a total of 279 Brethren.

On a report, the Grand Director of Ceremonies V.W. Bro. Chris Davies G.D.C., entered and informed the Presiding Officer that the M.W. Pro Grand Master John Prizeman, the Installing Officer, was in attendance and demanded admission. The Presiding Officer acceded to his demand, and the Installing Officer accompanied by his Assisting Officers entered in procession, the M.W. Pro Grand Master assumed the Chair and duly placed his Assisting Officers in the Principal Offices.

Having been saluted under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies, the M.W. Pro Grand Master addressed the Brethren on the business of the meeting. He then directed the Grand Director of Ceremonies to retire and ascertain that the Provincial Grand Master Designate was in attendance, and on his return, he informed the Installing Officer that V.W. Bro. John Vaughan Christopher French P.G.J.O. was indeed present and requested to be installed.

After examining the Patent of Appointment, the Installing Officer directed the Grand Director of Ceremonies to form an escort, retire and conduct the Provincial Grand Master Designate, in proper form, into the meeting. This was duly done, and the Grand Secretary R.W. Bro. Ryan Williams P.G.J.W., was then instructed to read aloud the Patent of Appointment. The Installing Officer addressed the Provincial Grand Master Designate on the nature of his duties and the qualifications for the Office, and enquired whether he was willing to undertake the duties. Having received an affirmative answer, the Installing Officer called upon the Acting Grand Chaplain for the benefit of Prayer, following which the Provincial Grand Master Designate took the solemn obligation of Provincial Grand Master, and was the invested and Installed by the MW Pro Grand Master.

The RW Provincial Grand Master was then proclaimed and saluted under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies. The Provincial Grand Master appropriately responded, expressing his personal thanks to the Installing Officer for the sincere manner in which he had carried out the Installation Ceremony.

The Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies W. Bro. Gary Allen enquired of the Provincial Grand Master, whom he wished to appoint as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, to which he replied Worshipful Brother William Barr P.G.J.D. The Provincial Grand Master instructed the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies to form an escort, retire and conduct the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Designate, in proper form, into Provincial Grand Lodge. The escort re-entered Provincial Grand Lodge accompanying W. Bro. Bill Barr, Deputy Provincial Grand Master Designate. The Grand Secretary R.W. Bro. Ryan Williams P.G.J.W., then read the Patent of Appointment. The Provincial Grand Master addressed the Deputy Provincial Grand Master designate on the nature of his duties and the qualifications for the Office. Having ascertained that the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Designate was able and willing to accept the appointment and undertake the duties of the office the Deputy Grand Chaplain offered Prayer. W. Bro. Bill Barr took the solemn Obligation of Deputy Provincial Grand Master. He was then Invested as Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master was then proclaimed and saluted under the direction of the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies W. Bro. Peter Rubie-Todd P.G.M.O. enquired of the Provincial Grand Master, whom he wished to appoint as Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, to which he replied W. Bro. William Agnew Caughie P.G.J.D. and W. Bro Timothy Ford P.G.J.D. The Provincial Grand Master instructed the Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies to form an escort, retire and conduct both Assistant Provincial Grand

Masters' Designate, in proper form, into Provincial Grand Lodge. The escort re-entered Provincial Grand Lodge accompanying W. Bro. William Caughie and W. Bro. Timothy Ford, the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters' Designate. The Grand Secretary R.W. Bro. Ryan Williams P.G.J.W., then read the Patents of Appointment.

The Provincial Grand Master separately addressed the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters' Designate on the nature of their duties and the qualifications for the Office. Having ascertained that the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters' Designate were able and willing to accept the appointment and undertake the duties of the office the Deputy Grand Chaplain offered Prayer. W. Bro. William Caughie and W. Bro. Timothy Ford then took the solemn Obligation of Assistant Provincial Grand Master. They were both then appointed and invested as Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Masters' were then proclaimed and saluted under the direction of the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The Grand Director of Ceremonies presented the By-Laws of Provincial Grand Lodge to the Provincial Grand Master for his confirmation.

The Provincial Grand Master then addressed the Installing Officer and thanked him for the manner that he and his Assisting Officers had Installed him.

At 12.30 pm the MW Pro Grand Master and his Assisting Officers retired in Procession.

Aware that some of our Guests were not able attend the afternoon session of Provincial Grand Lodge, the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master took the opportunity to welcome and thank the many distinguished guests for attending and hoped that all our guests would continue to enjoy the hospitality of the Province for the remainder of the day.

Charity Collection

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master announced that the Charity Collection would be taken on exiting the Lodge.

Provincial Grand Lodge was called off at 12.40pm

Provincial Grand Lodge was called on at 3pm.

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master extended welcome to everyone present and explained that due to long distances and other commitments, there were some who had been at the Installation meeting who were unable to stay for the afternoon. To save embarrassment he extended a warm welcome to all our guests.

In Memoriam

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master called upon the Provincial Grand Chaplain to read the names of the Brethren of the Province who had passed to the Grand Lodge Above since our last Provincial meeting.

The Provincial Grand Chaplain, W. Bro. L Grout, read the following names and then offered a prayer.

| Died | Name | Surname | Lodge | Lodge Name |
|-------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 22/03/2022 | Brian Haden | Edwards | 1352 | Comites Sigillorum |
| 07/04/2022 | Alfred John | Arnold | 534 | Rose |
| 05/05/2022 | Mark Lawrence | Knight | 198 | Croydon |
| 12/05/2022 | Peter Ernst | Ribi | 1407 | Frederick Wheeler |
| 27/06/2022 | Roger | Barrett | 505 | Noel |
| 06/07/2022 | David Lionel | Allonby | 1419 | Lingfield |
| 10/07/2022 | Stephen Napoleon | Sayer | 505 | Noel |
| 01/08/2022 | William Arthur | Harris | 1352 | Comites Sigillorum |
| 03/10/2022 | Laurence James | Young | 1857 | Ditton |
| 18/11/2022 | John Herbert | Dye | 534 | Rose |
| 12/01/2023 | Barry Trevor | Starmer | 1268 | Coulsdon |
| 19/01/2023 | Derek Leonard | Sims | 989 | Northern Heights |
| 09/02/2023 | Raymond Lewis | Crowle | 1219 | SIMM |

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|------------|----------|---------|------|-------------------|
| 27/02/2023 | Bryan | Page | 1407 | Frederick Wheeler |
| 08/03/2023 | Alan Roy | Chivers | 995 | Stoneleigh |

The Brethren then sang the hymn "The Day Thou Gavest Lord is Ended".

Minutes 2022

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master called upon W. Bro. William Barr, Deputy Provincial Grand Master who proposed that the Minutes of the meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge held on 19th March 2022, having been printed and distributed, be taken as read, confirmed and adopted. This was seconded by W. Bro. William Caughie, Assistant Provincial Grand Master and confirmed by the members.

Roll of Active Provincial Grand Officers

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master called upon the Provincial Grand Secretary to call the roll of the active Provincial Grand Officers. The Provincial Grand Secretary reported that, with four exceptions that had sent their apologies and reasons for absence, all the active Provincial Grand Officers were in attendance.

Roll of Lodges

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master called upon the Deputy Provincial Grand Secretary to call the roll of Lodges in the Province. The Deputy Provincial Grand Secretary reported that all the Lodges in the Province were today well represented.

The Travelling Keystone

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master announced that the Travelling Keystone had been brought into Provincial Grand Lodge by Percy Lodge 114, he then announced that the Lodge departing with the Keystone was Stoneleigh Lodge 995. The members of the Lodge were invited to stand and thanked for their support by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master.

Provincial Grand Treasurer's Report and Accounts

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master called upon the Provincial Grand Treasurer for his report. The Provincial Grand Treasurer reported that he had pleasure in submitting his Report and the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022, which were available on the Provincial website.

There being no questions for the Treasurer, the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master called upon the Provincial Grand Senior Warden for a proposition.

The Provincial Grand Senior Warden, W. Bro. Mick Clay, proposed that the Provincial Grand Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022, as printed in the Order Paper and published on the website, be taken as read, adopted and entered in the minutes. The proposition was seconded by the Provincial Grand Junior Warden, W. Bro. Bernie Greenwood, and was carried.

Donations to Charity

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master then announced the award of the provincial scrip Purse to the Lodge which had been most active in its charitable efforts over the past year. W. Bro. Michael Howarth of Rose Lodge No 534 was duly escorted to the East to receive the presentation from the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master to loud acclaim from all present.

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master then requested that W. Bro. Nigel Feltham and W. Bro Gary Lewis be escorted to the East. The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master then presented each with a cheque for £2000 for the Sutton Food bank and the charity "Swishes".

Provincial Grand Registrar's, Grand Secretary's, and Charity Steward's Reports

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master announced that the Reports had been previously published and were available on the Provincial website.

There being no questions, the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master called upon the Provincial Grand Senior Warden for a proposition.

The Provincial Grand Senior Warden, W. Bro. Mick Clay, proposed that the Provincial Grand Registrar's, Grand Secretary's, and Charity Steward's Reports, be taken as read and confirmed. The proposition was seconded by the Provincial Grand Junior Warden, W. Bro. Bernie Greenwood, and was carried.

Election of Provincial Grand Treasurer

The Provincial Grand Master announced that only one nomination for the office of Provincial Grand Treasurer had been received, that being W. Bro. R M S Seeley, FCA, and accordingly he declared W. Bro. Seeley duly elected.

Annual Dues

The Provincial Grand Treasurer confirmed that the charge to members payable in September 2023 will be £6 per member for both Mark and RAM degrees. The position in respect of the dues for the year commencing 1st September 2023, which become payable on 1st September 2024, will be reviewed by the Provincial Executive Committee. Any increase decided upon will not exceed £1 per member, and Treasurers are recommended to budget for such an increase. The dues payable have not been increased since 1st September 2014.

"Election of the Audit Committee

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master called upon the Provincial Grand Senior Warden for a proposition in respect of the Audit Committee. The Provincial Grand Senior Warden W. Bro. Mick Clay proposed that W. Bro. Andrew. Sales, W. Bro. Geoffrey. Nickson and W. Bro David Crawte be elected to the Provincial Audit Committee for the ensuing year: The proposition was seconded by the Provincial Grand Junior Warden, W. Bro. Bernie Greenwood and carried. The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master appointed W. Bro Andrew Sales to be Chair of the Committee.

Appointment and Investiture of Brethren receiving Provincial Grand Rank

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master called upon the Provincial Grand Secretary to read the names of those Brethren appointed to and promoted in Mark Provincial Grand Rank and those receiving Provincial Grand Rank in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners.

The Provincial Grand Secretary read the names of

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| 38 brethren appointed to active rank | 34 invested |
| 20 brethren promoted in past rank | 12 invested |
| 9 brethren appointed to past rank | 7 invested |
| 11 brethren appointed to Prov.R.A.M.G.R. | 8 invested |
| A total of 78 appointments | 61 invested. |

At the conclusion, the Brethren of the Province of Surrey below the rank of Provincial Grand Officer saluted the newly appointed Provincial Grand Officers with three, under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Provincial Grand Master's Address

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master then addressed Provincial Grand Lodge. The address is published on the web-site www.surreymarkmasons.com.

Charity Collection

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master announced that the Charity Collection would be donated to the Surrey Mark Benevolent Fund. During the collection, the Hymn "Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven" was sung. The collection raised £1064.30 exclusive of Gift Aid.

Any Other Business

The Provincial Grand Secretary reported that he had received apologies for absence, and best wishes for a successful and happy meeting, from many distinguished Brethren from this and other Provinces.

Closing

There being no further business, Provincial Grand Lodge was closed in due form at 4.00pm.

The first verse of the National Anthem was sung.

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master retired in procession with his Executive, followed by the distinguished guests, under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, while the Provincial Grand Organist played "Land of Hope and Glory".

R.W. Bro J.V.C. French, Provincial Grand Master

APPENDIX A

G.L.M.M.M.

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|-------------------------------------|----------|--------------------|---------------|
| Pro Grand Master | M.W. Bro | John Prizeman | Pro.G.M. |
| Acting Grand Senior Warden | R.W. Bro | Andrew Sweeney | P.G.J.W. |
| Grand Junior Warden | R.W. Bro | David Aspinall | G.J.W. |
| Acting Grand Chaplain | W. Bro | Malcolm Lane | P.Dep.G.Chap. |
| President of the M.B.F. | R.W. Bro | John Bell | P.G.J.W. |
| Grand Secretary | R.W. Bro | Ryan Williams | G.Sec. |
| Grand Director of Ceremonies | V.W. Bro | Chris Davies | G.D.C. |
| Grand Sword Bearer | W. Bro | Anthony Farrar | G.Swd.B. |
| Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies | W. Bro | Gary Allen | Dep.G.D.C. |
| Grand Organist | V.W. Bro | Mario Rizzardi | P.G.J.O. |
| Acting Grand Standard Bearer | R.W. Bro | Archibald Torrance | P.Prov.G.M. |
| Acting Grand Inner Guard | W. Bro | Steve Jones | P.G.Stwd |
| Acting Grand Tyler | W. Bro | Paul Busby | A.G.D.C. |

ESSEX

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|-----------------------------------|----------|---------------|------------|
| Provincial Grand Master | R.W. Bro | Terry Sheern | Prov.G.M. |
| Deputy Provincial Grand Master | W. Bro | John Finlay | P.A.G.D.C. |
| Assistant Provincial Grand Master | W. Bro | John Stannard | P.A.G.D.C. |

WORCESTERSHIRE

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|-------------------------|----------|------------|-----------|
| Provincial Grand Master | R.W. Bro | Eric Rymer | Prov.G.M. |
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CHANNEL ISLANDS

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| Provincial Grand Master | R.W. Bro | Derek Upton | Prov.G.M. |
| Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies | W. Bro | Brian Sarre | G.J.D. |

HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT

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|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Provincial Grand Master | R.W. Bro | George Deacon | Prov.G.M. |
| Deputy Provincial Grand Master | W. Bro | Anthony Green | P.G.J.D. |
| Assistant Provincial Grand Master | W. Bro | Ian Small | P.G.J.D. |
| Provincial Grand Secretary | W. Bro | Simon Lancaster | P.G.St.B. |
| | W. Bro | Brian Howlett | |

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND

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| Provincial Grand Master | R.W. Bro | Phillip Mann | Prov.G.M. |
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LONDON

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| Provincial Grand Master | R.W. Bro | Thomas Quinn | Prov.G.M. |
| Deputy Provincial Grand Master | V.W. Bro | Timothy MacAndrews | P.G.J.O. |
| Past Provincial Grand Senior Deacon | W. Bro | Luis Hui | P.Prov.G.S.D. |
| Past Provincial Grand Secretary | W. Bro | Alan White | P.G.J.D. |

SUSSEX

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| Provincial Grand Master | R.W. Bro | Roger Richardson | Prov.G.M. |
| Assistant Provincial Grand Master | W. Bro | David Dumigan | P.A.G.D.C. |
| Provincial Grand Secretary | W. Bro | Simon Larard | Prov.G.Sec. |
| Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies | W. Bro | Adrian Verco | P.G.J.D. |
| Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies | W. Bro | Mark Hoare | Prov.Dep.G.D.C. |

BERKSHIRE

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| Provincial Grand Master | R.W. Bro | Graham Seeman | Prov.G.M. |
| Deputy Provincial Grand Master | V.W. Bro | Michael Sanders | P.G.J.O. |
| Provincial Grand Junior Warden | W. Bro | Edward Lewis | Prov.G.J.W. |
| Provincial Assistant Grand Charity Steward | W. Bro | Brian McCormack | Prov.A.G.Char. |
| Past Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies | W. Bro | Steve Berkshire | P.S.J.D. |

KENT

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|-------------------------------------|----------|----------------|------------|
| Provincial Grand Master | R.W. Bro | Peter Williams | Prov.G.M. |
| Assistant Provincial Grand Master | W. Bro | Trevor Sharpe | P.A.G.D.C. |
| Provincial Grand Secretary | W. Bro | Stephen Hyland | G.Stwd |
| Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden | W. Bro | Clive Manuel | P.G.S.O. |

GLOUCESTER & HEREFORDSHIRE

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| Provincial Grand Master | R.W. Bro | Brian Gargett | Prov.G.M. |
| Deputy Provincial Grand Master | W. Bro | Michael Parkin | P.G.S.D. |
| Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master | V.W. Bro | Roland Bedford | P.G.M.O. |

WILTSHIRE

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| Provincial Grand Master | R.W. Bro | Stephen Lee | Prov.G.M. |
| Past Provincial Grand Master | R.W. Bro | Andy Beaumont | P.Prov.G.M. |
| Past Provincial Grand Secretary | W. Bro | Ian Gibson | P.A.G.D.C. |
| Past Provincial Grand Master Overseer | W. Bro | Mervyn Johns | P.Prov.G.M.O. |
| Provincial Assistant Grand Director of | W. Bro | Brandon Harman | Prov.A.G.D.C. |

HERTFORDSHIRE

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|-----------------------------------|----------|----------------|------------|
| Provincial Grand Master | R.W. Bro | James Harrison | Prov.G.M. |
| Assistant Provincial Grand Master | W. Bro | Ray Hoyte | P.G.St.B. |
| Provincial Grand Secretary | W. Bro | Tony Potton | P.A.G.D.C. |

STAFFORDSHIRE & SHROPSHIRE

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| Provincial Grand Master | R.W. Bro | Kevin Spencer | Prov.G.M. |
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MIDDLESEX

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| Deputy Provincial Grand Master | V.W. Bro | Steven Vanhinsbergh | P.G.J.O. |
| Assistant Provincial Grand Master | W. Bro | Peter Hyde | P.G.S.D. |
| Assistant Provincial Grand Master | V.W. Bro | John Billett | P.G.J.O. |

DORSET

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|--------------------------------|--------|----------------|------------|
| Deputy Provincial Grand Master | W. Bro | Victor Pomeroy | P.G.S.D. |
| Provincial Grand Secretary | W. Bro | Robert Parkes | P.A.G.D.C. |

NORTHAMPTON, HUNTINGDON &

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| Past Provincial Assistant Grand Almoner | W. Bro | Timothy Hatton | P.G.S.D. |
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OXFORDSHIRE

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| Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies | W. Bro | Ray Harrison | P.A.G.D.C. |
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SPAIN

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|---|--------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Past District Grand Junior Warden | W. Bro | Terrence Whitehead | P.A.G.Swd.B. |
| District Grand Director of Ceremonies | W. Bro | David Wynn | Dist.G.D.C. |
| Past District Assistant Grand Director of | W. Bro | Leslie Ambrose | P.Dist.A.G.D.C. |

SOMERSET

Provincial Grand Almoner W. Bro Robert O'Malley-White Prov.G.Alm

PAST EXECUTIVE

Past Provincial Grand Master R.W. Bro Ray Hussey P.Prov.G.M.
Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master V.W. Bro Michael Barnes P.G.M.O.
Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master V.W. Bro David Blackburn P.G.S.O.
Past Deputy Grand Master V.W. Bro Richard Baker P.G.J.O.
Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master V.W. Bro Arnold Long P.G.J.O.
Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master V.W. Bro Roy Leavers P.G.J.O.
Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master V.W. Bro David Willmott P.G.J.O.
Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master V.W. Bro Peter Rubie-Todd P.G.M.O.
Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master V.W. Bro Chris Eley P.G.J.O.

CRAFT

Provincial Grand Master Bro Ian Chandler
Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro Robbie Dobbie P.Prov.G.J.W.
Assistant Provincial Grand Master Bro David Olliver
Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master W. Bro Richard Wileman P.G.S.D.

ROYAL ARCH

Second Provincial Grand Principal W. Bro Trevor Rains P.Prov.G.M.O.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

Provincial Prior W. Bro Pat Crosson P.Prov.G.M.O.
Provincial Vice-Chancellor W. Bro Miguel Godfrey P.Prov.G.J.W.
Provincial Marshall W. Bro Tim Ford P.G.J.D.

ANCIENT & ACCEPTED RITE

Inspector General W. Bro Richard Wileman P.G.S.D.

RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE

Intendant General V.W. Bro Bob Hancock P.G.J.O.
Deputy Intendant General W. Bro Andrew Sales P.G.St.B.
Divisional Recorder V.W. Bro Chris Craddock P.G.J.O.

ROYAL & SELECT MASTERS

District Grand Master V.W. Bro David Blackburn P.G.S.O.
Deputy District Grand Master W. Bro Peter Kipps P.A.G.D.C.
Principal Conductor of the Work W. Bro David Thompson P.Prov.G.J.W.
District Grand Recorder W. Bro Terry Carpenter P.G.J.D.
Past District Grand Master V.W. Bro Arnold Long P.G.J.O.

ALLIED MASONIC DEGREES

District Grand Prefect R.W. Bro John French Prov.G.M.
District Grand Secretary W. Bro Alan Brockwell Prov.G.Char.St

ORDER OF THE SECRET MONITOR

Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler Bro Colin Beerling
Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler Bro Ian Bloodworth

ORDER OF THE SCARLET CORD

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|-----------------------------------|----------|----------------|------------|
| Provincial Grand Summus | V.W. Bro | Arnold Long | P.G.J.O. |
| Assistant Provincial Grand Summus | W. Bro | Simon McCarthy | P.A.G.D.C. |
| Provincial Grand Recorder | V.W. Bro | Chris Eley | P.G.J.O. |

KNIGHT TEMPLAR PRIESTS

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| District Grand Superintendent | W. Bro | Jack Love | P.A.G.D.C. |
| District Recorder | W. Bro | Steve Jones | |

ROYAL ORDER OF SCOTLAND

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|-------------------------|--------|------------------|---------------|
| Provincial Grand Master | W. Bro | Charles Stoddart | P.Prov.G.M.O. |
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Provincial Grand Master's Address to the 2023 Annual Meeting

Brethren all, it is now my honour to address you for my 1st time as PGM.

It is so nice to see have seen so many people here today and I thank you all for your support. It was especially nice to have our MW Pro GM here earlier with the Grand team for your Annual Provincial meeting and of course my installation - a day which I and hopefully you will always cherish.

An important part of all Freemasonry is visiting which continues to be the case especially during these difficult times; so thank you again to our many guests, whether travelling from near or far it is very much appreciated by us all that you have given up your precious time to support our Provincial meeting even though the rail strike tried its best to make attending more difficult.

Brethren as Masons our generosity and support to all worthwhile causes is well documented and something that I am very proud to be a part of, on that note I would like to thank you all again for supporting the Surrey Mark Festival helping us raise the princely sum of £1,002,022. This was highlighted at the March meeting of Mark Grand Lodge, where representatives of some of the charities; that have been supported by the Mark Benevolent Fund (MBF) paraded into the Grand Temple at Freemasons' Hall. One of these was **Disability Challengers**, a Centre based in Stoke Park, **Guildford**, who received **£40,167** to provide a car track for the disabled children and young people up to the age of 25. **Another was the Suttons Women's Centre**, a Centre for women who have experienced domestic or sexual violence who received **£4,327** from the MBF to update ageing white goods. **We also enjoyed the company of some of recipients** on our table at the festive board and they were so appreciative so thank you again brethren for your generosity.

M.W.Bro. Jonathan Spence, Pro Grand Master of UGLE, accepted the invitation of the Mark Pro Grand Master, to address Mark Grand Lodge. He spoke passionately about his desire and for the need for us to work consistently and together, to ensure that Freemasonry thrives as a whole. We should always remember that our Masonic journey starts from becoming a Craft Master Mason leading us to the Royal Arch and the Mark degree. Brethren let's keep the pond that we fish from full of happy and enthusiastic Craft Master Masons.

M.W.Bro. Jonathan Spence then extended a standing Invitation for our Pro. Grand Master and Grand Secretary to attend conferences arranged for Craft Provincial and District Grand Masters. We are embarking on a new era of mutual respect and cooperation. Let us not forget brethren that we are all Craft Freemasons.

As well as generosity we are also well known and admired for our Brotherly Love, and can I ask that we all continue to make a huge effort to stay in close contact with one another regularly. I can tell you from my own experience that an unexpected phone call received can bring the recipient so much joy!

Brethren I believe that we are all Almoners and as there could be difficult times ahead for some of our members let's be as supportive as we can and staying in contact with each other is the very first thing we should do. If someone has not attended a meeting just call them to ensure they are fit and well and remind them how much we are looking forward to seeing them at our next meeting. Please let our PG Almoner know if you are aware of any member experiencing difficulties for one reason or another and remember Brethren "It's good to talk" and long may that continue!

I congratulate all the Officers receiving first appointments, promotions, and indeed active appointments. I hope that Active Officers appointed today will be able to support the Official Visits this coming year and I can ensure you that it is not only appreciated by myself our Deputy and Assistant Provincial Grand Masters but also all of the Lodges we are visiting who also gratefully appreciate and enjoy our company. If any of our members would also like to attend, I can also assure you that you will be made most welcome.

I congratulate and thank those lodges that have recruited new members – please keep up the good work! To those who have not managed to recruit in the last year please let me know how we can help you in any way to reverse this trend.

Brethren Provincial Meetings do not just happen, and a lot of people have worked extremely hard to put everything together today for our enjoyment. and I offer my sincere thanks to all of them, in particular the Provincial Grand Secretaries David Clark and Tim Ford – The Stewards Lodge ably harassed by Bernie Greenwood and of course our PGDC and his team and the many others who also do so much behind the scenes.

Our past APGM W Bro Richard Knox is retiring today, and I thank him for his hard work and wise council and hope he fills the vacant diary dates with many happy holidays!

Thank you all for the kind attention you have given to my address – drive safely and Mark Well.

R.W. Bro. John VC French

Provincial Grand Master

18TH March 2023