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January 2025

ANNUAL CIRCULAR No 142

Dear Sir and Brother,

This Annual Circular comprises a report on the activities of the Order since 1st January 2024, notices of forthcoming events, announcements of administrative changes, reminders about certain Rules and guidance and instructions on relations with foreign jurisdictions.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL

Membership of the Supreme Council 33° remains as follows:

M.:P.:Bro John Boyington CBE 33°	Sovereign Grand Commander
V.:P.:Bro D K Williamson 33°	Lieutenant Grand Commander
M.:Ill.:Bro J A F Thom KC 33°	Grand Chamberlain
M.:Ill.:Bro N G I Bosanquet 33°	Grand Chancellor
M.:Ill.:Bro the Revd Dr S A Thorn 33°	Grand Prior
M.:Ill.:Bro Gareth Jones OBE 33°	Grand Treasurer General H.: E.:
M.:Ill.:Bro H I Sabin FRCS 33°	Grand Marshal
M.:Ill.:Bro Sir Andrew Parmley PhD FRCO 33°	Grand Captain General
M.:Ill.:Bro Dr G R E Shilson 33°	Grand Secretary General H.: E.:

SUMMARY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES

During 2024, Members of the Supreme Council held seven meetings of the 33° at which thirteen candidates were promoted, conducted eleven meetings of the Higher Degrees (during which 516 Brethren were invested), installed thirteen Inspectors General, re-presented patents to thirteen Inspectors General and visited the Districts of Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire, Berkshire, Cumberland & Westmorland, Dorset, Dyfed, North Essex, Gloucestershire & Herefordshire, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Solent, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wessex, West Kent, South East Lancashire, South West Lancashire, Leicestershire & Rutland, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire, Northumberland, Somerset, Staffordshire & Shropshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Yorkshire, North & East Ridings, the St James, St Matthew and St Peter Groups of London Chapters and Bahamas & Turks, Jamaica & the Cayman Islands, South Africa Eastern Natal, South Africa Western Cape and South Eastern Caribbean. Higher Degrees Meetings were also held in Bahamas & Turks, Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa. Six visits to foreign jurisdictions were conducted, to the Supreme Councils for Canada, Cyprus, Estonia and Scotland and the Icelandic and Norwegian Orders of Freemasons. During the year, Members of the Supreme Councils for Czech Republic, Finland, India, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Ukraine and the United States of America (Southern Jurisdiction) attended meetings at Duke Street.

33RD DEGREE

The Supreme Council records with great regret the death of the following members of the 33°:

V.:Ill.:Bro John Everett 33°	Inspector General for Dyfed
V.:Ill.:Bro Mike Green 33°	Past Inspector General for the St James Group
V.:Ill.:Bro the Most Revd and Hon Dr Orland Lindsay 33°	Past Inspector General for Eastern Caribbean
V.:Ill.:Bro Eidwin Mullan 33°	Past Inspector General for Isle of Man
V.:Ill.:Bro Nigel Brown 33°	
V.:Ill.:Bro Johannes (Man) Jansen 33°	Past Inspector General for South Africa, Central
V.:Ill.:Bro John Parker 33°	Past Inspector General for West Kent
V.:Ill.:Bro Michael Newmarch 33°	Past Inspector General for South Africa, W Natal
V.:Ill.:Bro Michael Herbert 33°	

The 33rd and last Degree was conferred on the following Brethren:

V.:Ill.:Bro Patrick Macquet 33°	Inspector General for South Africa, Eastern Natal
V.:Ill.:Bro Adrian Joyce 33°	Inspector General for Lincolnshire
V.:Ill.:Bro Ian Fothergill 33°	Inspector General for Worcestershire
V.:Ill.:Bro Jonathan Heaton 33°	Inspector General for South West Lancashire
V.:Ill.:Bro Chris Noon 33°	Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies 33°
V.:Ill.:Bro Llewellyn Gill SLMM 33°	Inspector General for South Eastern Caribbean
V.:Ill.:Bro Mario Rizzardi ARCO 33°	Grand Organist
V.:Ill.:Bro Simon Cooper 33°	Inspector General for Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire
V.:Ill.:Bro Mark Eyles-Thomas 33°	Inspector General for West Kent
V.:Ill.:Bro Dr Robert Green 33°	Inspector General for Jamaica & the Cayman Islands
V.:Ill.:Bro Philip Dixon 33°	Inspector General for Cumberland & Westmorland
V.:Ill.:Bro Dr David Mason 33°	Inspector General for Somerset
V.:Ill.:Bro Ralph Howarth 33°	Inspector General for Staffordshire & Shropshire

The Supreme Council has been pleased to extend the following patents for a further period of five years:

V.:Ill.:Bro Ralph Robertson 33°	Inspector General for Suffolk
V.:Ill.:Bro the Rt Revd Kingsley Lewis 33°	Inspector General for North Eastern Caribbean
V.:Ill.:Bro John Booth 33°	Inspector General for Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire
V.:Ill.:Bro Stephen Fowler 33°	Inspector General for Warwickshire
V.:Ill.:Bro Ian Fothergill 33°	Inspector General for Worcestershire
V.:Ill.:Bro David Jarvis 33°	Inspector General for Berkshire
V.:Ill.:Bro Patrick Penny 33°	Inspector General for the St James Group

OFFICIALS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL

V.:Ill.:Bro W N C Hale 33° retired as Grand Director of Ceremonies. The Supreme Council thanks him warmly for his contribution, and is pleased to announce the following promotions and appointments:

V.:Ill.:Bro Surg Cdr N F J Scott-Moncrieff 33°	Grand Director of Ceremonies
Ill.:Bro K J Alexander 32°	Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
Ill.:Bro G N Hilu 31°	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
V.:Ill.:Bro M Rizzardi ARCO 33°	Grand Organist
Ill.:Bro Dr A C Storey 31°	Assistant Grand Organist
Ill.:Bro J P Norris 31°	Assistant Grand Organist

STAFF

During the year, Ill.:Bro Alan Brumwell 32° moved to Mark Masons' Hall to become Deputy Grand Secretary, and we welcomed Ill.:Bro Richard Sams 31° as Head of Secretariat at Duke Street.

WEBSITE

The Supreme Council is delighted to announce that its new website is now live at www.sc33.org.uk. This contains a refreshed 'public face' of the Order and enables interested Craft freemasons to enquire about joining.

CHAPTERS

Centenary Warrants were granted to St Werburgh Chapter No. 220 (West Cheshire), Holy Trinity Chapter No. 248, Golden Seal Chapter No. 249 (St Matthew Group), Crewe Chapter No. 250 (East Cheshire) and Bedford Castle Chapter No. 251 (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire).

Rougemont Chapter No. 762 and Unity Chapter No. 1066 (both South Africa Eastern Natal) surrendered their Warrants to the Supreme Council during 2023 (not previously reported). The following Chapters surrendered their Warrants to the Supreme Council during 2024: Allen Pooley Chapter No. 339 (South West Lancashire), Centurion Chapter No. 375 (South East Lancashire), Rhuthyn Chapter No. 429 (North Wales), Emmanuel Chapter No. 447 (North East Lancashire), Mummery Chapter No. 619 (Staffordshire & Shropshire), Deoraby Chapter No. 709 (Derbyshire), St Edmund King & Martyr Chapter No. 730 (Worcestershire), Ascension Chapter No. 746 (South West Lancashire) and Guella Chapter No. 1190 (Norfolk).

Antiquity Chapter No. 95 Amalgamated with St Peter and St Paul Chapter No. 6 to form St Peter and St Paul in Antiquity Chapter No. 6 (Somerset); Lute Chapter No. 392 Amalgamated with Alfred Bevan Chapter No. 130 to form Alfred Bevan Chapter No. 130 (St Paul); and Pax Vobiscum Chapter No. 900 (Middlesex) Amalgamated with Argus Chapter No. 858 to form Argus Pax Vobiscum Chapter No. 858 (Middlesex).

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

966 candidates were Perfected in the year to 30th June 2024 compared with 909 in the previous year. The number of subscriptions received fell by 560 to 21,766. The number of extant Chapters on 30th June 2024 was 877 with an average membership of 25. The average age of candidates for Perfection was 53.

FINANCE – YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance Sheet:		
Fixed assets	1,039,595	1,041,984
Investments	419,632	370,211
Net current assets	<u>741,536</u>	<u>789,513</u>
Net assets	2,200,763	2,201,708
Capital Fund	2,200,763	2,201,708
Income and Expenditure Account:		
Income from:		
Members	713,436	598,880
Rent/hire of rooms	209,877	213,903
Investments & deposits	9,756	7,716
Other income	<u>477</u>	<u>0</u>
	933,546	820,499
Expenditure:		
Staff costs	419,384	410,827
Building admin./maintenance	160,212	146,003
Office administration	157,904	87,614
Council activities	162,100	152,843
Other expenses	<u>34,891</u>	<u>43,696</u>
	934,491	840,983
Surplus for the year	(945)	(20,484)
Capital Fund brought forward	<u>2,201,708</u>	<u>2,222,192</u>
Capital Fund carried forward	2,200,763	2,201,708

The above is extracted from accounts that remain subject to examination by HaysMac LLP, Chartered Accountants. If any member of the Order wishes to view the accounts, he may do so by prior arrangement.

ANNUAL DUES, FEES AND LEVY

The Supreme Council has decided that the Annual Dues payable on 1st July 2025 will rise to £25.00 (plus VAT where applicable) for every subscribing member of each Chapter during all or part of the preceding year. Dues have remained static since 2017, since when there has been a 42% increase in inflation, and members will appreciate the need to take this into account. Members should also note that the increased dues are still below that of all other masonic Orders. Much smaller but more frequent increases are planned for the future. Districts overseas (except where special arrangements apply) will now remit £21.00 per subscribing member, retaining the balance of £4.00 to help defray District costs. The maximum levy that each Inspector General is authorised to make on each subscribing member in his District/Group to help defray District/Group costs remains at £2.00.

CHAPTER TREASURERS

All Chapters are asked to give careful consideration to the consequences that may arise should their Treasurer become indisposed. In particular, Chapters should avoid having only one signatory on their bank accounts and should ensure that a second responsible person has access to the online banking details.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS

The Supreme Council is currently in amity with the following jurisdictions:

- a) The Supreme Councils for the United States of America (the Southern Jurisdiction and the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction), Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Haiti, India, Ireland, Israel, Latvia, **Lithuania**, Luxembourg, Mauritius, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Serbia, **Slovakia, Slovenia**, Spain, South Africa, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, **Ukraine**, Uruguay and Venezuela; and
- b) The Danish, Icelandic, Norwegian and Swedish Orders of Freemasons. (new relations in **bold**)

Please note that no Supreme Council in Greece is currently recognised as regular by this Supreme Council.

If you intend to visit a Chapter of a jurisdiction with which we are in amity, other than Scotland or Ireland, please obtain your Inspector General's approval in advance. **This is particularly important in the case of territories, such as Brazil, Cyprus and France, in which there are several Supreme Councils of which only one is considered regular.** The same applies if you wish to invite a member of another jurisdiction to visit your Chapter. If you wish to visit a Chapter under the Supreme Council for Ireland, you must contact the office of the Grand Secretary General beforehand.

Communications between Supreme Councils are normally conducted by Grand Secretaries General. Brethren should therefore not attempt, without the Grand Secretary General's prior permission, to make direct contact with another jurisdiction.

DUAL ALLEGIANCE/AFFILIATION

Brethren are reminded that except in New Zealand and India, where specific arrangements are in force, allegiance to more than one Supreme Council is not permitted. Enquiries about this subject are to be submitted to the Grand Secretary General.

THE 2024 RITUAL AND 2025 YEAR BOOK

You are reminded that all Chapters are now strictly enjoined to use the 2024 18° and Enthronement rituals.

The Supreme Council requires that a copy of the Year Book be given to every new member on his Perfection. The Year Book provides detailed lists of Districts, Groups and Chapters. It also contains an Historical Section, with chronological lists of Members of the Supreme Council (and the offices they have held), of the South African Branch Council and of other members of the 33°. A copy of the Year Book, the cost of which is £12, is sent to each Chapter Recorder. You may order copies of the 2025 Year Book through your Recorder or purchase one in person from Reception at 10 Duke Street St James's.

KING EDWARD VII CHAPTER OF IMPROVEMENT – DEMONSTRATIONS

In 2025, by permission of the Supreme Council, demonstrations of the 4° and 5° will be given on: Monday 28 April at Freemasons' Hall, London; Saturday, 21 June at Botley Masonic Centre (hosted by Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Solent); Saturday 28 June at Queens' College, Cambridge (hosted by Cambridge & Isle of Ely); and Saturday 20 September at Freemasons' Hall, Douglas (hosted by Isle of Man).

The Members of the Supreme Council send all members their very best wishes for 2025.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,



Dr G R E Shilson 33°
Grand Secretary General H.:E.: