

The Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord
in the British Isles and its Districts and Consistories Overseas



Minutes of the Thirteenth Annual Convocation of Grand Senatus
held at Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1PL,
on Thursday, 4 May 2023

PRESENT

M.Dist.Comp. Ian Stanley Currans, VI
GRAND SUMMUS

R.Dist.Comp. Francis Charles Spencer, VI
DEPUTY GRAND SUMMUS

R.Dist.Comp. Howard Saul Markham, VI
ASSISTANT GRAND SUMMUS

R.Dist.Comp. P. R. Clement, VI, P.Dep.G.S
R.Dist.Comp. Cdr C. J. Aspinell, RD, JP, VI, P.A.G.S

R.Dist.Comp. I. P. Duff, VI, P.A.G.S.

R.Dist.Comp. R. W. Leavers, VI, G.Reg.Vic.

PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT GRAND SUMMI

R.Dist.Comp. J. L. Menoyo-Garcia..... District Grand Summus for Spain
R.Dist.Comp. S. N. White..... Provincial Grand Summus for Glos, Herefordshire & Wiltshire
R.Dist.Comp. G. R. Gill..... Provincial Grand Summus for West Lancashire
R.Dist.Comp. R. J. Clare Provincial Grand Summus for Essex
R.Dist.Comp. C. N. Barker Provincial Grand Summus for North & East Yorkshire
R.Dist.Comp. I. R. Sullivan Provincial Grand Summus for Somerset & Dorset
R.Dist.Comp. M. A. Jacques..... Provincial Grand Summus for Durham & Northumberland
R.Dist.Comp. P. J. H. Brown..... Provincial Grand Summus for East Midlands
R.Dist.Comp. P. C. Clare Provincial Grand Summus for Kent
R.Dist.Comp. D. S. L. Lo District Grand Summus for South East Asia
R.Dist.Comp. K. C. McCully Provincial Grand Summus for East Anglia
R.Dist.Comp. J. C. Welton..... Provincial Grand Summus for Cheshire & North Wales
R.Dist.Comp. A. Long Provincial Grand Summus for Surrey
R.Dist.Comp. A. M. Shields Provincial Grand Summus for East Lancashire
R.Dist.Comp. K. B. Chalkley..... Provincial Grand Summus for Devon & Cornwall
R.Dist.Comp. Dr S. L. Ostrowski Provincial Grand Summus for The Chilterns
R.Dist.Comp. R. W. Davies Provincial Grand Summus for West Wales
R.Dist.Comp. J. J. Greenwall Provincial Grand Summus for London
R.Dist.Comp. J. P. Wallis Provincial Grand Summus for Middlesex
R.Dist.Comp. A. P. K. Webster Provincial Grand Summus for West Yorkshire
R.Dist.Comp. G. Holden Provincial Grand Summus for Midland Counties
R.Dist.Comp. A. J. Van Der Burgh..... Provincial Grand Summus for Sussex
R.Dist.Comp. A. D. Jones..... Provincial Grand Summus for South Wales & Monmouthshire
R.Dist.Comp. R. C. W. Batchelor Provincial Grand Summus for Hampshire, IOW & The C.I.

GRAND INSPECTOR

V.Dist.Comp. J-P. Dakhil Grand Inspector for France

PAST PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT GRAND SUMMI

R.Dist.Comp. R. M. Henderson, Prov.G.S., Durham & Northumberland (2010–2018)

R.Dist.Comp. M. F. Barnes, P.Prov.G.S., Surrey (2010–2015)

R.Dist.Comp. K. B. Ferguson, P.Prov.G.S., South Wales & Monmouthshire (2014–2023)

R.Dist.Comp. L. L. Finnis, P.Prov.G.S., Kent (2014–2019)

R.Dist.Comp. L. M. Keats, P.Prov.G.S., Sussex (2015–2020)

GRAND OFFICERS

R.Dist.Comp. P. J. Wise Grand Chancellor

R.Dist.Comp. R. Habbitts Grand Vice Chancellor

R.Dist.Comp. L. E. Bourne, *JP*, P.G.Vice Chan..... Grand Episcopus

R.Dist.Comp. T. D. Currans, P.G.Chan..... President of Executive Committee

V.Dist.Comp. M. J. J. Singleton, P.G.Vice Chan..... Grand Registrar

R.Dist.Comp. R. A. H. Morrow, P.G.Vice Chan..... Grand Treasurer

R.Dist.Comp. R. A. Williams, *OStJ*, P.G.Chan..... Grand Recorder

R.Dist.Comp. P. J. Purves, P.G.Vice Chan..... Grand Director of Ceremonies

V.Dist.Comp. C. J. Davis..... Grand Lecturer

V.Dist.Comp. I. T. D. Smith..... Grand Lecturer

V.Dist.Comp. R. T. A. Gray..... Grand Lecturer

V.Dist.Comp. G. D. Taylor Grand Lecturer

Dist.Comp. The Ven. Dr G. K Glover Deputy Grand Episcopus

Dist.Comp. W. J. T. Pratt..... Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies

Dist.Comp. C. J. Bowles..... Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies

V.Dist.Comp. D. M. Heath, P.G.Lect. Assistant Grand Recorder

Dist.Comp. E. J. Sarti..... Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

Dist.Comp. P. J. Ronan..... Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

Dist.Comp. G. A. Keer..... Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

Dist.Comp. R. V. Umashankar, P.Dep.G.Swd.B..... as Grand Sword Bearer

Dist.Comp. D. Greenhalgh..... Grand Standard Bearer

Dist.Comp. P. G. Bowen, P.A.G.D.C. Grand Organist

Dist.Comp. A. T. Morris Deputy Grand Organist

Dist.Comp. M. W. Greene Grand Guarder

Dist.Comp. S. Rhodes Grand Steward

PAST GRAND CHANCELLORS

R.Dist.Comp. N. A. B. Grout

R.Dist.Comp. C. K. Hiddlestone

PAST GRAND VICE CHANCELLORS

R.Dist.Comp. P. W. Tarrant, P.G.V.Chan.

R.Dist.Comp. S. G. Carley, P.G.V.Chan.

R.Dist.Comp. G. L. Flight

R.Dist.Comp. R. Mussell

R.Dist.Comp. G. H. Fenwick

COMPANIONS FROM OVERSEAS

FRANCE

V.Dist.Comp. C. Amine, P.G.Lect.

Dist.Comp. P. M. L. Meste, Insp.Rec.

SOUTH EAST ASIA

Dist.Comp. Dr H. Y. H. Chin, P.G.Swd.B.
Dist.Comp. K. J. Kuruvilla, P.G.St.B.
Dist.Comp. A. R. Arul
Dist.Comp. Y. L. Chew
Dist.Comp. Y. Ko

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN

Dist.Comp. E. E. Clarke
Dist.Comp. C. A. McDonald

SOUTHERN INDIA

V.Dist.Comp. B. V. Epur, P.G.Reg.
Dist.Comp. K. Sathish Kumar, P.A.G.Gdr.
Dist.Comp. R. V. Umashankar, P.Dep.G.Swd.B., Dist.G.Rec.

SPAIN

Dist.Comp. G. Ramshead

UNATTACHED CONSISTORIES

The Brian Wareham Scarlet Cord Consistory TI (London)
V.Dist.Comp. F. Clarembaux, P.G.Lect.

Walled City Consistory No. 118 (Hong Kong)

R.Dist.Comp. A. J. Hotwani, P.G.Vice Chan.
Dist.Comp. M. H. Thomas, P.G.Her.
Dist.Comp. J. C.-O. Wan

Le Cordon Ecarlate du Léman Consistory No. 120 (Switzerland)

Dist.Comp. H. Richard

HEADS OF OTHER ORDERS

Dist.Comp. J. H. Prizeman..... Pro Grand Master – MMM
R.Dist.Comp. P. R. Clement, P.Dep.G.S. Grand Master – KT
R.Dist.Comp. G. L. Flight, P.G.Vice Chan. Grand Sovereign – RCC
R.Dist.Comp. K. J. Jones, P.G.Vice Chan. Grand Master – RSM
R.Dist.Comp. C. G. Maiden, P.G.Vice Chan..... Grand High Priest – KTP
Dist.Comp. P. Mycock, P.G.Her..... 1st Grand Master Mason – The Operatives
Comp. A. W. Llewellyn Supreme Magus – SRIA

There were also present a number of Past Grand Officers, Installed Presidents and Companions of the Order.

The members of the Tzaddikim formed an Arch of Steel under the direction of the Deputy Captain, Dist.Comp. E. Kokkalis, as follows:

Distinguished Companions: D. A. Griffiths, P.G.St.B.; M. D. Symes, P.G.St.B.; M. I. J. Currans; Dr S. J. Dunn; S. Higson; W. Malcolm; R. G. Tuthill; and R. W. Vipond; Eminent Companions E. Poole and M. G. Murray; and Companions T. Bhachoo, G. Morrison, R. G. Short and S. M. Hyland.

Report of Proceedings

1. OPENING

Grand Senatus was opened in ample form by the Most Distinguished Grand Summus at 12.30 p.m.

2. IN MEMORIAM

The Most Distinguished Grand Summus addressed the Companions as follows:

'During the last year the God of our Fathers has called a number of Companions to higher service. I would like to mention, in particular, R.Dist.Comp. Brian William Price, G.Reg.Vic.; R.Dist.Comp. Timothy John Lewis, P.G.Chan.; R.Dist.Comp. Peter Ernst Ribí, P.G.Vice Chan.; and R.Dist.Comp. Bryan Frank Page, P.G.Vice Chan. In total, 22 Grand Officers are detailed in the Report of the Executive Committee. Today we are offering our thanks to the God of our Fathers for their friendship, and I now call upon the Grand Episcopus for a memoriam prayer.'

The Brethren stood to order while the Grand Episcopus offered prayer.

3. MINUTES

On the proposition of the Most Distinguished Grand Summus, the Minutes of the Meeting of Grand Senatus held on 5 May 2022, having been printed and circulated with the Summons, were taken as read, approved and adopted.

4. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On the proposition of the President of the Executive Committee and seconded by the Grand Registrar, the Report of the Executive Committee for the twelve months ended 31 January 2023, having been printed and circulated as **Appendix A** to the Summons, was taken as read, approved and adopted.

5. ELECTION AND PROCLAMATION OF THE GRAND SUMMUS

On the proposition of the Deputy Grand Summus, seconded by the President of the Executive Committee, the Companions unanimously re-elected Most Distinguished Companion Ian Stanley Currans as Grand Summus with acclamation.

The Most Distinguished Grand Summus was then proclaimed by the Grand Director of Ceremonies as follows:

Be it known that IAN STANLEY CURRANS, Past Grand Sword Bearer in the United Fraternity of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England; Past Grand Sword Bearer in the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England; Past Grand Junior Warden in the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas, and Member of the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council (Honoris Causa) 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 High Chancellor 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 Chancellor in the Grand Council of the Order of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas; Past District Grand Prefect for Southern Counties in the Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of England and Wales and Districts and Councils Overseas; Grand Chancellor 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; A member of the VII degree, Honoris Causa, and Freeman of the Society in the Worshipful Society of Freemasons, Rough Masons, Wallers, Slaters, Paviers, Plaisterers and Bricklayers; Past Substitute Provincial Grand

Master in the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Southern Counties of England in the Royal Order of Scotland; Grand Summus, etc., etc., etc., etc., has this day been elected Most Distinguished Grand Summus of the Grand Senatus of the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord in the British Isles and its Districts and Consistories Overseas; whom may the God of our Fathers long preserve.

The Most Distinguished Grand Summus was saluted under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies. The Most Distinguished Grand Summus returned thanks.

6. APPOINTMENT AND PROCLAMATION OF THE DEPUTY GRAND SUMMUS

The Most Distinguished Grand Summus announced that he had reappointed R. Dist. Comp. Francis Charles Spencer as Deputy Grand Summus for the ensuing year.

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

Be it known that FRANCIS CHARLES SPENCER, Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in the United Fraternity of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England; Past Provincial Grand Sojourner in the Provincial Grand Chapter of Warwickshire in the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England; Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas and of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner; Past Great Aide-de-Camp 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 Elected Knight Kadosh, 30th Degree, Knight of the Black and White Eagle in the Ancient and Accepted Rite under the Supreme Council 33rd Degree for England and Wales and its Districts and Chapters Overseas; Past Grand Councillor in the Grand Council of the Order of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas; Past Grand Registrar in the Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of England and Wales and Districts and Councils Overseas; Past Grand Guide 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; A member of the VII Degree, Honoris Causa, in the Worshipful Society of Freemasons, Rough Masons, Wallers, Slaters, Pavors, Plaisterers and Bricklayers; Deputy Grand Summus, etc., etc., etc., has this day been appointed Right Distinguished Deputy Grand Summus of the Grand Senatus of the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord in the British Isles and its Districts and Consistories Overseas; whom may the God of our Fathers long preserve.

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

7. APPOINTMENT AND PROCLAMATION OF THE ASSISTANT GRAND SUMMUS

The Most Distinguished Grand Summus announced that he had reappointed R. Dist. Comp. Howard Saul Markham as Assistant Grand Summus for the ensuing year.

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

Be it known that HOWARD SAUL MARKHAM, Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales; Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in the United Fraternity of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England; Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies 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 Grand Standard Bearer in the Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of England and Wales and Districts and Councils Overseas; Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for the Province of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire 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; Assistant Grand Summus, etc., etc., etc., has this day been appointed and proclaimed Right Distinguished Assistant Grand Summus of the Grand Senatus of the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord in the British Isles and its Districts and Consistories Overseas; whom may the God of our Fathers long preserve.

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

8. ELECTION OF THE GRAND TREASURER

The President of the Executive Committee proposed that R.Dist.Comp. Robert Anthony Henry Morrow, VI, P.G.Vice Chan., be re-elected Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year. The proposition was seconded by the Grand Registrar and carried unanimously.

9. APPOINTMENT OF GRAND OFFICERS

The Grand Recorder read the names of the Companions whom the Most Distinguished Grand Summus had appointed to Grand Rank. The Most Distinguished Grand Summus invested those present:

GRAND OFFICERS 2023/2024

Grand Chancellor.....	Kessick John Jones
Grand Vice Chancellor.....	Thomas Frederick Auber
Grand Episcopus	Cdr Charles Jonathan Aspinell, <i>RD, JP</i> , P.A.G.S.
President of Executive Committee.....	Trevor David Currans, P.G.Chan.
Grand Registrar	Michael John Jennings Singleton, P.G.Vice Chan.
Grand Treasurer	Robert Anthony Henry Morrow
Grand Recorder	Ryan Andrew Williams, <i>OS&J</i> , P.G.Chan.
Grand Director of Ceremonies.....	Phillip John Purves, P.G.Vice Chan.
Grand Lecturers.....	Roger Thomas Alfred Gray Gary Douglas Taylor Peter William Gilkes Peter Ray
Deputy Grand Episcopus.....	The Ven. Dr Geoffrey Kenneth Glover
Deputy Grand Registrar.....	Allan Ramsay Armbrister
Deputy Grand Recorder.....	Daniel Mark Heath, P.G.Lect.
Deputy Grand Directors of Ceremonies.....	Christopher James Bowles Benjamin William Dykes
Grand Heralds	Herbert Keith Emmerson Julian Alan Nicholas Frost
Assistant Grand Directors of Ceremonies	Peter John Ronan Geoffrey Alan Keer Dennis Schiff John David Burgess
Grand Sword Bearer.....	Graham James Roberts
Grand Standard Bearer	Brian Stopford
Deputy Grand Sword Bearer	Andre Ravindran Arul
Deputy Grand Standard Bearer	Errol Erad Clarke
Grand Organist	Paul Gareth Bowen, P.G.Lect.
Deputy Grand Organist.....	Andrew Timothy Morris
Grand Guarder.....	Paul Damian Swarbrick
Assistant Grand Guarder	David William Riddoch
Grand Stewards.....	Pierre Michel Louis Meste John McGriger Norton-Doyle Christopher Mark Sharrinton Robert Edward Stephenson
Grand Watchman.....	<i>vacant</i>

PROMOTIONS

Past Grand Chancellor Stewart Glasgow Carley Robert Anthony Henry Morrow	Paul Anthony Norman Paul William Tarrant
Past Grand Vice Chancellor Christopher Martin Lee Davies Dr Boo Khean Khoo	Michael John Perchard Anne Babu Rajendra Prasad
Past Grand Registrar Michael John Cunliffe Peter Hawken	Michael Sydney Penrose
Past Grand Lecturer Dr MC Black Roger Calverley Raymond Stanley Henry Hussey	Dr Jyothindra Kumar Krishnan Nair Abraham Markos Prof. Denovan Keith Wilson
Past Grand Herald Christopher Court Michael Macready Cross Andrew Timothy Morris Robert Olive	William Anthony Stringer Jonathan Frank Swift Roger Charles Wortley
Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies Stephen Paul Ascott Phillip Gwyn David Ian Andrew Duncan Norman Rhys Leah	Gordon Leaman Alan Mossop James Frederick George Trevillion

PAST RANKS (FIRST APPOINTMENTS)

Past Grand Registrar John Herbert Prizeman	
Past Grand Herald Christian Alexander Givvons Michael Bryan Le Conte	Dr Joseph Fahmy Khalil Marzouk
Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies Dr Surjit Singh Bhalla	Maj. Robert Jordan, <i>TD</i>
Past Grand Sword Bearer James Stewart Allan David Frederick Ashbolt Prakash Aswathiah Anthony Robert William Brazier Alan Cook Timothy Jon Crawshaw George John Deacon Pringle Johnstone Ying Ko Venkata Subba Rao Kolipakam Gordon Robert William MacLean	Thomas Gordon Mitchell Ayyapureddy Brahmaji Narasinga Rao Chatanatha Padincharamadathil Narayanan Dr Ghanshyam Maganbhai Patel Narsimhamurthy Raama Prasad Joseph Simon, <i>JP</i> Steven Nelson Smith Hugh Malcolm Stoddart Dr Govind Sashikumar Welling

Past Grand Standard Bearer

Walter John Astbury
Nishant Bafna
David Baruch
Ralph Evan Beardmore
Richard Charles Callaby
David John Dyer
Kenneth John Edwards
Malcolm Grange
William James Hendry

Mark George Jacobs
Vaidyanathan Kumar Subramanian
Carl Albert McDonald
Terence Colin Nash
Vishwanath Surendra Nayak
Joseph Rodricks
John Laughton Partington Ross
Barry John Stubbings
Arunachalam Suresh Kumar

Past Grand Guarder

Philip Bustin
Francis Edward Patterson

Suresh Kumar Raheja

The Grand Recorder announced the end of the investiture but on this occasion the Grand Summus then requested R.Dist.Comp. Cdr Charles Jonathan Aspinell, *RD, JP, P.A.G.S.*, Grand Episcopus, approach for further promotion and investiture as Past Deputy Grand Summus.

10. TZADDIKIM

The Most Distinguished Grand Summus received the Deputy Captain of the Tzaddikim, Dist.Comp. E. (Seirios) Kokkalis, IV (the Captain, Dist.Comp. D. P. Barden, V, P.G.Her., having been unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances), before being invited to inspect the Tzaddikim.

11. AUDITORS TO GRAND SENATUS

The President of the Executive Committee, under Regulation 13 of the Constitutions and Regulations, proposed that Crowe U.K. LLP, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors, be re-appointed as auditors to Grand Senatus. The proposition was seconded by the Grand Registrar and carried.

12. ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Grand Recorder reported that, in accordance with Regulation 26, nominations for election to the Executive Committee had been received in respect of:

R.Dist.Comp. G. R. Gill, V, Prov.G.S. for West Lancashire
R.Dist.Comp. J. C. Welton, V, Prov.G.S. for Cheshire & North Wales
R.Dist.Comp. K. B. Ferguson, V, P.Prov.G.S. (South Wales & Monmouthshire)

The Most Distinguished Grand Summus announced that there being only three nominations for three places on the Executive Committee, he declared these three Companions duly elected.

13. APPOINTMENTS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Most Distinguished Grand Summus announced that, in accordance with Regulation 26, he had appointed the following Companions to serve on the Executive Committee:

R.Dist.Comp. I. P. Duff, VI, P.A.G.S.
R.Dist.Comp. A. M. Shields, V, Prov.G.S. for East Lancashire
R.Dist.Comp. K. B. Chalkley, *MBE*, V, Prov.G.S. for Devon & Cornwall

14. ADDRESS BY THE MOST DISTINGUISHED GRAND SUMMUS

The Most Distinguished Grand Summus addressed Grand Senatus as follows:

Companions, welcome once again to Grand Senatus. As usual you have come in great numbers and I thank you all for giving up your time to be here. Your enthusiasm for the Order is a real boost to those of us whose job it is to guide it. Together, we must be doing something right, as our total of individual members and memberships is, today, comfortably

at its greatest ever. And looking at developments to come later in the year, this trend will inevitably continue. So well done.

My first task is, of course, to congratulate those appointed and promoted today, as well as those who received the 4th and 5th grades yesterday. A Grand Rank in any Order is something to be cherished; your labour over many years having been rewarded. By all means glow with pride for a couple of weeks, but then contemplate, please, what you can do for the Order with your new status. And I make no apology for pointing out what I suggest should be your course to tackle: find a Candidate (or two) for the OSM. The bigger the OSM, the bigger the pool for our Scarlet Cord anglers to fish in.

Time now for a retrospective of the events of the past twelve months, starting with Provincial Grand Summi. This time last year I told you about the impending installations of Jules Greenwall, Jonathan Wallis and Graham Holden, and they were duly installed for London, Middlesex and Midland Counties. There have now been several other appointments: Alan Webster in West Yorkshire, Dries Van der Burgh in Sussex, Richard Batchelor in Hampshire, Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands, and Allun Jones in South Wales and Monmouthshire. They have replaced respectively John Marrison, Michael Conn, Ian Campbell and Keith Ferguson and we thank them for many years of dedicated and successful service. Companions, your new Provincial Grand Summi. Quite a big turnaround this year. I could say there are no current plans for other changes at this stage, but I don't want to encourage complacency!

As for Consistories, we have added to the roll Tennyson Down Consistory No. 141 (Hampshire, Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands), 1st Monmouthshire Consistory No. 142 (South Wales and Monmouthshire) and the Ian Stanley Currans Consistory No. 100 (West Lancashire – my new favourite Province!). But I think the highlight of the year was in September, when a large team travelled to Toulouse to re-constitute and re-consecrate our three dormant French Consistories: Gallia No. 66, Occitania No. 67 and Avernum (now called Provence) No. 68. We also conducted a Preparation Ceremony, formed the Inspectorate of France and installed our Grand Inspector, Jean-Philippe Dakhil, who we are delighted to have with us today.

In February, a much smaller team flew to Arlington near Washington DC to confer the 6th Grade of the Order on a number of Past Grand Masters and very senior officers of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the USA, under whose auspices Scarlet Cord is worked on that side of the pond. I'm sure our new Grand Chancellor will know that it was the 18th century English poet and playwright William Cowper who said 'travel broadens the mind'. It certainly does – our G.D.C. now knows that grits are not crispy bacon strips but a kind of tapioca pudding that is not a good accompaniment on a single plate to a tomato and mushroom omelette...

So what is on the menu for the coming months? Nine consecrations before Christmas: back to France in October to consecrate four new Consistories (let me know if you want to come); King Arthur Consistory (Somerset and Dorset); Vale of Pickering Consistory (North & East Yorkshire); Charlemagne Consistory (Essex – to meet in Southend and the Netherlands); Wivvnhou Consistory (also Essex); and a peripatetic Consistory, Invictus, based in the Midlands for those who have served in the military – a twin Consecration with a sister OSM Conclave. Founders' spots are still available, so if you have been a soldier, sailor or airman, and are interested, see Morgan McDonald.

As always, details of these events will appear on our Facebook page.

It's now that time when we welcome our visitors from overseas and Heads of Orders here, and I'll ask you to refrain from applauding until they're all introduced.

From France: V.Dist.Comp. Jean-Philippe Dakhil, V, G.Insp., V.Dist.Comp. Christian Amine, IV, P.G.Lect., and Dist.Comp. Pierre Meste, G.Stwd. and Insp.Rec. – a recipient;

From South East Asia: R.Dist.Comp. Derek Shen Leong Lo V, Dist.G.S., and Distinguished Companions Dr Harry Yoon Hiap Chin, V, P.G.St.B.; Keerikattu John Kuruvilla, IV, P.G.St.B.; Andre Ravindran Arul, IV, Dep.G.Swd.B.; and Yoke Lim Chew, IV;

From Southern Caribbean, Dist.Comp. Errol Erad Clarke, IV, Dep.G.St.B., and Dist. Comp. Carl Albert McDonald, IV, P.G.St.B. – both were recipients today;

From Southern India: V.Dist.Comp. Bharat Venkat Epur, V, P.G.Reg., Dist.Comp. Kolassery Sathish Kumar, IV, P.A.G.Gdr., and Dist.Comp. Routhu Varadanarayana Umashankar, V, P.Dep.G.Swd.B., Dist.G.Rec.;

From Spain: R.Dist.Comp. Jose Luis Menoyo-Garcia, V, Dist.G.S., and Dist.Comp. Gordon Ramshead, III, Dist.G.Swd.B.;

From Belgium: V.Dist.Comp. Francis Clarembaux, IV, P.G.Lect. – The Brian Wareham Scarlet Cord Consistory TI (Unattached);

From Hong Kong – Walled City Consistory No. 118 (Unattached):

R.Dist.Comp. Arjun Jhamatmal Hotwani, V, P.G.Vice Chan.; Dist.Comp. Martin Howard Thomas, IV, P.G.Her.; Dist.Comp. Ying Ko, IV, P.G.Swd.B. (a recipient today), and Dist. Comp. John Chung-On Wan, IV.

Heads of Orders here:

From the Mark Degree, Pro Grand Master , and a recipient of P.G.Reg. today, V.Dist. Comp. John Prizeman;

From the Knights Templar, Grand Master and P.Dep.G.S., R.Dist.Comp. Paul Clement;

From the RCC, Grand Sovereign and P.G.Vice Chan., R.Dist.Comp. Graham Flight;

From the R & SM, Grand Master and our new Grand Chancellor, R.Dist.Comp. Kessick Jones;

From the KTP, Grand High Priest and P.G.Vice Chan., R.Dist.Comp. Chris Maiden;

From the Operatives, 1st Grand Master Mason and P.G.Her., Dist.Comp. Paul Mycock;

From the SRIA, the Supreme Magus and new Scarlet Cord recruit, Comp. Tony Llewellyn.

To them and anyone else we have missed, you are all most welcome. Companions, our distinguished guests.

As I draw to a close, it's time to do that most important of all jobs: to thank people. Thanks to our Consistory Recorders, Treasurers and DCs who do so much to enable us to enjoy our Scarlet Cord Masonry on a local level. And to our Provincial, District and Inspectorate Heads and their executive teams, whose contributions are immense. Thanks to this year's Grand Officer ceremonial team, the members of which have been quite outstanding in their commitment, as were so many of their predecessors.

We all owe an enormous debt to the Grand Recorder, Ryan Williams, and his Deputy Dan Heath, who so often draws the short straw in accompanying me on trips. To all the team here at MMH, both in the office and in the Grand Tylers department, with a special word for Chris Griggs who has done much of the work for yesterday and today. To the completely splendid Phillip Purves, our GDC, never fazed by the challenge of odd-shaped temples, odd petitioners and a Grand Summus with an odd predilection for extreme teasing. Phillip's Deputies this year have been assiduous in their duties and the Grand Tzaddikim relentless in their determination to parade at all our events.

Finally, a special thank you to those attending Grand Senatus for the first time today – please stand [applause]. We hope you've enjoyed the experience enough to want to start coming every year from now. If you have had a really good time, come and tell me afterwards. If you've not or think we could be doing things better, tell the Grand Recorder or the G.D.C.

The Scarlet Cord was the talisman that kept Rahab and her family safe at Jericho. May the God of our Fathers keep you safe until we meet again. Thank you for listening. As we say where I come from, that's you!

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Most Distinguished Grand Summus enquired of the Grand Recorder whether he had any further business to bring before Grand Senatus. There was none.

16. CLOSING

Grand Senatus was closed in Ample Form.

