



the Surrey gridiron



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Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees



On Tuesday the 28th of October, Brethren from across the Constitution, and further afield, converged on Freemasons Hall, London, for the annual meeting of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees.

As is the usual custom some of the Surrey delegation met up in Wetherspoon's before going along to Freemason's Hall.



The annual meeting of Grand Council was presided over by M.W.Bro. Thomas Firth Jackson, Grand Master, in his usual warm and welcoming manner.





The meeting included routine business, including the re-election of the Grand Master.

R.W.Bro. Colin Woodcock, MBE, Past District Grand Prefect of London, was appointed, obligated, invested, installed and proclaimed Deputy Grand Master.

The Grand Master conferred Grand Rank appointments and promotions on many Brethren, including several Brethren from the District of Surrey.



Congratulations to the Surrey Brethren who received Grand Honours

Promoted to Past Grand Senior Deacon was our Deputy District Grand Prefect, W.Bro. Bob Tuthill; to Past Grand Junior Deacon were W.Bros. Chris Cradock and John Hawkins; and those receiving a first appointment were W.Bro. Barrie Selway to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, and W.Bro. Steve Jones to Past Grand Standard Bearer.

Several of us were there to support our Brethren, including our District Grand Prefect.





The Grand Master addressed Grand Council. During his Address representatives from International Districts and Masonic Orders were warmly welcomed. Gratitude was expressed to attendees, and congratulations were extended to all those to received appointment or promotion in Grand Rank. .

. After transacting any other business regularly brought before Grand Council Grand Council was closed and we retired for refreshments. At dinner, wine was taken, and Toasts were proposed and responded to, before many made what was for some a long journey home. Thank you to all those who were able to attend and make this another very enjoyable meeting of A.M.D. Grand Council.



Steve Jones and I could not stay to dine as we had to catch the train straight back to Surbiton to attend the Centennial Meeting of Athelstan Craft Lodge.

Thames Valley District



On his final official visit before stepping down from his role, the meeting was delighted to welcome R.W.Bro. Ian Bailey, the Deputy Grand Master. Ian was warmly welcomed into the District meeting and chose not to accept the proffered gavel!

The Thames Valley District held its annual meeting at the Bletchley Masonic Centre on Saturday, 18 October, presided over by the District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. Robert William Chevin. With over 85 members and guests from all points of the compass, the District Grand Prefect was delighted to welcome 11 District Grand Prefects and representatives of 5 other Districts as well as many Heads of Orders.



Having dealt with all matters of an administrative nature, the District Grand Prefect announced that he was appointing W.Bro. Paul Rush as his Deputy. W.Bro. Paul was duly obligated and invested as the Deputy District Grand Prefect with a warning that life was about to get busier!



Having invested his District Officers of the year and welcomed the latest candidates to be Admitted into the Order, the District Grand Prefect received the Mark Grand Master's Keystone Collarette and Jewel, by the Deputy Grand Master, to mark the generous donation made by the District towards the Mark Grand Master's Keystone Appeal.



There followed the District Grand Prefects address, which was promptly followed by a speedy exit from the meeting towards the bar, followed by a delightful and happy luncheon.

All too soon it was over for another year with members and guests returning to their homes with, we hope, happy memories of the day.



Provincial Thanksgiving Service at Guildford Cathedral

The Companion Orders were well represented at the Annual Order of Divine Service held on Sunday the 21st of September 2025. Present were our District Grand Prefect in his role of Provincial Grand Master in the Mark, and representing the Allied Masonic Degrees was our Deputy District Grand Prefect.

The service was led by the Dean, The Very Reverend Bob Cooper, and the Officiating Officers were W.Bro. Chris Eley, Provincial Grand Chaplain, and W.Bro. Ivan Dias-Cooke, Deputy Provincial Grand Chaplain.



After the processions into the Cathedral, The Very Reverend Bob Cooper, welcomed the Brethren, their families and friends. We sang some well-known hymns led by the Provincial Choir and listened to readings from the Provincial Craft and Royal Arch Executive. W.Bro. Chris Eley offered the Bidding Prayer, and the Intercessional Prayers were led by W.Bro. Chris Eley and W.Bro. Ivan Dias-Cooke.



At the end of the Service R.W.Bro. Nick Burger, Provincial Grand Master / ME Grand Superintendent, gave the Closing Address where he thanked the Dean and everyone who helped to make the day such a success. Very Rev. Bob Cooper offered the final Prayer and Blessings, before the Clergy, the RW Provincial Grand Master, and honoured guests retired to the Recessional Organ Voluntary played by the Organist, Bro. James Furness-Roe. We were then invited across to the Seasons Café for refreshments and a chance to catch up with old friends.

We have always had a special relationship with Guildford Cathedral. The middle window bearing the Masonic Province of Surrey crest was donated by Surrey Freemasons at the construction of the Cathedral.

District of West Lancashire



On the 23rd of September, W.Bros. Mike Neville, Norman Jones and Ian Parsons travelled north to represent the District Grand Prefect at the installation of the new head of the District of West Lancashire in Westhoughton, on the outskirts of Bolton.

The land of Fred Dibner and Peter Kay is also Mike's hometown, and he was pleased to show Norman many of the sites (from the pub opposite the railway station!).



The Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Thomas Firth Jackson, performed an excellent installation ceremony, and the members of the Province and guests enjoyed an excellent Festive Board. In true form, the Surrey contingent was the last to leave, and enjoyed the long train journey back to sunny Croydon...

The 2025 Annual Meeting of District Grand Council

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the District Grand Council of Surrey will be held on Saturday the 6th of December 2025 at the Croydon Masonic Hall.

The meeting will commence at 11.00 a.m. and will be followed by lunch at 1.00 p.m.

Brethren should be seated by 10.45.

District Grand Council will be honoured by the presence of our Past Deputy Grand Master

