

THE SUPREME COUNCIL 33°  
OF THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES  
AND ITS DISTRICTS  
AND CHAPTERS OVERSEAS

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10 DUKE STREET  
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LONDON  
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January 2016

## **ANNUAL CIRCULAR No 133**

Dear Sir and Brother,

This Annual Circular comprises a report on the activities of the Order since 1st January 2015, 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°, with effect from 1st January 2015, remains as follows:

M.: P.:	Bro A J Englefield 33°	Sovereign Grand Commander
V.: P.:	Bro Sir Frederick Crawford DL 33°	Lieutenant Grand Commander
M.: Ill.:	Bro A W Hanbury-Bateman 33°	Grand Marshal
M.: Ill.:	Bro G D A Elgood 33°	Grand Treasurer General H.: E.:
M.: Ill.:	Bro the Revd Dr J R H Railton 33°	Grand Prior
M.: Ill.:	Bro the Hon Andrew Wigram MVO 33°	Grand Chamberlain
M.: Ill.:	Bro D K Williamson 33°	Grand Chancellor
M.: Ill.:	Bro R E Furber 33°	Grand Captain General
M.: Ill.:	Bro Dr G R E Shilson 33°	Grand Secretary General H.: E.:

Honorary Membership of the Supreme Council has been conferred upon M.: Ill.: Bro T J Lewis 33°, Past Grand Treasurer General, and MW Bro Anders Strömberg, Grand Master of The Swedish Order of Freemasons.

### **SUMMARY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES**

During the period under review Members of the Supreme Council held six meetings of the 33°, conducted 12 meetings of the Higher Degrees (during which 679 Brethren were invested), appointed 11 Inspectors General, re-presented patents to seven Inspectors General and visited the Districts of Baldwyn, Buckinghamshire, Cambridge & Isle of Ely, the Channel Islands, East Cheshire, West Cheshire, Cumberland & Westmorland, Devonshire, Dorset, North Essex, South Essex, Gloucestershire & Herefordshire, Hampshire & Isle of Wight (at a joint meeting of Solent and Wessex), North East Lancashire, South East Lancashire, Leicestershire & Rutland, Middlesex, Somerset, Staffordshire & Shropshire, Sussex, Warwickshire, Yorkshire West Riding and South Africa Western Cape. They also visited our unattached Chapter in Gibraltar. Visits were made to the Danish Order of Freemasons, to the Norwegian Order of Freemasons and to the Supreme Councils for Israel, Portugal, the United States of America (both jurisdictions), Ireland, Estonia and Finland. Members of the Norwegian Order of Freemasons and the Swedish Order of Freemasons and members of the Supreme Councils for Australia, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, India, Italy and Turkey attended meetings at Duke Street.

### **33RD DEGREE**

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

M.: P.:	Bro R S E Sandbach OSM 33°	Hon Member of SC and Past Sovereign Grand Commander
M.: Ill.:	Bro the Revd Dr Michael Morgan 33°	Hon Member of SC and Past Grand Prior
V.: Ill.:	Bro G T Gallichan 33°	Inspector General, Channel Islands
V.: Ill.:	Bro F H Saunders 33°	Past Inspector General, North Essex
V.: Ill.:	Bro A E Kemp 33°	Inspector General, South Essex
V.: Ill.:	Bro D L de Beer 33°	Past Inspector General, South Africa North-East and Past Member of the South African Branch Council
V.: Ill.:	Bro K J Nicholson 33°	Past Inspector General, Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Solent
V.: Ill.:	Bro Len Smit 33°	Past Inspector General, South Africa Eastern Cape
V.: Ill.:	Bro R R Martin 33°	Past Inspector General, Durham
V.: Ill.:	Bro M McL Skelly ISO 33°	Inspector General, Surrey

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

V. :. Ill. :. Bro F M Barrett 33°	Inspector General, South Africa Western Cape
V. :. Ill. :. Bro C N Burn 33°	Treasurer, South African Branch Council
V. :. Ill. :. Bro D W Phillips 33°	Inspector General, Staffordshire & Shropshire
V. :. Ill. :. Bro D R B Brown 33°	Inspector General, Sussex
V. :. Ill. :. Bro Anthony Le Tissier 33°	Inspector General, Channel Islands
V. :. Ill. :. Bro N R Cooper 33°	Inspector General, East Cheshire
V. :. Ill. :. Bro Dr R J R Dunstan 33°	Inspector General, St Paul Group of London Chapters
V. :. Ill. :. Bro S W Eales 33°	Grand Organist
V. :. Ill. :. Bro P E Holland 33°	Inspector General, South Essex
V. :. Ill. :. Bro D J Biggs 33°	Inspector General, North East Lancashire
V. :. Ill. :. Bro Brigadier P R Sharpe 33°	Inspector General Designate in Charge, St Peter Group of London Chapters
V. :. Ill. :. Bro Francis Wakem QPM 33°	Inspector General Designate in Charge, Wiltshire
V. :. Ill. :. Bro J R Norbury 33°	Inspector General Designate in Charge, North Wales
V. :. Ill. :. Bro B J Foulkes 33°	Inspector General Designate, North Essex

The following Inspectors General were re-presented with their patents for a further five years:

V. :. Ill. :. Bro M StJ French 33°	Devonshire
V. :. Ill. :. Bro D J O Robbin-Coker 33°	Sierra Leone & The Gambia
V. :. Ill. :. Bro P R A Baker 33°	Middlesex
V. :. Ill. :. Bro M McL Skelly ISO 33°	Surrey
V. :. Ill. :. Bro Dr M D M Parkes Bowen 33°	Leicestershire & Rutland
V. :. Ill. :. Bro B M Edwards 33°	West Cheshire
V. :. Ill. :. Bro M A F Ribeiro 33°	Ghana

#### **OFFICIALS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL**

The Supreme Council is pleased to announce the following appointments and promotions:

V. :. Ill. :. Bro S W Eales 33°	Grand Organist
Ill. :. Bro G J McGowan-Smyth 32°	Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
Ill. :. Bro D J Cresswell 32°	Deputy Grand Organist
Ill. :. Bro W N C Hale 31°	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
Ill. :. Bro J R Soper 31°	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
Ill. :. Bro G A Cowley 30°	Assistant Grand Organist

#### **THE ORDER OF THE EAGLE AND THE ROSE**

The Supreme Council was pleased to confer this award on V. :. Ill. :. Bro Cdr R A Champion RN 33°, Past Inspector General for Sussex, who has given exceptional service to the Ancient and Accepted Rite under our Jurisdiction.

#### **STAFF**

Roger Bathurst, Administration Assistant at 10 Duke Street for over six years, retired on 31st July 2015. Supreme Council extends its sincere thanks to him for all that he has done and wishes him well in retirement.

#### **CHAPTERS**

A warrant has been granted for the following Chapter: Chapel in the Fields Chapter No 1210 (North West Lancashire).

No Centenary Warrants were granted during the year.

The following Chapters surrendered their Warrants to Supreme Council: Egerton of Tatton Chapter No 165, Cestrian Chapter No 222, De Mist Chapter No 787, Edgbaston Chapter No 931, Chapter of Progress No 989 and Eagle Chapter No 750, which has amalgamated with Grays Chapter No 464 to form Grays and Eagle Chapter No 464.

#### **HIGHER DEGREE MEETINGS OVERSEAS**

Meetings of Higher Degrees were held in Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa North-West and South Africa North-East.

#### **MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS**

1,055 18° certificates were issued in the year to 30th June 2015, compared with 1,054 in the previous year. The number of subscriptions received this year fell by 546 from last year to 28,006. The number of extant Chapters on 30th June 2015 was 919 with an average membership of 30. The average age of candidates for Perfection was 55.

## RELATIONS WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS

Following the Supreme Council's earlier suspension of relations with the Supreme Council for France (Suprême Conseil pour la France), and attempts to improve the situation having failed, recognition has now been fully withdrawn with immediate effect. Brethren are advised that they may therefore not visit Chapters in France, nor may members of the Order under that Supreme Council visit Chapters within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Council for England and Wales. It is sincerely hoped that in the coming years, it will be possible for this Supreme Council to recognise the Supreme Council for France once again.

The Supreme Council is in amity with the following jurisdictions:

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

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. 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 at 10 Duke Street 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.

## FINANCE – YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2015

	2015	2014
	£	£
<b>Balance Sheet:</b>		
Fixed Assets	1,080,038	1,080,927
Investments	1,251	1,251
Net Current Assets	<u>335,116</u>	<u>349,951</u>
	1,416,405	1,432,129
Provisions	(71,421)	(73,671)
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b><u>1,344,984</u></b>	<b><u>1,358,458</u></b>
<b>Capital Fund</b>	<b><u>1,344,984</u></b>	<b><u>1,358,458</u></b>

### Income and Expenditure Account:

#### Income from:

Members	582,059	571,587
Rent/Hire of Temples	176,852	168,553
Investments & Deposits	<u>1,589</u>	<u>3,231</u>
	<u>760,500</u>	<u>743,371</u>

#### Expenditure:

Staff Costs	431,849	404,035
Building Admin/Maintenance	161,157	192,224
Office Administration	78,506	70,196
Council Activities	<u>104,712</u>	<u>110,947</u>
	776,224	777,402
Charges to Provisions	(2,250)	(22,322)
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	<u>(13,474)</u>	<u>(11,709)</u>
	<u>760,500</u>	<u>743,371</u>

The above is extracted from the accounts audited by Haysmacintyre, Chartered Accountants. If any member of the Order wishes to view the audited accounts, he may do so with prior notification to the office.

## ANNUAL DUES AND FEES

The Supreme Council has decided that the Annual Dues payable on 1st July 2016 will increase to £18.00 (plus VAT where applicable) for every subscribing member of each Chapter during all or part of the preceding year. Districts overseas (except where special arrangements apply) will remit £14.50 per subscribing member, retaining the balance of £3.50 to help defray District costs.

## DISTRICT/GROUP LEVIES

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.

## **QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Brethren are reminded that all candidates for membership of the Ancient and Accepted Rite under our jurisdiction must profess the Trinitarian Christian faith and have been Master Masons **for at least one year** as set out in Rule 36(a)(ii) of the Rules of the Order. Proposers and seconders must check that their candidates are duly qualified.

## **AMENDMENT TO THE RULES**

The Supreme Council has amended Rule 14(d) of the Rules to read:

*14. An Inspector General is empowered to issue the following Dispensations in the prescribed form, a copy of any such Dispensation being sent to the Supreme Council together with any prescribed fee: ... (d) to hold a meeting (whether an Enthronement meeting or otherwise) of a Chapter intended for Past Sovereigns or members of the Higher Degrees at a place within the District or Group other than the regular place of meeting of the Chapter;*

The Supreme Council has agreed that there shall be no fee for dispensations granted under the said Rule 14(d).

## **BRETHREN MOVING HOMES TO ANOTHER DISTRICT**

Any brother moving home to another District is strongly encouraged to advise his current Inspector General in order to receive assistance with an introduction to the Inspector General of his new District and to a Chapter near his new home.

## **DUAL ALLEGIANCE/AFFILIATION**

Brethren are reminded that except in Cyprus, New Zealand and India, where specific arrangements are in force, dual allegiance is not permitted. Any enquiries about this subject must be submitted to the Grand Secretary General.

## **HIGHER DEGREES MEETINGS**

The 32° meeting on 2nd November 2016 will take place at The Arnold House, Elsee Road, Rugby, CV21 3BA at 12.30pm, followed by lunch. It is expected that many existing holders of the 32° will wish to attend and early booking is recommended.

## **THE 2016 YEAR BOOK**

The Supreme Council requires that a copy of the Year Book be given to every new member on his Perfection.

The Year Book provides information that cannot be included in Annual Circulars, such as detailed lists of members of the South African Branch Council, the 33°, Districts, Groups and Chapters, including the name of the current Sovereign and the name and address of the Recorder of each Chapter. It also contains an Historical Section, with chronological lists of Members of the Supreme Council (and the offices they hold) and of other members of the 33°. A copy, the cost of which is £12.00, is sent to each Chapter Recorder. You may order copies of the 2016 Year Book through your Recorder or directly from the Grand Secretary General's office (enclosing a cheque for £12.00 payable to 'Supreme Council').

## **WEBSITE**

The Supreme Council website is available for viewing at [www.sc33.org.uk](http://www.sc33.org.uk).

## **HANDLING OF CHARITY MONIES**

When a private Chapter intends to disburse its charitable monies, it is advised to ensure that this intention is circulated to all members of the Chapter prior to any disbursement. Chapters are reminded that Relief Chests may be set up with the Grand Charity to benefit from Gift Aid.

## **THE KING EDWARD VII CHAPTER OF IMPROVEMENT—DEMONSTRATIONS**

In 2016, by permission of the Supreme Council, demonstrations of the 7th and 8th Degrees will be given: on Monday 25th April at Freemasons' Hall, London; on Saturday 21st May at Berkshire Masonic Centre, Mole Road, Sindlesham; and on Saturday 4th June at Freemasons' Hall, London Road, Leicester.

In 2017, demonstrations of the 9th and 10th Degrees will be given: on Monday 24th April at Freemasons' Hall, London; on Saturday 10th June at Masonic Hall, Goldsmith Street, Nottingham; on Saturday 17th June at Freemasons' Hall, Queen Street, Chester; and on Saturday 24th June at Queens' College, Cambridge.

All the Members of Supreme Council take this opportunity to wish the members of the Order a very happy new year.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,



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