



January 2026

ANNUAL CIRCULAR No 143

Dear Sir and Brother,

This Annual Circular comprises a report on the activities of the Order since 1st January 2025, notices of forthcoming events, announcements of administrative changes, reminders about certain Rules and guidance and instructions on relations with foreign jurisdictions.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL

Membership of the Supreme Council 33° remains as follows:

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

SUMMARY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES

During 2025, Members of the Supreme Council held six meetings of the 33° at which fourteen candidates were promoted, conducted nine meetings of the Higher Degrees (during which 480 Brethren were invested), installed eight Inspectors General, re-presented patents to two Inspectors General and visited the Districts of Baldwyn, Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire, Berkshire, Cambridge & Isle of Ely, Channel Islands, East Cheshire, West Cheshire, Derbyshire, Devonshire, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Solent, Isle of Man, West Kent, North West Lancashire, Somerset, Staffordshire & Shropshire, Sussex, North Wales, the St James, St John, St Matthew and St Paul Groups of London Chapters and Hong Kong, Sierra Leone & The Gambia and New Zealand. Higher Degrees Meetings were also held in Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa. Eleven visits to foreign jurisdictions were conducted, to the Supreme Councils for Australia, Austria, Estonia, Latvia, The Netherlands, Romania, Scotland, Spain, Sweden and the US Southern Jurisdiction and the Danish Order of Freemasons. During the year, Members of the Supreme Councils for Cyprus, Denmark, India and Slovenia attended meetings at Duke Street.

33RD DEGREE

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

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| V.:Ill.:Bro David Parry 33° | Past Inspector General for North Wales |
| V.:Ill.:Bro Kenneth White 33° | Past Inspector General for Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Wessex |
| V.:Ill.:Bro Peter Gillman 33° | Past Inspector General for Gloucestershire & Herefordshire |
| V.:Ill.:Bro Francis Wakem BEM QPM 33° | Past Inspector General for Wiltshire |

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

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| V.:Ill.:Bro Steven Varley 33° | |
| V.:Ill.:Bro Robert Brown 33° | Inspector General for Sussex |
| V.:Ill.:Bro Jonathan Whitaker DL 33° | |
| V.:Ill.:Bro Simon Richardson 33° | Inspector General for Channel Islands |
| V.:Ill.:Bro Andrew Yelland 33° | Inspector General for Devonshire |
| V.:Ill.:Bro Boris Bong 33° | Inspector General for Hong Kong |

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| V.:Ill.:Bro Graham Bailey 33° | Inspector General for the St Paul Group |
| V.:Ill.:Bro Robert Bramley 33° | Inspector General for East Cheshire |
| V.:Ill.:Bro John Prizeman 33° | |
| V.:Ill.:Bro Rob Vickery 33° | Inspector General for North Wales |
| V.:Ill.:Bro Mike Harding 33° | Inspector General for Surrey |
| V.:Ill.:Bro Richard Legge 33° | Inspector General for Wiltshire |
| V.:Ill.:Bro Kevin Reaney 33° | Inspector General for East Lancashire |
| V.:Ill.:Bro Nick Franklin 33° | Inspector General for North Essex |

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

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| V.:Ill.:Bro Richard Hopkinson-Woolley 33° | Inspector General for the St Matthew Group |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|

OFFICIALS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL

Ill.:Bro M K Wheeler 30° retired as Grand Outer Guard, although continues as Facilities Manager. The Supreme Council thanks him for his contribution, and is pleased to announce the following promotions and appointments:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Ill.:Bro M F T Beckwith 32° | Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies |
| Ill.:Bro G N Hilu 32° | Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies |
| Ill.:Bro C P Macdonald 31° | Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies |
| Ill.:Bro I O B Williams 31° | Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies |
| Ill.:Bro M R Christmas 30° | Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies |
| Ill.:Bro A R Barahona-Wills 30° | Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies |
| Ill.:Bro A T O Aamodt 30° | Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies |
| Ill.:Bro J C Wong 30° | Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies |
| Ill.:Bro R J Sams 31° | Grand Outer Guard |

STAFF

At the end of the year, E.:&P.:Bro Colin Stone retired after more than 15 years on the staff in various roles, latterly as Membership Administrator; we welcome his successor in that role, Daniel Liversidge.

WEBSITE

The Supreme Council reminds members that its website may be found at www.sc33.org.uk. This contains a refreshed 'public face' of the Order and enables interested Craft freemasons to enquire about joining.

DISTRICTS

The Supreme Council decided that the Districts of North East Lancashire and South East Lancashire should be amalgamated. The District of East Lancashire, which had existed until being split in 1970, was thus reformed with effect from 24 December 2025.

CHAPTERS

Centenary Warrants were granted to Archbishop Courtenay Chapter No. 246 (West Kent), Windsor Castle Chapter No. 252 (Berkshire), Galway Chapter No. 254 (Nottinghamshire), Living Circle Chapter No. 255 (St James Group), Cytringan Chapter No. 256 (Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire) and Verney Clayton Chapter No. 261 (North East Lancashire).

Macclesfield Chapter No. 354 (East Cheshire) and Rhuthyn Chapter No. 429 (North Wales) surrendered their Warrants to the Supreme Council during 2024 (not previously reported). The following Chapters surrendered their Warrants to the Supreme Council during 2025: Byron Chapter No. 370 (Middlesex), Hale Chapter No. 371 (St Matthew), Cadbury Camp Chapter No. 598 (Somerset), Bishop Surtees Chapter No. 628 (Devonshire), Braintree St Mary Chapter No. 706 (North Essex), Ilford St Mary Chapter No. 743 (North Essex), Emmaus Chapter No. 991 (Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Wessex), Colne St Bartholomew Chapter No. 1073 (North East Lancashire) and Oxfordshire Chapter No. 1178 (Oxfordshire).

Ormskirk Chapter No. 265 amalgamated with Ormskirk Priory Chapter No. 669 to form Ormskirk and Priory Chapter No. 265 (North West Lancashire); Stockport Chapter No. 299 amalgamated with Cheshire St Thomas Chapter No. 367 to form Stockport St Thomas Chapter No. 299 (East Cheshire); and Bellisama Chapter No. 405 amalgamated with Prince of Peace Chapter No. 767 to form City of Preston Chapter No. 405 (North West Lancashire).

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

1,063 candidates were Perfected in the year to 30th June 2025 compared with 966 in the previous year. The number of subscriptions received fell by 104 to 21,619. The number of extant Chapters on 30th June 2025 was 857 with an average membership of 25. The average age of candidates for Perfection was 52.

FINANCE – YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2025

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Balance Sheet: | £ | £ |
| Fixed assets | 1,037,111 | 1,039,595 |
| Investments | 424,621 | 419,632 |
| Net current assets | <u>626,279</u> | <u>737,858</u> |
| Net assets | 2,088,011 | 2,197,085 |
| Capital Fund | 2,088,011 | 2,197,085 |
| Income and Expenditure Account: | | |
| Income from: | | |
| Members | 619,716 | 713,913 |
| Rent/hire of rooms | 213,315 | 209,877 |
| Investments & deposits | <u>10,638</u> | <u>9,756</u> |
| | 843,669 | 933,546 |
| Expenditure: | | |
| Staff costs | 437,780 | 419,383 |
| Building admin./maintenance | 171,972 | 163,892 |
| Office administration | 115,419 | 157,904 |
| Council activities | 174,733 | 162,099 |
| Other expenses | <u>52,839</u> | <u>34,891</u> |
| | 952,743 | 938,169 |
| Surplus for the year | (109,074) | (4,623) |
| Capital Fund brought forward | <u>2,197,085</u> | <u>2,201,708</u> |
| Capital Fund carried forward | 2,088,011 | 2,197,085 |

The above is extracted from accounts that have been examined by Kreston Reeves LLP, Chartered Accountants. If any member of the Order wishes to view the accounts, he may do so by prior arrangement.

ANNUAL DUES, FEES AND LEVY

The Supreme Council has decided that the Annual Dues payable on 1st July 2026 will remain at £25.00 (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 continue to remit £21.00 per subscribing member, retaining the balance of £4.00 to help defray District costs. The maximum levy that each Inspector General is authorised to make on each subscribing member in his District/Group to help defray District/Group costs remains at £2.00.

CHAPTER TREASURERS

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

RELATIONS WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

DUAL ALLEGIANCE/AFFILIATION

Brethren are informed that except in New Zealand and India, where specific arrangements are in force, allegiance to more than one Supreme Council is only permitted with the express consent of both relevant Councils. Enquiries about this subject are to be submitted to the Grand Secretary General.

THE 2024 RITUAL AND 2026 YEAR BOOK

You are reminded that all Chapters are now required to use the 2024 18° and Enthronement rituals. A large-print, 'library' edition is also now available for purchase, to assist those who may struggle to read regular text.

The Supreme Council requires that a copy of the Year Book be given to every new member on his Perfection. The Year Book provides detailed lists of Districts, Groups and Chapters. It also contains an Historical Section, with chronological lists of Members of the Supreme Council (and the offices they have held), of the South African Branch Council and of other members of the 33°. A copy of the Year Book, the cost of which is £15, is sent to each Chapter Recorder. You may order copies of the 2026 Year Book through your Recorder or purchase one in person from Reception at 10 Duke Street St James's.

KING EDWARD VII CHAPTER OF IMPROVEMENT – DEMONSTRATIONS

In 2026, by permission of the Supreme Council, demonstrations of the 5° and 6° will be given on: Monday 27 April at Freemasons' Hall, London; Saturday, 6 June at Leicester Masonic Hall (hosted by Leicestershire & Rutland); and Saturday 19 September at the Masonic Centre, St Martin, Guernsey (hosted by Channel Islands).

The Members of the Supreme Council send all members their very best wishes for 2026.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,



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