

The Ancient & Accepted Rite



District of Worcestershire The District Diary Edition No: 24 ~ Easter 2026 ~

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

Introduction



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

Dear and beloved Brethren,

It is with joy in my heart that I write this introduction to the 24th edition of the District Diary.

Those who attended my Installation may recall my reference to the glass in a car, the Rear View Mirror for looking Backwards and the Front Windscreen for looking forwards and the hope that we would all focus on where we are going not where we have been.

This was endorsed recently at a meeting where a Brother stood up and addressed the MWS and said that his attendance at the Chapter since the events of November 2023 and what followed, had sadly caused him to reduce his attendance significantly as he was unsure what he should do. He then said that he remembered what his father once told him which was "if you don't know what to do in life,

do nothing." He is so glad that he did not make any rash decisions to leave our beautiful Order and said that he couldn't believe what he has been missing. He also said that he is so looking forward to the future and continue to support the Chapter as best as he could. This was wonderful to hear, and one would hope that others who have felt the same may be encouraged to return and enjoy the camaraderie and friendship this beautiful Order of ours holds.

2025/6 Year has brought new life into our District with a number of Chapters having already conducted Perfections and have more to come and others who are looking forward to welcoming their new "Brothers" during the rest of this Masonic Year. There can be nothing more satisfying than being able to congratulate those who have already gained and those looking forward to gaining new members, whilst fully appreciating that there are those who, to date, have not been successful in their search.

We have also sought to assist all our Chapters by appointing one of our Deputy Preceptors of the MRCCI to assist you in any way they can, whether by filling an Office for a Ceremony or assisting a Chapter in its Rehearsal of our Ritual, which many of you will be aware is my preferred practice when you do not have a ceremony to conduct. Once again appreciating that occasionally a paper of interest may be helpful.

Our big event this year is that our District is hosting the Centenary Meeting of the Midlands Rose Croix Chapter of Improvement currently set to be a morning meeting held under the Banner of Merston Culy Chapter on Friday 26th June 2026. Full details will be provided in due course.

Members will recall that the Last Easter Diary (2025) I talked about Easter itself. This year I thought it worthwhile trying to identify why the date of Easter is not fixed like Christmas.

Easter dates vary annually, falling on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25 (Western Christianity); the earliest possible date is March 22 (last in 1818) and the latest is April 25 (next in 2038).

Over a 500-year span (1600-2099), Easter most frequently falls on March 31 or April 16 (2028).

So why is it a moveable feast? The date of Easter is determined in each year through a calculation known as *computus paschalis* (Latin for 'Easter computation') - often simply *Computus* - or as paschalion, particularly in the Eastern Orthodox Church. Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon (a mathematical approximation of the first astronomical full moon, on or after 21 March - itself a fixed approximation of the March equinox). Determining this date in advance requires a correlation between the lunar months and the solar year, while also accounting for the month, date, and weekday of the Julian or Gregorian calendar. The complexity of the algorithm arises because of the desire to associate the date of Easter with the date of the Jewish feast of Passovers which, Christians believe, is when Jesus was crucified.

It was originally feasible for the entire Christian Church to receive the date of Easter each year through an annual announcement by the Pope. By the early third century, however, communications in the Roman Empire had deteriorated to the point that the church put great value in a system that would allow the clergy to determine the date for themselves, independently yet consistently. Additionally, the church wished to eliminate dependencies on the Hebrew calendar, by deriving the date for Easter directly from the March equinox.

In 'The Reckoning of Time' (725), The Venerable Bede uses *computus* as a general term for any sort of calculation, although he refers to the Easter cycles of Theophilus as a '*Paschal computus*.' By the end of the 8th century, *computus* came to refer specifically to the calculation of time. The calculations produce different results depending on whether the Julian calendar or the Gregorian calendar is used. For this reason, the Catholic and Protestant Churches (which follow the Gregorian calendar) celebrate Easter on a different date from that of the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox (which follow the Julian calendar). It was the drift of 21 March from the observed equinox that led to the Gregorian reform of the calendar, to bring them back into line.

In most branches of Western Christianity, Easter is preceded by Lent, a period of penitence that begins on Ash Wednesday, lasts 40 days (not counting Sundays), and is often marked with fasting. The week before Easter, known as Holy Week, is an important time for observers to commemorate the final week of Jesus' life on earth.] The Sunday before Easter is Palm Sunday, with the Wednesday before Easter being known as Spy Wednesday (or Holy Wednesday). The last three days before Easter are Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday (sometimes referred to as Silent Saturday).

Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday respectively commemorate Jesus's entry in Jerusalem, the Last Supper, and the crucifixion. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday are sometimes referred to as the Easter Triduum (Latin for 'Three Days'). Many churches begin celebrating Easter late in the evening of Holy Saturday at a service called the Easter Vigil.

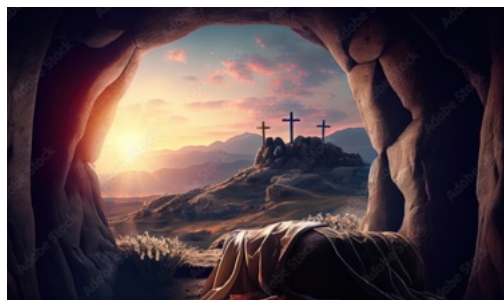
The week beginning with Easter Sunday is called Easter Week or the Octave of Easter, and each day is prefaced with 'Easter', e.g. Easter Monday (a public holiday in many countries), Easter Tuesday (a much less widespread public holiday), etc. Easter Saturday is therefore the Saturday *after* Easter Sunday. The day before Easter is properly called Holy Saturday. Eastertide, or Paschaltide, the season of Easter, begins on Easter Sunday and lasts until the day of Pentecost, seven weeks later.

Eastern Orthodox churches follow the Julian calendar, so their Easter usually falls later, between April 4 and May 8 (Gregorian).

They sometimes align with Western Easter, as in 2025 and 2028.

I sincerely hope you found this interesting, and I conclude by wishing you and your families all the Blessings of Easter.

Ian



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1. Supreme Council

District Honours



Huge congratulations to Ill.'Bro Martyn Hardeman 31°-elect and Ill.'Bro John Phenix 32°-elect who are both to receive their well-deserved promotions in the coming months.

Ill.'Bro Martyn will receive his 31°, **Grand Inspector Inquisitor Commander** at the Supreme Council meeting on Tuesday 19th May 2026, and Ill.'Bro John his 32°, **Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret**, at the Supreme Council meeting on Tuesday 2nd June 2026.

Fantastic news for them both indeed!



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Communications from Supreme Council

- **Supreme Council Annual Circular 143**
The SC Annual Circular 143 is a great piece of reading with very important info including the membership of SC; Summary of SC activities for 2025; Membership statistics; Annual dues & levies, etc, etc.
- **Rose Croix Pull-up Banners**
Pull-up / Pop-up Banners are now available for purchase from SC (£45.00). These banners are designed to draw interested parties to the SC website where they can make further enquiries for membership.
- **Updates to Rules & Publications**
Full review, revision & reissue of the Rules of SC with a written amendment to Rule 36 (P24 in particular with eligibility for Perfection - MM of at least 6 months)
- **Supreme Council Banking Update**
The SC Bank Account details have changed with immediate effect. Please use the new details for any future financial transactions to SC.
(Account Name: *Supreme Council 33°*.
Account No: *64351875*.
Sort Code: *40-51-62*.
Bank Name: *Handelsbanken*).

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2. The District



Fisher House UK

Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham proudly serves as the receiving hospital for injured military personnel, both from the UK and around the world.

Recognising the specific needs of these families, **Fisher House UK** was built to offer them a crucial support system during difficult times. This 18-bedroom haven provides a 'home away from home' for injured service members and their families, allowing them to stay close to loved ones whilst receiving treatment at the hospital. Many of these individuals have served in combat, and their injuries often require ongoing care.

When a member of the military is injured abroad, they are flown directly to Birmingham

Airport and taken straight to the QE to be treated by doctors who are experts in dealing with major trauma injuries.....

The Provincial Grand Master for Worcestershire has expressed a desire that the Province, including all the Companion Orders, provide a one-off donation to be presented to the Provincial Grand Master for Warwickshire at their Provincial AGM in June.

Each Chapter in the District has been contacted to consider a donation of £50.00 from their respective Charity Funds to support this project? The District will also contribute £50.00 which would, if all contribute, provide a donation of £750.00.

Chapters have been requested to notify the District Recorder and forward payment via BACS to the District Account.

District of Worcestershire Rose Croix Account details:

Account No: - 00626074
Sort Code: - 30-96-97



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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 of Perfection, 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] date and location for the centenary celebration demonstration will be **Friday 26th June 2026 at Kings Heath Freemasons Hall.***

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

Summons and meeting details to follow shortly.

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3. Chapters

Northfield Chapter RC No 1022



On Monday 12th January 2026, some 12 members of the Order including the Inspector General, and District Recorder

attended Northfield Freemasons Hall for the first meeting in the District for 2026.

The Director of Ceremonies called the brethren to order and announced the entrance of the Inspector General. The IG was very warmly welcomed by the MWS, Ill. Bro M Hardeman 31°-elect, who upon handing his Baton to the IG, made a fine attempt to persuade the IG to occupy the Chair for the evening. As good as the attempt was, the IG informed him that he would unfortunately disappoint him and that he could 'do the work himself' and returned the Baton as quickly as he received it.

After confirming and approving the Minutes of the previous meeting, and dealing with matters arising, the MWS Invested E&P Bro C Overall 18°, as Rahael as he was unfortunately absent from the Enthronement meeting last June.

The Chapter then gave an admirable demonstration of parts of the Perfection ceremony. E&P Bro R Mulgrue 18°, demonstrating the Intermediate Degrees, E&P Bro L Wood 18°, the work of Raphael for the Second Point (Red Room), and E&P Bro N

Nichols 18°, the Collar & Signs. For some, it was the first time of delivering Rose Croix ritual since becoming members of the Order, and they can be proud of their efforts. It was also pleasing to see three 'Red Collar' members of the Chapter practicing this work for their own personal development **and** in preparation for when they receive their next new member.....

On completion of the remainder of the items on the Agenda, The MWS conducted the Third Point and Closed the Chapter. Everyone then retired to enjoy a delightful evening meal in the Refectory (AKA Northfield Dining Club). Whilst the numbers were small it was a most enjoyable Rose Croix evening with plenty of good ceremonial options learnt, and infectious humour throughout.

Next meeting - Monday 9th March 2026.

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St Dunstan Chapter RC No 12



Wednesday 14th January 2026 saw 23 members & visitors including the Inspector General and the District Recorder assemble for a Perfection ceremony and the 'Business' meeting of the Chapter.

The IG was warmly welcomed by the MWS, E&P Bro Karl Haines 18°, who made a very generous offer of his Baton to the IG. However, the IG of course thanked him for the kind offer and immediately handed the Baton back to him saying that as the MWS, you have plenty of work to do.....

The MSW duly Opened the Chapter and the Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and confirmed. A standard Agenda item of the Chapter following the confirmation of the Minutes is to receive the Minutes of the regular Chapter meeting of 100 years ago. Disappointingly, on this occasion the Minutes for that meeting were unavailable.

A ballot for the Perfection of Bro Roger James Wilkins was then conducted, and with the ballot proving in favour of the Candidate, the Chapter proceeded to Perfect him into our beautiful Order. The brother who was originally tasked with presenting the Intermediate Degrees was unfortunately absent for the

meeting and Ill.: Bro T G Still 30°, presented them at exceptionally short notice. The MWS assisted by the Marshal, Ill.: Bro A M Dally 30°, worked the First Point, and Raphael, E&P Bro D F Brown 18°, led the Candidate throughout the Second Point, again suitably assisted by the Marshal. The Collar & Signs were then given by E&P Bro D C Boorn 18°.

The MWS then had the pleasure of declaring E&P Bro D C Boorn 18°, MWS, E&P Bro A M Sinton 18°, Treasurer, and Ill.: Bro F P S Abram 30°, Outer Guard for the ensuing year.

During the Second Rising, the IG was delighted to hear the Chapter announce that a sum of £50.00 will be donated towards his District wide appeal, for the Fisher House UK unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, the receiving unit for injured military personal from both the UK and around the world. Also during the Risings, Ill.: Bro M A Hume 32°, presented the Chapter with a framed image, of the Chapter Banner with a background explanation and history. The banner itself is proudly displayed behind the MWS during meetings. Ill.: Bro A W Workman 31°, also provided an interesting history of a legacy donated to the Chapter, which helped to finance the wonderful banner.

Following the Third Point, conducted by the Immediate Past Sovereign, the MWS Closed the Chapter and the brethren retired to the Refectory to enjoy an excellent dinner.

Next meeting (E) - Friday 1st May 2026.

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Gervase Paganel Chapter RC No 316



With the consistently miserable weather, dire travelling conditions, unfortunate short notice illness, and holidays, numbers were low for the first meeting of 2026 for the Chapter. That didn't stop the 11 members present, including the Inspector General and the District Recorder having a most enjoyable evening at the James S Webb Freemasonry Centre, Victoria Street, Stourbridge on Thursday 15th January 2026.

The MWS, E&P Bro M J Winfield 18°, welcomed the IG to the Chapter and asked, "Can I offer you the Baton?" With the Baton

being received by the IG in turn said, "Can I offer it straight back?" And returned the Baton without hesitation.....

The MWS Opened the Chapter and confirmed the Minutes of the previous meeting and then Invested E&P Bro J L Montero 18° as the Second General as he was sadly unable to attend the Enthronement meeting.

The next item on the Agenda was to demonstrate parts of the ceremony of Perfection. E&P Bro J L Montero 18°, gave an admirable demonstration of the Intermediate degrees with the District Recorder acting as the Candidate and Ill.:Bro M Tonkin 31°, acting as the Marshal.

The MWS then had the pleasure of the Second Point being demonstrated by none other than Ill.:Bro M Tonkin 31°, acting as Raphael, the Chapter Recorder Ill.:Bro G Stacey 31° acting as Marshal and the District Recorder Ill.:Bro L D Hill (Taff) 31°, continuing as the Candidate. All 3 being Deputy Preceptors of the MRCCI. No pressure there then!!!

On conclusion of the demonstrations, the District Recorder gave a short talk entitled **'The Feast of Fraternal Affection'** which was very well received by all.

After completing all other business, the MWS carried out the Third Point and Closed the Chapter. Members retired to The Old Edwardian Club to enjoy a delightful dinner to end another super meeting.

Next meeting (E) - Thursday 9th Apr 2026.

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St. Francis of Assisi Chapter RC No 711



27 members assembled at Kings Heath Freemasons Hall on a damp, miserable morning of Saturday 24th January 2026 for what was to be the first double Perfection ceremony in the District.

Alas, one of the Candidates fell ill just before the meeting, but that did not stop the MWS and all the members of the Chapter putting on a ceremony which they can all be very proud of.

The Inspector General, V.:Ill.:Bro Ian M Fothergill 33°, accompanied by V.:Ill.:Bro Stephen W Fowler 33°, Inspector General for

the District of Warwickshire and Asst DC of the Chapter, and V.:Ill.:Bro Dr Richard N Hoare 33°, Former Inspector General of the District of Worcestershire and 2nd General of the Chapter, were escorted into the Chapter by the Director of Ceremonies. Before taking his seat in the Chapter, the MWS, E&P Bro N Nicholls 18° very kindly offered the Baton and Chair to the IG which was declined with the IG stating that as he was at 'The Temple Jinks', he was happy return the Baton.....

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

After opening the Chapter and confirming the Minutes of the previous meeting, a ballot for Perfection was taken for Bro's Kevin George Kane-Brooks and Joseph Patrick Galimpin which proved in favour of both. Bro Galimpin will be Perfected on a future occasion.

With the room prepared, Capt of the Guard, E&P Bro K Saunders 18°, gave a delightful presentation of the Intermediate Degrees. With the necessary adjustment to the room, the Marshal E&P Bro S Pinner 18°, conducted the Candidate throughout the First Point with pinpoint accuracy leaving the Candidate wondering 'just what had happened there?'... Returning the room as required for the Second Point, Raphael, Ill.:Bro K J Parkes 30°, directed the Candidate with impressive confidence, very ably assisted by the Marshal.

With the Marshal's work not yet complete, he then gave another exemplary presentation of the Collar & Signs. Punishment if you remember from the Chapters last Perfection ceremony (October 25 meeting) when the MWS informed him that he is tasked to deliver them again at the next Perfection.....

With the Candidate taking his seat in the Chapter, the busy Agenda continued. The IG was absolutely delighted to present an Enthronement Certificate to E&P Bro R M Dhody 18°, who the Chapter proudly Perfected into our beautiful Order at their last meeting. The IG gave his usual informative and impressive presentation and again stated how delighted he was to have been able to do so, for someone he had known for so long.

The Chapter had great pleasure in proposing Ill.:Bro G Phillips 30°, as an Honorary Member of the Chapter.

At the end of the 2nd Rising, the DR, Ill.: Bro L D Hill 31°, was delighted to present, on behalf of the MWS & members of Evesham Chapter RC No 994, the 'Travelling Apron' charging him to surrender it up to the next Chapter carrying out a Perfection ceremony, and who have not previously held it!!!

The MWS completed the Risings, and conducted the Third Point in a most solemn, sincere and respectful manner. Upon Closing the Chapter, everyone retired to the Refectory to enjoy an excellent 3 course lunch rounding off a most superb Rose Croix meeting rewarding the Chapter for the obvious hard work made preparing for the meeting.

Next meeting - Saturday 25th April 2026.

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Bordesley Abbey Chapter RC No 918



On Monday 26th January 2026 some 18 members of the Order including a deputation of 4 members from St Francis of Assisi

Chapter No 711, the assigned Deputy Preceptor and the Inspector General attend Redditch Masonic Hall for the January Regular Meeting which included a Perfection Ceremony.

The Deputy Preceptor was invited to take the 2nd General's Chair, Ill.: Bro Gerry Jinks 32°, was invited to act as Prelate and Ill.: Bro S Jinks 30°, as IPS.

The main item on the Order of Business was to Perfect Bro Martin Richard Jeynes.

The 1st General E&P Bro, Michael Payne 18°, conducted the Intermediate Degrees, the MWS, E & P Bro. Steve Roadley 18°, conducting the First & Second Points, with Ill.: Bro Derek Taylor 30°, presenting the Collar, Jewel, and Signs.

The whole ceremony was conducted to a very good standard, and the IG congratulated the Chapter, acknowledging the important role played by visiting members, which underlined his constant request to all Chapters and Members of the important role inter-visitation plays especially where assistance is required to conduct a ceremony.



During the Second Rising the Inspector General invited the Members from St Francis of Assisi Chapter to present the 'Travelling Apron' and

Charged to deliver it to the next Chapter, who have not been previous holders, when they have a Perfection.

The MWS then conducted the Third Point welcoming our newly Perfected Brother into the Living Circle and on completion the Chapter was Closed.

The members then retired to the Refectory to enjoy a two course Dinner.

Another evening exemplifying the beauty of our Order and the excellent camaraderie that we enjoy.

Next meeting (E) - Monday 27th April 2026.

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St Mary & All Saints Chapter RC No 688



On Thursday 29th January 2026, 19 members including the Inspector General, District Recorder and

the Chapter District Representative were warmly welcomed to the Chapter.

Prior to Opening the Chapter, The IG and the MWS, V.: Ill.: Bro Dr Richard N Hoare 33°, Former Inspector General, were escorted into the room by the Director of Ceremonies, Ill.: Bro V Fogarty 32°. With the MWS standing comfortably at his place behind his pedestal, he invited the IG to accept the Baton and occupy the Chair 'or otherwise'. The IG upon receiving the Baton however informed him "I have followed you for many years, but for now the Chair is yours"

The MWS warmly welcomed all the visitors, Opened the Chapter, and confirmed the Minutes of the previous meeting.

The next item on the Agenda was to receive a most informative and well-prepared paper from Ill.: Bro R Johnson 30°, entitled '**Why the Rose Croix speaks to all beliefs**'. A huge amount of thought process and study must have gone into preparing the paper which

everyone thoroughly enjoyed, especially as it broached areas which most of us had not (probably) previously considered.

The MWS then had the pleasure of declaring Ill.:Bro G M Talbot 30°, MWS, Ill.:Bro T J Tudge 30°, Treasurer, for the ensuing year.

During the Treasurer's report, the Treasurer announced that, with the Charity Account being fairly 'healthy', donations to the local 'Happy Memories' tea service group; **and** to the District wide appeal, for the Fisher House UK unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, the receiving unit for injured military personal from both the UK and around the world, would be made.

The MWS carried out the Third Point and Closed the Chapter before everyone retiring to the Refectory to enjoy a lovely dinner, completing another super evening.

Next meeting (E) - Friday 29th May 2026.

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Oldswinford Chapter RC No 908



On Thursday 5th February 2026, 13 members and visitors including the District Recorder, the MRCCI Preceptor and two of his Deputy Preceptors

met for another interesting and hugely enjoyable meeting.

After Opening the Chapter and warmly welcoming the visitors, the MWS, Ill.:Bro J F P Mulligan 30°, approved the Minutes of the previous meeting. The next item on the Agenda was for the MWS to Invest E&P Bro R B Macey 18°, as his 2nd General.

Then followed a demonstration of the Intermediate Degrees which was broken down into 'bite size chunks' and delivered by three of the Chapters keen and well-motivated 18°, members. Each and every one gave a super performance which will have given them all a great confidence boost and appetite to continue in their development and progression. The MWS congratulated all three and everyone showed their approval with a well-deserved round of applause.

The MWS then delivered an excellent and informative lecture on the '**Meaning of the Intermediate Degrees**', which was concluded with additional interesting observations and facts about several of them, from the Prelate Ill.:Bro Justin Parker 30°. Once again, those present showed their approval for the MWS's & Prelate input with a round of applause.

Immediately after the presentations, one of the Chapter members stood, addressed the MWS and said that his attendance at the Chapter since the events of November 2023 and what followed, had sadly caused him to reduce his attendance significantly as he was unsure what he should do. He then said that he remembered what his father once told him which was "if you don't know what to do in life, do nothing". He is so glad that he did not make any rash decisions to leave our beautiful Order and said that he couldn't believe what he has been missing. He also said that he is so looking forward to the future and continue to support the Chapter as best as he could. This was wonderful to hear because this particular member is such a well-respected and much-loved Brother.....

Completing the remainder of the business, (which included his re-election for another year as Sovereign), the MWS conducted the Third Point, Closed the Chapter, and everyone retired to the Refectory to enjoy a hearty helping of Steak Pie, seasonal veg, chips & gravy, finished off with Apple Pie & Custard. What a delightful evening!!!

Next meeting (E) - Thu 2nd April 26.

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St Ann of Malvern Chapter RC No 606



10 members of our beautiful Order including the Inspector General and the District Recorder, met at Rainbow Hill on Tuesday 24th February 2026.

After singing the opening Hymn, the Most Wise Sovereign Ill.:Bro Charles M K Dyer, 32°, Opened the Chapter and immediately offered his Baton & Chair to the IG. This was probably the best attempt yet made from any MWS in the District in doing so alas, the IG once again politely declined the kind offer and

returned the Baton with his usual humorous reply.

After hearing and approving the Minutes of the previous meeting, in the absence of any other nominations or request for a ballot, the MWS declared himself as the MWS for the ensuing year. The MWS also declared Ill.: Bro Sean P Warner 30°, Treasurer for the ensuing year under the same conditions.

The IG then had the pleasure of giving another of his interesting and informative talks which on this occasion was titled **'The Foundation and History of the Ancient & Accepted Rite of Scottish Freemasonry'**. On completion of the paper, the MWS thanked the IG for his enlightening and inspirational talk which was again well received by everyone present.

Greetings were given by Visitors from their respective Chapters and the MWS conducted the Third Point and Closed the Chapter.

Huge thanks to the Chapter Recorder for coordinating a quite superb 5* dinner in the refectory bringing an excellent meeting to a close.

Next meeting (E) - Wed 6th May 26.

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St. Nicolas Chapter RC No 198



On Friday 27th February 2026, eight members of the Chapter, three Visitors and the Inspector general were present at the Regular meeting of the Chapter.

On Opening the Chapter, the MWS, Ill.: Bro Steve N Middleditch, 31°, welcomed the Inspector General and proffered his baton which was, as is his usual custom, returned thanking the MWS for his kind offer.

The IG greeted all those present and the MWS welcomed the Visitors especially a former member of the Chapter, Ill.: Bro Cliff Johnson, 30°, together with a visiting MWS, Ill.: Bro Martyn Hardeman, 31°-elect, of Northfield Chapter No 1022, and the Brother now more affectionately known as the *'District Substitute'*, Ill.: Bro Mike Tonkin 31°.



Following the necessary administrative items including the presentation of the Annual Accounts together with the necessary declarations of the MWS and Treasurer for the forthcoming year, the Inspector General was

invited to present a Tydeman Paper entitled **'The Intermediate Degrees'**, and displaying for the first time in the District, the individual Degree Shields. This presentation was very well received.

There then followed the Risings and the meeting concluded with the Third Point.

On completion, the brethren retired to the Refectory and enjoyed a sumptuous three course meal.

Once again, this small in number but very enthusiastic Chapter demonstrated the camaraderie and enjoyment which our beautiful Order provides.

Next meeting (E) - Fri 30th October 26.

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Halesowen Chapter RC No 615



On Monday 2nd March 2026, 25 members of the Order including the Inspector General and District Recorder received a warm welcome to the

Chapter for another super evening's entertainment at the Halesowen Masonic Centre.

In the unfortunate absence of the MWS due to illness, the Immediate Past Sovereign, Ill.: Bro Robert Bennett 30°, opened the Chapter, proved the Minutes of the previous meeting, and conducted a Ballot (for Perfection), of Bro Mark Simmonds. The Ballot proving in favour of the Candidate, the Chapter retired to confer the Intermediate Degrees.

The Intermediate Degrees were very professionally and confidently given by Ill.: Bro David Golby 30°, who had the added 'pressure' of the IG standing beside him and displaying the 'shield' of each Degree as they were conferred upon the Candidate. This was

the first occasion that this had occurred, and it was very well received indeed. Something that may extend to all Chapters in the District perhaps?

Ill.:Bro John K Owen 31°, conducted the 1st Point in an excellent manner, and the IPS, the 2nd Point with the IG giving the Accolade, and the DR standing in to present the Collar, Jewel & Signs. The Candidate was also very well attended to and directed by both the Marshal, & Raphael throughout the First & Second Points.

It is also worth a mention that Chapter used a brand new 'Ladder' for the first time as the previous ladder had been 'badly damaged' from a recent flood within the masonic rooms.

With the remainder of the Agenda being completed and the collection Alms, Ill.:Bro Simon Jinks 30°, gave collective greetings from all Visitors and thanked the Chapter for a super evening. ***It must also be noted that the IG was absolutely delighted with the number of Visitors that had supported the Chapter on this occasion.***

The IPS conducted the Third Point and Closed the Chapter. Everyone then retired to the Refectory to enjoy a super 3 course meal with continued Halesowen hospitality at its best.

Next meeting - Mon 11th May 26.

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Northfield Chapter RC No 1022



On Monday 9th March 2026, 9 members of the Chapter plus 7 Visitors including the Inspector General and the District Recorder

attended Northfield Freemasons Hall for the 100th Meeting of the Chapter.

To mark this milestone journey for the Chapter, a ceremony of Perfection was to have been the 'order of the day', however due to a long-distance work commitment, the Candidate was unfortunately unable to attend. This did not dampen the spirit of the Chapter and all the hard work and preparation for the ceremony was duly rewarded with a super 'full dress rehearsal' in preparation for their next meeting.....

The Inspector General was escorted into the room by the Chapter DC who presented him to the MWS Ill.:Bro Martyn Hardeman 31°-elect. The MWS said that it was tradition for the Chapter to offer the Baton & Chair to the IG who would then conduct the remaining business of the Chapter. The IG replied to the MWS that it was his tradition to return the Baton immediately, and that as he (the MWS) had occupied the Chair on so many occasions, he could do the work himself!!!

With a huge grin as is always expected from the MWS, he continued with the Agenda.....

Before Opening the Chapter, the MWS asked Ill.:Bro Charles Dyer 32°, to act as 2nd General, and Ill.:Bro Mike Tonkin 31°, to act as Marshal. The MWS then Opened the Chapter and confirmed the Minutes of the previous meeting which were duly signed by himself and the IG.

The Chapter then carried out the afore mentioned rehearsal of the ceremony of Perfection, very well directed and coordinated by the DC. With the DR volunteering to act as the Candidate, E&P Bro Noel Nichols 18°, presented the Intermediate Degrees with comfortable confidence. Marshal, escorting and conducting the Candidate throughout the whole ceremony, did so with a great degree of skill and experience, - as you would expect given that he is a Deputy Preceptor of the MRCCI. Special mention for Raphael, E&P Bro Chris Overall 18°, who also conducted the Candidate with a huge amount of confidence. It was so evident that the Officers had spent many hours with their heads in their 'little red books'. The IG carried out the Accolade and the DR presented the Collar & Signs to a new acting Candidate - E&P Bro Noel Nichols 18°..... The MWS can indeed be very proud of his work, and the work of his Officers for a fine performance. All good signs for when the next Candidate arrives.....

Continuing with the Agenda, E&P Bro Noel Nichols 18°, was declared the MWS elect for the ensuing year, and E&P Bro John Peglar 18°, declared to continue as the Treasurer for the ensuing year, both of whom graciously accepted the confidence that the brethren showed.

At the end of the 2nd Rising, the MWS of Bordesley Abbey Chapter RC No 918 ably

accompanied by two of his many enforcers (affectionately labelled by the IG as the Bordesley Bover Boys), presented the 'Travelling Apron' to the MWS who was so delighted to receive it into the temporary safe custody of his Chapter.

After collect Alms, the room was prepared for the Third Point which was beautifully carried out by the IG. The MWS then Closed the Chapter and the Brethren retired to enjoy a truly excellent 3 course evening meal in the Refectory, again rounding off a first-class evening. Congratulations to the Chapter Recorder for ensuring the evening was an evening to remember.

Next meeting (E) - Monday 8th June 2026.

XXXXXX-X

Evesham Chapter RC No 994



On Thursday 26th March 2026 eighteen members assembled to enjoy a delightful Perfection ceremony & annual business meeting.

Prior to Opening the Chapter, the Recorder read the Emergency Fire and Evacuation Procedures.

The Inspector General was escorted into the Chapter by the DC and was warmly welcomed by the MWS, E&P Bro J Battell 18°, who, confidently offered the IG his Chair and Baton which again proved a failure as the IG thanked the MWS for his generosity and returned the Baton saying that the Chapter required him to 'sing for his supper' a little later.....

The MWS then asked Ill.:Bro S Brotherton 30°, to act as First General, Ill.:Bro S Hillard 30°, to act as Marshal, and Ill.:Bro M Tonkin 31°, to act as Herald.

Following the singing of the Opening Hymn, the MWS Opened the Chapter and extended a warm welcome, particularly the Visitors. The Minutes of the previous meeting were then approved and signed by the MWS & IG.

Following a successful Ballot to Perfect Bro Dean Wagstaff, into our beautiful Order, the MWS instructed everyone to retire for the Intermediate Degrees. These were very

competently and delightfully given by E&P Bro W Duthie 18°.

The MWS carried out the First Point in a word perfect and faultless manner, with the Marshal conducting the Candidate throughout the First Point with 'total control', leaving the Candidate oblivious to what was happening....

The Chapter Recorder carried out the Second Point with Raphael, E&P Bro T McMillan 18°, conducting the Candidate with complete confidence and very skilfully assisted by the Marshal. The IG carried out the Accolade with his customary polished delivery, and 'sealed' our new brother a Prince of the Order of the Rose Croix of Heredom. With the Raphael's work not yet complete, he then gave an exemplary presentation of the Collar & Signs. The new made Prince then took his seat in the Chapter. Great work it has to be said by the Marshal, Raphael & Captain of the Guard, all carrying out their work for the first time. And not forgetting to mention the word-perfect ritual of the Herald.....!

With equally impressive and informative skill, the IG was delighted to present a Supreme Council Certificate to E&P Bro S Worton 18°, the Chapter Captain of the Guard.

Continuing with the Agenda, Ill.:Bro Dr Jonathan C Mead 30°, was declared the MWS elect for the ensuing year, and Ill.:Bro S Brotherton 30°, as the Treasurer for the ensuing year. ***The MWS then thanked Ill.:Bro Tony Munro 30°, for his 20 years unbroken service of his role as Treasurer, ably keeping the Chapter finances in a healthy condition throughout which was met with acclamation from all those present.*** Ill.:Bro Tony Munro 30°, said he was looking forward to a well-earned rest.....

On completion of collecting Alms and the Risings, the MWS carried out the Third Point in a delightful manner and Closed the Chapter. Members and guests retired to the Refectory to enjoy a well-earned fish supper.

An excellent and enjoyable evening.

Next meeting (E) - Thu 18th June 26.

XXXXXX-X

Merston Culy Chapter RC No 883



On Friday 27th March 2026, no less than **26** members of our beautiful Order which included the Inspector General for Worcestershire,

his District Recorder, Inspector General for Warwickshire and the Past Inspector General of Worcestershire received a warm welcome to the Chapter by the MWS, E&P Bro Ed Baker 18°, for the second of their newly established 'Day Light' meeting arrangements. And what an impressive Enthronement ceremony it was, enjoyed by the bumper attendance.

Upon being escorted into the Chapter, the IG was offered the Baton & Chair by the MWS. But as wise and extremely experienced that the MWS is in freemasonry in general, he could not tempt the IG to take his Chair on this occasion. The IG returned the Baton and wished the MWS well for a super meeting.

After singing the Opening Hymn, the MWS Opened the Chapter and requested the Chapter Recorder to read the Dispensation required in respect of the Enthronement of his successor, Ill. Bro Martyn Hardeman 31°-elect. The hard working, ubiquitous, and extremely busy Sovereign elect is also the MWS of the Northfield Chapter RC No 1022, and so a Dispensation from the Supreme Council was necessary for him to be the Sovereign of two Chapters at the same time.

The Minutes of the previous meeting being confirmed and signed for by the MWS & IG, a ballot was held for 3 x joining members - V. Ill. Bro Ian Fothergill 33°, IG; E&P Bro Alistair Page 18°; E&P Bro James Maguire 18°; and 1 x re-joining member - Ill. Bro Maurice Hume 32°. The ballot proving clear, all 4 new members were warmly welcomed into the Chapter by the MWS.

Following the Treasurers & Almoners report, the DR had much pleasure in presenting the Sovereign elect to the MWS for Enthronement. In simple terms, the Enthronement itself was perfect! E&P Bro Baker 18°, had quite clearly put in a huge amount of work into this ceremony, making sure 'thing were right'. The IG gave the Address to the Princes and congratulated both the new MWS for occupying

yet another Chair, and the IPS for the excellent way in which he conducted the ceremony. A super Enthronement indeed.

After appointing and investing his officers and completing the risings, the MWS carried out the Third Point, and Closed the Chapter. Everyone retired to the Refectory and enjoyed a hearty lunch rounding off a super morning / early afternoon.

The next meeting of the Chapter will host the 100-year celebrations of the Midlands Rose Croix Chapter of Improvement (MRCCI), in the presence of the M. P. Bro John Boyington CBE 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander. Details to follow shortly.

Next meeting - Friday 26th June 2026.

xxxxxx-x

Worcestershire Chapter RC No 970



With a 'Conference' of 7 members of the 33°, and a 'scribble' of District Recorders from no fewer than **6**

Districts, Worcestershire Chapter RC No 970 held their 76th Regular meeting on Monday 30th March 2026 at the Halesowen Freemasons Hall, for the Enthronement of V. Ill. Bro Stephen Fowler 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General for the District of Warwickshire.

With a bumper attendance of 51 members, the MWS requested the Chapter Recorder to read the Fire Emergency Notice.

Ill. Bro William (Bill) Roberts 30°, the MWS, Opened the Chapter and confirmed the Minutes of the previous meeting. With Chapter now open, the DC announced an entourage of:

- (i) V. Ill. Bro Ian M Fothergill 33°, Inspector General for the District of Worcestershire.
- (ii) V. Ill. Bro Stephen Fowler 33°, Inspector General for the District of Warwickshire.
- (iii) V. Ill. Bro David Jarvis 33°, Inspector General for the District of Berkshire.
- (iv) V. Ill. Bro Nigel Bridges 33°, Inspector General for the District of Glos & Herfds.
- (v) V. Ill. Bro Paul Kelvin-Smith 33°, Inspector General for the District of S Wales & Mons.
- (vi) V. Ill. Bro Ralph Howarth 33°, Inspector General for the District of Staffs & Salop.

(vii) V.: Ill.: Bro Dr Richard Hoare 33°, Former IG of Worcestershire. The 'Conference' of Inspectors General were greeted with a resounding acclamation from the brethren.

With the exception of the IG for Worcestershire, they all took their seats whilst the MWS tried his very hardest to persuade the IG to take his Chair and retain the Baton. With an Enthronement ceremony to complete, this was never going to happen, and the IG politely declined and handed the Baton back 'with great pleasure'.

After confirming and approving the Minutes of the previous meeting, the Minutes were duly signed by the MWS and IG.

With the Treasurers report confirming the Chapter was in very good health, The next highlight of the evening was the very pleasant task for the MWS to Enthroner V.: Ill.: Bro Stephen Fowler 33°, as the 39th Most Wise Sovereign of the Premier Chapter of the District. Under no pressure whatsoever, the MWS did a super job of Enthroning his successor, and after the new MWS appointing and Investing his Officers, the IG delivered the Address to the Princes - once again, with impeccable spirit.

*** With the conclusion of the presentation of the Warrant of the Chapter to the MWS, the Prelate placed into his hands the Holy Bible. The Prelate was then delight to present the MWS with a brand-new Holy Bible very kindly and generously provided by Ill.: Bro Maurice Hume 32°.**

The next item of the busy Agenda was for the new MWS to give a presentation entitled 'Attraction & Retention - The Membership Challenge'. This proved to be a very informative and well-constructed reflection of some of the issues and concerns that we face today. In some cases, giving rise to more questions than answers. The paper was very well received and was also received with great acclamation from everyone present.

A Ballot then took place for a joining member which proved successful, and Ill.: Bro David Craig 30°, was welcomed into the Chapter.

After collecting Alms and dealing with correspondence, the MWS conducted the Third Point and Closed the Chapter. Everyone retired to the Refectory to enjoy a much

welcomed 3 course dinner in the pleasure of wonderful company.

This is what Rose Croix is all about.

Next meeting - Saturday 3rd October 2026.

XXXXXX-X

Dates for your Diary

XXXXXX-X

King Edward VII Rose Croix Chapter of Improvement



The KEVII Chapter of Improvement demonstration of the **5° - Perfect Master** and the **6° - Intimate Secretary** will take place at the Leicester Freemasons' Hall, 80 London Road, Leicester. LE2 0RA on Saturday 6th June 2026..

Read more about the KEVII Chapter of Improvement via the following link:

<https://kevii.org.uk>

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Midlands Rose Croix Chapter of Improvement 100-year Anniversary

Founded in 1926, the Midlands Chapter Rose Croix Chapter of Improvement (MRCCI) will celebrate their 100-year anniversary at Kings Heath Freemasons Hall on Friday 26th June 2026. On this momentous occasion, the Deputy Preceptors of all 3 Districts which make up the MRCCI (Warwickshire, Staffordshire & Shropshire and Worcestershire), will demonstrate an 18° ceremony. The meeting will be hosted by Merston Culy Chapter RC No 883 which is now a daytime Chapter which starts at 1100 hrs. **The meeting will be open to all members of all 3 Districts, and all other Districts that wish to support the event.**

XXXXXX-X





Easter Greetings

To you and your families

From

Ian & Irene Fothergill,

Taff & Donna & Hill



EIGHTEEN REASONS TO JOIN THE ANCIENT & ACCEPTED RITE (ROSE CROIX)

1. The same religious requirements as in the Craft.
2. Ritual based on the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth.
3. You can apply at any time, but admission requires you to have been a Master Mason for at least 6 months.
4. No need to be a member of any other Order.
5. Close affinity with the Craft & UGLE.
6. New members are admitted as 18th Degree brethren in the ceremony known as the Rose Croix of Heredom.
7. The 18th Degree ceremony is dramatic, colourful, and immensely moving.
8. Any member of the Order can deliver the vast majority of the ritual.
9. There is no exclusion from any part of the ceremonies.
10. It is a quiet and dignified Order.
11. There is a special atmosphere of fellowship and friendship.
12. Our Chapters meet two or three times per year.
13. Modest annual fees.
14. Speeches and Toasts at dinner, and the after-proceedings are brief.
15. Dining usually finishes by 2130 hrs for evening meetings or 1430 hrs for daytime meetings.
16. A flat structure is maintained with no equivalent 'Provincial 'hierarchy'.
17. Opportunities to attain the Higher Degrees of Freemasonry, including the highest available - 33rd Degree.
18. Higher Degrees meetings and ceremonies are unique, with full ritual being delivered by members of the Supreme Council.

Please don't wait to be invited - you can enquire now by speaking to any member of our beautiful Order, or by contacting the District Recorder.

District of Worcestershire Website: www.rose-croix-worcs.masonicwebsite.org

District Recorder, Ill.: **Bro Lindsay (Taff) Hill 31°**
taff.hill@yahoo.co.uk



Try the District QR Code