



A Christmas Message from our District Grand Master



As we approach the Festive Season I extend warm and heartfelt greetings to all Royal & Select Masters across Surrey. We should all remember the true meaning of Christmas by celebrating this special time of year in bringing happiness to our families, friends and Companions. And let us remember those who may be facing challenges and in need of comfort or support, keeping alive the charitable heart that defines our fraternity. To quote the American politician, Brigham Young 'Love the giver more than the gift'.

Throughout the past year, Surrey Councils have continued to exemplify the spirit of Cryptic Masonry: working together with dignity, supporting one another, and strengthening the bonds that make our District so special. May we carry that same spirit into our festive celebrations and into the year to come.

I must thank the District Executive, Council Recorders, Treasurers, Directors of Ceremonies and the rest of the Companions who just belong to, and happily support their Councils, in order to further the development and success of this wonderful Order of which I am privileged to be District Grand Master.

As we celebrate this season of hope, may we continue to exemplify the true spirit of Freemasonry and carry our principles of unity, harmony and service into the coming year.

To every Companion, near and far, and to your families and loved ones, may the blessings of Christmas bring comfort, joy, and serenity. May your homes be filled with warmth and laughter, and may the Supreme Master of the Universe watch over you, guiding your steps with light and purpose. May this season bring you time to rest, time to celebrate, and time to appreciate the bonds of friendship that enrich our lives and our Order.

As the American Poet Laureate, Helen Steiner Rice said 'Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day' We can now look forward to the Festive Season and to continuing our great work in the R&SM District of Surrey in 2026. May the Supreme Master of the Universe have you and your loved ones in His Holy Keeping during Christmastide and beyond. Have a Merry Christmas and A Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

With fraternal regards and best wishes,

Bill Caughie

District Grand Master



Christmas Carvery Lunch at Glenmore House



On Sunday the 7th of December, the Glenmore House Sunday Lunch, which has built up an enviable reputation, was enjoyed by Companions of the District of Surrey, along with their partners and friends.

It all started with a casual conversation in the car between Bill Caughie, DistGM, and Stephen Hall, DistGDC, on the way back from a District meeting in Sindlesham.



They agreed that it would be good to organise a family Christmas social event in support of Surrey Royal & Select Master District. Stephen said, 'I can arrange that.' He moved into top gear and made all the arrangements for a Christmas Carvery lunch for 70 guests at Surbiton Masonic Hall on 7th December.

This was the first such Christmas event for our Order, and thanks to Stephen's hard work and organisational skills it proved to be a great success.

The photos show how much everyone enjoyed the occasion with such fine food and great company. Over £300 was raised for charity. It was testimony to the success of the event that everyone wanted to do it again next year. Thank you to everyone who attended the event.





A Cryptic afternoon at Mark Masons' Hall



Monday the 24th of November 2025 was a very busy day for Grafton Council of Anointed Kings No. 16 meeting at Mark Masons' Hall.

The first meeting was to confer the Degree of Excellent Master on 26 Candidates. The Representative Candidate was Ill.Comp. Peter David Williams, Assistant Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.



R.Ill.Comp. Robert J Potts, District Grand Master for Essex, was the Right Worshipful and Excellent Master; R.Ill.Comp. Bryan Hughes, District Grand Master for Cheshire and the Marches, was the Senior Warden; R.Ill.Comp. Peter J Brindle, District Grand Master for Hertfordshire, was the Junior Warden; and R.Ill.Comp. Robert J H Morrow, **P.G.Chan.**, was the Chaplain.

The Director of Ceremonies was R.Ill.Comp. Graham Seeman, **P.G.Coun. G.D.C.**, the three Captains of the Veils were: R.Ill.Comp. Steven Bradford, District Grand Master for North Midlands, Captain of the First Veil (Blue); V.Ill.Comp. Andrew Jennings, **P.G.Lec.**, Captain of the Second Veil (Purple); and R.Ill.Comp. Philip Purves, District Grand Master for Ox, Bucks, and Berks, Captain of the Third Veil (Scarlet).



The Conductor was R.Ill.Comp. Dr Nigel F J Scott-Moncrieff, **G.Coun**; the Organist was V.Ill.Comp. Robert A Scott, **P.G.Lect., G.Org**; the Inner Guard was R.Ill.Comp. Geoffrey J Spencer, District Grand Master for East Anglia; and the Tyler was Ill.Comp. Paul Busby, **P.A.G.D.C., G.Sent**.



It was a most interesting and enjoyable Ceremony conducted by the team in an excellent manner. The Candidates were presented with their Certificates by the Grand Master who gave a most interesting presentation of the origin of this Ceremony in this country. The Surrey Candidate was Ill.Comp. Steven Cann, **P.G.St.B**.



Afterwards the Temple was set out for the Degree of Thrice Illustrious Master, while the Candidates were being prepared.



A meeting of Grafton Council of Anointed Kings was opened by the Thrice Illustrious Master / King David, R.III.Comp. Steven J Bradford, District Grand Master for North Midlands. The Senior Warden / Zadok the High Priest, was R.III. Comp. Phillip Purves, District Grand Master for Ox. Berks and Bucks; the Junior Warden / Nathan the Prophet, was Ill. Comp. Huw J Shooter, P.G.Cond.C; the Narrator was M.III.Comp. Kessick J Jones, Grand Master; the Director of Ceremonies was R.III.Comp. Graham G Seeman, Grand Director of Ceremonies; and the Steward / Beniah, was R.III.Comp. Peter J Brindle, District Grand Master for Hertfordshire.

We were treated to a wonderful ceremony by R.III.Comp. R.III.Comp. Steven Bradford and the team.



The Grand Temple at Mark Masons' Hall was an excellent venue for this very moving ceremony. After being crowned King Solomon III.Comp. David Burton, the Representative Candidate, closed the Council and we all retired for some well-earned refreshments. To end the day there was a regular meeting of the Grafton Council of Anointed Kings chaired by R.III.Comp. Andrew C Sweeney, **P.G.Chan.**, the Grand Supreme Ruler in the Order of the Secret Monitor, Thrice Illustrious Master. R.III.Comp. Vincent John Driver Past District Grand Master for London, was declared Thrice Illustrious Master for the ensuing year.

The Council then received M.III.Comp. Kessick J. Jones, IX Grand Master, R.III.Comp. Paul A. Norman, IX, Deputy Grand Master, and R.III.Comp. Norman D Milburn, IX, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work. The Grand Master was warmly welcomed and took the Chair. He said he was here today to install a new District Grand Master for the District of Kent.





Before doing so he paid tribute to R.III.Comp. Trevor M Sharpe, for all he has done for the District and the Order while District Grand Master.



Ill.Comp. Andrew John Dive, **P.G.Cond.C.**, was Appointed, Obligated, Invested and Installed as District Grand Master for Kent.

He was Proclaimed by the Grand Director of Ceremonies and responded accordingly.



He thanked the Grand Master for the sincere way he was installed and all the Companions of the District of Kent for attending in such numbers to support him.

Grafton Council of Anointed Kings was closed, and we retired for refreshments before sitting down to a most enjoyable meal together at Mark Masons Hall.



The Annual Meeting of the District Grand Council of Middlesex



On Saturday the 22nd of November 2025, a delegation from Surrey drove round the M25 to Hillingdon to attend the Annual Meeting of the District Grand Council of Middlesex. The meeting was held at the Uxbridge Masonic Centre, Hillingdon.



We met up in the dining room for coffee and a chat before getting ready for the meeting.

There were many guests present, including a good number of Right Illustrious Companions from other Districts who came along to support the District Grand Master of Middlesex, R.III.Comp. Chris Lewis, and the Companions of Middlesex.



There were also several Heads and Executive Members of other Orders in Middlesex, including the Provincial Prior of the KT, the Intendant General of the Red Cross of Constantine, and the Provincial Grand Master of the Mark.



The Right Illustrious Companions entered in procession, followed by the District Grand Officers of the year and the District Grand Master, led by the District Grand Sword Bearer and followed by the District Grand Standard Bearer. The meeting was opened by the District Grand Master who welcomed all the honoured guests from other Districts, and Heads of Middlesex Orders, thanking them for their support for the District Grand Council of Middlesex.



After the regular business of the District had been concluded, the District Grand Master had much pleasure in re-appointing as Deputy District Grand Master, Ill.Comp. Graham Stanley Dossett, **P.G.Cond.C.**, thanking him for his support over the past year.

He thanked Ill.Comp. John Simpson, **P.A.G.D.C.**, for all his support as District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work and said he had much pleasure in appointing Ill.Comp. Ken Gordon, **P.G.Cond.C.** as District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.

Ill.Comp. Ken Gordon entered the Council and was obligated, invested, installed and proclaimed as District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work for the District of Middlesex.

Ill.Comp. Ken responded accordingly thanking the District Grand Master and Companions of Middlesex for their best wishes. The Officers of the year were then appointed and invested.

After the District Grand Master had invested his Officers, he addressed District Grand Council.



He thanked all the other Districts for their hospitality over the past year, as well as for coming along to support him and the District today. He congratulated those he had appointed and invested saying he was looking forward to working with them over the next year. He congratulated those who received Grand Rank appointments this year.



District Grand Council was closed in due form and the District Grand Master, attended by the Deputy District Grand Master, the District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, and distinguished guests retired in procession, greeting everyone on their way out. We then retired for pre-lunch drinks.

It was good to see Ill.Comp. John Fleetwood P.G.Cond.C., our Past District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, at the meeting. R.Ill.Comp. Chris Lewis was his seconder into Freemasonry in Ealing Lodge back in 1985.

John said, "*Chris Lewis and I worked at Visnews - a Television News Film Agency in Park Royal, originally known as the British and Commonwealth News Agency (BCINA) part owned by BBC, CBC, ABC and NZBC and Reuters - Chris was in the Laboratory - I in the Telecoms Dept.*

Those were the days before satellite feeds and broadband networks, where the medium was 16mm film. We had some 200 subscribers world-wide. I was Initiated in March 1985.

Unfortunately, despite me slaving as Secretary for two long periods - before and after being their Worshipful Master, Ealing Lodge No. 2662 went to the graveyard some years ago".

He then had much pleasure in inviting R.Ill.Comp. Geoffrey Hawkins to present Ill.Comp. Tom D'Souza with his Silver Trowel Certificate. R.Ill.Comp. Geoffrey, who will be 100 in a few weeks' time, was King David for the Thrice Illustrious Master Ceremony at Brunel Council. Finally, he thanked the District Grand Recorder and the District Grand Director of Ceremonies and their teams for all they had done to make the meeting such a success.





It was a very convivial lunch with good food and good company. The Beef Wellington was excellent and the trifle the best I have tasted anywhere. Thanks very much to the excellent caterers at the Uxbridge Masonic Centre.

After the meal the Deputy District Grand Master proposed the Toast to the District Grand Master, who responded appropriately. We then made our way home, braving the traffic on the M25.

District Grand Council of Surrey web site:
[Companion Orders of Surrey - Royal & Select Masters](#)

