

Minutes of the Convocation of the Provincial Grand Conclave of Cheshire and North Wales of the Order of the Secret Monitor held at Freemasons' Hall, Cheshire View, Plough Lane, Christleton, Chester, on Wednesday 18th June 2025

Distinguished guests and Right Worthy Brethren entered in procession under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, R.Wy.Bro. William Anthony Stringer, accompanied by Wy.Bro. Paul Morrison Burton, P.A.G.D.C. Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler, and Provincial Officers entered in procession, to the acclaim of the brethren.

Before proceeding, R.Wy.Bro. William Anthony Stringer welcomed all brethren present.

1. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler opened Provincial Grand Conclave in due form at 11.00 a.m. There were 100 Brethren present whose names are recorded in the register attached to these minutes.
2. The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies called the brethren to order and R.Wy.Bro. William Anthony Stringer, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler was saluted with 7 PDP, for which he thanked those present.
3. The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies called the brethren to order and Wy.Bro. Paul Morrison Burton P.A.G.D.C. Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler was saluted with 5 PDP, for which he thanked those present.
4. The Deputy Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies called the Brethren to order and R.Wy.Bro's Samuel Keery and David Littlewood Past Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers were saluted with 7 PDP, for which R.Wy.Bro. Sam thanked those present.
5. The Deputy Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies called the brethren to order and R.Wy.Bro. John Stafford Stevens, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for the Province of Staffordshire & Shropshire, and other R.Wy. Brethren were saluted with 7 PDP, for which he thanked those present on their behalf.
6. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler stated that the minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday the 19th June 2024 had been distributed to members by email, published on the website & had been available for members to read outside the Lodge Room since 09.00 hrs. and on proposition of Wy.Bro. Derek Gaskell Prov.G.Coun. and seconded by Wy.Bro. John Moritz Prov.G.G. the minutes were approved by the brethren.
7. The Provincial Grand Recorder called the muster roll of Conclaves all of whom were well represented by a good attendance of their members.
8. The Provincial Grand Recorder reported that he had received several apologies from Provincial Grand Officers who had medical issues or were on holiday, other than those all Provincial Grand Officers were present.
9. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler reported that the following Senior Brethren had passed to the Grand Conclave above since our last meeting and he gave a personal eulogy for both brethren:-

RWy. Bro. Gerald Charles Colwell PGG. PP Grand Rec. Honorary member of Chester Conclave 155 and a Founder and member of Seal of Solomon Conclave 463. Died on 26th October 2024 aged 90.

RWy. Bro. Walter John Yule PGG. A member of Norton Priory Conclave 226; Provincial Grand Officers Conclave 302; Christleton Conclave 504 and Carreg Yr Wyddfa Conclave 633. Died on the 27th January 2025 aged 87.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler then reported that the following Brethren had also passed to the Grand Conclave above since our last meeting.

RWy Bro. Andrew Lockhead Ward PGSwdB. A member of The Fidelity Conclave 50. Died on 24th July 2024 aged 85.

Wy. Bro. Keith Arthur Evans PGGdr. A member of Chester Conclave 155. Died on 1st September 2024 aged 77.

Wy. Bro. Raymond George Whitticombe PGSwdBr. A member of The Verney Clayton Conclave 45 and the Provincial Grand Officers Conclave 302. Died on 18th December 2024 aged 78.

Wy. Bro. Stanley Herbert Griffiths. An Honorary Member of Shield of David Conclave 345. Died on 29th April 2025 aged 94.

Heartfelt condolences were, and had been, offered to the bereaved. At the request of the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, the stand-in Provincial Grand Chaplain, Wy.Bro. David Marsh P.Prov.G.G. offered a prayer for these worthy brothers and called the brethren to stand in silence in respect of departed merit.

The Provincial Grand Organist then lead the brethren in the Hymn "The day thou gavest".

10. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler then introduced R.Wy. Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers and Brethren from other Provinces and also heads of other Orders within the Province. He thanked them for their attendance and their support at this meeting. The Brethren were acclaimed with enthusiasm by the members present.
11. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler announced that the Annual Statement of Accounts had been distributed to members by email, published on the website & had been available for members to read outside the Lodge Room since 09.00 hrs. and on proposition of Wy.Bro. Derek Gaskell Prov.G.Counc. and seconded by Wy.Bro. John Moritz Prov.G.G. the accounts were approved by the brethren.
12. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler reported that the only nomination for Treasurer was for Wy.Bro. Ronald Glyn Hewitt and in the absence of any other nomination or any brother requiring a ballot he declared Wy.Bro. Hewitt duly elected.
13. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler also reported that the only nominations for Account Examiners was for Wy.Bro.'s Keith Butterworth & David Meacher Jones and in the absence of any other nominations or any brother requiring a ballot he declared them both duly elected.
14. The Provincial Grand Guide, Wy.Bro. John Moritz, addressed the meeting and presented his annual report. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler thanked the Provincial Grand Guide for his comprehensive report and for his work throughout the year.
15. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler named Wy. Bro. Andrew Peter Christopher Tong P.G.Stwd., to be his Deputy and asked the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies to ascertain if the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler Designate was in attendance. The Deputy Provincial Director of Ceremonies confirmed that he was and requested that he be admitted.

The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler then directed the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies to form an escort and introduce the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler designate. The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies then called the following Brethren of the Province to form Cushion Bearers and Escort, namely:-

R.Wy.Bro.	Paul Crudge	G.G.	Dewi Sant Conclave No 457
Wy.Bro.	Geoffrey Gill	P.A.G.D.C.	Arch of Steel Conclave No 377
Wy.Bro.	Ian Brown	Supreme Ruler	Christleton Conclave No 504
Wy.Bro.	Mark Booth	Supreme Ruler	Seal of Solomon Conclave No 463
Wy.Bro.	Cameron Chalmers	Supreme Ruler	Semper Fidelis Conclave No 261
Wy.Bro.	Derek Blackburn	Supreme Ruler	Shield of David Conclave No 345

The Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler designate and his Escort entered The Temple in procession under the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler's Arch of Steel.

The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler then addressed the brethren, he complimented Wy. Bro. Andrew Peter Christopher Tong on the manner in which he had carried out his various duties in the Province. He was a very respected and well liked member in the Order. He then asked the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler Designate if he was willing and able to accept the Office and to undertake the duties and

responsibilities thereof to which the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler Designate replied in the affirmative.

The Patent of Appointment was then read by the Provincial Grand Recorder.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler Designate knelt for the benefit of Prayer given by the Chaplain. The Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler Designate then recited the solemn Obligation of a Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler and was duly Invested and Installed as Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for the Province of Cheshire & North Wales.

The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies called the brethren to Order and proclaimed the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler in all his styles and titles. He then called on the brethren to salute the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler with Five.

16. The Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler thanked the brethren for their fraternal salutations.
17. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler then appointed/re-appointed and invested Provincial Officers for the ensuing year, including promotions to Past Provincial Grand Rank.
18. The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies called the Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers' Arch of Steel to order and presented the Commander of the Arch of Steel, Wy.Bro. Philip Rose to the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Wy.Bro. Rose then individually presented each member of the Arch of Steel to the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler and his Deputy. New members were invested, and current members were thanked for their continued support of the Arch of Steel by the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler.
19. Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, R.Wy.Bro. William Anthony Stringer then addressed Provincial Grand Conclave and a full copy of his address is attached to these minutes.
20. Alms were collected in the sum of £353.99.
21. The Provincial Grand Recorder reported he had no other business to be transacted.
22. Provincial Grand Conclave was closed by the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler at 12.30 p.m. after which the Welsh National Anthem and first verse of the National Anthem were sung.

The recession of the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, accompanied by the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Provincial Officers, Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers from other Provinces, R.Wy. Brethren and Distinguished Guests, was acclaimed by the Brethren at 12.35 p.m.

Prov. G.S.R Prov.G.Rec.