UNITED GRAND LODGE

OF

Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England

Quarterly Communication

Holden at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London
on Wednesday, the 13th day of December 2023

Present:

MW Bro J. Spence, *DL* ..... Pro Grand Master
RW Bro Sir David Wootton ..... Deputy Grand Master
RW Bro D.J. Medlock, *DL* ..... Assistant Grand Master
RW Bro A.S. Varley ..... Assistant Grand Master
RW Bro Sir Michael Snyder ..... Metropolitan Grand Master for London
RW Bro J.J. Craigs ..... Provincial Grand Master for Northumberland
RW Bro D.H.T. Henderson-Ross ..... Provincial Grand Master for Gloucestershire
RW Bro J.R.G. Hilditch ..... Provincial Grand Master for Oxfordshire
RW Bro P.G. Marshall ..... Provincial Grand Master for Nottinghamshire
RW Bro M.D. Estaugh ..... Provincial Grand Master for West Kent
RW Bro S.N. Allen ..... Provincial Grand Master for Norfolk
RW Bro W.C.M. Dastur ..... Provincial Grand Master for Cambridgeshire
RW Bro C.L. Moore ..... Provincial Grand Master for Sussex
RW Bro J. Lockley ..... Provincial Grand Master for Staffordshire
RW Bro J.M. Clark ..... Provincial Grand Master for Buckinghamshire
RW Bro A.C. Howlett-Bolton, *OBE* ..... Provincial Grand Master for Berkshire
RW Bro N.H. Johnstone ..... Provincial Grand Master for East Kent
RW Bro K.W.K. Read ..... Provincial Grand Master for Guernsey and Alderney
RW Bro J.M.W. Davis ..... Provincial Grand Master for Bristol
RW Bro M.C. Hadjiconstantas ..... District Grand Master for Cyprus
RW Bro J.C. Hoult ..... Provincial Grand Master for North Wales
RW Bro D.M. Wheeler ..... Provincial Grand Master for Lincolnshire
RW Bro R.B. Pemberton ..... Provincial Grand Master for Shropshire
RW Bro W.J. Bewley ..... Provincial Grand Master for Cumberland and Westmorland
RW Bro M.T. Holland ..... Provincial Grand Master for Herefordshire
RW Bro A.J. Ross ..... Provincial Grand Master for West Wales
RW Bro P.C. Kinder ..... Provincial Grand Master for Leicestershire and Rutland
RW Bro K.M. Blackburn ..... Provincial Grand Master for Isle of Man
RW Bro P.L. Hall ..... Provincial Grand Master for Warwickshire

RW Bro P.W. Tarrant ..... Provincial Grand Master for Essex
RW Bro N.C. Connolly ..... Provincial Grand Master for Hertfordshire
RW Bro D.G. Rowbottom ..... Provincial Grand Master for South Wales
RW Bro J.H. Newman,*OBE* ..... Provincial Grand Master for Yorkshire, West Riding
RW Bro R.I. Frankl ..... Provincial Grand Master for East Lancashire
RW Bro J.P. Thompson ..... Provincial Grand Master for Durham
RW Bro S.J. Wyer ..... Provincial Grand Master for Worcestershire
RW Bro M.R. Constant .. Provincial Grand Master for Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire
RW Bro M.F. Matthews ..... Provincial Grand Master for West Lancashire
RW Bro Dr D. Chambers ..... Provincial Grand Master for Yorkshire, North and East Ridings
RW Bro D.V. Dyson ..... Provincial Grand Master for Cheshire
RW Bro J.C. Reid ..... Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire
RW Bro N.A. Ball ..... Provincial Grand Master for Devonshire
RW Bro I.R. Copestake ..... Provincial Grand Master for Derbyshire
RW Bro D.I. Allan ..... Pro Provincial Grand Master for Middlesex
RW Bro J.A.L. Berry ..... Provincial Grand Master for Suffolk
RW Bro Sir Andrew Parmley ..... Senior Grand Warden
RW Bro R.J. Smith ..... Junior Grand Warden
RW Bro M.L. Ward, PSGW ..... President of the Board of General Purposes
VW Bro the Rev Dr S.A. Thorn ..... Grand Chaplain
VW Bro J.A.F.Thom, *KC* ..... Grand Registrar
VW Bro A.R.T. Marsh ..... Grand Secretary
VW Bro Lt Cdr P.R. Engeham, *RN* ..... Grand Chancellor
RW Bro J.M. Long, *TD*, PSGW ..... President, Masonic Charitable Foundation
RW Bro Sir Paul Williams, *OBE*, *DL*, PJGW .....
..... Deputy President, Masonic Charitable Foundation
VW Bro C.B. Hopkinson-Woolley ..... Grand Director of Ceremonies
VW Bro P. Abbott ..... Grand Superintendent of Works
W Bro D.M. Bell ..... Grand Treasurer
W Bro the Rev Canon D.H.E. Mosford ..... Deputy Grand Chaplain
RW Bro J.C. Whitaker, *DL*, ProvGM, Hampshire and Isle of Wight, GStwd .....
..... Deputy President, Board of General Purposes
VW Bro G.F. Redman, PGSwdB ..... Deputy Grand Secretary
W Bro A.P. Grier ..... Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro T.P. Hawley ..... Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro M.H. Burrows ..... Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro Lt Col E.J.N. Brookes, *TD* ..... Deputy Grand Sword Bearer
W Bro P.G. Vosser ..... Deputy Grand Superintendent of Works
W Bro P.J. Turner ..... Deputy Grand Superintendent of Works
W Bro R.F.A. Pemberton ..... Senior Grand Deacon
W Bro Lt Col M.C.A. Caseman-Jones, *TD* ..... Senior Grand Deacon
W Bro C.G.Hwang ..... Senior Grand Deacon
W Bro M.B.Pritchard ..... Senior Grand Deacon
W Bro D. Aspinwall ..... Junior Grand Deacon
W Bro J.L.D. Shearer ..... Junior Grand Deacon

W Bro Rabbi Z.L. Solomons ..... Assistant Grand Chaplain
W Bro the Rev C.J. Bamforth-Damp ..... Assistant Grand Chaplain
W Bro J.D.A. Smithdale ..... Assistant Grand Registrar
W Bro D.J. Edwards ..... Assistant Grand Registrar
W Bro S.E.R. Christie, PJGD ..... Assistant Grand Secretary
W Bro O.J. Coddington ..... Assistant Grand Secretary
W Bro S. Deutschenbauer ..... Assistant Grand Chancellor
W Bro D.C.T. Roberts-Jones ..... Assistant Grand Chancellor
W Bro M.R. Christmas ..... Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro J. Curry ..... Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro N. Daines ..... Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro P. Dowling ..... Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro J.L.J. Heal ..... Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro J.F. Roberts ..... Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro I.C. Smith ..... Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro R.M. Walker ..... Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro C.J.A. Lyne-Pirkis ..... Assistant Grand Sword Bearer
W Bro G.P. Lovett, PJGD ..... Assistant Grand Superintendent of Works
W Bro N. Garavini ..... Assistant Grand Superintendent of Works
W Bro M. Sandiforth ..... Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro S.J. Wall ..... Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro G.M. Breach ..... Assistant Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro B.H.E. Gadsby ..... Assistant Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro N.C. Payne ..... Assistant Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro M.F. Richards ..... Assistant Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro N.A. Murdoch ..... Deputy Grand Organist
W Bro B. Swain ..... Grand Pursuivant
W Bro M.P. Davie ..... Assistant Grand Pursuivant
W Bro R.J. Sams ..... Assistant Grand Pursuivant
W Bro M.A. Somers ..... Grand Steward
W Bro R.J. Hopkinson-Woolley, PJGD ..... Grand Steward
W Bro W. Sapsford ..... Grand Steward
W Bro P.J.S. Todd ..... Grand Steward
W Bro P.R. Crudge ..... Grand Steward
W Bro M.A.L. Jenkins ..... Grand Steward
W Bro Dr J.K. Rigby ..... Grand Steward
W Bro E.D.M. Nunn ..... Grand Steward
W Bro P.S. Jones ..... Grand Steward
W Bro L. Hui ..... Grand Steward
W Bro C.P. Noon, PAGDC ..... Grand Steward
W Bro G.E. Whale, PGStB ..... Grand Steward
W Bro A.L. Gardner, PAGStB ..... Grand Steward
W Bro P.A. Brown, PSGD ..... Grand Steward

Also in Attendance

MW Bro P.G. Lowndes ..... Past Pro Grand Master
RW Bro R.J. Race, *DL* ..... Past Deputy Grand Master
RW Bro D.K. Williamson ..... Past Assistant Grand Master
RW Bro G.P. Francis ..... Past Assistant Grand Master
RW Bro G. Jones, *OBE* ..... Past Assistant Grand Master

A large number of Past Grand Officers, qualified Past Grand Stewards, and the Masters, Past Masters, Wardens and Master Masons of many private Lodges.

VISITORS

Grand Lodge of Scotland

Bro Dr Joseph Morrow ..... MW Grand Master Mason
Bro William Semple ..... RW Grand Secretary

Grand Orient of Italy

MW Bro Stefano Bisi ..... Grand Master
RW Bro Duccio Biagiotti ..... member of Central Court of Justice

Grand Lodge of Greece

RW Bro Nikolaos Samanidis ..... Grand Secretary

Grand Lodge of the Republic of Venezuela

MW Bro José Gregorio Sardelli Bravo ..... Grand Master

Grand Lodge of the State of Veracruz

MW Bro Porfirio Josafat Flores Cruz ..... Grand Master
RW Bro José Gabriel Benítez Cabrera ..... Deputy Grand Master
VW Bro Miguel Luna Cordoba ..... Grand Chancellor

Symbolic Grand Lodge of Paraguay

MW Bro José Miguel Fernández-Zacur ..... Grand Master
MW Bro Edgar Sánchez, ... Past Grand Master
RW Bro Ivan Lampert ..... Grand Chancellor

National Grand Lodge of France

MW Bro Jean-Pierre Rollet ..... Grand Master

Grand Lodge of Ecuador

MW Bro Héctor Gabriel Vanegas y Cortázar ..... Grand Master

Grand Lodge of Honduras

MW Bro Christian Campbell.....Grand Master
MW Bro John Alexander Rodgers.....Past Grand Master

Grand Lodge of Colombia at Bogota

VW Bro Armando Farfan .....Past Grand Chancellor

Grand Lodge of the State of Mato Grosso

MW Bro Geraldo Macedo.....Past Grand Master

Regular Grand Lodge of Portugal (Legal)

MW Bro Armindo Azevedo .....Grand Master

Regular Grand Lodge of Italy

RW Bro Leslie Hicks.....Representative from UGLE, Regular Grand Lodge of Italy

Grand Lodge of Estonia

MW Bro Kalle Küttis .....Grand Master
MW Bro Anti Oidsalu .....Past Grand Master

Grand Lodge of Slovakia

MW Bro Milan Jursa .....Grand Master
VW Bro Ivan Klohna.....Grand Secretary of Foreign Affairs

Grand Lodge was opened in ample form and with solemn prayer at 12.00 noon.

The MW Pro Grand Master was saluted.

MW Pro Grand Master: Brethren, it is always pleasing to see the Grand Temple so full. I am told that there are some 89 Brethren from Lincolnshire, 75 from Hampshire and Isle of Wight, 49 from Sussex, 31 from Surrey, 22 from Cheshire, and a total of 66 Master Masons.

I am also pleased to welcome W Bro Chris Jones to the meeting. You may have seen Chris's tent in the Third Vestibule. Chris is embarking on a mammoth walk around the coastline of the UK to raise funds for the MCF and credits the MCF Mental Health Helpline for his coming through a very difficult period in his life.

Welcome to all of you, and I hope you enjoy the day.

TRIBUTE TO RW BRO THE RT HON THE EARL CADOGAN, *KBE*, *DL*, PDEPGM

MW Pro Grand Master: Brethren, I now call on RW Bro Jim Daniel.

RW Bro J.W. Daniel, PSGW: MW Pro Grand Master and Brethren, the Right Honourable the Earl Cadogan, made a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2012 for his philanthropic works, one of the Deputy Lieutenants for Greater London, Right Worshipful Past Deputy Grand Master and Past 2nd Grand Principal of the Royal Arch, died on the 11th of June at the age of 86.

Brethren, "In a society so widely extended as Freemasonry it cannot be denied that we have many members of rank and fortune." Nor can it be denied that Charles Gerald John Cadogan, the 8th Earl, was indeed such a member. His family owns 90 or so acres of south-west London and at his death he was listed as one of Britain's richest men. Many tributes have already been paid to him, most recently at his memorial service which you, MW Pro Grand Master, attended. Surprisingly, no mention was made there of Lord Cadogan's *curriculum vitae* as a Freemason. At your invitation, MW Pro Grand Master, I shall endeavour briefly to fill that deficit, though such a large man with such a long and distinguished Masonic career is difficult to squeeze into one side of A4 paper.

William ('Bill') Cadogan, the 7th Earl, was Initiated in 1935 into Cadogan Lodge No. 162. Charles Cadogan, his only son, was born two years later and was known by the second title as Viscount Chelsea until he inherited the earldom from his father in 1997. After Eton, Viscount Chelsea did two years National Service in the Coldstream Guards before joining Schroders, the merchant bank in 1958. His father was appointed as Deputy Grand Master in 1960 and later that year, Charles was Initiated into Castle Lodge of Harmony No. 26, a 'red apron' Lodge, stating his profession as 'landowner'. Remarkably, three years later, in 1963, though he was still but a Master Mason and only 26 years old, he attended the Grand Master's private lodge, Royal Alpha, No. 16, to act as Junior Deacon and to conduct through the Initiation Ceremony a candidate with whom he had been at Eton, namely, Captain HRH Prince Edward, Duke of Kent. Lord Chelsea then served as a Grand Steward in 1964 and went through his first Chair in No. 26 in 1965. He is reputed by the way, to have gone through several chairs, two of which were later repaired by the Randolph Hotel.

(*Laughter*)

In the same year he was Exalted in its Royal Arch Chapter, and then as a Past Grand Steward, he carried the Grand Master's chain and Jewel at the Installation of HRH The Duke of Kent as Grand Master at the 250th Anniversary of Grand Lodge held at the Royal Albert Hall on the 27th June 1967, when there were only 6500 members present.

Viscount Chelsea was appointed as Senior Grand Warden in 1969, the year in which the Grand Master appointed his father as Pro Grand Master. He left Schroders in 1974 to take over the management of the family estate, the Cadogan Estate. The next few years left him less time for Freemasonry, but in 1981 he began nearly a quarter of a century of senior appointments in Grand Lodge when his father Invested him, with great pleasure, as the first President of the Masonic Foundation for the Aged and the Sick. Charles next served as President of the Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys from 1993 to 1999. The 8th Earl Cadogan since the death of his father in 1997, Charles's final appointment was as President of the Board of General Purposes in 1999. When he retired in 2004, at the age of 67, he had helped steer the Craft through five years of ill-informed and occasionally wilfully ignorant criticisms from without.

Charles Cadogan always enjoyed his private Masonry. He remained active in several Craft Lodges in his retirement, particularly as an Honorary Member of Apollo University Lodge, No. 357 and as Chaplain and Prompter Extraordinary in Royal Alpha Lodge (which he had eventually joined in 1971). He was twice elected Master of the Royal Colonial Institute Lodge, No. 3556 (over whose Bi-Centenary he presided) and was obviously delighted when elected to be the Master of the Grand Stewards Lodge in 2017. I could tell many a story about him – from his favourite Australian Vegemite at breakfast to a shared bottle of Petrus '64 in the evening – but suffice it here to record that he was "careful to maintain in their fullest splendour those truly Masonic ornaments – Benevolence and Charity". He was "respectable in life, useful to mankind and an ornament to the society of which he became a member" sixty-three years ago. As a landlord and as a Freemason he was indeed a Grand Steward.

Thank you Brethren.

(*Applause*)

MW Pro Grand Master: Bro Daniel, many thanks for that very effective tribute to the late Bro the Earl Cadogan.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Quarterly Communication of 13 September 2023 were taken as read and confirmed.

NOMINATION OF A GRAND MASTER

MW Pro Grand Master: Brethren, I have to inform you that at the next Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge W Bro Prof George Boys-Stones, PAGDC, intends to propose that MW Bro His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent be re-elected as Grand Master for the ensuing year.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES

On the Motion of the President of the Board of General Purposes (RW Bro M.L. Ward, PSGW), seconded by the Deputy President (RW Bro J.C. Whitaker, *DL*, ProvGM, Hampshire and Isle of Wight, GStwd) the following report of the Board of General Purposes was taken as read.

To the United Grand Lodge of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England

Annual Investiture of Grand Officers – 24 April 2024

1. So that sufficient accommodation can be reserved for those Brethren who are to be invested and their friends, admission to the Annual Investiture is by ticket only.

2. Brethren to be invested for the first time may invite to be present with them three qualified Brethren, and those to be promoted two qualified Brethren.

3. Allowance having been made for such an issue and for those whose presence in the Grand Lodge is essential, a few seats will remain. Written application for these seats may be made to the Grand Secretary between 1 March and 31 March by Brethren qualified to attend the Grand Lodge:

(a) Past Grand Officers;*

(b) Masters;

(c) Wardens (not Past Wardens);

(d) Past Masters qualified under Rule 9 of the Book of Constitutions.

4. Applications should state clearly the name, address and Lodge of the Brother concerned and under which of the four categories mentioned his application is made. If necessary, a ballot for the allocation of seats will be held in early April, and tickets will be posted to successful Brethren on or about 11 April. Brethren who have been unsuccessful will be so informed.

5. Possession of a ticket will not, of itself, ensure admission – Brethren who are not Grand Officers will be required to hand their tickets to the Scrutineers before examination by them in accordance with the usual practice at Quarterly Communications.

6. Past Grand Officers should sign the Attendance Books in the Past Grand Officers' Room, and give up their tickets before being admitted to the Grand Temple. Grand Officers taking part in the procession will sign in the Grand Officers' Room.

* Metropolitan and Provincial Grand Masters, all other Present Grand Officers, including Grand Stewards, Deputy Metropolitan and Provincial Grand Masters, and Assistant Metropolitan and Provincial Grand Masters should not apply in this way as they will be specifically invited about a month before the day of Investiture and asked to indicate whether they intend to be present. Similar arrangements are made for District Grand Masters who are known to intend to be in the UK on 24 April and this can be extended to others, if they write indicating their wish to attend.

Masonic Year Book

7. The next edition of the Masonic Year Book, 2024–2025, will be available next autumn. The charge will be £15 per copy, plus postage and packing where appropriate. Copies of the 2024–25 edition will be available from The Shop at Freemasons' Hall. It is not proposed to produce a new edition of the Directory of Lodges and Chapters during 2024. Copies of the 2023–24 edition will still be available from The Shop at Freemasons' Hall.

8. Every Lodge is provided access to an online version of the Masonic Year Book and Directory of Lodges and Chapters free of charge via the designated website (https://members.ugle.org.uk/). The Board emphasises that this information should be available to all the members of private Lodges and not regarded as for the exclusive use of the Secretary to whom, for administrative reasons, access is provided.

Prestonian Lectures for 2024

9. The Board has considered applications for the delivery of the official Prestonian Lectures in 2024 and has decided that these should be given under the auspices of the following:

Lodge of Silent Temple, No. 126 (East Lancashire)
Cornish Masters Lodge, No. 3324 (Cornwall)
Oxfordshire Lodge of Installed Masters, No. 7770 (Oxfordshire)
London Grand Rank Association

10. The Lecturer, W Bro Dr R.A. Berman, PAGSwdB, states that the title of the Lecture will be: *The Second Grand Lodge: The Grand Lodge of Ireland, the London Irish and Antients Freemasonry*.

11. The Board, when annually inviting applications for the privilege of having one of the official deliveries of the Lectures, invariably emphasises their importance as the only Lectures held under the authority of the Grand Lodge. The Board and the Trustees of the Prestonian Fund are correspondingly keen to ensure that Brethren come forward with potential future lectures on topics which will be of interest to English Freemasons. Brethren who consider that they have the requisite skill and knowledge are accordingly invited to submit their names to the Grand Secretary, through their Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Secretaries.

Language of Working

12. The Board wishes to remind Brethren that under the English Constitution it is the general practice of the Craft that Lodges conduct their work in English. In the case of a small number of Lodges, mainly abroad, special permission has, for historical or other cogent reasons, been given for an individual Lodge to work in another language – generally that of the country in which the Lodge is located. For

many years, however, the Grand Master has granted Warrants for new Lodges on the implied condition that the Lodges concerned will work in English, unless for some special reason the Board of General Purposes gives permission for a different language to be used. Such permission is very sparingly given and the Board has no reason to expect that in future permission will be granted to any Lodge in England.

13. The Board has, however, recently received reports (not always fully substantiated) of units in England working in other languages, for which permission has been neither sought nor given. It accordingly has no hesitation in bringing this matter to the attention of the Grand Lodge, which it trusts will fully endorse the principle set out above that Lodges under this Constitution must, unless given permission to work in a foreign language, work in English.

Recognition of Foreign Grand Lodges

Grand Lodge "El Potosi" of the State of San Luis Potosi, Mexico

14. The Grand Lodge "El Potosi" of the State of San Luis Potosi, in Mexico, was formed on 7 August 1891 from nine regularly constituted lodges of the Grand Lodge Valle de México, recognised by this Grand Lodge in 1906. The Grand Lodge's jurisdiction is limited to the State of San Luis Potosi, in Mexico.

15. A treaty of intervisitation and territorial sharing with the York Grand Lodge of Mexico (recognised by this Grand Lodge since 1923) was signed on 7 August 1999.

Grand Orient of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

16. The Grand Orient of Rio Grande do Sul, was formed on 14 October 1893 by seven regularly constituted lodges of the Grand Orient of Brazil. The Grand Orient's jurisdiction is limited to the State of Rio Grande do Sul, in Brazil.

17. A treaty of friendship, intervisitation and co-operation was signed between the Grand Lodge of the State of Rio Grande do Sul (recognised by this Grand Lodge in September 2016), the State Grand Orient of Rio Grande do Sul, (federated to the Grand Orient of Brazil) and the Grand Orient of Rio Grande do Sul on 8 December 1998.

Grand Orient of Paraná, Brazil

18. The Grand Orient of Paraná was formed on 1 June 1973 when the regularly constituted lodges of the Grand Orient of Brazil in the State of Paraná voted to form themselves into an independent Grand Lodge. The Grand Orient's jurisdiction is limited to the State of Paraná, in Brazil.

19. It signed a treaty of recognition and intervisitation with the Grand Lodge of Paraná (recognised by this Grand Lodge in December 2018) in 2016 and with the Grand Orient of Brazil in 2019.

National Grand Lodge of Azerbaijan

20. The National Grand Lodge of Azerbaijan was established on 9 December 2008 by the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia and the Grand Lodge of Russia (recognised by this Grand Lodge in December 1997) jointly, with two lodges from the former and a single lodge from the latter. The National Grand Lodge of Azerbaijan's jurisdiction is limited to the State of Azerbaijan.

21. Having shown that they have regularity of origin and that they conform to the Basic Principles for Grand Lodge recognition, the Board, having no reason to believe that they will not continue to maintain a regular path, recommends that these four Grand Lodges each be recognised. A resolution will be moved accordingly and appears at item 4 of the Paper of Business.

Deputy Grand Secretary

22. In view of changes in the Grand Secretary's office it is desired to give power to the Grand Master to appoint an additional Deputy Grand Secretary.

23. The Board recommends that Rules 5 and 18 of the Book of Constitutions be amended accordingly, and Notice of Motion appears at item 9 of the Paper of Business.

Project Hermes

24. When the amendments to the Rules in the Book of Constitutions to provide for the implementation of Project Hermes were approved by the Grand Lodge in March 2021, it was confidently expected that the system would have been introduced throughout the Constitution by the end of 2022. In December 2022 by a resolution pursuant to Notice (because the original timetable was set as part of the resolution making the "Hermes amendments") the period was extended to the end of 2023.

25. The "teething problems" however continue and it is now clear that the completion of the Project will be delayed beyond the end of 2023.

26. It is accordingly intended to bring forward, as a matter of urgency, the resolution set out at item 7 of the Paper of Business to remove the date by which all amendments to the Book of Constitutions must be brought into force by the Board of General Purposes.

Number of Candidates on the Same Day

27. In view of the desirability to reduce barriers to Lodges conducting ceremonies with multiple candidates, the Board recommends that in future there should be no need for Lodges to require a dispensation under Rule 168.

28. The Board accordingly recommends that Rule 168 of the Book of Constitutions be deleted, and Notice of Motion appears at item 9 of the Paper of Business.

Amalgamations

29. The Board has received reports that the following Lodges have resolved to surrender their Warrants:

(a) Holy Stone Lodge, No. 6171 in order to amalgamate with St. Alban Lodge, No. 5322 (Northumberland);

(b) Bretwalda Lodge, No. 9007 in order to amalgamate with Pons Aelii Lodge, No. 4523 (Northumberland) and;

(c) Armament Lodge, No. 3898 in order to amalgamate with Bolingbroke Lodge, No. 2417 (London).

30. The Board accordingly recommends that the Lodges be removed from the register in order to effect the amalgamations. A Resolution to this effect appears at item 5 of the Paper of Business.

In Memoriam

31. The Board of General Purposes regrets to record the death of the following Present and Past Grand Officers reported up to 14 November 2023:

RW Bro M.B. Jones, PProvGM, Hertfordshire
RW Bro M.H. Roalfe, PProvGM, Leicestershire and Rutland
RW Bro M.R. Bailey, PProvGM, East Kent
RW Bro Sir John Welch, Bt, *OSM*, PSGW
RW Bro the Rt Hon Lord Churston, PJGW
VW Bro J.N.G. Howitt, PGSwdB
VW Bro T.Y. Tan, PGSwdB
VW Bro Dr R.J.H. Neale, PGSwdB
VW Bro Dr J.S.B. Mather, PGSwdB
VW Bro Dr R.J. Woodward, PGSuptWks
W Bro O.G.R. Tomlin, *ERD*, PSGD
W Bro Sir John Banham, PSGD
W Bro P.G.T. Ludlow, PSGD
W Bro B.C. Mitchell, PSGD
W Bro D.G.R. Lovett, PJGD
W Bro the Rev M.L. Plaskow, *MBE*, PJGD
W Bro K.G. Latter, PJGD
W Bro C.A. Brocklesby, PJGD

Death of Grand Officers *(continued)*

W Bro G.W. Yockney, PJGD
W Bro W. Shaer, PJGD
W Bro M.J. Louis, PJGD
W Bro W.J. Hagger, PJGD
W Bro H. Norman, PAGDC
W Bro C.D. Stone, PAGDC
W Bro K.G. Sturgeon, PAGDC
W Bro D.A. Aiken, PAGDC
W Bro E.K. Lewis, PAGDC
W Bro A.F. Schulz, PAGDC
W Bro C.T. Kent, PAGDC
W Bro Dr I.G. Booth, PAGDC
W Bro R.S. Short, *MBE*, PAGDC
W Bro F.R. Clarke, PAGDC
W Bro K. Grandison, PAGDC
W Bro D.E. Irish, PAGDC
W Bro L.I. Jones, *OBE*, PAGDC
W Bro J.S. Channing, PAGDC
W Bro D.J. Spring, PAGDC
W Bro D.J. Pearson, PAGDC
W Bro J.F. Tofield, PAGSwdB
W Bro P.W. Atkins, PGStB
W Bro G. Wilmot, PGStB
W Bro G.C.C. Edmonds, PGStB
W Bro V.A.T. Brown, PGStB
W Bro B.M. Cronin, PGStB
W Bro J.A.G. Gladstone, PAGStB

Erasure of Lodges

32. The Board has received a report that twenty-three Lodges have closed and have surrendered their Warrants. The Lodges are:

Whitwell Lodge, No. 2104 (Durham)
Thornhill Lodge, No. 3163 (London)
Cassiobury Lodge, No. 3234 (Hertfordshire)
Aedile Lodge, No. 3281 (London)
Lodge Puerorum, No. 3377 (London)

Fleetwood Lodge, No. 3711 (West Lancashire)
Augustus Webster Lodge, No. 3871 (Hampshire and Isle of Wight)
Saturnian Lodge, No. 4045 (London)
Earl of Chester Lodge, No. 5018 (London)
Old Emanuel Lodge, No. 5399 (London)
Ferneberga Lodge, No. 6314 (Hampshire and Isle of Wight)
Holywell Lodge, No. 6341 (Northumberland)
Boscobel Lodge, No. 6415 (Staffordshire)
Unity of Purpose Lodge, No. 6676 (London)
Lodge of Continued Friendship, No. 6701 (London)
Melita Lodge, No. 6783 (West Lancashire)
Adeste Fideles Lodge, No. 7425 (West Lancashire)
Old Elizabethans and Totteridge Lodge, No. 7987 (Hertfordshire)
Hamlet of Van Lodge, No. 8334 (South Wales)
Dove Lodge, No. 8519 (Staffordshire)
Phocas Lodge, No. 9295 (Hertfordshire)
Guy Marsden Halsey Lodge, No. 9369 (Hertfordshire)
Millennium Lodge of Good Fellowship, No. 9710 (Cumberland and Westmorland)

33. Over recent years, the Lodges have found themselves no longer viable. The Board is satisfied that further efforts to save them would be to no avail and therefore has no alternative but to recommend that they be erased. A Resolution to this effect appears at item 6 of the Paper of Business.

34. The number of members of Melchizedek Lodge, No. 9756 (Hong Kong and the Far East), as shown on its most recent Annual Return has fallen below five, and in accordance with Rule 188 the Grand Master has decided that the Lodge should be erased. The Resolution at item 6 of the Paper of Business accordingly includes that Lodge in the list of those for erasure.

Expulsions

35. As required by Rule 277 (a) (i) (B), Book of Constitutions, the Appendix shows Brethren recently expelled from the Craft.

Freemasons' Hall, London
14 Nov 2023

(signed) M. L. Ward
President

President of the Board of General Purposes: MW Pro Grand Master and Brethren, the Grand Secretary has received representations in respect of the erasure of Melchizedek Lodge, No. 9756 This item will therefore be stood over. Other than this item, I do not believe there is anything in the Board's Report that requires explanation and I therefore move that the Report of the Board of General Purposes, with the exception of paragraph 34, be adopted and entered in the Minutes.

The Motion was seconded by the Deputy President and was agreed to.

MW Pro Grand Master: Brethren, the Board's Report lists the names of those Grand Officers whose deaths were reported up to 14 November.

Since the Board's report, we learnt of the death on Sunday morning of VW Bro Lt Cdr Norman Nuttall, *RN*, PGSwdB, whom many will remember as a former Grand Tyler, a role in which he served for over 14 years.

I now call on you to stand in memory of those departed Grand Officers and other members of Grand Lodge.

(The Brethren stood in silence.)

RESOLUTION FOR THE GRAND LODGE

Recognitions

On the Motion of the President of the Board of General Purposes, seconded by the Deputy President, the following Grand Lodges were recognised:

(a) The Grand Lodge of the State of San Luis Potosi;

(b) The Grand Orient of Rio Grande do Sul;

(c) The Grand Orient of Paraná; and

(d) The Grand Lodge of Azerbaijan

RESOLUTION FOR THE GRAND LODGE

Amalgamations

On the Motion of the President of the Board of General Purposes, seconded by the Deputy President, the following Lodges were removed from the register of the Grand Lodge:

Holy Stone Lodge, No. 6171 (Northumberland); Bretwalda Lodge, No. 9007 (Northumberland) and; Armament Lodge, No. 3898 (London).

RESOLUTION FOR THE GRAND LODGE

Erasure of Lodges

The President of the Board of General Purposes moved the erasure from the register of the Grand Lodge of the following Lodges:

Whitwell Lodge, No. 2104 (Durham); Thornhill Lodge, No. 3163 (London); Cassiobury Lodge, No. 3234 (Hertfordshire); Aedile Lodge, No. 3281 (London); Lodge Puerorum, No. 3377 (London); Fleetwood Lodge, No. 3711 (West Lancashire); Augustus Webster Lodge, No. 3871 (Hampshire and Isle of Wight); Saturnian Lodge, No. 4045 (London); Earl of Chester Lodge, No. 5018 (London); Old Emanuel Lodge, No. 5399 (London); Ferneberga Lodge, No. 6314 (Hampshire and Isle of Wight); Holywell Lodge, No. 6341 (Northumberland); Boscobel Lodge, No. 6415 (Staffordshire); Unity of Purpose Lodge, No. 6676 (London); Lodge of Continued Friendship, No. 6701 (London); Melita Lodge, No. 6783 (West Lancashire); Adeste Fideles Lodge, No. 7425 (West Lancashire); Old Elizabethans and Totteridge Lodge, No. 7987 (Hertfordshire); Hamlet of Van Lodge, No. 8334 (South Wales); Dove Lodge, No. 8519 (Staffordshire); Phocas Lodge, No. 9295 (Hertfordshire); Guy Marsden Halsey Lodge, No. 9369 (Hertfordshire); and Millennium Lodge of Good Fellowship, No. 9710 (Cumberland and Westmorland).

The Motion was seconded by the Deputy President and was agreed to.

MOTION AS URGENT BUSINESS

Amendment to the Book of Constitutions

The President of the Board of General Purposes moved that the amendments to the Book of Constitutions adopted by the Grand Lodge in March 2021 in relation to the implementation of Project Hermes shall come into effect in each particular Province, District or Group of Lodges, in any unattached Lodge, and in all, or any specified group of, Metropolitan Lodges on such date or dates as the Board of General Purposes shall from time to time direct.

The Motion was seconded by the Deputy President and was agreed to.

MOTION PURSUANT TO NOTICE

Amendment to the Book of Constitutions

On the Motion of the President of the Board of General Purposes, seconded by the Deputy President, the following amendment to the Book of Constitutions was approved:

Rule 270A be amended to read:

"270A. Fees shall be payable to the Fund of General Purposes for a Warrant for a new Lodge or Warrant of Confirmation, a Warrant or Warrant of Confirmation for a Centenary Jewel or a Bi-Centenary or Tercentenary Bar, a Certificate of Amalgamation, and Enfacements (alterations) to any of these documents, of such amounts (based on the cost of producing the documents) as shall be published in the Board of General Purposes' Report to the Grand Lodge in March of each year to take effect from the first day of April immediately following."

NOTICE OF MOTION

Amendments to the Book of Constitutions

President of the Board of General Purposes: MW Pro Grand Master and Brethren, I give notice that at the next Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge I will move the amendments to the Book of Constitutions standing in my name at Item 9 of the Paper of Business.

(a) That Rule 5 be amended by deleting "48. Deputy Grand Secretary." and substituting therefor "48. Deputy Grand Secretaries."

(b) That the second paragraph of Rule 18 be amended by deleting "a Deputy Grand Secretary" and substituting therefor "not more than two Deputy Grand Secretaries".

(c) That Rule 168 be deleted.

PRESENTATION

MW Pro Grand Master: Brethren the next item is to receive a presentation on conducting ceremonies with multiple candidates and I call on W Bro Paul Grier.

W Bro A.P. Grier, DepGDC: MW Pro Grand Master and Brethren, on 19 January 1912, Avon Lodge No. 3569 was Consecrated at the Music Hall in Pershore, Worcestershire.

At the Lodge's first ordinary meeting held on 12 February 1912, three joining members were admitted, 14 candidates for Initiation were balloted and elected and five of those candidates were Initiated; on 11 March, another five candidates were Initiated, with four Brethren being Passed to the Second Degree; and at the Lodge's meeting on 13 April 1912, three more candidates were Initiated, and three Brethren were Raised to the Third Degree.

Brethren, as the MW Pro Grand Master stated in his address at the last Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge, held in South Wales, "there are many myths, misconceptions, and errors surrounding doing ceremonies for multiple candidates at a time".

One such myth, often heard being propagated by an unconvinced Past Master or Director of Ceremonies, is that this is, to paraphrase an email I recently received, "a new-fangled initiative that results in an emotionless conveyor belt of disengaged candidates".

The argument that a ceremony involving multiple candidates is "new-fangled" or "modern" can easily be countered by looking through the historical minute books of many – I would even be bold enough to say most – Lodges.

Even those "grander" Lodges which might be said to consider themselves more "exclusive" have documentary evidence of regularly performing multiple candidate ceremonies: for example British Lodge No. viii, one of the oldest "red apron" Lodges, whose minutes document several such ceremonies in the 1800s, including, at its meeting in January 1828, a single Raising, the Passing of four Brethren, and the Installation of the Master. That first post-meeting drink must have been jolly welcome!

The argument, therefore, that "we shouldn't do a multiple candidate ceremony because we've never done one before" simply doesn't stand up to scrutiny.

However, we do recognise that some Worshipful Masters, Directors of Ceremonies, and indeed Lodge Committees might be nervous about committing to such a ceremony because they are not confident that the Lodge will be able to carry off the ritual in such a way that each candidate comes away with the positive experience of being the focus of the meeting.

With this in mind, the MW Pro Grand Master asked the Grand Director of Ceremonies to put together some guidance for Lodges in the form of a film, showing how an Initiation ceremony with several candidates could be undertaken.

The format of the film was to be a Lodge of Instruction – not a Lodge meeting – with the specific goal of demonstrating the floorwork needed for such a ceremony.

Very little speech should be involved, apart from an explanatory voiceover, and nothing "secret" was to be shown on camera.

The Grand Director of Ceremonies, being an excellent manager, immediately delegated this task to one of his Deputies and what we are pleased to be able to show you today are some excerpts from this forthcoming film.

(*the film excerpts were shown to the Brethren*)

Brethren, you may have recognised some familiar faces in the cast of thousands taking part in the film - namely the Pro Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, one of the Assistant Grand Masters, the Third Grand Principal, the Grand Secretary, and the Grand Director of Ceremonies – and they were joined by Brethren of all ranks from Lodges across England and Wales – and indeed one Brother from a Lodge in the District of Sri Lanka.

We are very grateful to all of them for giving up their time to be involved with this project.

The final film will be released in January.

As well as including all the key set pieces of the Ceremony of Initiation, it will contain an introduction by the MW Pro Grand Master, and an open discussion between RW Brother David Medlock, Assistant Grand Master, and Brethren who have been part of multiple candidate ceremonies, either as candidates or as Lodge Officers.

It is important to stress that we are not making it compulsory for Lodges to undertake ceremonies with multiple candidates.

We also recognise that some Lodge rooms simply don't have the space to enable such meetings to take place, or may require ceremonies to be restricted to a maximum of two candidates.

What we hope this film will demonstrate, however, is that such a ceremony is perfectly possible under the right conditions and with the right planning and preparation, and does not in any way detract from the individual or shared experience of the candidates involved.

Brethren, it is the duty of us all to find ways in our own Lodges of implementing the *Strategy for Freemasonry: 2022 and beyond* that was launched last year, especially the pillar of Thriving Membership.

Those Lodges that are proactive about promoting both themselves and the Craft, and as a result find themselves in the enviable position of having a backlog of candidates – as Avon Lodge did over a hundred years ago – should not be frightened of bringing a group of keen new members into their ranks at a single meeting.

We hope that this film, as well as the Notice of Motion given earlier in today's meeting to remove the current need for a dispensation to confer a degree on more than two candidates, will help convince those Brethren whose attitude to multiple candidate ceremonies currently errs towards the "no, because" to start adopting that "yes, if" attitude that is so important to the future success of our organisation.

MW Pro Grand Master and Brethren, thank you.

(loud applause)

MW Pro Grand Master: Brethren, I would very much like to thank Bro Grier not only for his presentation to you this morning but for the considerable effort he put in drafting the script, conscripting... sorry, encouraging those to participate and generally making sure that this project was capable of being delivered within the timeframe we needed for the effective implementation of the strategy for the Craft. Paul, thank you very much indeed for all that you have done.

(loud applause)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MW Pro Grand Master: Brethren, the Grand Master has made the following appointments:

W Bro Petrus Louw as District Grand Master for, and Grand Superintendent in and over, South Africa, Central Division, with effect from 1 July, in succession to RW Bro David van Vuuren who retired on 30 June; Bro Louw was installed on 16 September;

W Bro Robert Smith, as Grand Inspector of the Group of Lodges in South West Pacific, with effect from 1 January 2024, in succession to VW Bro Ross McDonald, PGSwdB;

W Bro Pierre Caeiro as Grand Inspector of the Group of Lodges and Chapters in Portugal, with effect from 18 January 2024, in succession to VW Bro Robert Levitt;

and in his capacity as First Grand Principal he has appointed E Comp Stephen Wyer, DepGSwdB as Grand Superintendent in and over Worcestershire, in succession to E Comp John Phenix, who will retire on 19 April 2024; Comp Wyer will be installed on the following day;

E Comp Michele Santopietro, PGStB as Grand Superintendent in and over Staffordshire, with effect from 1 March 2024, in succession to E Comp Robin Stubbs; Comp Santopietro will be installed 5 March 2024; and

E Comp Ian Copestake as Grand Superintendent in and over Derbyshire, with effect from 1 April 2024, in succession to E Comp Charles Cunnington; Comp Copestake will be installed on 6 April 2024.

WELCOME

MW Pro Grand Master: Brethren, I would like on your behalf to welcome some distinguished Brethren from other Grand Lodges who are with us today.

From the Grand Lodge of Scotland, we have the MW Grand Master Mason, Bro Dr Joseph Morrow; he is accompanied by the RW Grand Secretary, Bro William Semple;

from the Grand Orient of Italy, the Grand Master, MW Bro Stefano Bisi, and another Brother.

from the Grand Lodge of Greece, the Grand Secretary, RW Bro Nikolaos Samanidis;

from the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Venezuela, the Grand Master, MW Bro José Gregorio Sardelli Bravo;

from the Grand Lodge of the State of Veracruz, the Grand Master, MW Bro Porfirio Josafat Flores Cruz; he is accompanied by the Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro José Gabriel Benítez Cabrera and the Grand Chancellor, VW Bro Miguel Luna Cordoba;

from the Symbolic Grand Lodge of Paraguay, the Grand Master, MW Bro José Miguel Fernández-Zacur; he is accompanied by the Grand Chancellor, RW Bro Ivan Lampert and MW Bro Edgar Sánchez, Past Grand Master;

from the National Grand Lodge of France, the Grand Master, MW Bro Jean-Pierre Rollet;

from the Grand Lodge of Ecuador, the Grand Master, MW Bro Héctor Gabriel Vanegas y Cortázar and another Brother;

from the Grand Lodge of Honduras, the Grand Master, MW Bro Christian Campbell; he is accompanied by the Grand Secretary and Grand Chancellor, VW Bro Alex Cruz and MW Bro Jhon Alexander Rodgers, Past Grand Master;

from the Grand Lodge of Colombia at Bogota VW Bro Armando Farfan, Past Grand Chancellor;

from the Grand Lodge of the State of Mato Grosso MW Bro Geraldo Macedo, Past Grand Master;

from the Regular Grand Lodge of Portugal (Legal), the Grand Master, MW Bro Armindo Azevedo;

from the Regular Grand Lodge of Italy, our Representative at that Grand Lodge, RW Bro Leslie Hicks;

from the Grand Lodge of Estonia, the Grand Master, MW Bro Kalle Küttis; he is accompanied by MW Bro Anti Oidsalu, Past Grand Master; and

from the Grand Lodge of Slovakia, the Grand Master, MW Bro Milan Jursa, he is accompanied by the Grand Secretary of Foreign Affairs, VW Bro Ivan Klohna.

From our own Constitution, we have, from Cyprus, the District Grand Master, RW Bro Michael Hadjiconstantas; he is accompanied by VW Bro Gerald Goldsack, PGSwdB, and three other Brethren;

from Hong Kong and the Far East, RW Bro Peter Wong, *OBE*, Past District Grand Master; he is accompanied by VW Bro Herman Tsoi, PGSwdB, and three other Brethren;

from Gibraltar, W Bro Selvan Soobiah, PJGD, and another Brother;

from Sri Lanka, the Deputy District Grand Master, W Bro David Rose, PJGD;

from Barbados and Eastern Caribbean, W Bro Albert Daniels, PAGDC;

from South America, Southern Division, the Assistant District Grand Master, W Bro Jonathan Iggulden and another Brother;

from our Group of Lodges in Portugal, we have W Bro Pierre Caeiro, the Grand Inspector designate;

from the Great Priory of Knights Templar, the Grand Master, VW Bro Paul Clement, PGSwdB; and

from the Supreme Council 33°, the Sovereign Grand Commander, VW Bro John Boyington, *CBE*, Past Grand Sword Bearer.

I have had no notice of any other distinguished visitors from overseas. However, I extend on your behalf a very warm welcome to all Brethren who have travelled a long distance to be with us today.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REMARKS

MW Pro Grand Master: Brethren, it is very good to see so many of you here today. I hope that you are enjoying your visit to this meeting of Grand Lodge, whether it is your first or another one of many such visits. It is important we all remember that all our members, whether they be of longer standing and with great experience or are newer members of the Craft setting out on their journey in Freemasonry, are to be valued and treated with the respect we might reasonably hope to receive ourselves. I say this because we all have an active part to play in contributing to the future of UGLE and this begins with us all demonstrating the values instilled by the Craft in our everyday lives and behaviours.

We heard this morning from Bro Grier about the soon to be released film giving guidance to Lodges on how to conduct ceremonies for a number of candidates at once, drawing on the valuable experience of Lodges that undertake such ceremonies as a matter of course. I will not repeat the many excellent points made by Bro. Grier in his address and I am sure you will all have paid close attention to what he said.

There is one point, however, that does deserve to be emphasised. In much of what has been said we are rediscovering established ways of working from the past, not inventing new ones, and we should ensure that we re-establish them in as many Lodges and Chapters as we can and where there is an undoubted need we do so. I am sure, Brethren, I may rely on you all to take this forward!

You have heard me remark before that it is important that Grand Lodge not only say clearly what needs to be done but is then seen itself to lead and to do what needs to be done. I suggest that the commissioning of this film is the latest tangible evidence of my and my fellow Rulers' determination that we shall pursue vigorous and tangible steps in support of our Strategy.

As we reach the close of 2023, we should reflect on some of the things that have occurred during the course of the year. In particular, the highly successful meeting of Grand Lodge in Wales and the celebrations of the Tercentenary of the publication of the 1723 Constitutions. As many of you will know, the publication of this important, even seminal, document was celebrated not only here in England but also by the Grande Loge Nationale Française and the Grand Lodge of Washington DC in our three capital cities. Our own Prestonian Lecturer this year, MW Bro Akram Elias (himself a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Washington DC) delighted and entertained people around the world by tracing the influence on and importance of those Constitutions, written here in London, to the very Founding Documents of the United States itself.

You may wonder, Brethren, why a document of such relative antiquity should be worth celebrating. The answer is simple and straightforward: the 1723 Constitutions encapsulate the Enlightenment values on which Freemasonry, as practised by the Regular Grand Lodges represented in this room, is founded. These values are themselves centred on notions of human happiness, intellectual enquiry, self-improvement and the pursuit of knowledge for itself based on reason, and with ideals including liberty, religious tolerance, constitutional government, and a meritocratic society. These values are further underpinned in our Freemasonry by belief in God, according to our own Faith: they are surely as relevant today in 2023 as they were in 1723.

Regrettably many of those values are under constant threat in today's world. We must constantly strive to ensure that the beacon of enlightenment which Freemasonry represents and the values of the Enlightenment thinkers and philosophers is not buried by intolerance, superstition and violence.

Brethren, we all have a duty to be faithful to our obligations and to conduct ourselves in this life according to Masonic principles. We try to articulate a modern statement of how we should live our lives with four words, "Integrity, Friendship, Respect, Service". This is deliberately laconic, or, if you prefer, brief and easy to

remember, but it captures the essence of what it is to be a Freemason in the twenty-first century. It is important we remember this for all of us, whatever our rank or position is in Society or indeed within Freemasonry, need to act accordingly.

As you saw last week, Brethren, in our First Rising, we also find ourselves having to state publicly again that Freemasonry, as practised by this Grand Lodge and the others represented here today, is secular, non-religious, and non-political. It is neither a religion nor a substitute for religion. Our members must profess a belief in God, a faith that remains personal to them. Our proud history of religious tolerance has nothing to do with the "indifferentism" of which we are wrongly accused. As our members from every creed recognise, we are firm in supporting religious faith and the principles I have already stated, of Integrity, Friendship, Respect and Service, inspire our members to endeavour to be better people and better citizens proudly engaged in the communities in which we live.

Lest anybody say that this is an innovation in Freemasonry, I will conclude by quoting two distinguished Freemasons from the 18th Century, the Century of the Age of Enlightenment. George Washington commented: "The grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race". While King Frederick II, or The Great, of Prussia said that his support of the Craft came from its objectives being: "the intellectual elevation of men as members of society and making them more virtuous and more charitable".

I do not think that those views can be bettered.

Brethren, Thank you.

(Loud Applause)

The Grand Lodge was closed in ample form and with solemn prayer.

The first verse of the National Anthem was sung.

The meeting closed at 12.54 pm.

RECORDED ATTENDANCE AT THE GRAND LODGE

Grand Officers (including Present Grand Stewards)	538
Masters, Wardens and Past Masters	491
Master Masons not qualified as Wardens	71
Visitors	26
Total	1126

List of New Lodges for which Warrants have been granted by The MW The Grand Master showing the Dates from which their Warrants became effective

Date of Warrant/ No. and Name of Lodge	Location	Area
14 June 2023		
10042 Vale Europeu Lodge	Santa Caratina, Brazil	South America, Northern Division
10043 Harmonia Lodge	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	South America, Northern Division
19 July 2023		
10046 African Diaspora Lodge	Twickenham	Middlesex
13 September 2023		
10047 Brian Bellinger Lodge of Installed Masters	Winchester	Hampshire and Isle of Wight
8 November 2023		
10048 East Kent Motorcycle Lodge	Sittingbourne	East Kent

APPENDIX

EXPULSIONS FROM THE CRAFT

The following list shows Brethren expelled from the Craft with the Lodges (Chapters) of which once a member.

Name	Lodges (Chapters)
8 March 2023	
John Peter Scrafton	L7358, L2578, (C7358)
Marc John Edmund Quigley-Ferriday	L496, L977, L8250, L856, L9226, L7520, L7031, L1205, L7468 (C5698), (C977), (C1785), (C2747), (C3324)
13 March 2023	
Joe Bindley	L605
Jack Stephen Cook	L7580
Mark Christopher Cox	L7672, L4222, L9939
Neil Andrew Froggatt	L1347
Alan Kenneth Jerrim	L6989 (C2955)
David Christopher Knight	L2259, L9482, L1853 (C3890)
Giovanni Miccoli	L4779
Stephen Paul Redgewell	L9856
Clive Raymond Wilkes	L8546
Michael Anthony Williams	L2227
3 August 2023	
David John Allen	L1986, L5124, L6058 (C4292)
Peter James Laidler	L6451
James McGeown	L7158
Ian James Mynott	L7941, L4050, L6374 (C184)
Robert John Rixon	L3756
John James Seaman	L9739
William Walker	L962

EXPULSIONS FROM THE CRAFT (*continued*)

Name	Lodges (Chapters)
24 August 2023	
Adrian Cryan	L8173, L7264, L8632 (C426)
Joseph D'Agnilli	L1754 (C1754)
Jonathan William Hart	L7389
Sanjay Singh	L6514
Brian John Wright	L9750
2 October 2023	
Dr Francois Johan Toon Theron	L1975, L2451, (C1975), (C1590)

APPENDIX

GRAND LODGES RECOGNISED BY THE UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND

The following is a list of all the Grand Lodges recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England as of 13 December 2023. They are listed alphabetically and according to geographical location.

These Grand Lodges are also listed with their addresses in our Masonic Year Book 2023–2024 from pages 304 to 328.

It cannot be too strongly emphasised that members of English Constitution Lodges may visit only those Lodges which are under the jurisdictions listed, and only members of Lodges under these jurisdictions are allowed to attend English Constitution Lodges. It is also important that NO attempt should be made to communicate directly with any of the Grand Lodges listed until on their territory, for to do so would contravene Masonic protocol. If Brethren have any doubt about the regularity of a particular Lodge, or whether there is recognised Freemasonry in a certain country and, if so, whether there is any particular point which should be watched, they should check (preferably in writing) with the Grand Secretary's Office at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ.

AFRICA

Benin, Grand Lodge of
Burkina Faso, Grand Lodge of
Cameroon, Grand Lodge of
Congo, Grand Lodge of
Gabon, Grand Lodge of
Ghana, Grand Lodge of
Guinea, National Grand Lodge of
Ivory Coast, Grand Lodge of
Liberia, Grand Lodge of the Republic of
Madagascar, National Grand Lodge of
Mali, National Grand Lodge of
Mauritius, Grand Lodge of
Morocco, Regular Grand Lodge of the Kingdom of
Mozambique, Grand Lodge of
Nigeria, Grand Lodge of
Sénégal, Grand Lodge of
South Africa, Grand Lodge of
Togo, National Grand Lodge of

ASIA

China, Grand Lodge of
India, Grand Lodge of
Israel, Grand Lodge of the State of
Japan, Grand Lodge of
Philippine Islands (Grand Lodge of the Philippines)

AUSTRALASIA

New South Wales and the ACT, United Grand Lodge of
New Zealand, Grand Lodge of
Queensland, United Grand Lodge of
South Australia and Northern Territory, Grand Lodge of
Tasmania, Grand Lodge of
Victoria, United Grand Lodge of
Western Australia, Grand Lodge of

EUROPE

Andorra, Grand Lodge of
Armenia, Grand Lodge of
Austria, Grand Lodge of
Azerbaijan, National Grand Lodge of
Belgium, Regular Grand Lodge of
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Grand Lodge of
Bulgaria, United Grand Lodge of
Croatia, Grand Lodge of
Cyprus, Grand Lodge of
Czech Republic, Grand Lodge of the
Denmark, (The Danish Order of Freemasons) Grand Lodge of
Estonia, Grand Lodge of
Finland, Grand Lodge of
France, National Grand Lodge of
Germany, United Grand Lodges of
Greece, Grand Lodge of
Hungary, Symbolic Grand Lodge of
Iceland, (Icelandic Order of Freemasons) Grand Lodge of
Ireland, Grand Lodge of
Italy, Regular Grand Lodge of
Italy, Grand Orient of
Latvia, Grand Lodge of
Lithuania, Grand Lodge of
Luxembourg, Grand Lodge of
Macedonia, Grand Lodge of
Malta, Sovereign Grand Lodge of
Moldova, Grand Lodge of
Monaco, National Regular Grand Lodge of the Principality of
Montenegro, Grand Lodge of
Netherlands, Grand East of the
Norway, (The Norwegian Order of Freemasons) Grand Lodge of
Poland, National Grand Lodge of
Portugal, Regular Grand Lodge of (Legal)
Romania, National Grand Lodge of
Russia, Grand Lodge of
Most Serene Republic of San Marino, Grand Lodge of the

EUROPE (*continued*)

Scotland, Grand Lodge of
Serbia, Regular Grand Lodge of
Slovakia, Grand Lodge of
Slovenia, Grand Lodge of
Spain, Grand Lodge of
Sweden, (The Swedish Order of Freemasons) Grand Lodge of
Switzerland, Grand Lodge Alpina of
Turkey, Grand Lodge of
Ukraine, Grand Lodge of

NORTH AMERICA

Canada

Alberta, Grand Lodge of
British Columbia and Yukon, Grand Lodge of
Canada, Grand Lodge of, (in the Province of Ontario)
Manitoba, Grand Lodge of
New Brunswick, Grand Lodge of
Newfoundland and Labrador, Grand Lodge of
Nova Scotia, Grand Lodge of
Ontario, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Prince Edward Island, Grand Lodge of
Quebec, Grand Lodge of
Saskatchewan, Grand Lodge of

United States of America

Alabama, Grand Lodge of
Alabama, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Alaska, Grand Lodge of
Alaska, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Arizona, Grand Lodge of
Arizona, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Arkansas, Grand Lodge of
California, Grand Lodge of
California, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Colorado, Grand Lodge of
Colorado and its Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of

United States of America *(continued)*

Connecticut, Grand Lodge of
Connecticut, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Delaware, Grand Lodge of
Delaware, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
District of Columbia, Grand Lodge of
District of Columbia, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the
Florida, Grand Lodge of
Georgia, Grand Lodge of
Georgia, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Hawaii, Grand Lodge of
Hawaii, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Idaho, Grand Lodge of
Illinois, Grand Lodge of
Illinois, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of
Indiana, Grand Lodge of
Indiana, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Iowa, Grand Lodge of
Iowa, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Kansas, Grand Lodge of
Kansas and its Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Kentucky, Grand Lodge of
Louisiana, Grand Lodge of
Maine, Grand Lodge of
Maryland, Grand Lodge of
Maryland, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Massachusetts, Grand Lodge of
Massachusetts and its Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Michigan, Grand Lodge of
Michigan, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Minnesota, Grand Lodge of
Minnesota and its Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Mississippi, Grand Lodge of
Missouri, Grand Lodge of
Missouri, Prince Hall Lodge of
Montana, Grand Lodge of
Nebraska, Grand Lodge of
Nebraska and its Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of

United States of America *(continued)*

Nevada, Grand Lodge of
Nevada, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
New Hampshire, Grand Lodge of
New Jersey, Grand Lodge of
New Jersey, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
New Mexico, Grand Lodge of
New Mexico, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of
New York, Grand Lodge of
New York, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
North Carolina, Grand Lodge of
North Carolina, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
North Dakota, Grand Lodge of
Ohio, Grand Lodge of
Ohio, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Oklahoma, Grand Lodge of
Oklahoma, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Oregon, Grand Lodge of
Oregon, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Pennsylvania, Grand Lodge of
Pennsylvania, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Rhode Island, Grand Lodge of
Rhode Island, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
South Carolina, Grand Lodge of
South Dakota, Grand Lodge of
Tennessee, Grand Lodge of
Tennessee, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Texas, Grand Lodge of
Texas and Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Utah, Grand Lodge of
Vermont, Grand Lodge of
Virginia, Grand Lodge of
Virginia, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Washington, Grand Lodge of
Washington and its Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
West Virginia, Grand Lodge of
Wisconsin, Grand Lodge of
Wisconsin, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Wyoming, Grand Lodge of

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica, Grand Lodge of
Cuscatlan of El Salvador, Grand Lodge of
Guatemala, Grand Lodge of
Honduras, Grand Lodge of

Mexico

Baja California, Grand Lodge of the State of
Jalisco, Grand Lodge "Occidental Mexicana" of the State of
Mexico, York Grand Lodge of
Nuevo León, Grand Lodge of the State of
San Luis Potosi, Grand Lodge "El Potosi" of the State of
Veracruz, Grand Lodge of the State of

Panama, Grand Lodge of

WEST INDIES

Bahamas, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Commonwealth of the
Caribbean and Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the
Cuba, Grand Lodge of
Dominican Republic, Grand Lodge of the
Haiti 1824, Grand Orient of
Puerto Rico, Grand Lodge of

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina, Grand Lodge of
Bolivia, Grand Lodge of

Brazil

Acre, Grand Lodge of the State of
Alagoas, Grand Lodge of the State of
Amapá, Grand Lodge of the State of
Amazonas, Grand Lodge of
Bahia, Grand Lodge of the State of
Brazil, Grand Orient of
Ceará, Grand Lodge of the State of
Espírito Santo, Grand Lodge of the State of

Brazil *(continued)*

Federal District Brazil, Grand Lodge of the
Goiás, Grand Lodge of the State of
Maranhão, Grand Lodge of the State of
Mato Grosso, Grand Lodge of the State of
Mato Grosso do Sul, Grand Lodge of the State of
Minas Gerais, Grand Lodge of the State of
Pará, Grand Lodge of the State of
Paraíba, Grand Lodge of the State of
Paraná, Grand Lodge of
Paraná, Grand Orient of
Pernambuco, Grand Lodge of
Piauí, Grand Lodge of
Rio de Janeiro, Grand Lodge of the State of
Rio Grande do Norte, Grand Lodge of the State of
Rio Grande do Sul, Grand Orient of
Rio Grande do Sul, Grand Lodge of the State of
Rondônia, Grand Lodge of the State of
Roraima, Grand Lodge of the State of
Santa Catarina, Grand Lodge of
São Paulo, Grand Lodge of the State of
Sergipe, Grand Lodge of the State of
Tocantins, Grand Lodge of the State of
Chile, Grand Lodge of

Colombia

Colombia, Grand Lodge of, at Barranquilla
Colombia, Grand Lodge of, at Bogotá
Colombia, National Grand Lodge of, at Cartagena
Colombia, Occidental Grand Lodge of, at Cali
Colombia 'Francisco de Paula Santander', Grand Lodge Oriental of
Los Andes, Grand Lodge of
Ecuador, Grand Lodge of
Paraguay, Symbolic Grand Lodge of
Peru, Grand Lodge of
Uruguay, Grand Lodge of
Venezuela, Grand Lodge of the Republic of