



## The Ancient Masonic Order of Alfred the Great



The Annual Assembly of the Southern Shires in the Ancient Masonic Order of Alfred the Great was held on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2026 at the Winchester Masonic Centre, Alresford Road, Winchester, with the Grand Chancellor of the Southern Shires, Sir Kt Lionel B Mee, *GCh, GCAG*, presiding.



It was good to get together for coffee with the Knights of the Southern Shires and our guests in the bar before the meeting.





The Grand Chancellor entered in procession, and after the singing of the Opening Hymn, the Grand Chancellor opened the third Annual Meeting of the Southern Shires Council. The Grand Chancellor was saluted under the direction of Sir Knight Marshal of Ceremonial, Sir Knight Simon Polkinghorne, *GCAG*. The meeting then remembered departed Knights.



A Procession was formed to escort the Sovereign Grand Master, Sir Kt Dr Christopher W G Ansell, into the Temple. The Sovereign Grand Master was saluted under the direction of Sir Knight Marshal of Ceremonies.

The next item was to admit 16 Knights to the Grade of Knight of the Ancient Masonic Order of Alfred the Great (KAG), including from the Province of Sussex, John Billett, Hugh Everitt, Michael Fuller, Mark Gannaway, Roger Huntley, Stephen Jones, Jack Love, and Derek Williamson.



The Grand Chancellor invited the Sovereign Grand Master to join him in presenting the Candidates with their KAG Certificates.



The Knight Collector of the Geld for the Southern Shires, Sir Knight Anthony S.R. Pinnell *KCAG*, being the only nomination, the Grand Chancellor declared him elected.

The Grand Chancellor then appointed and invested the Officers of the Southern Shires.



The meeting received the Knight Collector of the Geld's financial report and Account Examiners for the Southern Shires Accounts for the ensuing Year were elected.

The Grand Chancellor then addressed the Assembly. He said how good it was to see so many at the meeting of the Regional Council of the Southern Shires and thanked everyone for their support.

The Grand Chancellor closed the meeting of the Southern Shires. The Grand Chancellor accompanying the Sovereign Grand Master retired in procession, before returning for the customary photographs.



After refreshments the Knights of the Southern Shires and their guests sat down to a most enjoyable lunch together.



*Photos by Chris Eley and Satish Dhir*



# The Installation meeting of The Court of Sion Abbey



On Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2026 at the Twickenham Masonic Centre, the Court of Sion Abbey No. 126 were honoured with a visit by our Deputy Provincial Grand Master W.Bro. Bernard Marchant, *KCAG*, *PSGD*, and Officers of Provincial Grand Court.



The Court was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Felix Brown, who welcomed all the visitors. At the meeting were Chris, Simon and Derek who had all been to a Scarlet Cord meeting at Surbiton that morning. After a report at the door the Deputy Provincial Grand Master entered, was welcomed by the Worshipful Master, accepted the gavel, and took the Chair.



He introduced the Provincial Team and took the minutes. He then invited the Worshipful Master to resume the Chair.

The main item on the agenda was to Install Bro. Kevin Saunders as Master for the ensuing year. This was done in an excellent manner by the Worshipful Master, assisted by his Officers. W.Bro. Kevin was congratulated by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master who wished him a successful and enjoyable year in the Chair of The Court of Sion Abbey.



After the Officers of the year were appointed and invested the Court received a most interesting talk by W.Bro. Gordon Smith.



The Court was closed and after refreshments the Brethren of The Court of Sion Abbey and their guests sat down to dine.



# Another Candidate for the Sword of Constantine Court

At the regular meeting of Sword of Constantine Court No 120 in March 2026 the members of the Court were pleased to Instruct Brother Bob Oddy into the Order.

Before the meeting I popped next door to see our Court Secretary doing his day job and to meet our candidate, who works in the Provincial Office. I've known Bob for several years and have assisted in his admission into many Masonic Orders.

The Court was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Norman Jones, who welcomed everyone.



A ballot was taken for the candidate for Instruction, W.Bro. Bob Oddy. The Worshipful Master invited W.Bro. Leslie Grout to conduct the Ceremony of Instruction.

This he did in an excellent manner, with assistance from W.Bro. Richard Morgan who acted as Junior Warden, and W & Em. Bro. Chris Eley, *KAG.*, Provincial Eminent Grand Prior, who explained the Emblems of Mortality.



Bro. Bob said how much he had enjoyed the ceremony and thanked the brethren for the warm welcome he had received.



The Court was then closed, and after photographs and refreshments, the members of the Sword of Constantine Court sat down to a most enjoyable curry supper at the Croydon Masonic Hall.





# Congratulations



Congratulations to those Brethren who will be appointed, promoted, or receive a first appointment in Provincial Grand Court at the Annual Meeting held at Chichester on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2026.

## Active Rank

Deputy Provincial Grand Master	W Bro Bernard Marchant, <i>KCAG</i> , <b>PSGD</b> .
Eminent Prior	W & Em Bro Christopher W Eley, <i>KAG</i> , <b>PGBannerB</b> .
Senior Warden	W Bro Satish Dhir, <i>KAG</i> .
Junior Warden	W Bro Varinder Dhir, <i>KAG</i> .
Secretary	W Bro Colin E Wilson, <i>KAG</i> , <b>PGBannerB</b> .
Registrar	W Bro Andrew Fox, <i>KAG</i> , <b>PGBurgh</b> .
Treasurer	W Bro John C W Hickman, <i>KCAG</i> , <b>PDepGSwdB</b> , PPrSGW.
Marshal	W Bro Michael J Wiles, <i>KAG</i> .
Almoner	W Bro George Rodger, <i>KAG</i> , <b>PGCofG</b> .
Sword Bearer	W Bro Peter Jack
Deputy Marshal	W Bro John Billett, <i>KAG</i> .
Senior Deacon	W Bro Tan Rusby
Junior Deacon	W Bro Robert Toogood
Organist	V W Bro Matthew R Burt, <i>KCAG</i> , <b>GOrg</b> .
Banner Bearer	<b><i>W Bro Stephen Campbell (Decd.)</i></b>
Captain of Guards	W Bro Colin Thurman
Burgh	W Bro Kenneth Chandler
Guard	W Bro Alan Hall

## Promotion in Past Rank

Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden	W Bro Ian Neve
Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer	W Bro Derek Williamson, <i>KAG</i> .
Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon	W Bro Michael Lloyd

## First Appointment to Past Rank

Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon	W Bro Toby Pratt
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# The 2026 Annual Assembly

The Annual Assembly of the Provincial Grand Court of Sussex will be held on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2026 at The Masonic Hall, 7 South Pallant, Chichester.

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

