



## Address by our Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler at the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Conclave of Surrey

**Brethren and honoured guests, it gives me great pleasure to address you today.**

To our honoured guests, a very warm welcome to Guildford. I am delighted you are here. Many of you have travelled a long way to join us, and I am truly grateful for the time, effort, and commitment that has taken.

Over the past year, I have had the pleasure of visiting several other Provinces, and I want to thank them sincerely for the welcome, friendship, and hospitality shown to me and to my Deputy, Ian Bloodworth – the other Ian. I should perhaps add that being called Ian is not an absolute requirement for advancement in this Province, although it may?

Brethren, as Ian and I have travelled around the Province on our official visits, one thing has become very clear: recruitment must remain a priority if our Conclaves are to stay healthy and thrive. So let me ask each of you a simple, private question: how many brethren have you personally invited to join our Order in recent months?

Just take a moment to think about your answer. We must not fall into the trap of thinking that **someone else** will bring in new members, because that someone is every one of us.

Throughout my working life, whatever my title, I always saw myself as a salesman, and I am often reminded of the old adage: don't ask, don't get; don't ask, don't want. So let us be proactive and ask the question whenever the opportunity arises.

To my Provincial Guide Len Hillier, who arranges and manages all the Prov Visitors attendance at the Conclave meetings. I intend to make some changes to the role of the Provincial Grand Visitors, so that they can give some additional support to the Conclave Visiting Deacons in carrying out their duties and responsibilities.

My Deputy will be coordinating our social events across the Province, giving members more opportunities to meet one another and, we hope, helping to raise additional Charitable funds, that will enable us make full use of the **'Match Funding'** available from Grand Conclave.

I also want to thank the many Provincial Officers and members of the Arch of Steel who have joined us on our visits to Conclave meetings. Your support means a great deal to those Conclaves, and your presence always adds to the occasion.

As you all know, a meeting like this does not happen without the efforts of a great many people. My Provincial Recorder, Chris Eley, and part-time photographer, or perhaps that should be the other way round, has worked tirelessly to make sure everything that needed doing was done.

Simon McCarthy and the DC team have also gone to great lengths to ensure that we have everything we need. And a special thank you must go to my local 'Tooting Boys', who are always ready to help whenever and wherever they are most needed.

I offer my congratulations to all the Provincial Officers appointed and promoted today, especially those who will receive further honour in November at the Grand Conclave meeting.

I will say a little more at the festive board, but for now let us conclude the Provincial business and move on and get something to drink.

*R. Wy. Bro. Ian T D Smith  
Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler  
Province of Surrey*



# The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Conclave of Surrey

The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Conclave of Surrey was held at the Guildford Masonic Centre on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2026.

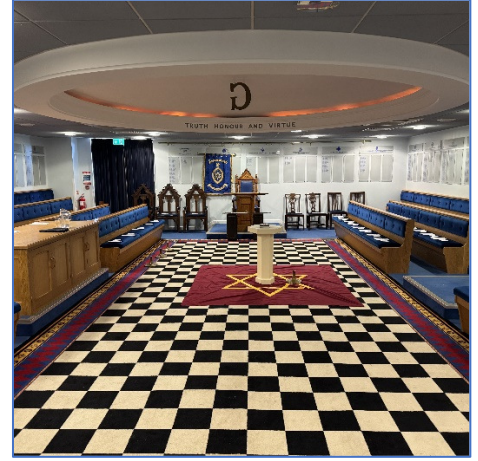
The Brethren of Surrey and their guests started arriving from 9 am where they received a warm welcome and coffee and bacon sandwiches were being served in the bar.



Guildford is a lovely venue when the sun is shining as the terrace overlooks the River Wey. It was good to be able to relax before the meeting, either in the bar or on the patio, and to catch up with old friends.



While everyone was relaxing in the bar before the meeting, the Provincial team were busy rehearsing.



Among the many guests were several Heads and Executive from the Surrey Companion Orders, as well as distinguished guests from other Provinces.

Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers were escorted into the Temple and took their seats.

R.Wy.Bro. Mik Barnes and R.Wy.Bro. Colin Beerling, Past Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers, were escorted into the Temple by the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.



The Provincial Officers of the year and the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, R.Wy.Bro. Ian T D Smith, were escorted into the Temple by the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, Wy Bro. Simon McCarthy.



Provincial Grand Conclave was opened by the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Right Worthy Brother Ian T D Smith, who was saluted with seven under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, Wy.Bro. Simon McCarthy. After the In-Memoriam to departed Brethren, the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler welcomed all the honoured guests of the Province hoping that they will enjoy the meeting and the festive board afterwards.

The minutes were taken, the Roll of Provincial Officers was called, as well as the Roll of Conclaves in the Province. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler received those Brethren who had been inducted since our last meeting. He welcomed them into the Order and presented them with a lapel pin, and a drinks token.

The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler had much pleasure in re-appointing Wy.Bro. Ian Bloodworth as the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler. thanking him for his support over the past year. The Provincial Officers for the year 2024/2025 were then appointed, and those present were invested. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler then re-appointed the Commander of his Arch of Steel and received the members of his Arch of Steel.

During his address to Provincial Grand Conclave, the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler said how good it was to see the Temple so full. He thanked all members of the Province for their continued support, requesting them to continue to seek out from their Craft Lodges suitable members for our wonderful Order.

Provincial Grand Conclave was closed, and the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler greeted all our honoured guests on their way out of the Temple, before returning for some group photographs.





Following refreshments in the bar the members of the Province, their visitors and guests sat down to a most enjoyable luncheon at the Guildford Masonic Centre





*Well done to the Tooting Boys who turn out in force to support all of the Companion Orders.....*

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