The Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

held on Monday, 8 December 2025

at 12:30 p.m. in the Grand Temple, Freemasons' Hall,
60 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ

PRESENT

Presiding Officer
R.W.Bro. Prof. DENOVAN KEITH WILSON, Dep.G.M.

as Deputy Grand Master
R.W.Bro. FRANCIS CHARLES SPENCER, P.Dep.G.M.

Assistant Grand Master
R.W.Bro. PETER DAVID WILLIAMS

Past Pro Grand Master
M.W.Bro. R. J. Smith

Past Deputy Grand Master
R.W.Bro. H. K. Emmerson

Grand Master's Royal Ark Council
R.W.Bro. W. A. Divall – Chairman
R.W.Bro. D. R. Clancey, Prov.G.M. for North and East Yorkshire
R.W.Bro. His Hon. Judge K. C. Cutler, *CBE*, G.Reg.
R.W.Bro. C. M. L. Davies, G.D.C.
R.W.Bro. D. M. Heath, G.Sec.
R.W.Bro. J. R. G. Hilditch, P.Prov.G.M. (Oxfordshire), G.Treas.
R.W.Bro. K. A. Beardmore, Prov.G.M. for West Lancashire
R.W.Bro. R. Poole, Dist.G.M., South Africa (Eastern Division)
R.W.Bro. R. A. Walton, Prov.G.M. for Northumberland
R.W.Bro. C. C. Adkin, Prov.G.M. for Nottinghamshire
R.W.Bro. B. P. Gargett, Prov.G.M. for Gloucestershire and Herefordshire

Grand Master's Royal Ark Council (Honoris Causa)
R.W.Bro. His Hon. I. D. G. Alexander, *KC*, P.Prov.G.M. (Oxfordshire)
R.W.Bro. D. K. Williamson
R.W.Bro. P. Hawken, *MBE*, P.Prov.G.M. (Devonshire)
R.W.Bro. A. Morris, P.Prov.G.M. (Leicestershire and Rutland)

R.W.Bro. C. D. Radmore, P.Prov.G.M. (Hertfordshire)
R.W.Bro. P. H. Rollin, P.Prov.G.M. (East Anglia)
R.W.Bro. Lt Cdr A. P. D. Hannagan, *RD, MStJ*
R.W.Bro. M. A. Cooper, Dist.G.M. for Germany
R.W.Bro. J. C. Whitaker, *JP*, *DL*
R.W.Bro. R. J. Olliver, P.Prov.G.M. (Berkshire)
R.W.Bro. I. N. Clark, P.Prov G.M., (Surrey)

Provincial and District Grand Masters

R.W.Bro. J. Verbist, Dist.G.M. for Belgium
R.W.Bro. B. R. Mansell, Dist.G.M., Spain
R.W.Bro. G. J. Deacon, Prov.G.M. for Hampshire & Isle of Wight
R.W.Bro. S. Rawlings, Prov.G.M. for Bristol
R.W.Bro. S. C. Hallberg, Prov.G.M. for Lincolnshire
R.W.Bro. P. C. Voisey, Prov.G.M. for Somerset
R.W.Bro. I. W. Wright, Prov.G.M. for Oxfordshire
R.W.Bro. T. Quinn, Prov.G.M. for London
R.W.Bro. R. F. Richardson, Prov.G.M. for Sussex
R.W.Bro. J. S. Evans, Prov.G.M., North Wales
R.W.Bro. D. J. Boswell, Prov.G.M. for East Anglia
R.W.Bro. G. D. Seeman, Prov.G.M. for Berkshire
R.W.Bro. J. H. Smith, Prov.G.M for East Lancashire
R.W.Bro. G. R. Horstman, Prov.G.M. for Cheshire
R.W.Bro. G. Hutchinson, Prov.G.M. for Derbyshire
R.W.Bro. M. D. Kelly, Prov.G.M. for Isle of Man
R.W.Bro. S. Lee, Prov.G.M. for Wiltshire
R.W.Bro. K. D. Bristow, Prov.G.M. for Buckinghamshire
R.W.Bro. J. D. Harrison, Prov.G.M. for Hertfordshire
R.W.Bro. A. Bonechi, Dist.G.M. for Italy
R.W.Bro. D. C. Purdie, Prov.G.M. for Devonshire
R.W.Bro. K. J. Spencer, Prov.G.M. for Staffordshire & Shropshire
R.W.Bro. C. Mihutoiu, Dist.G.M. for Romania
R.W.Bro. D. N. Hanson, Prov.G.M. for Durham
R.W.Bro. J. V. C. French, Prov.G.M. for Surrey
R.W.Bro. P. J. Furness, Prov.G.M. for Cornwall
R.W.Bro. J. D. Sowerby, Prov.G.M. for Northampton, Huntingdon & Bedford
R.W.Bro. P. Kirpensteijn, Dist.G.M. for The Netherlands
R.W.Bro. V. H. Pomeroy, Prov.G.M. for Dorset
R.W.Bro. J. T. Bolton, Prov.G.M. for West Yorkshire
R.W.Bro. J. Finlay, Prov.G.M. for Essex
R.W.Bro. B. W. Dykes, Prov.G.M. for Monmouthshire
R.W.Bro. P. J. Hyde, Prov.G.M. for Middlesex
R.W.Bro. A. R. Armbrister, Prov.G.M. for Warwickshire
R.W.Bro. A. S. Lee, Prov.G.M. for Leicestershire
R.W.Bro. P. W. Davies, Prov.G.M. for South Wales
R.W.Bro. Revd J. T. Parker, Prov.G.M. for Worcestershire
R.W.Bro. M. B. Summers, Prov.G.M. for Kent
R.W.Bro. C. Chow, Dist.G.M. for Hong Kong

Past Provincial and District Grand Masters

R.W.Bro. M. Meade, P.Prov.G.M. (Wiltshire)
R.W.Bro. P. J. Sands, P.Prov.G.M. (Berkshire)
R.W.Bro. D. F. Ashbolt, P.Prov.G.M. (London)
R.W.Bro. C. M. Wilson, P.Prov.G.M. (Sussex)

R.W.Bro. T. D. Sheern, P.Prov.G.M. (Essex)
R.W.Bro. D. A. Upton, P.Prov.G.M. (Channel Islands)
R.W.Bro. T. R. E. Jones, P.Prov.G.M. (South Wales)
R.W.Bro. P. J. Balsom, P.Prov.G.M. (Devonshire)
R.W.Bro. K. M. Blackburn, *OStJ*, P.Prov.G.M. (Isle of Man)
R.W.Bro. E. R. Garty, P.Prov.G.M. (Middlesex)

Overseas Brethren

BELGIUM
- W.Bro. F. Clarembaux, R.A.M.G.R.
- W.Bro. G. E. A. Denys, R.A.M.G.R., Dep.Dist.G.M.
- W.Bro. E. Kural
  - Bro. C. D. Southcott

CYPRUS
- W.Bro. R. Hynes

GERMANY
- W.Bro. N. W. Schoen, A.Dist.G.M.
- W.Bro. C. L. Timms
- W.Bro. F. J. Schwarzinger
  - Bro. R. Palka
  - Bro. J. Seidl

GIBRALTAR
- W.Bro. S. A. Segui

ITALY
- W.Bro. D. Testarini
  - Bro. T. Cristalli

THE NETHERLANDS
- W.Bro. E. F. van Splunter, R.A.M.G.R., Dep.Dist.G.M.
- W.Bro. P. W. Hans, R.A.M.G.R., A.Dist.G.M.
- W.Bro. E. Plasschaert, R.A.M.G.R.
- W.Bro. H. van Tuil, R.A.M.G.R.
- W.Bro. A. Niemeijer
  - Bro. P. Bolhuis

NIGERIA
- W.Bro. A. N. Esien, R.A.M.G.R., Dep.Dist.G.M.
- W.Bro. L. S. Sams
- W.Bro. A. K. Bakare-Olanrewaju
  - Bro. A. Chidakashi
  - Bro. K. J.-L. Njoku

ROMANIA
- W.Bro. A. Stan
- W.Bro. I. Pop
  - Bro. I. S. Gorgos

SPAIN
- W.Bro. R. A. Mitchell, R.A.M.G.R.
- W.Bro. J. W. Sangster, R.A.M.G.R.
- W.Bro. F. H. Wallace
- W.Bro. M. R. Brown
- W.Bro. P. S. Mansell, Dist.G.Sec.
  - Bro. P. A. H. De Graaf

Deputations from other Grand Lodges

GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF GREECE
W.Bro. I. Benetatos, R.A.M.G.R.

GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF SOUTH EAST ASIA
W.Bro. Dr I. P. Ellston, G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.)
Bro. A. C. Sekaran

Heads of Orders

R.W.Bro. P. R. Clement, *OStJ,* G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.)	Grand Master – KT
R.W.Bro. G. L. Flight, G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.)	Grand Sovereign – RCC
W.Bro. Dr P. Mycock, R.A.M.G.R.	First Grand Master Mason – The Operatives
W.Bro. C. G. Maiden, R.A.M.G.R.	Grand High Priest – Knight Templar Priests
W.Bro. A. W. Llewellyn	Supreme Magus – Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia

together with holders of Grand Rank in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner, Commanders, Past Commanders and other Brethren.

Report of Proceedings

1. OPENING
The Annual Assembly of Royal Ark Mariner was opened in due form and the Right Worshipful Presiding Officer was saluted under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies.

2. IN MEMORIAM
The Presiding Officer announced that during the last year the Supreme Commander of the Universe had called a number of Brethren to higher service, including 157 Grand Officers who were all detailed in the Report of the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council. Particular reference was made to: R.W.Bro. Keith Stanley Carmichael, *CBE*, G.M.R.A.C.(H.C.); R.W.Bro. Michael William Guest, G.M.R.A.C.(H.C.); R.W.Bro. Desmond Barnett, *JP*, P.Prov.G.M. (South Wales); R.W.Bro. Gordon Edwin Goff, P.Dist.G.M. (South Africa – Eastern Division); R.W.Bro. Beresford Charles Mitchell, P.Dist.G.M. (New Zealand – South Island); and R.W.Bro. Leon Gerald Rivers, P.Dist.G.M. (Zimbabwe) The Grand Chaplain offered prayer to departed merit.

3. MINUTES
The Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner held on Monday, 11 December 2023, which had been circulated with the Summons, were taken as read and confirmed.

4. REPORT OF THE GRAND MASTER'S ROYAL ARK COUNCIL
The Report of the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council for the twelve months ended 30 September 2024, which had been printed as **Appendix A** to the Summons, was taken as read, approved and adopted.

5. AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS
On the proposition of the Chairman of the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council, seconded by the Grand Secretary, the amendment to Regulation 14. – Election and Installation of Commander, as set out in **Appendix B** of the Summons, was approved and carried by the Brethren present.

6. APPOINTMENTS TO ROYAL ARK MARINER GRAND RANK

John Cairns Aitken
Antonios Georgiou Antoniou
David Leslie Armstrong
John Philip Aspinall
Eduardo Austregesilo
John Avery

Simon Wilson Baines
Roy Christopher George Baker
Michael John Barnes
Stephen Batt
Ivor Michael Henry Bennett
Hendrik Heddo Adriaan Berend Bergman
Stanley Bibby
Stephen Walter Bird
Timothy Bird
Anthony Edward William Bloxsome
John William Bond
David Stuart Bradbury
Philip John Brooke
Michael Robert Brown
Vincent Michael Bull
David Burton
Paul Morrison Burton

Stuart James Cameron
James Alexander Carey
John Richard Casson
Edward Guy Charlesworth
Shawn Edward Roy Christie
Luis Angel Civera Vargas
Christopher Ernest Clark
John Clive Cook
Adrian Paul Corbridge
Richard Jeffery Cox
Douglas Daniel Cracknell
David Andrew Cumming

David John Dixon
Paul George Dixon
Kevin Dodd
Derek Dunn

Edoardo Nachaat Tarek El-Attrache
Alan George Ellis
Akpabio Ndarake Esien
Keri John Evans

Stephen John Finnigan
Robert Ian Frankl
James Richard Freakley
Liam Dominic Furr

Giju Alexander George
Richard Paul George
Glyn Raymond Goddard

Jeremy Simon Griffin
Nicholas Anthony Griffin
Anthony John Griffiths
Leslie Trevor Griffiths
Steven Groeger

Anthony Roland Hammell
Ivor Colin Hawkins
John Keith Hicks
Michael Frank Holmes
Victor Ian Hopkinson
Michael Brian Howarth
William Chi-Wai Hui

Michael Jessop
Andrew Michael Johnson

Anthony Mansell King
Robert Guthrie Kinghorn
Paul Kirkman
Sunil Koliyot
Graham Alan Kolthammer
Erbil Kural

Leonardo Levy
John Bedford Linley
Anthony William Llewellyn
Andrew John Logan

Dhirajlal Devji Makwana
Darren Paul Mantell
Warren Marsden
Nicholas Marsh
Stephen Charles McCarthy
Stephen Glen McConnell
Robin Charles McLuckie
Kenneth Fred Mee
Leslie David Morgan
John Patrick Murphy
Victor Ernest Murphy

Christopher William Nicholson
Alwin Niemeijer

Christopher Oates
Roger Albert Ottaway

Kerry John Parkes
Robert Wilfred Parkes
Harihar Patel
Gary Michael Peard
Charles Simpson Peatfield
John Stewart Peterkin
John Malcolm Berry Phillips
Martin Pickett
David Christopher Pigney
Robert William John Pike
Murry Christopher Port

Gary Eric Raggett
Christopher John Robbins
William Roberts
David Harold Robinson
Keith Rodulson
Victor Alejandro Rosas Rivera
Christopher John Rose
Ian Ronald Alastair Roxburgh
Haiko Ruperti-Campbell
Alexander Robert Russell

Graeme Sambrook
Franz Johannes Schwarzinger
Andrew William Seaman
Steven Austin Segui
Paul Charles Settle
Anthony William Seymour
Keith Barry Sims
Antony John Smithson

Alan South
John Martin Steward

Boon Sin Tan
Donatello Testerini
Edmond Bernard Tondu Elio
Charles William Turner

Arthur Steven Varley
Richard Francis Veness

Frank Hogg Wallace
Clive Donald Walsh
John David Watts, *JP*
Martyn Alyn Weaver
Wesley William Williams
Paul Loy Wong
Christopher Peter Wood
David Joseph Woods
Harold Dennis Woolf

7. ADDRESS BY THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL PRESIDING OFFICER
The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master addressed the Assembly as follows:

'Brethren, we are gathered in the sight of the Supreme Commander of the Universe, for the dispatch of important Royal Ark Mariner business.

'I start by bringing greetings and best wishes from our Most Worshipful Grand Master, His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent, who is unable to be with us today. He has particularly asked that his thanks and congratulations are conveyed to all those he has promoted to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank.

'Our Pro Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother John Prizeman, is unable to be present because he is undergoing a course of medical treatment. However, he wishes you to know that he is responding well to the treatment, that he hopes to be back amongst us soon, and that he too sends his greetings and very best wishes. In the absence of the Most Worshipful Grand Master and Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master, I have the honour to present this address on their behalf.

'Brethren, most of the business before us has been dealt with, including the investiture of the Brethren who have been promoted to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank. This year 135 Brethren have been promoted. Most of them are in attendance and I now address them directly. Brethren, your promotion is richly deserved. It is a significant milestone in your Masonic journey which acknowledges and rewards your dedication and faithful service to our Order. It was an honour and a pleasure to invest you on behalf of the Grand Master, and I extend warmest congratulations to each of you. Your promotion of course comes with the expectation that you will continue your in dedication and faithful service.

'Brethren, I am sure you noticed that you were all invested with identical regalia. If you look around this Grand Assembly you will see very little to distinguish any of us by the rank we hold. Whatever our rank, we all wear very similar regalia. Our Pro Grand Master drew attention to this in his address last year and suggested it was very special and perhaps unique to Royal Ark Masonry. He developed his point by quoting from our ritual which says "that the highest is he who performs his part the best, not he who fills the most exalted position". So Brethren, wear your regalia with pride, but remember that your preferment and standing come more from your performance in the part you play than the regalia you wear. So continue your excellent work and be an example to others!

‘Brethren, I would like now to briefly update you on the membership of our Order. The head count has remained steady for the last three years and stands at about 17,000 Royal Ark Mariners. There is a small reduction in memberships, perhaps due to Brethren pruning back on their multiple memberships whilst remaining in at least one of their lodges. Our membership is of course drawn from the pool of Mark Master Masons, in which the head count is just under 32,000 members. So, about 53 per cent of Mark Master Masons are Royal Ark Mariners. This is quite a satisfactory level, which is maintained and where possible improved on a Provincial and District basis. However, a foot note to this is that there are about 15,000 Mark Master Masons who are not Royal Ark Mariners. It would I think be sensible to ensure that every one of them has enough information to be able to decide for themselves whether and when they might like to join our Order, and whether or not they decide to join us, that they have an accurate and positive view of the Order. Brethren, if our Order is to prosper and thrive, so must the Mark and so must the Craft. Let’s do all we can to see that they do.

‘Brethren, no doubt you are familiar with the Grand Master’s Keystone Fund Bursary Scheme, the purpose of which is to provide financial support to people in their academic, vocational and sporting aspirations. All Companion Orders are eligible to make donations and seven are doing so. Seven Mark Provinces have made donations in the name of our Order and seven bursaries have been allocated. These bursaries will be life-changing for the beneficiaries. I commend the fund to you.

‘On 1 November, the leaders of several Companion Orders attended the Masonic Remembrance Service at the National Arboretum. This was a very well attended and moving service. The leaders of our Orders were invited to join the procession and lay our wreaths.

‘Brethren, It is now my great pleasure to introduce and welcome our distinguished guests. I would ask that you bridle your enthusiastic applause and release it when I have named all of them.

‘First, I welcome the following Heads of other Orders:

R.W.Bro. Paul R. Clement, *OStJ*, G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.) – The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master of the Knights Templar;

R.W.Bro. Graham L. Flight, G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.) – Grand Sovereign of the Red Cross of Constantine;

W.Bro. Dr Paul Mycock, R.A.M.G.R., First Grand Master Mason of the Operatives;

W.Bro. Christopher G. Maiden, R.A.M.G.R., Grand High Priest of the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom;

R.W.Bro. David K. Williamson, G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.) – Lieutenant Grand Commander of the Ancient and Accepted Rite;

W.Bro. Tony Llewellyn, Supreme Magus of the Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia, and a recipient of R.A.M.G.R. today.

‘I would also like to welcome two of our former rulers, these being:

M.W.Bro. Raymond John Smith, Past Pro Grand Master;

R.W.Bro. H. Keith Emmerson, Past Deputy Grand Master.

‘From overseas, I am delighted to welcome the following:

From Belgium, R.W.Bro. Jean Verbist, Dist.G.M., together with four of his Brethren;

From Cyprus, W.Bro. Raymond Hynes;

From Germany, R.W.Bro. Michael Cooper, Dist.G.M., together with five Brethren;

From Gibraltar, W.Bro. Steven A. Segui, a recipient of R.A.M.G.R.;

From Hong Kong, R.W.Bro. Clement Chow, Dist.G.M.;

From Italy, R.W.Bro. Andrea Bonechi, Dist.G.M., together with two of his Brethen;

From the Netherlands, W.Bro. Peter Kirpensteijn, Dist.G.M., W.Bro. Ernst Frits Splunter, Dep.Dist.G.M., R.A.M.G.R., W.Bro. Pieter Willem Haans, A.Dist.G.M., R.A.M.G.R., along with four other Brethren;

From Nigeria, W.Bro. Akpabio N. Esien, Dep.Dist.G.M., R.A.M.G.R., along with four other Brethren;

From Romania, R.W.Bro. Cristian Mihutoiu, Dist.G.M., R.A.M.G.R., along with three other Brethren;

From Spain, R.W.Bro. Barrie R. Mansell, Dist.G.M., R.A.M.G.R., along with six other Brethren.

'From other Constitutions, I welcome the following:

From Greece, W.Bro. Ioannis Benetatos, R.A.M.G.R.;

From South East Asia, R.W.Bro. Dr Ian Philip Ellston, G.M.R.A.C., and Bro. Ashveen Chakravarthy Sekaran.

'Before I close this meeting, I wish to thank the Grand Secretary and all the members of his team for their work in planning and delivering this meeting, and for all their work for the Order during the year. My thanks also go to the Grand Director of Ceremonies and his team for the excellence of the ceremonial we have seen today and on the many visits we make during the year.

'My final thanks go to Right Worshipful Brother Frank Spencer for so readily agreeing to act as Deputy Grand Master. It is a pleasure to be working with him and provides an opportunity for his recent retirement to be formally acknowledged here in Grand Assembly, to thank him for all his work on behalf of the Order, and to wish him well.

'Brethren, the festive season is upon us and I hope we will be surrounded by peace and goodwill, and that whatever our circumstances, the festive season will be the best it can be for everyone.

'On behalf of our Grand Master and our Pro Grand Master, I pray that the Supreme Commander of the Universe will bless you, guide you and keep you safe.'

8. CLOSING
The Annual Assembly of Royal Ark Mariner was closed in due and antient form.