

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, 28 October 2025

PRESENT

GRAND MASTER

M.W.Bro. Thomas Firth Jackson

PAST GRAND MASTER

M.W.Bro. Matthew David Dupee, *KStJ*

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

R.W.Bro. Ian Anthony Bailey

PAST DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

R.W.Bro. Wg Cdr B. W. Price, *OBE*, G.Hist.

R.W.Bro. Lt Col. J. C. Chambers

R.W.Bro. C. R. Manuel

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER DESIGNATE

R.W.Bro. Colin Robert Woodcock, *MBE*, P.Dist.G.Pref. (London)

DISTRICT GRAND PREFECTS

R.W.Bro. B. R. Mansell.....	District Grand Prefect for Spain
R.W.Bro. R. Slater	District Grand Prefect for Severn
R.W.Bro. G. G. Cheshire	District Grand Prefect for Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire
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. G. A. Keer.....	District Grand Prefect for East Anglia
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
R.W.Bro. L. J. Hinde.....	District Grand Prefect for Cumberland and Westmorland
R.W.Bro. G. Newton	District Grand Prefect for East Lancashire
R.W.Bro. A. J. Green	District Grand Prefect for Southern Counties
R.W.Bro. B. B. Williams.....	District Grand Prefect for Cheshire & North Wales
R.W.Bro. M. A. Barton	District Grand Prefect for West Lancashire

GRAND INSPECTOR

V.W.Bro. I. C. Crosby.....Grand Inspector for Channel Islands

PAST DISTRICT GRAND PREFECTS

R.W.Bro. J. R. Paternoster, (Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire)
R.W.Bro. P. A. Norman, P.Dist.G.Pref. (East Anglia)
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. J. E. Crosby, P.Dist.G.Pref. (Cumberland & Westmorland)
R.W.Bro. R. F. Richardson, P.Dist.G.Pref. (Sussex)
R.W.Bro. P. C. Brockbank, P.Dist.G.Pref. (Kent)
R.W.Bro. M. F. Wilson, P.Dist.G.Pref. (East Lancashire)
R.W.Bro. G. P. Snape, P.Dist.G.Pref. (West Lancashire)

GRAND OFFICERS 2024/2025

R.W.Bro. P. W. Tarrant.....Grand Senior Warden
R.W.Bro. K. Hodgson.....Grand Junior Warden
V.W.Bro. The Revd J. T. Parker.....Grand Chaplain
V.W.Bro. J. R. G. Hilditch.....Grand Treasurer
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. D. M. Heath, P.G.J.W. Grand Secretary
V.W.Bro. G. R. Goddard.....Grand Director of Ceremonies
R.W.Bro. Wg Cdr B. W. Price, *OBE*, P.Dep.G.M. Grand Historiographer
W.Bro. M. Rankin.....Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
W.Bro. M. E. Gannaway.....Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
W.Bro. N. J. Franklin.....Grand Senior Deacon
W.Bro. R. C. Sutton.....Grand Junior Deacon
W.Bro. D. Mersh.....Assistant Grand Secretary
W.Bro. K. J. Parkes.....Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W.Bro. M. S. Caller.....Grand Sword Bearer
W.Bro. B. F. Marchant.....Grand Standard Bearer
W.Bro. M. P. Conn, *JP*.....Grand Organist
W.Bro. R. K. Skelton.....Grand Inner Guard
W.Bro. N. R. Bacon.....Grand Steward
W.Bro. M. P. S. Bajona.....Grand Steward
W.Bro. A. Potton.....Grand Steward
W.Bro. R. D. Stanfield.....Grand Steward
W.Bro. P. Busby.....Grand Tyler

PAST GRAND SENIOR WARDENS

R.W.Bro. N. A. B. Grout
R.W.Bro. His Hon. I. D. G. Alexander, *KC*
R.W.Bro. R. A. H. Morrow
R.W.Bro. J. R. Hodge
R.W.Bro. S. C. L. Middleton
R.W.Bro. C. D. Davis

PAST GRAND JUNIOR WARDENS

R.W.Bro. D. G. Viggers
R.W.Bro. J. S. Wood
R.W.Bro. B. Taylor
R.W.Bro. H. K. Emmerson
R.W.Bro. D. Jordan
R.W.Bro. T. J. Spinks
R.W.Bro. R. F. Knight
R.W.Bro. F. C. Spencer
R.W.Bro. J. H. Wickes
R.W.Bro. Dr G. J. Davies, *JP*

OVERSEAS BRETHREN

South and East Caribbean
W.Bro. G. L. Kalliecharan
Bro. J. J. K. Herrera

Spain

W.Bro. I. M. Crawford, P.G.S.D., Dep.Dist.G.Pref.
W.Bro. T. Porter, P.G.J.D.
W.Bro. V. Climente-Valero, P.G.St.B.
W.Bro. R. A. Mitchell, P.G.St.B.

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. R. Knauer, Sovereign Grand Master
M.Ven.Bro. D. A. Surratt, P.Sov.G.M.
R.Em.Bro. D. C. Ladd
Ven.Bro. J. R. Bowker
Bro. J. D. Cashion, Grand Scribe
Bro. R. Bridges, Grand Director of Ceremonies
Bro. Revd W. L. Dill, Associate Primate-General

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

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

HEADS OF ORDERS

R.W.Bro. P. R. Clement, <i>OSTJ</i> , P.Dist.G.Pref. (Severn)	Grand Master – KT
R.W.Bro. G. L. Flight, P.G.S.W.	Grand Sovereign – RCC
R.W.Bro. K. J. Jones, P.G.S.W.	Grand Master – RSM
R.W.Bro. A. C. Sweeney, P.G.S.W.	Grand Supreme Ruler – OSM
W.Bro. Dr P. Mycock, P.G.J.D.	First Grand Master Mason – The Operatives
W.Bro. Dr V. Thomas, <i>JP</i> , P.G.J.D.	Grand Master – KBHC
W.Bro. A. W. Llewellyn, P.G.J.D.	Supreme Magus – SRIA
Bro. Prof. D. K. Wilson	Deputy Grand Master –Mark

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-nine Grand Officers, which had occurred since the previous Annual Meeting of Grand Council. He made particular reference to R.W.Bro. Michael William Guest, P.G.S.W.; R.W. Bro. Raymond Charles Horton, P.G.J.W., R.W.Bro. Michael John Newth, P.G.J.W., and R.W.Bro. Brian Orpeth White, P.G.J.W. The Brethren stood to order while the Grand Chaplain offered prayer.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Grand Council held on 22 October 2024, 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 2025, as printed in **Appendix A** of the summons, was taken as read, approved and adopted.

5. AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2023/2024

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 2023 to 31 August 2024, as printed in **Appendix B** of 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 2024 to 31 August 2025.

7. ELECTION AND PROCLAMATION OF THE GRAND MASTER

On the proposition of the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Ian Anthony Bailey, 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 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; Grand Inspector Inquisitor Commander, 31st 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 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, OBLIGATION, INVESTITURE AND PROCLAMATION OF THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

The Most Worshipful Grand Master announced that he was appointing R.W.Bro. Colin Robert Woodcock, *MBE*, *P.Dist.G.Pref.* (London), as Deputy Grand Master for the ensuing year.

The Grand Director of Ceremonies reported that R.W.Bro. Woodcock was in attendance, and the Grand Master directed him to form an escort, which then retired. The escort returned and the Brethren stood to order to receive the Deputy Grand Master designate. The Most Worshipful Grand Master addressed the Deputy Grand Master designate as follows:

'I must say a few words on how I see the job description for the Deputy Grand Master. He will be a brother to give me support and assistance and keep me informed of events which may have slipped the net or gone under my radar. I must confess, this does actually happen! But I will always be ready to listen to his advice. I am aware that you have spoken to your predecessor, which is good because he has told you how easy this job actually is, and I am sure that you will gain much satisfaction in being more involved in the work of the AMD. I will try to make your life easy, not too burdensome, but enjoyable and rewarding because that is the keystone – if you are happy, then the members will see that you are happy and everyone will work much, much harder.'

The Most Worshipful Grand Master then confirmed the Deputy Grand Master designate's willingness to accept the office. R.W.Bro. Woodcock knelt to receive the benefit of prayer given by the Grand Chaplain, and was duly obligated, invested and installed as Deputy Grand Master by the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

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

Be it known that COLIN ROBERT WOODCOCK, Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire; Bachelor of Arts with Honours of the Open University; Past Senior Grand Deacon in the United Fraternity of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England; Past Grand Sojourner 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 and its Districts and Lodges Overseas and Holder of Grand Rank in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner; Past Great Herald 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 Inspector Inquisitor Commander, 31st Degree in the Ancient and Accepted Rite 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 Lecturer in the Grand Council of the Order of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas; Past

Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies 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 Provincial Grand Summus for the Province of London in the Grand Senatus of the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord in the British Isles and its Districts and Consistories Overseas; Past Grand Sixth Pillar in the Grand College of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom; Past District Grand Prefect for London, etc., etc., etc., has this day been appointed, obligated, invested and installed 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.

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

9. ELECTION OF THE GRAND TREASURER

On the proposition of the Deputy Grand Master, seconded by the Grand Registrar, V.W.Bro. James Robert Guy Hilditch was re-elected as Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year.

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 2025. The Most Worshipful Grand Master invested those present.

GRAND OFFICERS 2025/2026

Grand Senior Warden.....	Anthony William Llewellyn
Grand Junior Warden	Tony Robert Edwards
Grand Chaplain	The Revd Justin Trevelyan Parker
Grand Treasurer	James Robert Guy Hilditch
Grand Registrar	Peter Magnay, <i>DL</i> , P.G.J.W.
President Executive Committee	Jonathan Charles Roberts, P.G.J.W.
Grand Secretary	Daniel Mark Heath, 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	Alan Robert Brumwell, <i>JP</i>
Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.....	Mark Eric Gannaway
Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.....	Nicholas Rupert Bacon
Grand Senior Deacon.....	Jonathan Peter Wallis
Grand Junior Deacon	Geoffrey Sinclair Ifill
Assistant Grand Secretary	Derek Mersh
Assistant Grand Secretary	Lt Col. Michael Charles Alexander Caseman-Jones, <i>TD</i>
Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Stephen Andrew Sharpe
Assistant Grand Chaplain.....	The Revd Paul Philip Paterson
Grand Sword Bearer	Douglas Graham Sanderson
Grand Standard Bearer	Richard Miles Criddle
Grand Organist.....	Michael Peter Conn, <i>JP</i>
Deputy Grand Organist	Nicholas John Page
Grand Inner Guard	Rod Gordon Taylor
Grand Steward	Roy Ashley
Grand Steward	Richard Lloyd Barker
Grand Steward	Robert Charles Neal
Grand Steward	Dr Silverio Leonard Ostrowski
Grand Steward	Robert Summers
Grand Steward	Arthur Wainwright
Grand Tyler	Paul Busby

PROMOTIONS

Past Grand Registrar

Derek Bidkar Frank Burt
Malcolm Reston Melbourne Lloyd
Alastair Geoffrey Donne Mason
Keith Cedric McCully
Dr Paul Mycock

John Douglas Peverill
Kenneth Pitchford
Phillip John Purves
Donald Christopher Smith
Ronald John Sutherland

Past Grand Senior Deacon

John Christopher Beadle
Clive Copley
Simon Russell Gillas
Ralph Everett Hitchin

Derek Mersh
Robert Gregory Tuthill
Geoffrey Edward Whale

Past Grand Junior Deacon

Alan Arthur Black
Peter Booth
Nigel John Bridges
Keith David Bristow
Christopher Douglas Cradock
Ian Crossley
Simon David Evans
Ian Thomas Charles Glister
Alan Barker Gummerson
Mervyn Peter Harkness
Dr John Walter Hawkins
Dilwyn Edward Littlejohns
Prof. James Fraser McCord

John Leonard Morris
Stuart John David Mowbray
Brian Charles Povey
James Francis Rogers
Andrew George Sales, *JP*
Gregory John Shackelton
Charles Eric Sharrod
Terence Douglas Sheern
Michael John Stirtion
David Hedley Thompson
Algis James Vasis
Terence Alfred Weston

Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

Leonard Armiger
Stephen William Bolton
Philip Charles Clare

Terence Dodd
William Haddon
Bernard Arthur Leaper

PAST RANKS (FIRST APPOINTMENTS)

Past Grand Junior Warden

William Raymond King

Past Grand Senior Deacon

Clement Chow

Past Grand Junior Deacon

Anthony Vincent Hefford

Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

Alan John Coxon, *MBE*
Ian Dalgleish Daniel
Geoffrey Downs
Shirish Pranlal Patel

Barrie Stuart Selway
Rex Cecil Tester
John Michael Vooght

Past Grand Standard Bearer

Kenneth Clark Archer
Dennis Baum
Robert James Brown
Norman Clarke
Barry Lee Devere Crawford, *JP*
Elridge Eleazer Dixon
Peter John Everest
Graham James Francis

David Clark Grimmer
Paul Leslie Harrison
Michael Timothy Holland
Michael Hopkins
Peter Gerard Ibbotson
Ignatius Jean
Andrew Charles Jennings
Donald Victor Jennings

Past Grand Standard Bearer (*cont'd*)

Stephen Richard Jones
Robert Slobodan Lakic
Evangelos Mamaloukas
Keith Moir
Christopher Lintern Moore
Glenn Stanley Moser
Ian James Perkin
John Watt Sangster

Dennis Schiff
Malvin Sharpless
Michael Ernest Staff
Peter Eric Taylor
Barry Tomlinson
Michael James West
Ian Richard Wood

Past Grand Inner Guard

Antonio Barrasso
Oswald Terence Hall
Richard Harry Higson
Robert Kenneth Norris

Robert Graham Pickard
Clive Robert Purdy
Dr Stephen Robert Schofield
Roger Charles Webster

10a. FIELD APPOINTMENT

The Grand Secretary announced that the Most Worshipful Grand Master had made one further appointment in Grand Rank to a Worshipful Brother from East Anglia. The Most Worshipful Grand Master then invested W.Bro. Roy Browne Woodhouse to the rank of Past Grand Registrar, and congratulated the 'young gentleman' on his 100th birthday earlier in the month.

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.

11a. TO ELECT TWO BRETHREN TO SERVE AS TRUSTEES OF GRAND COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATION 20(1) OF THE CONSTITUTIONS & REGULATIONS

On the proposition of the President of the Executive Committee, seconded by the Grand Secretary and carried by the Brethren, R.W.Bro. Clive Manuel, P.Dep.G.M., and V.W.Bro. James Robert Guy Hilditch, G.Treas., were re-appointed as Trustees.

12. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENTS

The Most Worshipful Grand Master announced that in accordance with Rule 117 of the Constitutions and Regulations, he had reappointed the following Brethren to serve on 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 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, before I start my report, could I just say what a delight it is to stand here in front of such an excellent turnout of Allied Masons. It is a superb view and I do thank each and every one of you for making the effort to come and support our annual meeting here in these spectacular surroundings – possibly, some of you, for the first time. I hope

that you are not disappointed and you are having an enjoyable day and get back home safely when the meeting is finished.

'Today is primarily for those brethren who are receiving their first appointment or promotion in Grand Rank – we congratulate you all and hope that you have many happy years to enjoy them. We all, I am sure, remember with pride the occasions when we have been in a similar situation, and appreciate the new responsibilities which these ranks bring. For some of us, these are fond memories of days long gone by, but we still keep active in our Masonic life, and I am confident that you will continue to work hard for our Order in the future.

'Our Order has had another very successful year and we continue to attract new members, but we must not become complacent. We must continue to encourage the right gentlemen to join the Craft, the Royal Arch and the Mark degree, and hopefully they will see us enjoying ourselves in the Allied and come and join us. This increase in new members is due in no small part to the hard work of you all by promoting the Order and spreading the news of how much we all enjoy the camaraderie of the Allied Masonic Degrees.

'On 21 February, we consecrated the Universal Council No. 286 which will meet here in London; a very well attended meeting, bringing their number to 12 Councils in the District. And only last month, we went up to Carlisle to consecrate the Hale Council of Installed Masters No. 288 – another memorable day, increasing the number of Councils in Cumberland and Westmorland to six. I have also had the pleasure of installing four new District Grand Prefects: on 8 February, I installed Brian Williams as the District Grand Prefect for Cheshire and North Wales in succession to R.W.Bro. Peter Talbot; on 18 June, we went to the Channel Islands to install W.Bro. Ian Crosby as their Grand Inspector, succeeding V.W.Bro. Ken Rondel; and on 23 September we installed W.Bro. Mark Barton as the new District Grand Prefect for West Lancashire, in succession to R.W.Bro. Paul Snape. And only a few days ago, I had the pleasure of installing Glen Summerhayes as the new District Grand Prefect for New Zealand in succession to R.W.Bro. Roderick Biel. A most enjoyable event, though speaking personally, a very full programme, though not as full as that of the Grand Secretary/Grand Director of Ceremonies, or R.W.Bro. Andy Sweeney. They let me off the hook on occasions to just sit and watch – it was delightful.

'I thank the new Prefects for taking office and wish them well for the future. I must also thank the retiring District Grand Prefects for all the hard work and commitment which they have shown during their time in office. It has been very much appreciated. All these events are splendid occasions and well-supported by local brethren, but also by the active officers, all of whom have supported me on these occasions, often travelling considerable distances to be present. I would like to place on record my personal thanks to you all for your assistance and friendship. I must also thank my Deputy and all my Prefects who have supported me in the Order in their own districts. Your local knowledge is invaluable, and because you have all worked so hard, I am pleased to confirm your appointments for the time being.

'I mentioned at the beginning of my report how delighted I have been with the growth of the Order and of the vacant spaces which have been filled. My new team will be pleased to hear that there is still work to be done in the forthcoming season: new Councils are planned and, as we are all aware, we are back in London on 15 November for the installation of V.W.Bro. Scott Cargill as new District Grand Prefect for London, due to the elevation of R.W.Bro. Colin Woodcock to the higher office of Deputy Grand Master. Can I therefore take this opportunity to thank him publicly for all the hard work which he has done in his time as the Prefect. As I said earlier, I will try to ease him into his new job as painlessly as possible.

'Our annual meeting has always been well-supported by the heads of the other Orders and today is no exception:

From the Mark Degree, we have the new Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Denny Wilson. I congratulate him on your behalf on his preferment;

From the Knights Templar, the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Paul Clement, *OSTJ*;

From the Red Cross of Constantine, the Grand Sovereign, R.W.Bro. Graham Flight;

From the Royal and Select Masters, we have their Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Kessick Jones;

From the Order of the Secret Monitor, the Grand Supreme Ruler, R.W.Bro. Andy Sweeney;

From the Operatives, the First Grand Master Mason, W.Bro. Paul Mycock;

From the SRIA, we have their Supreme Magus, R.W.Bro. Anthony Llewellyn, who I had the pleasure of appointing as my Grand Senior Warden this morning;

From the Knights Beneficent of the Holy City, the Grand Master, W.Bro. Viv Thomas, *JP*;

From Spain, R.W.Bro. Barrie Mansell, District Grand Prefect, and his usual band of supporters;

And from South and East Caribbean, we have W.Bro. Barry Lee Crawford who I had the pleasure of appointing as Past Grand Standard Bearer this afternoon. Also, W.Bro. Gary Kalliecharan, P.G.St.B., and Bro. Jerome Herrera, Dist.G.Stwd. I can understand, as can we all, that travelling from that part of the world at the moment is not the safest thing to do;

From the Grand Council of the U.S.A., M.Ven.Bro. Douglas Roy Knauer, Sovereign Grand Master, M.Ven.Bro. Matt Dupee, Past Sovereign Grand Master, who is also a Past Grand Master of this Grand Council, R.Ven.Bro. Russell E. Bridges, Grand Director of Ceremonies, M.Ven.Bro. Alan Surratt, Ven.Bro. John Bowker, R.Em.Bro. David Ladd, Revd William Dill, Associate Primate-General, and Bro. David Cashion. We appreciate your special effort;

And from the Grand Council of France, we have M.W.Bro. Christian Amine.

'Brethren, you are all most welcome and I hope that you all have a most enjoyable and profitable day with us.

'Brethren, recent major events – and there have been some extremely large ones this month – have obviously given the Grand Secretary and his team some headaches. But, as we have all come to expect, they have risen to the occasion: letters of appointment delivered, follow-ups done and designated seats allocated. On your behalf, therefore, I wish to thank the Secretariat staff from Mark Masons' Hall, led by the Grand Secretary, for all their hard work which they put in on our behalf. It is much appreciated, and thank you. And to keep things even, I had better not forget to thank the Grand Director of Ceremonies and his team for the professional manner in which they have undertaken their duties today. All has gone according to plan and you can go home fully satisfied in the knowledge that your work has paid off again – well done, and thank you very much indeed.

'The alert ones among you will have noticed that there was a seamless change this afternoon – I refer to the retirement of my Past Deputy, R.W.Bro. Ian Bailey. Ian has mastered all the idiosyncracies of the boss very well, and has been a tower of strength and sound advice, though I will admit not always followed up! But I do place on record my sincere thanks, Ian, for what you have done personally.

'It has been a custom of mine to leave you with a thought for the day: Brethren, the world is divided into people who do things and people who get the credit. Brethren, try if you can to be in the first class, because there is far less competition!

'Brethren, I must thank you all for your support and encouragement – not just today,

but over the past year; it makes my job so much more enjoyable. I hope and pray that refreshments await, and I do not want to delay you any further from the nibbles and drinks downstairs.

‘Brethren, continue to enjoy your Allied Masonry, and may God bless you all.’

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Grand Secretary added his thanks to the outgoing Deputy Grand Master, and to the District Grand Prefects and their District Grand Executives. He noted the inability to hold a District Grand Prefects’ Forum this year, but plans to attempt an online forum at a future date. He also thanked the staff at M.M.H. for their work and support.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master then instructed the Grand Secretary to escort the Grand Director of Ceremonies, V.W.Bro. Glyn Raymond Goddard, to him, and, with immense pleasure, promoted him to Past Grand Junior Warden in recognition of his work.

16. CLOSING

Grand Council was closed in Ample Form.

