

The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of England  
and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas



## MINUTES

of the Annual Assembly of Grand Council  
held on Tuesday, 18 April 2023, at Mark Masons' Hall,  
86 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1PL

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### PRESENT

#### GRAND MASTER

M.III.Comp. Kessick John Jones

#### DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

R.III.Comp. His Hon. Ian Douglas Gavin Alexander, KC

#### GRAND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK

R.III.Comp. Paul Anthony Norman

#### PAST DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

R.III.Comp. R. V. Wallis, JP

#### PAST GRAND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTORS OF THE WORK

R.III.Comp. Lt Col. J. C. Chambers

#### CUSTODIANS OF THE NINTH ARCH

R.III.Kt. N. K. Milburn, IX

R.III.Comp. B. A. Vickers, IX

#### DISTRICT GRAND MASTERS

R.III.Comp. V. J. Driver ..... District Grand Master for London  
R.III.Comp. J. Harvey..... District Grand Master for Northumberland  
R.III.Comp. R. S. C. Mitchell ..... District Grand Master for Lancashire  
R.III.Comp. C. G. Lewis ..... District Grand Master for Middlesex  
R.III.Comp. D. J. Blackburn ..... District Grand Master for Surrey  
R.III.Comp. N. T. Woodward ..... District Grand Master for North and East Yorkshire  
R.III.Comp. Dr A. Beckerton..... District Grand Master for Derbyshire  
R.III.Comp. G. H. Jones, CStJ ..... District Grand Master for South Wales  
R.III.Comp. K. L. Downes, JP ..... District Grand Master for Wyvern  
R.III.Comp. T. M. Sharpe ..... District Grand Master for Kent  
R.III.Comp. B. F. Marchant..... District Grand Master for Sussex  
R.III.Comp. F. J. Shaw ..... District Grand Master for Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight  
R.III.Comp. M. Graham..... District Grand Master for Durham

R.III.Comp. T. Hancock..... District Grand Master for Oxon, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire  
R.III.Comp. R. J. Potts ..... District Grand Master for Essex  
R.III.Comp. Gp Capt. P. J. Brindle ..... District Grand Master for Hertfordshire  
R.III.Comp. F. McPherson..... District Grand Master for West Yorkshire  
R.III.Comp. B. Hughes ..... District Grand Master for Cheshire and the Marches  
R.III.Comp. D. F. Wellings..... District Grand Master for Warwickshire  
R.III.Comp. D. B. Surry ..... District Grand Master for Somerset and Wiltshire  
R.III.Comp. S. J. Bradford..... District Grand Master for North Midlands  
R.III.Comp. G. F. Spencer..... District Grand Master for East Anglia

#### PAST DISTRICT GRAND MASTERS

R.III.Comp. D. S. Pratt, P.Dist.G.M., Yorkshire (2003–2014)  
R.III.Comp. L. E. Bourne, *JP*, P.Dist.G.M., Wyvern (2006–2016)  
R.III.Comp. S. B. Crutchley, P.Dist.G.M., Cheshire and the Marches (2009–2021)  
R.III.Comp. C. D. Hellyer, P.Dist.G.M., Hertfordshire (2011–2019)  
R.III.Comp. Prof. D. K. Wilson, P.Dist.G.M., Durham (2011–2017)  
R.III.Comp. J. C. Jacobson, P.Dist.G.M., Essex (2012–2019)  
R.III.Comp. D. B. Nelson, P.Dist.G.M., Somerset and Wiltshire (2013–2021)

#### GRAND OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

R.III.Comp. J. H. Newman, *OBE*..... Grand Chancellor  
R.III.Comp. D. S. Rose ..... Grand Councillor  
V.III.Comp. Dr V. Thomas, *JP*..... Grand Chaplain  
V.III.Comp. K. Young ..... President of the Executive Committee  
R.III.Comp. R. A. Williams, P.G.Chan. .... Grand Recorder  
V.III.Comp. G. D. Seaman, P.Pres.E.C..... Grand Director of Ceremonies  
V.III.Comp. C. G. Maiden..... Grand Lecturer  
R.III.Comp. R. L. Gan, *JP*, P.G.P.C.W..... Grand Historiographer  
III.Comp. The Revd T. J. N. L'Estrange ..... Deputy Grand Chaplain  
III.Comp. A. C. Jennings..... Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies  
III.Comp. P. W. Hutchinson..... Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies  
R.III.Comp. T. F. Auber, P.G.Chan..... as Grand Captain of the Guard  
III.Comp. N. B. Hawes ..... Grand Conductor of the Council  
III.Comp. A. R. Davis, P.G.Cond.C. .... Assistant Grand Chaplain  
III.Comp. D. M. Heath, P.G.Capt.Gd. .... Assistant Grand Recorder  
III.Comp. A. J. Baverstock ..... as Grand Sword Bearer  
III.Comp. J. J. Chambers..... Grand Standard Bearer  
III.Comp. Dr R. A. Scott..... Grand Organist  
III.Comp. L. G. Clement, P.A.G.D.C. .... Deputy Grand Organist  
III.Comp. G. Hutchinson ..... Grand Steward  
III.Comp. A. J. Clark ..... Grand Manciple  
III.Comp. M. R. Constant..... Grand Manciple  
III.Comp. A. H. Hopkin..... Grand Manciple  
III.Comp. D. Kellet ..... Grand Manciple  
III.Comp. D. J. Lee ..... Grand Manciple  
III.Comp. C. Moore ..... Grand Manciple  
III.Comp. D. A. Potter ..... Grand Manciple  
III.Comp. P. Busby..... as Grand Sentinel

#### PAST GRAND CHANCELLORS

R.III.Comp. H. K. Emerson  
R.III.Comp. T. F. Jackson  
R.III.Comp. P. R. Clement

R.III.Comp. G. L. Flight  
R.III.Comp. P. W. Tarrant  
R.III.Comp. M. F. Barnes

#### PAST GRAND COUNCILLORS

R.III.Comp. D. Baum  
R.III.Comp. A. G. Simey  
R.III.Comp. D. G. Viggers  
R.III.Comp. F. C. Spencer  
R.III.Comp. J. H. Prizeman  
R.III.Comp. L. M. Keats  
R.III.Comp. R. J. Clare  
R.III.Comp. S. J. Warwick  
R.III.Comp. A. W. Llewellyn  
R.III.Comp. D. T. Hopton

and many other Grand Officers, Past Masters and Companions.

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## Report of Proceedings

### 1. OPENING

Grand Council was opened in Ample Form by the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

### 2. IN MEMORIAM

The Most Illustrious Grand Master referred with great regret to the death of a number of Companions, particularly R.III.Comp. Timothy John Lewis, P.G.P.C.W.; R.III.Comp. Michael Arthur Richards, IX; R.III.Comp. Alan Hodgson Smith, IX; R.III.Comp. Brian William Price, P.Dist.G.M. (Warwickshire); R.III.Comp. Colin William Thurston, P.Dist.G.M. (Hertfordshire); R.III.Comp. Bryan Frank Page, P.G.Chan.; R.III.Comp. Norman Sydney Manser, P.G.Coun.; R.III.Comp. Maj. Michael Mullally, P.G.Coun.; R.III.Comp. Wg Cdr John Brian Rodgers, P. G.Coun.; and R.III.Comp. Alan Edgar Stewart, P.G.Coun. In addition, there are 50 Grand Officers detailed in the Report of the Executive Committee.

The Companions stood to order while the Grand Chaplain offered prayer.

### 3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Grand Council held on 19 April 2022, having been circulated with the Summons, were taken as read and confirmed.

### 4. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On the proposition of the Grand Chancellor, seconded by the Grand Recorder, the Report of the Executive Committee for the period ending 31 December 2022, which had been printed and circulated as **Appendix A** in the Summons, was taken as read. The Report was then approved, adopted and entered on the Minutes.

### 5. REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER

In the absence of the Grand Treasurer, who had presented his apologies, the Grand Recorder addressed Grand Council as follows:

'Most Illustrious Grand Master and Companions, I have pleasure in presenting the financial statement of accounts for the year ending 31st August 2022 which are contained in the Summons for this meeting as **Appendix B**. The finances of the Order performed in line with expectations during the last financial year save for the shift in value of our investments which moved against us resulting in a realised/unrealised loss

on investments of £2,295 – this compares with a gain of £3,651 in the previous year. It should be noted however, that such moves are in effect paper transactions and do not necessarily mean an actual reduction in those investments. The Market Value of the Order's investments was £18,164 compared with the historic cost of £13,888. Net current assets remained unchanged at £3,215 whilst the capital fund reduced slightly from £23,674 to £21,379.'

6. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTIONS AND REGULATIONS OF THE ORDER

On the proposition of the Grand Chancellor, seconded by the Grand Recorder, the proposed amendments to the Constitutions and Regulations, as set out in **Appendix C** of the Summons for this meeting, and in the **Addendum** to the Summons issued on 14 April, were carried.

7. ELECTION AND PROCLAMATION OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER

The Deputy Grand Master addressed Grand Council as follows:

'The annual election of a Grand Master in Masonic Orders goes back to the original Craft Book of Constitutions of 1723, and probably before that. As you will all appreciate, the beginning of the 18th Century was known as the period of enlightenment, and really the beginning of the democratic election of rulers/leaders in many areas of modern society. Freemasons were very active in this concept of democratic elections. The proposition I am about to make is the most important item in today's Agenda. Each and every one of you is entitled to say, 'Yay' or 'Nay'; it is not just a mere formality. Our current Most Illustrious Grand Master has been regularly elected as such every year since 2016. He has been in active office in our Order since he was made an Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2002. I doubt there is any other member of our Order who has such an intimate and detailed knowledge of it and its membership. He has gone here, there, and everywhere on behalf of us all. His care of the Order, and us, its members, has been unparalleled.

'Those of you who read his Christmas message last year will have observed his realism and understanding of the real world we live in. Yet despite its many troubles, his message was that we need to work together to try to bring about calmness and improvement. As he said, there is always a Companion ready to listen and support another when needed. He used a phrase which struck a chord with me: "A hand that reaches out is a hand to hold on to." Companions, a Grand Master with thoughts and ideas like those will always have my support, so I am proud to propose that Most Illustrious Companion Kessick John Jones be re-elected as our Grand Master for the ensuing year.'

The Grand Principal Conductor of the Work seconded the proposition and it was carried with acclamation by the Companions present. The Most Illustrious Grand Master was then proclaimed by the Grand Director of Ceremonies as follows:

Be it known that KESSICK JOHN JONES, Bachelor of Arts of the Open University; Past Senior Grand Deacon 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; Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret 32nd 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 Senior Warden in the Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of England and Wales and 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 Vice Chancellor 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 VII degree, Honoris Causa, in the Worshipful Society of Freemasons, Rough Masons, Wallers, Slaters, Paviers, Plaisterers and Bricklayers; Knight Commander of the Priestly Orders of the Grand College of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom; Knight Commander of the Holy City and President of the Grand Master's Council of the Grand Priory of the Knights Beneficent of the Holy City of the Rectified Scottish Rite of England and Wales; Provincial Grand Marischal of the Provincial Grand Lodge of London and the Metropolitan Counties in the Royal Order of Scotland; Grand Master, etc., etc., etc., etc., has this day been elected Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Order of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas; whom may the Supreme Master of the Universe long preserve.

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

#### 8. APPOINTMENT AND PROCLAMATION OF THE RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

The Most Illustrious Grand Master announced the re-appointment of R.III.Comp. His Honour Ian Douglas Gavin Alexander, KC, as Deputy Grand Master for the ensuing year.

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

Be it known that IAN DOUGLAS GAVIN ALEXANDER, One of his Majesty's retired Judges of the Crown Court of England and Wales; One of his Majesty's Counsel Learned in the Law; Bachelor of Law, Honours, of University College London; Bencher of the Honorable Society of Lincoln's Inn; Past Junior Grand Warden in the United Fraternity of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of England; Past Grand Registrar in the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England; Past Provincial Grand Master for Oxfordshire 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 Grand Cross of the United Orders and Great Chancellor 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; Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret 32nd 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 and Grand Registrar 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 Senior Warden in the Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of England and Wales and Districts and Councils Overseas; Past Grand Guide and Grand Registrar of 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 Herald 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 Fourth Pillar in the Grand College of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom; Knight Commander of the Holy City of the Grand Priory of the Knights Beneficent of the Holy City of the Rectified Scottish Rite of England and

Wales; Provincial Grand Senior Warden in the Provincial Grand Lodge of London and the Metropolitan Counties in the Royal Order of Scotland; Deputy Grand Master, etc., etc., etc., has this day been appointed Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master of the Order of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas; whom may the Supreme Master of the Universe long preserve.

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

9. APPOINTMENT AND PROCLAMATION OF THE RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK

The Most Illustrious Grand Master announced the re-appointment of R.III.Comp. Paul Anthony Norman, as Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.

The Grand Principal Conductor of the Work was proclaimed by the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies as follows:

Be it known that PAUL ANTHONY NORMAN, Past Grand Steward in the United Fraternity of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England; Past Grand Standard Bearer in the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England; Past Provincial Grand Master for East Anglia in the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas, and in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner; A Holder of Grand Rank in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner; Past Great Registrar 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; Past Grand High Almoner 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 District Grand Prefect for East Anglia in the Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of England and Wales and Districts and Councils Overseas; Past Grand Counsellor of 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 Vice Chancellor 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 Seventh Pillar in the Grand College of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom; Grand Principal Conductor of Work, etc., etc., etc., has this day been appointed and proclaimed Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work of the Order of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas; whom may the Supreme Master of the Universe long preserve;

The Grand Principal Conductor of the Work was saluted under the direction of the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies. The Grand Principal Conductor of the Work returned thanks.

10. ELECTION OF THE GRAND TREASURER

On the proposition of the Grand Chancellor, seconded by the Grand Recorder and carried nem con by the Companions present, R.III.Comp. J. N. G. Howitt, P.G.Coun., was re-elected Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year.

11. APPOINTMENT OF TWO COMPANIONS TO SERVE ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Most Illustrious Grand Master announced that in accordance with Regulation 118(i) of the Constitutions and Regulations, he had appointed the following Companions to serve on the Executive Committee:

R.III.Comp. N. T. Woodward, Dist.G.M. for North and East Yorkshire

R.III.Comp. D. J. Blackburn, Dist.G.M. for Surrey

12. ELECTION OF TWO COMPANIONS TO SERVE ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
On the proposition of the Deputy Grand Master, seconded by the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work and carried nem con by the Companions present, the following Companions were elected to the Executive Committee in accordance with Regulation 118(i) of the Constitutions and Regulations:

R.III.Comp. R. S. C. Mitchell, Dist.G.M. for Lancashire

R.III.Comp. V. J. Driver, Dist.G.M. for London

There having been no other nominations, the Most Illustrious Grand Master declared the two Companions to have been duly elected.

13. ELECTION OF PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED AND REGISTERED AUDITORS  
On the proposition of the Grand Chancellor, seconded by the Grand Recorder, and carried nem con by the Companions present, that Messrs Crowe Clark Whitehill U.K. LLP, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors, were re-appointed as Auditors to Grand Council.

14. ADDRESS BY THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER

The Most Illustrious Grand Master addressed the Companions as follows:

'Following what has been described and has now been executed as a 'business meeting', you would expect to receive from me now a business-like address. Who was it that said, "Be brief, be sincere, be seated." F.D.R.? I will do my best, although this is not always as easy as it sounds! As Mark Twain once said: "I would have written a shorter letter, but I did not have the time!" Business more than any other occupation is a continual dealing with the future, it is a continual calculation and an instructive exercise in foresight. And now we must have the foresight to look to the future, to a happy journey through the rest of the year culminating in our 150th Anniversary on 3 October.

'We must of course safeguard what we have achieved, but look forward to doing more, to move further, to grow and develop. We have lost time due to the pandemic, but we must not lose momentum. There is no rush, a measured approach shall be the way. There is also no panic as our losses due to Covid were nothing like that which was originally feared and now there are encouraging indications that positive growth is not far off. We knew that we would be back eventually, although some took longer than others. But due to the strength, resilience, dedication, and commitment, of our Companions, we are now really back where we belong, and we, that is Grand Council, have waited for this moment to welcome you back with open arms.

'I congratulate all those whose promotions and appointments were gazetted in the eagerly awaited letters that were sent out last month, and I look forward to investing as many of you as possible with proper pomp and circumstance at Freemasons' Hall during our birthday party in October. Those preferments take effect from today and all recipients can now start wearing their new kit.

'As this is a business meeting, we have not experienced the pleasure of receiving and greeting overseas visitors. However, it is always a delight to acknowledge their support, and welcome the presence of the Heads of our Companion Orders. Will you please accord them the appropriate acclamation after I have finished the list:

'R.III.Comp. John Herbert Prizeman, P.G.Chan. – Pro Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons; R.III.Comp. Paul Raymond Clement, P.G.Chan. – Grand Master of the Knights Templar; R.III.Comp. Graham Leslie Flight, P.G.Chan. – Grand Sovereign of the Red Cross of Constantine; R.III.Comp. Thomas Firth Jackson, P.G.Chan. – Grand Master of the Allied Masonic Degrees; R.III.Comp. Christopher Maiden, P.G.Chan. – Grand High Priest of the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom; R.III.Comp. Anthony Llewellyn, P.G.Coun. – Supreme Magus of the Societas



Rosicruciana in Anglia; and V.III.Comp. Dr Vivian Thomas, *JP*, G.Chap. – Grand Master of the Knights Beneficent of the Holy City.

'We also have R.III.Comp. Richard Wallis, Past Deputy Grand Master, and two Past Grand Principal Conductors of the Work: R.III.Comp. Lt Col. John Chambers, and of course our Grand Historiographer, Richard Gan, P.G.P.C.W., IX. Also, three Custodians of the Ninth Arch: R.III.Comp. Norman Milburn, R.III.Comp. Brian Vickers, and now R.III. Comp. Michael Jolley. Cue the applause, Companions.

'Companions, I cannot let this meeting end without drawing attention once again to the great debt of gratitude we owe to those who organise and direct Cryptic Masonry on occasions such as this. And I offer my sincere gratitude to the outgoing Grand Council Officers, who although not being too overworked during the year have demonstrated total diligence and commitment, and to my District Grand Masters and Grand Inspectors for their unstinting industry and endeavour throughout last year and which I happily anticipate continuing with abundance into the next. It is also wonderful to see a goodly collection of Past District Grand Masters present continuing to support our Order to the full.

'To the Grand Recorder and his staff, for his and their consistent and courteous commitment during the year, and for all the administrative arrangements made for today. To the Grand Director of Ceremonies and his team of Deputies, Assistants and Manciples for their heavy share of the labours and for an impeccable display of ceremonial that is the envy of many. To my Executive, for all they have done and will continue doing, for their ever-ready supply of unsolicited and unbiased counsel and advice, even when completely unnecessary and not asked for! I especially wish to mention the members of the Celebrations Committee, for their previous hard work, and for what they are planning for our Sesquicentenary event, at which I hope as many members of our Order as possible will attend and join with us in those celebrations.

'In conclusion, I say to you all, whether you are here in person today or will read this address later, we must work together at all appropriate levels of service for the development and growth of our Order. I will resist the temptation of banging the recruitment drum too much. You know the format: look after your Craft, Royal Arch and Mark Units and they will provide the next generation of our members.

'Our late and much revered Queen Elizabeth II once said: "I know of no single formula for success. But over the years I have observed that some attributes of leadership are universal and are often about finding ways of encouraging people to combine their efforts, their talents, their insights, their enthusiasm, and their inspiration to work together." So, Companions, shall we do just that!

'Finally, Companions, be of one mind, live in peace, and may the Supreme Master of the Universe, delight to dwell amongst you and bless you for evermore.'

#### 15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Grand Recorder reported that there was no other business to transact.

#### 16. CLOSING

Grand Council was closed in Ample Form.