



# the Surrey mitre



Issue 12 JANUARY 2026

## The Annual Meeting of District 15, Surrey

Surbiton was the venue for our first District Meeting held on Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2026 under the banner of the Surrey Tabernacle No. 27. This was followed by the ceremony of the Order of Holy Wisdom.



It was a busy morning, starting with the meeting of the Surrey Tabernacle, then the Annual District meeting, and then the meeting of the Congregation of The Order of Holy Wisdom to admit seven Aspirants to the Order.

It was so good to have many friends from other Orders in Surrey and other Districts along to share with us our first District Meeting.





After the Surrey Tabernacle No 27 was opened by the High Priest, V.E.Kt.Pt. Eddie Ertan, the Grand Superintendent and High Prelate of Surrey District 15, and distinguished guests and visitors from Grand College and other Districts entered and were warmly received by the High Priest.





After the regular business of the Tabernacle had been completed the Tabernacle was called off and the Annual Assembly of District 15, Surrey, was opened by Rt.Em.Kt.Pt. Peter Vosser, Grand Superintendent.



The Grand Superintendent welcomed the Distinguished Guests and Visitors to the first District 15 Annual Assembly wishing everyone an enjoyable morning, especially the candidates for the Order of Holy Wisdom to follow the District meeting.



A Muster Roll of the Tabernacles in the District was called and the Reports of the District Recorder, Treasurer, Almoner and Pillar Fund Representative were received.

The Grand Superintendent welcomed the new Knight Priests to the District and then appointed his Officers.



III Kt Pt Nigel Harding. CHW PGVI P  
 III Kt Pt Andy Fox. CHW PGI P  
 R Em Kt Leslie Grout. KHW PGVII  
 III Kt Pt Steve Surridge. CHW PGIV P  
 V III Kt Pt Steve Jones. CHW PGVII P  
 III Kt Pt John Coleman. CHW PGIV P  
 Kt Pt Robert Short  
 Kt Pt John Coleman

District Treasurer  
 District Recorder  
 District Director of Ceremonies  
 Deputy District Director of Ceremonies  
 District Pillar Fund Representative  
 District Almoner  
 District Banner Bearer  
 District Almoner

The Grand Superintendent addressed the Knight Priests. ***A copy of his Address is in this issue of the Surrey Mitre.***

The Grand Superintendent closed the Assembly in due form, and the Closing Hymn was sung, followed by The National Anthem.

The Grand Superintendent invited V.E.Kt.Pt. Eddie Ertan to resume the Chair of Surrey Tabernacle, which was closed and the Temple rearranged for the ceremony of the Order of Holy Wisdom.

*Since 2015, when Districts were granted permission by Grand College to confer the Order of Holy Wisdom, Surrey District No 15, except for 2021 when Covid 19 rules were in force, has held a meeting each year and has introduced to date, a total of 55 Aspirants into the Order.*



# Address by our Grand Superintendent to the Annual Meeting of District 15, Surrey

Dear Knight Priests

I would like to start my address by welcoming our guests and visitors

**From Grand College:** PAGHP, Ian Smith who is also our PDistGSupt; DepGHPrelate, Paul Hollebhone; DepGDC, Richard Brown; and GStdB, Malcolm Blackmore.

**From other Districts:** Surrey – Jack Love, our PGSupt; Sussex - Gordon Leamon, GSupt; Hertfordshire - John D Robets, GSupt, accompanied by Philip Hoy, District Recorder, and Dean Moore; Hampshire & Isle of Wight - Malcolm Lloyd, GSupt, accompanied by Peter Hartland, District Recorder; and Middlesex - John Roberts, GSupt.

**Heads of Other Orders in Surrey:** Craft – Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Robbie Dobbie, joining us for lunch, and represented here by Provincial Grand Secretary, Steve Jones; Mark – Provincial Grand Master, John French, who is also the District Grand Prefect of the Allied Masonic Degrees; Knights Templar - Provincial Prior, Pat Crossan; Red Cross of Constantine – Intendant-General, Simon McCarthy; Scarlet Cord – Provincial Grand Summus, Nigel Thompson, joining us for lunch; Order of the Secret Monitor – Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Ian Smith; Royal Order of Scotland – Provincial Grand Master, Jack Love; Masonic Order of Athelstan – Provincial Grand Master, Mark Donovan.

Turning to the District we are in extremely good heart. I would like to recognise the support and guidance from my two predecessors, who provided a stable platform for our future.

Our admission of candidates is in positive territory, and we have enjoyed some joining and rejoining members. Last year our number steadily increased and this year alone we have one new candidate already and three others in the pipeline. As a membership challenge to ourselves I would ask you to consider this. Our challenge should be a target of PLUS ONE or more at the end of the year. I am not talking about comparing admissions and resignations which used to be the benchmark but in terms of total numbers. More admissions than resignations, deaths and honorary memberships as an overall figure. Steady and sustainable growth is the key. You will have noticed we now have flyers and business cards on display in our centres where we meet, and these are now available to members to share with prospective candidates. If you are unsure of the best approach to make, please feel free to speak with myself or one of my executive team.

Another tranche of the membership challenge should be to review attendance. Over the coming year we will be introducing a new system of recording attendance which can be followed up so that we may better understand why a Knight Priest isn't perhaps attending and offering support as necessary.

All members have responded so well to the challenge of supporting each other's meetings and the difference in the warmth of feeling within those meetings and increased levels of enjoyment are palpable. Please keep the momentum going on this initiative.

The support from the members and Tabernacles for the Pillar Fund is second to none and you can all be very proud of the achievements made. It is always a pleasure for me to issue certificates and collarets on official visits. It is good to see agenda items for collections within the meetings but do also please consider supporting via regular giving if so convenient.

You will have noted the earlier agenda item where Annual Reports from the District executive are now being filed, and these will be uploaded to the members' area of the website. Full details will be shared with Tabernacle Recorders. I would recommend them to your most serious perusal as they do contain administrative and ritual guidance that the members will find useful for the enhancement of our meetings. These are likely to be followed up with touchstones throughout the year to further assist with the enjoyment and understanding of our meetings. Particularly useful for newer Knight Priests.

Knight Priests, your love of our order is patently evident, and I hope, God willing, to sit here next year and report on further increases in our membership. I thank you all for your attention and attendance and look forward to the Order of Holy Wisdom with our new Aspirants, which is to follow shortly.

May God bless you all and your loved ones.

*Right Eminent Knight Priest Peter Vossen*

**Grand Superintendent, District 15**

**27<sup>th</sup> January 2026**





# The Order of Holy Wisdom



On Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2026 a Congregation of the Order of Holy Wisdom was held under the auspices of Surrey District 15 at Surbiton Masonic Hall. In attendance was our Grand Superintendent, Rt.Em.Kt.Pt. Peter Vosser, and many honoured guests who had attended the District Assembly.

Surrey Tabernacle No 27 was opened by the High Priest, V.E.Kt.Pt. Eddie Ertan, who welcomed everyone, especially the Grand Superintendent and High Prelate of Surrey District 15, and other guests and visitors. After the regular business of the Tabernacle had been completed V.E.Kt.Pt. Eddie Ertan was declared High Priest and R.III.Kt.Pt. Chris Cradock was declared Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The Tabernacle was called off, and the Annual Assembly of District 15, Surrey, was opened by Rt.Em.Kt.Pt. Peter Vosser, our Grand Superintendent. After our Grand Superintendent had addressed everyone, he closed the Annual Assembly and invited V.E.Kt.Pt. Eddie Ertan to resume the Chair. The Tabernacle was closed and the Temple rearranged for the ceremony of the Order of Holy Wisdom.



A Congregation of the Order was opened by the High Prelate, Kevin McSorley. The High Priest was Graham Rawlinson, the Seventh Pillar Priest was Stephen Surridge, the Reader was Chris Cradock, and the Guide was Leslie Grout.

The Ceremony of admission was conducted for seven Aspirants into the Priesthood of the Order of Holy Wisdom. The Representative Candidate was Kt.Pt. Richard Wileman.

Having undergone purification, he was led to each of the seven pillars where he was questioned and agreed to comply with certain instructions for the rest of his life.

The Aspirants were congratulated by our Grand Superintendent, Rt.Em.Kt.Pt. Peter Vosser, and took their seats in the Congregation while the Reader, R.Em.Kt.Pt. Chris Cradock, gave a short commentary on Holman Hunt's painting "The Light of the World".

The Congregation of the Order of Holy Wisdom was then closed. After the customary group photographs the members of Surrey Tabernacle and their guests sat down to a most enjoyable festive board at the Surbiton Masonic Hall.





# The Order of Holy Wisdom



The Order of Holy Wisdom has been part of the Order of The Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests from very early times. However old rituals showed that it required very lavish clothing, equipment and premises to carry out the Degree. Indeed, so complex and expensive were the requirements that it is hardly surprising that the Degree fell into disuse.

The ritual was sympathetically rewritten to contain all the essentials, but capable of being worked in a much more practical manner. The Order of Holy Wisdom was reintroduced on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2014 as an associated order, quite separate and different from our appendant degrees.

All Knight Templar Priests who joined on or before 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2014 are automatically members of The Order of Holy Wisdom. Those joining after that date must be admitted as OHW members. The Degree is a necessary qualification for the office of High Priest of a Tabernacle. The ceremony is usually worked at District level.

The Grand Superintendent is also a High Prelate of The Order of Holy Wisdom, and the frequency and location of the Degrees are under his direction. Members of the Order of Holy Wisdom wear a Cordelier to signify their membership. The majority of members wear white Cordeliers.



## Tabernacles in the District

### **The Surrey Tabernacle No.27**

Meeting at:

Surbiton Masonic Hall, Surbiton, RH1 KT6

On: 1st Wednesday in July (**Inst**); 2nd Wednesday **Nov**;  
4th Tuesday in January Incorporating The OHW meeting

### **Saxon Tabernacle No. 104**

Meeting at:

Surbiton Masonic Hall, Surbiton, RH1 KT6

On: 2ND Monday June (**Inst**) Last weekday of November

### **Pride of Surrey No.184**

Meeting at:

Sutton Mason Hall, Sutton, SM1 1BB

On: 2nd Friday May (**Inst**); 2nd Friday December

### **Gyldeforda Tabernacle No. 186**

Meeting at:

SWMC, Hitherbury Close, Guildford, GU2 4DR

On: 2nd Friday Jan (**Inst**); 2nd Monday July

### **Chertsey Tabernacle No.195**

Meeting at :

Agincourt Hall, London Road, Camberley, GU15 3JA

On: 4th Monday Feb (**Inst**); 2nd Friday October

### **Holy Trinity Tabernacle No. 212**

Meeting at:

Croydon Masonic Halls, 73 Oakfield Road, Croydon, CR0 2UX

On: 1ST Thursday May (**Inst**); 2nd Monday September

### **North Downs Tabernacle No 299**

Meeting at:

Nutfield Centre, Nutfield Road, Redhill, RH1 4ED

On: 3rd Thursday September (**Inst**); 4th Thursday May

**District 15, Surrey, web site:**

<https://www.surreycompanionorders.com/welcome-k-t-p-o-h-w-home>

