

The Ancient & Accepted Rite



District of Worcestershire The District Diary - Edition 23

~ Christmas 2025 ~

This District Diary is for distribution by the Chapter Recorder to all members of their respective Chapters either by email or sent as hard copy by post.

1. Introduction

Inspector General's Christmas Message 2025



***By our INSPECTOR GENERAL
V.:. Ill.:. Bro Ian M Fothergill, 33°***

Dear Brethren,

Reflections on the Christmas Season

It has been a very good start to this masonic season with new Perfectees and a number of Candidates in the 'pipeline'. May I thank you all for your continued, much appreciated support of your Chapters, the District and the Order in general and long may you continue to enjoy this beautiful Order.

The Approach of Christmas

As autumn surrenders to winter, the long nights, hardening ground, and biting frosts serve as reminders that Christmas is on the horizon. Across towns and cities, houses glow with twinkling lights, and Christmas trees,

decked in their finery, are visible from every street corner. Shops bustle with activity, their shelves brimming with festive food and gifts, as families plan to get together and share in the joy of the season.

The Significance of Christmas

Christmas stands as one of the most important Christian and cultural celebrations, marking a time of spiritual reflection and communal festivity. For Christians, it is a poignant moment to honour the foundations of their faith, recalling the birth of Jesus Christ, and celebrating God's love for the world. Churches fill with carols, prayers, and acts of kindness, reminding believers of the deeper meaning behind the holiday's traditions.

Traditions: A Tapestry of Influences

In Western societies, the Christmas season weaves together strands of pre-Christian, Christian, and secular practices. The giving of gifts, the feasting, and the decorating of homes all draw from various historical roots. The winter solstice, recognised in pagan traditions, and the theme of the return of light, intertwine with Christian symbols of hope and renewal.

Cultural Perspectives Across Faiths

For those of other faiths, Christmas is seen through diverse lenses. Many Muslims honour Jesus as a revered prophet, though they do not observe Christmas as a religious event. Some Buddhists embrace the spirit of peace and goodwill associated with the season, while Jewish families and humanists may gather to

celebrate the cultural aspects - family, friendship, and generosity - apart from religious significance. Certain pagan groups focus on the solstice and celebrate the natural cycle of darkness yielding to light. All these perspectives contribute to the rich mosaic that is the festive season.

Global Realities: A Call to Peace and Understanding

Yet as we revel in warmth, joy, and togetherness, it is vital to remember that not everyone experiences peace or abundance at this time of year. Many regions continue to grapple with conflict, poverty, and the consequences of man's inhumanity to man. The Christmas season, dedicated to peace and understanding, calls for reflection and action - inviting us to extend compassion and support to those in need, both near and far.

Looking Forward

As we gather in homes filled with laughter and light, let us look beyond our own celebrations to embrace the true spirit of Christmas: kindness, hope, and a commitment to making the world a better place. May this season inspire us all to foster peace, understanding, and goodwill - not just for a few weeks, but throughout the coming year.

May I wish you and your families a Joyful, Peaceful and Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Ian



2. Supreme Council

Wonderful Wednesday



On a bright and sunny morning of Wednesday 3rd December 2025, Ill.: Bro's

Phil Abram, Steve Hillard, Justin Randle and Perry Connor travelled to Duke Street to receive their well-deserved 30°, promotions. With the exception of Ill.: Bro Randle who was already in London, the remainder, accompanied by the IG, Former IG, DR plus five other guests, met at Henly-in-Arden coach depot ready to head for Grand East. It was a tight fit on the 19-seater 'mini-coach' which had been ordered, as all eleven of us had to squeeze into a 52-seater coach. A brand-new coach at that..... Lovely.



The journey from Henley to London went exceptionally well and we arrived at Mark Masons Hall in very good time allowing us to enjoying our now customary pre 10 Duke Street Higher Degrees meeting, Soup & Sandwich lunch - with a glass of wine with compliments of the IG.



On completion of a generous and very satisfying lunch, the party moved to 10DS to witness a most spectacular 30°, ceremony performed as always by members of the Supreme Council. I'm sure it gets better and better every time. Apart from the quite superb delivery of the ceremony and it's lectures, the Sovereign Grand Commander's explanation of the background and history of the degree, and in particular one of the signs was fantastic. And a special mention if I may for the work of the V.: Ill.: Bro Surg Cdr N F J Scott-Moncrieff 33°, *Grand Director of Ceremonies*. If ever you want to witness exactly how ritual should be

delivered with such passion, dedication and sincerity, with a bit of humour thrown in for good measure, then when qualified, do book yourself in to attend a Higher Degree meeting.....

Following the meeting, everyone retired back to Mark Masons Hall to enjoy a quality evening meal before our long journey home. I am sure those that witnessed 10DS for the first time will look forward to a return in the not-too-distant future.



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Rose Croix Pull-Up Banners



Pull-up or Pop-up Banners are now available for promoting our beautiful Order. They follow the same design as the recent promotional leaflets that were produced last year, designed to draw interested parties to the Supreme Council website where further enquiries can be made.

Any Chapters, (after consultation with their respective Masonic Centre Committee) that wishes to obtain one can do so by contacting the District Recorder. Cost of banner £45.00.

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3. The District



In Memorium

It is with great sadness that we record the passing to the Grand Chapter Above of the following brethren since the last newsletter was published:

Ill. Bro R Ayling 30° - July 2024

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AWESOME OCTOBER SATURDAY



On a bright and clear Saturday morning of the 18th October 2025, Ill. Bro Charles Dyer 32°, (Preceptor of the MRCCI), Ill. Bro Mike Tonkin 31°, and Ill. Bro Taff Hill 31°, (both Deputy Preceptors), travelled to Belper in Derbyshire for a super morning / early afternoon meeting. They joined some 100 brethren including the Most Illustrious Bro Sir Andrew Parmley, *PhD FRCO*, 33°, Grand Captain General, and several Inspectors General from too many Districts to mention, as guests of the Strutt Chapter RC No 1001 (District of Derbyshire) Demonstration of the 25th Degree '***Knight of the Brazen Serpent***'.

The meeting was opened in the 30°, by Most Illustrious Bro Sir Andrew Parmley, *PhD FRCO*, 33°, Grand Captain General who welcomed everyone to the Belper Masonic Hall and explained what was about to take place. The Demonstration Team took their places and delivered a most remarkable, informative and delightful ceremony. A real treat for all those present.

On completion of the Ceremony the Grand Captain General gave a vote of thanks to the demonstration team which was greeted with extended acclaim.

Everyone then retired for a convivial drink's reception followed by a very enjoyable Dinner in the Refectory.

Many thanks from the District of Worcestershire to the District of Derbyshire for a delightful afternoon of Rose Croix Masonry.

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Halesowen Chapter RC No 615 Sunday Lunch



Another Super Sunday at Halesowen Chapter

On Sunday 22nd June 2025, the members of Halesowen Chapter held what has become their Annual and very successful Sunday Lunch at Newfields.

This well supported event is unique in the District and allows Partners, Family and Friends to enjoy the ambiance and friendship which our Order and its members generate.

Following an excellent 3 Course meal the assembled company were once again enthralled by Dr. Kate Round, PhD, whose knowledge of the history of glass and glass making and its significance in our area is quite incredible.

Another day where our Order and Halesowen Chapter in particular has shown the social side that can be enjoyed in our beautiful Order.

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Chapter Representatives

At the MRCCI AGM on the 30th August 2025, a discussion took place to consider the introduction of 'Chapter Representatives' within each District. The representative being one of the Districts own Deputy Preceptors of the MRCCI. The IG is keen that if, for eg, there is no actual ceremony to perform, Chapters rehearse the ritual of the Perfection ceremony - always looking to involve the 18°, members whenever possible rather than ask the District

to provide a paper. It would also prove beneficial to hold a rehearsal several days before a meeting which of course some chapter do. Therefore, the IG has requested the following Deputy Preceptors to make themselves available to support the chapters for which they will assume responsibility:

III.° Bro David Emery 31°

Halesowen, Breme, St Mary & All Saints, St Nicolas

III.° Bro Gordon Stacey 31°

Gervase Paganel, Oldswinford, Merston Culy, St Francis of Assisi.

III.° Bro Mike Tonkin 31°

Bordesley Abbey, St Ann of Malvern, St Dunstan.

III.° Bro Taff Hill 31°

Evesham, Worcestershire, Northfield.

All Chapters have been requested to insert / publish the name of their respective Chapter Representative on all future Summons, in a similar way as do many Craft Lodges do in the Province of Worcestershire.

Chapter Representatives will not be expected to attend every meeting (other than their own Chapters of course) but will act as a liaison with the Chapter Recorders and offer as much support and advice as they are able to provide. Their attention must be given to the development and retention of our 18°, members and involve them in our ritual as much as possible. Chapters will not be expected to burden any costs for the Representatives visit.

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4. Chapters

Breme Chapter RC No 862



Picking up from where we left off..... Being the last Chapter to meet at the end of last season and the first Chapter to meet in the new season, Breme Chapter met for their 132nd Regular meeting on Wednesday 3rd September 2025.

Unfortunately, the MWS, Chapter Recorder and one or two other members of the Chapter were unavailable for the meeting due to a

variety of reasons including would you believe, being in Holiday!!!!

Never the less the Chapter was in safe hands with Ill.:Bro Richard Noakes 30°, occupying the Sovereigns Chair, and Ill.:Bro Charles Dodge 32°, occupying the Recorders desk, both of whom looked remarkably 'at home' ensuring that the 12 members present had an enjoyable evening.

Ill.:Bro Richard Noakes 30°, Opened the Chapter, and proved the Minutes of the previous meeting. The next item on the Agenda was to conduct a Ballot for V.: Ill.:Bro Ian Fothergill 33°, Inspector General of the District of Worcestershire to become an Honorary Member of the Chapter. The Ballot proving clear, the IG was welcomed into the Chapter for which he was most sincerely delighted and thanked the Chapter for the honour.

The MWS declared E&P Bro Adam Lewis 18°, Most Wise Sovereign elect for the ensuing year, and Ill.:Bro N J Evans 30°, would continue as Treasurer.

Those present were then treated to a delightful paper titled 'The Words of the 18th Degree'. The interesting and informative paper was divided into 5 sections and was made all the more interesting by the enthusiastic delivery by all 5 members of the Chapter selected to present it.

On completion of the Third Point, the MWS Closed the Chapter, and dining after the meeting was taken at a local, popular, curry house.

Next meeting - WED 06 MAY 26 (E).

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Bordesley Abbey Chapter RC No 918



On Monday 22nd September 2025 12 members of the Order including the Inspector General, mustered at the Redditch Masonic

Hall for the 123rd Meeting of the Chapter.

Unfortunately, the MWS had gone down with Covid and other Officers were unavailable due to work commitments it was therefore deemed necessary to defer the projected Perfection until the January 2026 Meeting.

The Chapter Officers invited a regular visitor Ill.: Bro.: Mike Tonkin 31°, to occupy the Chair for the evening which he was both honoured and delighted to do.

The normal administrative requirements having been conducted, the Inspector General delivered a paper entitled "The Foundation and History of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite." This followed on from the Grand Priors visit to the District last October and the paper previously written by the Inspector General explaining why the Order had dispensed with the requirement for prospective members to sign the Petition of Allegiance to the Trinitarian Faith, given that in its original form the Order never required such a commitment.

Following the Risings the MWS in the Chair conducted an excellent Third Point and on closing the members retired to the Refectory where, thanks to a significant donation from the Inspector General eight members enjoyed a very good two course meal.

Over coffee an interesting and hopefully fruitful conversation took place with everyone involved regarding the current problems with numbers attending and the demands of the caterers for minimum numbers they require to provide a service.

A convivial meeting was enjoyed by all.

Next meeting - MON 26 JAN 26.

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St Ann of Malvern Chapter RC No 606



On Friday 26th September 2025 12 members of the Order including the Inspector General and District Recorder, met at Rainbow Hill.

After singing the Opening hymn, and Opening the Chapter, the MWS, Ill.:Bro Charles Dyer, 32°, offer his Baton & Chair to the IG, but not even he could persuade the IG to retain them and conduct the evenings proceedings.....

The main event of the evening was to receive a talk of masonic interest - '**The Words of the 18th Degree**'. The very interesting and most informative paper was 'shared' between the

MWS, Recorder, Treasurer & IPS of the Chapter and was enjoyed by all present.

There was then an additional item on the Agenda with Ill.: Bro Roger Hall-Jones 31°, presented a super history of the Chapter, marking their 60th year anniversary. The MWS thanked Ill.: Bro Hall-Jones for taking the time and excellent level of research in putting such an informative paper together.

Following the Risings, the MWS conducted the Third Point. The Chapter was Closed and everyone retired to the Refectory to enjoy a hearty Steak & Ale pie main course which rounded off a wonderful evening.

Next meeting - MON 26 JAN 26.

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St. Francis of Assisi Chapter RC No 711



Saturday 27th September 2025 witnessed another mile stone in the history of St Francis of Assisi Chapter RC No 711 when they welcomed Bro Ravinder Mohan Dhody into our beautiful Order.

Members gathered for a late morning / early afternoon of captivating ritual - a fine example of Rose Croix masonry at its best.

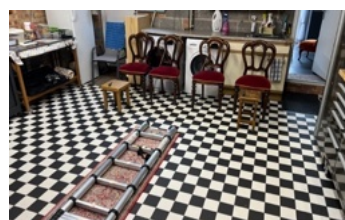
V.: Ill.: Bro Ian Fothergill 33°, IG of the District of Worcestershire, V.: Ill.: Bro Stephen Fowler 33°, IG of the District of Warwickshire, and V.: Ill.: Bro Dr Richard Hoare 33°, Past IG for the District of Worcestershire were escorted into the Chapter by the DC and the MWS Offered his Chair & Baton to the IG, asking him to "do the ceremony". The IG was very flattered by this request but informed the MWS that he was much better prepared to do it himself.....

Before Opening the Chapter, the Prelate gave the Prayer for St Francis of Assisi.

The MWS Opened the Chapter and confirmed the Minutes of the previous meeting. Following successful Ballots for i) a Perfectee and ii) two Joining Members, Bro Ravinder Mohan Dhody was Perfected in a most delightful ceremony with Ill.: Bro Gerald Jinks 32°, presenting the Intermediate Degrees; E&P Bro Neil Nicholls 18°, the Black Room, Ill.: Bro Simon Jinks 30°, (MWS) the Red Room; E&P Bro Richard

Pinner 18°, the Collar & Signs and the IG giving the Accolade. Very well done to all concerned.

The next item on a very busy Agenda was the Enthronement of E&P Bro Neil Nichols 18°. The MWS Enthroned his successor in another example of fine ritual. With the knowledge that the Chapter was in good hands, the Past IG was delighted to give the Address to the Sovereign, and the 'New' MWS appointed and invested his officers, The Inspector General rounded off a marvellous Enthronement with the Address to the Princes.



It was evident that lots of hard work and preparation had been committed to making the whole meeting a most

memorable occasion. Indeed, it is strongly rumoured that masonic fairies have been hard at it and constructed a new lodge room somewhere in darkest Droitwich - built specifically for the Chapter rehearsals.



On completion of the Third Point and before retiring to the Refectory, members of the Chapter gathered for some 'happy snaps' before enjoying an excellent 3 course lunch. A fantastic meeting and great company enjoyed by all.

Next meeting - SAT 24 JAN 26.

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Worcestershire Chapter RC No 970



On Saturday 4th October 2025, Worcestershire Chapter 970 hosted the second 'District Annual

Meeting' at Rainbow Hill Freemasons Hall, another successful event and another day to remember.

Ill.: Bro Bill Roberts 30°, the MWS, opened the Chapter and warmly welcomed the Inspector General of Worcestershire, and all the visitors. Upon being proffered the Baton, the IG received it with great pleasure and informed the MWS that he was delighted to retain the Baton and Chair whilst he conducted the next 5 items on the Agenda.

The IG also welcomed everyone present and was delighted to introduce the Inspector General of Berkshire, V.:III.:Bro David Jarvis 33°, along with his District Recorder, and the DR for Gloucestershire & Herefordshire. Remembering of course, that the Inspector General of Warwickshire, V.:III.:Bro Stephen Fowler 33°, being a member of and 1st General of the Chapter.

Formal introductions over, the IG set about confirming and approving the Minutes of the previous meeting and continued with the very busy schedule.

The IG requested that the DR read out the names of those brethren in the District that had passed to the Grand Chapter Above in the 12 months since the last meeting. The Prelate then recited a solemn prayer for the departed brethren whilst the Organist played 'The Day thou Gavest' quietly in the background.....

After informing the IG that all Chapters in the District were represented, the DR was pleased to present a District annual report which included details of all Perfections, Resignations, Joiners / Re-joiners, general District statistics, and several 'special events and notices'.

Immediately after handing the Chair back to the MWS, the IG asked the DR to name all those who were promoted to the Higher Degrees between 1st July 2024 and 30th September 2025. Those promoted were presented to the IG, who congratulated them individually and shook their hands.

The MWS continued with the Agenda and declared V.:III.:Bro Stephen Fowler 33°, the MWS -elect, III.:Bro Mark Thomas 31°, as Treasurer, and III.:Bro Gerald Jinks 32°, as the Outer Guard for the ensuing year.

The next item on the Agenda was the patiently waited for presentation by the IG, V.:III.:Bro Ian Fothergill 33, entitled '**The Foundation and History of the Ancient & Accepted Rite of Scottish Freemasonry**'. The talk was well presented, entertaining and informative. Several brethren agreed that there was so much about this beautiful Order that they just did not know about and presentations such as this made many things so much clearer.

6 Joining Members were then announced by the Recorder, and a ballot took place to secure

their membership into the premier Chapter of the District.

With the very busy schedule complete, the MWS conducted the Third Point and Closed the Chapter. Everyone retired to the Refectory and settled down to enjoy a delightful lunch.

Another hugely successful meeting enjoyed by all.....

Next meeting - MON 30 MAR 26.

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Gervase Paganel Chapter RC No 316



The Chapter met on Thursday 9th October 2025. The MWS, E&P Bro M Winfield 18°, Opened the Chapter and warmly welcomed the Inspector General saying "we are delighted that you could be with us". The IG with his well-known, light hearted and positive repartee answered, "to be honest, I am delighted to be anywhere". The MWS endeavoured to hand his baton and Chair to the IG, but continued repartee indicated that he would decline the kind and generous offer.....

The Chapter Recorder then read the Minutes of the previous meeting (April 2025), which were duly confirmed by the members of the Chapter and signed by the MWS and IG.

The MWS then had great pleasure in Appointing & Investing two members who were unable to attend the Enthronement meeting - E&P Bro D Preece 18°, as Marshal, and III.:Bro T Wooldridge 32°, as Captain of the Guard.

The next item on the Agenda was to demonstrate parts of the ceremony of Perfection focusing on the Intermediate Degrees in particular. The MWS conducted this part of the ceremony in an excellent manner. An additional item on the Agenda was a talk by the IG in which he described in great detail all of the degrees of the Ancient & Accepted Rite. This was an interesting and well received presentation.

The remainder of the business and the Third Point were carried out by the MWS, and after the closing of the Chapter, members retired to enjoy a super, hearty dinner in the Refectory.

Note of Interest.

Gervase Paganell was a medieval English baron and Lord of Dudley Castle who lived in the 12th century. He is known for his role in a rebellion against King Henry II, which resulted in the demolition of his castle. He also founded the Cluniac priory of St James in Dudley and is credited with probably founding the first Church of St Thomas for the town's residents.

Next meeting - THU 15 JAN 26.

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Evesham Chapter RC No 994



On Thursday 16th October 2025 the Chapter gathered at their Swan Lane home for a meeting decimated by several absences due to sickness or urgent work commitments,

with some apologies received less than an hour before the meeting was due to begin..... Nevertheless, with gaps suitably filled with willing volunteers, the MWS, E&P Bro J Battell 18°, Opened the Chapter for a most enjoyable and well-constructed evening.

Immediately after Opening, the Inspector General was warmly welcomed into the Chapter by the MWS, who offered the IG his Baton & his Chair. The IG thanked the MWS for the honour and pleasure, however politely declined and returned the Baton to the MWS.

The brethren confirmed the of the Minutes of the Enthronement meeting last June which was duly signed by the MWS & IG. The MWS also signed the Minutes of the Officers and Past Sovereigns meeting held via ZOOM on Tuesday evening previous to this meeting.

The next item on the Agenda, the MWS Invested Ill.:Bro M Hadden 30°, as the Assistant Director of Ceremonies as he was unfortunately absent from the Enthronement meeting.

The IG then had great pleasure in presenting the MWS with his Enthronement Certificate. The IG stated that Evesham was one of the few Chapters in the District that rewarded their MWS in recognition of the important, hard work carried out by a member enroute to his Enthronement as the MWS - quite rightly

recognised with a certificate from the Supreme Council 33°. The MWS thanked the IG and also the Chapter for the certificate.

With the Chapter Recorder acting as the Candidate, the MWS gave a commendable performance of the Second Point, accompanied and well supported by E&P Bro T McMillan 18°, as Raphael. Assured performances by both of them which looks good for the anticipated Perfection ceremony planned for the next meeting in March. Thanks (once again) to Ill.:Bro Mike Tonkin 31°, who also assisted the demonstration as the Marshal. What would this District do without the ever presence of Mike? Thank you.

The Chapter was then treated to an excellent presentation of ***The Words of the 18°***. The paper was broken down into 'manageable chunks' and delivered by four members of the Chapter. One or two of the more senior members of the Chapter commented on how useful and informative this paper was.....

With Alms collected and a Candidate for Perfection being proposed, the MWS conducted the Third Point and Closed the Chapter. Members retired to the Refectory to enjoy an excellent dinner.

Great meeting, great company.

Next meeting - THU 26 MAR 26.

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St Nicolas Chapter RC No 198



On Friday 24th October 2025, 11 members of the Order including 8 members of the Chapter 2 Visitors and the Inspector General attended the Enthronement Meeting of the Chapter held in No 3 Temple at Freemasons Hall, Kings Heath.

The IG was escorted into the Chapter by the DC and welcomed by the MWS who in deference to his rank offered him the Baton. The IG politely declined and the MWS then Opened the Chapter in solemn form.

Both Visitors were requested to fill Offices, Ill.:Bro Mike Tonkin 31°, as 1st General and Ill.:Bro Martyn Hardeman 30°, as both Capt of the Guard and Outer Guard.

Following the confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting the next item was to Proclaim Ill.: Bro Stephen Middleditch, 31°, as MWS for the Second Year. Following which he appointed and invested his Officers, and the IG gave the Address to the Chapter.

The next item was for 5 members of the Chapter to present the paper 'The Words of the 18th Degree'. On completion and given the author, (the IG), was in the room a brief discussion took place on the why and purpose of the paper.

Following the Celebration of the Third Point the meeting Closed, and the members retired to the Refectory to enjoy a very pleasant convivial meal.

A very good evening of fraternal Rose Croix enjoyment.

Next meeting - FRI 27 FEB 26.

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St Dunstan Chapter RC No 12



On Wednesday 29th October 2025, 28 members and visitors including the Inspector General and the District Recorder assembled at the Worcester Masonic Centre.

The IG was escorted into the lodge room by the DC and the MWS did his utmost to tempt the IG to occupy his Chair for the evening. Alas the IG made gave a gracious refusal informing the MWS that there was far too much work to be done, and that he himself would be far better prepared.

After Opening the Chapter, the members present confirmed and approved the Minutes of the previous meeting, which were duly signed by the MWS & IG respectively. The Recorder then proceeded to read the Minutes of their Regular meeting of 100 years ago, during which a Perfection ceremony was the main item on the Agenda.

Following a successful ballot, Bro James Richard Turpin was perfected in an excellent ceremony and after signing the Golden Book, took his seat in the Chapter. E&P Bro Ian Trennan 18°, conducting the Intermediate Degrees, The MWS E&P Bro Karl Haines 18°, the First & Second Points, and E&P Bro David

Boorn 18°, the Collar & Signs. A particularly pleasing aspect of the Perfection was that **all** of the ceremony was conducted by members of the 18°. And it was once again, very pleasing indeed to see half of those present wearing Red collars.

Before carrying out the Risings, the IG had the most pleasant task of presenting Ill.: Bro Bill Mason 30°, with his **30°, Knight of Kadosh**, certificate - some 7 years after actually becoming elected to the 30°, **and** on his birthday!!!. Another first for the District in general and the IG in particular. Please contact Ill.: Bro Bill if you require an explanation of how and why this happened (his delayed certificate, not his birthday).....

The MWS conducted Third Point and Closed the Chapter, with everyone retiring to the Refectory to enjoy a lovely meal and in such good company.

Next meeting - WED 14 JAN 26.

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St Mary & All Saints Chapter RC No 688



On Thursday 30th October 2025, 22 members including the Inspector General and District Recorder were

warmly welcomed to the Chapter at Stourport Freemasons Hall.

The DC announced the IG at the door and escorted him into the room. The MWS, V.: Ill.: Bro Dr Richard N Hoare, 33°, Former Inspector General made a most commendable attempt for the IG to retain his Baton and Chair for the evening. Well, if a former IG was unable to tempt the current IG into retaining the Baton, there is not much hope for the rest of us..... The MWS welcomed all the members and visitors to the meeting with his customary charm and wit (intelligent humour) and then Opened the Chapter. After confirming the Minutes of the previous meeting in May, the MWS had great pleasure in investing Ill.: Bro Tim Morris 30°, as his Prelate.

The main item on the Agenda was for the IG to present his latest paper entitled '**The Foundation and History of the Ancient & Accepted Rite of Scottish Freemasonry**'. The paper was once again received with great interest, with one or two very positive

comments made by members. One point of interest made from Ill.: Bro Tim Wooldridge 32°, was that Bro Donald James CRUCIFIX was Perfected into St Mary & All Saints Chapter. A photograph of him is displayed the ante room at the top of the stairs.

The MWS completed the remainder of the business, carried out the Third Point and Closed the Chapter. Everyone then retired to the Refectory to enjoy a hearty dinner completing a super evening.

Next meeting - THU 29 JAN 26.

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Halesowen Chapter RC No 615



On Monday 3rd November 2025 the Inspector General, District Recorder and 3 other guests received a warm welcome to the

Chapter for their Enthronement meeting.

The IG was escorted into the Chapter by the DC and welcomed by Ill.: Bro Robert Bennett, 30°, the MWS who in deference to his rank offered him the Baton. The IG politely declined saying "I would hate to deny you the opportunity" and the MWS then Opened the Chapter in solemn form.

Immediately upon Opening, a moment of silence and reflection was observed for the departure of Ill.: Bro Douglas Allen 30°, and Ill.: Bro Richard Ayling 30°, who had both recently passed to the Grand Chapter Above. The Prelate also gave a solemn prayer in their memory.

The MWS then had the pleasure of Enthroning Ill.: Bro Phillip Hannah 31°, as the new MWS of the Chapter in a very impressive manner. The DR was delighted to be asked to deliver the Address to the Sovereign and after the MWS appointing and investing his officers, the IG gave the Address to the Princes, completing a super Enthronement ceremony of the highest quality.

During Propositions, the Recorder announced that he was in possession of not one, but two application forms for Perfection into the Chapter. Subject to successful ballots, one will be Perfected at the next meeting in March 26,

and the other at the May 26 meeting. Great news indeed.

At the beginning of the Second Rising, the Recorder informed the Chapter that he was in possession of the Supreme Council certificate for E&P Bro Colin Edwards 18°, and asked the IG if he would please present it to him. The IG was delighted to do so and noted that he had already given an explanation of the certificate to E&P Bro Edwards on a previous occasion. For reasons known only to those present, the IG presented the certificate 'for the second time'.....

Following the Third Point and Closing the Chapter, everyone retired to the Refectory to enjoy a delightful 3 course dinner. Not usually commenting on activities at dinner, it must be noted that during the Toast to the IG, the MWS gave a most delightful tribute to the IG for the sterling work he had done 'bonding' the District since becoming Inspector General. What a truly excellent evening.

Next meeting - MON 02 MAR 26.

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Oldswinford Chapter RC No 908



11 members of the Order, including the IG and 1 Visitor, met on Thursday 4th December at the James S Webb

Freemasonry Centre, Stourbridge, for the Regular December Meeting of the Chapter.

Unfortunately, several 18° members, including the two Generals were absent but the Guest DC, Ill.: Bro Gordon Stacey 31°, who is also the MRCCI Representative, soon found volunteer replacements and the Chapter was Opened in due form.

The main item on the Agenda was the Presentation of a Paper from the MWS giving an explanation of the Third Point. This was very well received and led to an interesting discussion on completion led by the Prelate, Ill.: Bro Rev Fr Justin Parker, 30°, and the IG.

When the time came the Third Point was conducted in a most sincere manner and the Chapter was Closed.

The members then retired to the Refectory and enjoyed a good meal.

During the presentation of the Toast List the IG was able to Propose the Higher Degrees Toast to Ill.∴ Bro Justin Randle, 30°, who had received his Promotion at Grand East the previous day.

An interesting meeting which once again provided a *“daily advancement in masonic knowledge.”*

Next meeting - THU 05 FEB 26.

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Save the date Save the date

Midlands Rose Croix Chapter of Improvement 100-year Anniversary



Founded in 1926, the Midlands Rose Croix Chapter of Improvement (MRCCI) will celebrate its centenary next year. To help celebrate this momentous occasion, members of the MRCCI will demonstrate a complete 18°, Ceremony which will also include a narrative.

The MRCCI has an important significance in the Ancient & Accepted Rite as it is one of only two Chapters of Improvement in this country authorised by the Supreme Council. (the other of course being the King Edward VII Chapter of Improvement in London). It comprises the Districts of Staffordshire & Shropshire, Warwickshire and of course Worcestershire.

The MRCCI was formed to encourage members to increase their knowledge of the Order and to provide facilities for the instruction, practice and rehearsal of the ceremonies of Perfection and Enthronement as set out in the authorised 2024 Book of Ritual.

The District of Worcestershire will host the centenary meeting, and Merston Culy Chapter RC No 883 will be the host Chapter.

*The proposed date and location for the centenary celebration demonstration on this occasion will be **Friday 26th June 2026 at Kings Heath Freemasons Hall.***

The meeting will be open to All members of the Order.

More information to follow..... After Christmas!!!



Christmas Greetings

Wishing You and Yours all the compliments of the Season

From

Ian & Irene, Taff & Donna

Editors Footnote:

If anyone has an item they believe to be of interest please forward it to the District Recorder

Ill.∴ Bro Lindsay (Taff) Hill 31°,
at:

taff.hill@yahoo.co.uk

Don't forget to visit the District website.

www.rose-croix-worcs.masonicwebsite.org



Try the District QR Code

