

**SAINT MARY AND ALL SAINTS CHAPTER NO. 688
OF KNIGHTS OF THE PELICAN AND EAGLE AND SOVEREIGN PRINCES ROSE
CROIX OF H.R.D.M.**

THE FIRST TWENTY FIVE YEARS

1970 TO 1995

A Chronicle of Events to the Now

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'Behold! I make all things new'

Revelation

'History is the essence of innumerable biographies'

Thomas Carlyle

To look to the past is to provide understanding of the present and to project the way forward into the future. A trite comment indeed on the philosophy of a study of history, nevertheless it gives some point to what is written below.

Prior to 1970 Masons in the Kidderminster and Stourport Districts were drawn either to the St Dunstan Chapter in Worcester, or to Gervase Paganel in Dudley or to Halesowen Chapter for their Perfection into the Ancient and Accepted Rite. The Honours Boards of Enthroned Sovereigns in those Chapters carry the names of very distinguished and prominent Masons of Kidderminster and Stourport. During the latter years of the sixties suggestions were being voiced as to the creation of a Chapter of Sovereign Princes Rose Croix of Heredom in the Kidderminster or Stourport area. With the creative inspiration of the late Very Illustrious Brother Leonard Greenwood, M.A., 33°, Inspector General, coupled with high-powered organisational genius of E. & P. Brother Norman A. James, LL.B., 18°, the seeds for a new Chapter S.P.F.C. of H.R.D.M. were sown and the first Founders Assembly was held at the Masonic Rooms, Briars Hotel, Kidderminster on 27th May 1970. This gathering was attended by the Inspector General, V.Ill. Bro. L.W. Greenwood, M.A. 33°, four members of the 30°, and twelve members of the 18°, all drawn principally from St Dunstan, Gervase Paganel or Halesowen Chapters. The Chair at this inaugural Founders Forum was occupied by Illustrious Brother H. W. Spilsbury, 30°, Sovereign of St Dunstan Chapter No. 12 in 1961. It was unanimously agreed that, subject to the approval of Supreme Council 33°, a Chapter of Sovereign Princes Rose Croix of H.R.D.M. be founded, primarily for Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley Masons. After some discussion it was resolved that the new Chapter shall, subject to the concurrence of the House Committee meet at the Masonic Rooms, Briars Hotel, Kidderminster. Several suggestions were forthcoming for a title for the new Chapter. It was finally resolved that the name for the new Chapter should be 'Saint Mary and All Saints' which is the name of the Parish Church

of Kidderminster where, in the past, Services were held for members of the Ancient and Accepted Rite. A further discussion then ensued as to the frequency and dates on which the Regular Meetings should be held. E. & P. Brothers N.A. James, LL.B, 18°, and T W Jewkes, 18°, had already made an investigation as to appropriate dates for Meetings of the new Chapter having borne in mind the already arranged calendar Meetings of all Masonic Organisations, particularly in the Dudley, Halesowen, Kidderminster and Stourport districts, and existing Chapters S.P.R.C. of H.R.D.M. Provided the House Committee for the Masonic Rooms at the Briars raised no objection, it was resolved that the new Chapter should meet three times each year - on the last Thursday in January, the last Friday in May, being the Enthronement Meeting, and the last Thursday in October. It was unanimously resolved to invite Illustrious Brother George Neville Weston 30°, who had been Sovereign of St Dunstan Chapter No. 12 in 1949 to be the first Most Wise Sovereign of the new Chapter and that he be recommended to Supreme Council 33° in that capacity. It was afterwards unanimously resolved that Excellent and Perfect Brother Norman Arthur James, LL.B, 18°, be Recorder Designate of the New Chapter. The following Princes were then invited to fill the principal Offices of the Chapter:-

Prelate: E. & P. Bro. D.W. Handley, J.P., 18° (Enthroned Sov. 316 1971, Elected to 30° 1972)

First General: E. & P. Bro. L.H.C. Fair, M.B.E., 18°

Second General: E. & P. Bro. H.A. Nock, MC, 18° (He was to succeed V.III.Bro. L.W. Greenwood, MA, 33° as Inspector General in 1975)

Treasurer: E. & P. Bro. R. Crumpton, 18° (To be Enthroned Sov. 316 in 1974. Elected to 30° 1975 and to 31° 1988)

Director of Ceremonies: Ill.Bro. W. Mosley, 30°, P.Sov. 387 (Elected to 31° in 1979, and to 32° in 1984)

Ill.Bro. H.W. Spilsbury, 30°, Sov. 12 1961 (Elected 31° 1970) agreed to act as Immediate Past Sovereign: it was agreed to leave the Most Wise Sovereign Designate to select the remainder of the Officers. It was agreed to ask Bro. P.W. Barker if he would be prepared to accept the appointment

as Outer Guard to the Chapter. The Recorder Designate produced the Petition for the Warrant for signature by all the Princes present with the exception of the Inspector General and Ill. Bro. F.C. Perrett, 30°, P.Sov. 316. The Recorder Designate undertook to obtain the signatures of Ill. Bro. F. Clifford 31°, P.Sov. 316 (Elected to 32°; Preceptor M.R.C. Chapt. of Improvement) and E. & P. Bros. D.J. Bullivant, 18°, P.A. Darlington, 18°, and H.W. Windsor, J.P., 18°. After the appendage of these signatures the Petition would be forwarded to Supreme Council 33°. Furniture for equipping the new Chapter would be forthcoming from the craftsmen among the Founders, and as far as possible would be sized to fit the limited storage space at the Masonic Rooms.

At the next Founders' Meeting held on 25th June 1970 the Recorder Designate reported that Supreme Council 33° had granted a Warrant for Saint Mary and All Saints Chapter S.P.R.C. of H.R.D.M. to meet at Masonic Rooms, Briars Hotel, Kidderminster. The number of the Chapter was to be 688, and approved the name of Illustrious Brother G. Neville Weston, 30° as the first Most Wise Sovereign. Supreme Council 33° had requested to be informed of some suitable dates for the Consecration of the new Chapter together with the proposed venue. Because of local limitations the Consecration would have to be held elsewhere, and Dudley and Worcester were suggested as suitable venues. In response to the dates offered, Supreme Council 33° had selected Tuesday, 24th November 1970 at the Masonic Hall, Rainbow Hill, Worcester for the Consecration. This decision was announced at a further Meeting of the Founders, and arrangements for the Consecration were agreed. The list of first Officers was approved and invitations to attend the Consecration would be sent to the Inspector General for Warwickshire, the Inspector General for Staffordshire and Shropshire and the Inspector General Elect for Gloucestershire and Herefordshire. It was further agreed to invite as Guests of the Chapter the Most Wise Sovereigns of other Chapters in the District other than the Most Wise Sovereigns of St Dunstan, Gervase Paganel, Halesowen and St Agnes Chapters who would be invited as guests of the Most Wise Sovereign Designate. The District Recorders of Warwickshire, Staffordshire and Shropshire, and Gloucestershire and Herefordshire would be invited as Guests of the Inspector General for Worcestershire.

With all the preliminaries completed the Ceremony of Consecration was performed on 24th November

1970 and a new Chapter of Sovereign Princes Rose Croix of H.R.D.M. came into being. The Consecration Ceremony was performed by six members of Supreme Council 33° headed by the Supreme Grand Commander M.P.Bro. Sir Eric Studd, Bt, O.B.E, 33°. Attending on Supreme Council 33° was Ill.Bro. J. Peart 30° Grand Outer Guard, and two Members of the District of Worcestershire. Ill.Bro. P.B. Mayne 31° and Ill.Bro. N.F. Selwyn Smith 30° were assisting Supreme Council 33° in the Capacity of Acting Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies and Organist respectively. The Very Illustrious Brother Leonard W. Greenwood, M.A. 33° Inspector General for Worcestershire was accompanied by Very Illustrious Brother C. Hollinshead 33° Elect Inspector General for Gloucestershire and Herefordshire. The nineteen Founders were in attendance. Also present were two members of the S.P.R.S. 32nd Degree; five members of the G.I.I.C. 31st Degree; thirteen members of the G.E.K., K.H. 30th Degree; nine Sovereigns of other Chapters; and twenty-seven members of the S.P.R.C. 18th Degree, with one Serving Brother. The total of those present was eighty-seven Brethren of the Order. The Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander appointed the following Officiating Officers for the Consecration Ceremony:-

Prelate: The Grand Prior

1st General: The V.P. Lieutenant Grand Commander

2nd General: The Grand Chancellor

Acting Asst. G.D.C. Ill.Bro. P.B. Mayne 31°

Acting Organist: Ill.Bro. N.F. Selwyn Smith 30°

Ill.Bro. J. Peart 30° Grand Outer Guard acted as Outer Guard assisted by Frater E.G. Davies

A Supreme Council Chapter of Sovereign Princes Rose Croix was opened by the Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander. The Ceremony of the Consecration of the Saint Mary and All Saints Chapter of Sovereign Princes Rose Croix of H.R.D.M. was then duly carried out in accordance with the customary practice. Illustrious Brother G.N. Weston 30° was enthroned as the first Sovereign of the Chapter and he then appointed and invested his Officers. Very Illustrious Brother Leonard W. Greenwood, MA 33° was elected an Honorary Member of the Chapter. With such a richly endowed Consecration energised by the true spirit of the Order the future of the Chapter was effectively assured.

The first Regular Meeting of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Rooms, Briars Hotel, Kidderminster on 28th January 1971 and, as already arranged, Brother P.W. Barker was Perfected, after which he was elected to the Office of Outer Guard of the Chapter. At the same Meeting E. & P. Bro. C.H. Lowater 18° was elected as the first Joining Member of the Chapter.

The first Regular Enthronement Meeting was the second Regular Meeting of the Chapter, at which E. & P. Bro. L.H.C. Batt, M.B.E., 18°, who was Assistant Provincial Grand Master, was Enthroned as Sovereign of the Chapter. At the same Meeting Ill.Bro. R.P. Vale 31°, who was Enthroned as Sovereign of St Dunstan Chapter No. 12 in 1945 and who had donated the handsome silver Altar Dish, and Ill.Bro. H.W. Cheshire, 30°, who was Enthroned as Sovereign of St Dunstan No. 12 in 1938 and afterwards served as Director of Ceremonies of that Chapter, were elected Honorary Members of the Chapter. It was also agreed that the Chapter should be an affiliated Member of the Midlands Rose Croix Chapter of Improvement.

At the fifth Regular Meeting of the Chapter in May 1972 Excellent and Perfect Brother H.A. Nock, M.C. 18°, was Enthroned as Sovereign of the Chapter.

In 1973 it was agreed to elect Illustrious Brother G.N. Weston, 30° as Honorary Member of the Chapter in recognition of his services to the Order in general and St Mary and All Saints in particular as the First Sovereign, following his moving away from Kidderminster to live near Norwich.

Illustrious Brother H.A. Nock, M.C., 30° was elected to 31° in 1975. The fourteenth Regular Meeting in May 1975 was a memorable one in the history of the Chapter, indeed a sparkling jewel in its crown. It was the occasion of the Enthronement of E. & P. Brother Norman A. James, LL.B., 18° as Sovereign of the Chapter. He had played a major part in the formation of a Chapter in the Ancient and Accepted Rite in Kidderminster. His work had ensured the great success achieved by the Chapter in such a short span of years. Additionally it was the last Ceremony at which Very Illustrious Brother Leonard W. Greenwood, M.A., 33° would attend in his capacity as Inspector General for the District of Worcestershire. It was somewhat fitting that he should attend his last

meeting as Inspector General at St Mary and All Saints Chapter No. 688 since he had fulfilled such an inspirational function as guide in the foundation and consecration of the Chapter, and, with the organisational genius of E. & P. Brother Norman A. James, LL.B, 18°, the Chapter was erected on rock like foundation. It was additionally fitting in that the successor to Very Illustrious Brother Leonard W. Greenwood, M.A. 33° as Inspector General for the District of Worcestershire was to be Illustrious Brother Harry A. Nock, M.C., 31° a Past Sovereign of St Mary and All Saints Chapter. Fifty-eight visitors attended the Ceremonies of Perfection and Enthronement. The Festive Board was attended by ninety Members of the Order, and all the Chapters in the district were represented. The Most Wise Sovereign, E. & P. Brother Norman A. James, LL.B., 18°, invited the Prelate, E. & P. Brother G.H. Green, B.Comm. B.Sc.(Econ) 18°, to propose the Toast to the Inspector General. E. & P. Bro. Green had recently been Enthroned as M.W.S. of the St Dunstan Chapter No. 12, the Senior Chapter in the District, and in which Chapter Very Illustrious Brother Leonard W. Greenwood, M.A., 33°, Inspector General was a Member, and had served that Chapter as Recorder for several years. At the conclusion of the Toast E. & P. Bro. Green presented to Very Illustrious Brother Greenwood, M.A., 33°, a set of silver sherry goblets and a cut glass and silver decanter, suitably inscribed, as a token from all the Chapters in the District to mark his services to, and his retirement from, the Office of Inspector General of the District of Worcestershire. This was an excellent occasion to honour a very great man who expressed the essence and spiritual depth of the Order in all that he did and said.

At the next Regular Meeting of the Chapter in October 1975, Very Illustrious Brother Harry A. Nock, M.C., 33°, Inspector General, a Past Sovereign of the Chapter, attended the Chapter for the first time after his Installation as Inspector General for the District of Worcestershire. This Ceremony of Installation had been held at the St Dunstan Chapter No. 12 to which V.Ill.Bro. H.A. Nock, M.C., 33° was a Joining Member.

At the Enthronement Meeting held in May 1982 the Chapter received an offer from Mrs L. Lowater of an heirloom in memory of her late husband, Ill.Bro. C.H. Lowater, 30°, who was Enthroned as Sovereign of the Chapter in 1980. This was to be in the form of a Jewel to be worn by the

Immediate Past Sovereign during his year in that Office. In July 1982 Members of the Chapter were deeply saddened by the knowledge of the death of Very Illustrious Brother Leonard W. Greenwood, M.A., 33°, elected an Honorary Member of the Chapter at the Consecration in 1970. This melancholy happening heralded a series of serious losses by death. In 1984 the Chapter learned with regret of the death of Illustrious Brother G.N. Weston, 30°, First Sovereign of the Chapter, and also of that great Masonic stalwart, Illustrious Brother D.W. Handley, J.P., 30°, who had served the Chapter as the first Prelate, and for a short period as Recorder.

In the midst of this succession of sad happenings, there arose a bright sparkle of joy at the election by Supreme Council of Illustrious Brother W. Mosley to 32°. Ill. Bro. Mosley was appointed the first Director of Ceremonies, and he had served the Chapter with outstanding insight and fulfilment of the heart and soul of the Order. He richly deserved this honour to which he added his own brand of lustre. Very Illustrious W.D.S. Bennett, 33°, was appointed Inspector General in succession to Very Illustrious H.A. Nock, M.C. 33°, who had resigned as Inspector General in 1984. But his reign was short-lived in that he died in 1985, and Very Illustrious H.A. Nock, M.C. 33°, was appointed Inspector General-in-Charge. In the same year Illustrious Brother Frank Clifford, 32°, who was a Founder Member of the Chapter and had served as Assistant Director of Ceremonies, and was also Preceptor of the Midlands Rose Cross Chapter of Improvement had died. Very Illustrious Brother Charles W. Baglin, 33°, was appointed Inspector General in June 1987, and this appointment relieved Very Illustrious Brother H.A. Nock, M.C. 33° of his responsibility of being in Charge of the District. But he was not long to enjoy his release from the demanding duties of High Office in that he died in 1988. Very Illustrious Brother H.A. Nock, M.C. 33° Past Inspector General was a Founder Member of the Chapter, was appointed the first Second General in 1970, and Enthroned as Sovereign in 1972.

In January 1987 the Chapter was appointed a Grand Vice-Patron of the Royal Masonic Hospital following its latest donation of £336 to the hospital.

Very Illustrious Brother C.W. Baglin, 33°, Inspector General made his first visit to the Chapter as

Inspector General on the occasion of the fiftieth Regular Meeting of the Chapter.

At the January Meeting in 1988 the Chapter learned with regret of the resignation due to ill health of Illustrious Brother Ronald Crumpton, 30° from the Office of Treasurer, an appointment in which he had served with great distinction since the Consecration of the Chapter. In the same year, 1988, the Chapter learned with very deep regret the death of Illustrious Brother W. Mosley, 32°. He was a Member of the Ancient and Accepted Rite for forty-one years, and had served the Chapter as Director of Ceremonies since his appointment to that Office at the Consecration, an Office he had filled with very great distinction in his own inimitable fashion. His place as Director of Ceremonies was taken by Illustrious Brother D.W. Hadley, 30° (Elected to 31° in 1989) who brings to the Office his own degree of excellence.

At this same May Meeting in 1988, the Chapter learned with great pleasure that Illustrious Brother R. Crumpton 30° had been elected to 31° and was due to be invested in October. Sadly ill health prevented Ill. Bro. Crumpton, 31° from travelling to London to be so invested, despite the offer of extensive facilities to be laid on by Supreme Council 33° to enable him to get to and from Duke Street. However, our beloved Inspector General, V.Ill. C.W. Baglin 33° conveyed the best wishes of Supreme Council to Ill. Bro. R. Crumpton, 31° and presented him with the 31° Certificate and invested him with the Collar of that degree. After the Eighteenth Degree had been closed, the Inspector General in the presence of other members of the 31° Degree, and acting on behalf of Supreme Council 33° communicated the Secrets of that Degree to Ill. Bro. Crumpton. This was a brief but very moving ceremony and Illustrious Brother R. Crumpton 31° was deeply affected.

At the January Meeting in 1989 E. & P. Brother Frank Green, 18° intimated his wish to resign from the Office of Outer Guard with effect from the Enthronement Meeting in May. For his services to the Chapter over the years, E. & P. Brother F. Green, 18° was proposed as an Honorary Member. Following his Perfection at this January Meeting E. & P. Brother Graham K. Downton, 18°, was proposed and seconded to serve the Chapter as the Outer Guard, and to be invested in May with the authority of the Office.

Illustrious Brother R. Crumpton, 31° did not survive very long to enjoy the privilege of membership of the thirty-first Degree. His death was announced at the Enthronement Meeting held in May 1989.

E. & P. Brother F. Green, 18°, was elected an Honorary Member of the Chapter in May 1989.

The Chapter learned with regret the sudden death in a car accident in 1989 of Illustrious Brother J.C. Loader, 31°, District Recorder in which capacity he had been a regular visitor to the Chapter. He was succeeded in that Office by Illustrious Brother R.E. Woolley, 31°, who made his first visit to the Chapter as District Recorder at the January Meeting 1990.

The death of Very Illustrious C.W. Baglin, 33°, Inspector General on 5th December 1990 was announced with deep regret at the January Meeting 1991. Although his reign as Inspector General had been a relatively short one, he had endeared himself to every member of the Order through the identification of himself with the true spirit of the Order and this attitude was reflected in all his undertakings.

Very Illustrious Brother Edward F. Fanshott, J.P., LL.D. (Hon.) 32° was appointed Inspector General Designate in succession to Very Illustrious Brother C.W. Baglin, 33° and he was Installed in that Office at the Northfield Chapter No. 1022 on 28th June 1991.

Illustrious Brother A.A. Hartley, 30° was proposed as an Honorary Member of the Chapter in recognition of his services to Masonry in general and to the Chapter in particular. This election was held at the January Meeting in 1992. At this same Meeting it was announced that an Honours Board to record the Enthronement of Sovereigns of the Chapter had been donated by Illustrious Brothers L.A. Darby, 30°, and G.F. Davies, LL.B., 30°, and an opportunity to view would be afforded at the Festive Board. At the Enthronement Meeting in May 1992 it was agreed to provide table napkins emblazoned with the Chapter Name in silver lettering, also to meet the request from the Masonic House Committee for a proportional donation towards the supply of a new floor covering for the Temple, both these costs to be met from the bequest to the Chapter under the Will of the late

Illustrious Brother J.P. Garrett, 30°.

In October 1992 Supreme Council 33° changed its policy as regards the dissemination of the Annual Circular. Henceforth sufficient copies of the Circular would be provided to permit the distribution of a copy to every member of the Chapter.

Very Illustrious Brother E.F. Hanson, J.P. LL.D (Hon.) 33° Inspector General made his first visit to the Chapter in that Office at the Enthronement Meeting in May 1993.

Illustrious Brothers M.L. Homer 31° and V.J. Fogarty, 30° presented the Chapter with six cut-glass Rose Bowls together with silk red roses wherewith to furnish the tables at the Banquet.

The By-laws of the Chapter amended to conform to the model By-laws published by Supreme Council 33° were agreed to and accepted by the Members of the Chapter at the January Meeting in 1994. The Annual Circular No. 111, was issued to every member of the Chapter in which Supreme Council 33° announced a revision of the Rules of Supreme Council 33° with effect from 1994, together with the issue of an amended Ritual of the Eighteenth Degree, the introduction of which would be obligatory on 1st January 1995. This revised Ritual was used in its entirety both for the Perfection Ceremony and for the Enthronement at the Regular Meeting of the Chapter in May 1994. Both Ceremonies in the control of the current Officers proceeded very smoothly, and will continue to be so used.

The Regular Meeting in May 1995 was the seventy-fourth, and was the Enthronement of the twenty-sixth Most Wise Sovereign. Hence, Excellent and Perfect Brother Bryan T. Mahon became Most Wise Sovereign in this celebratory Silver Jubilee Year of the Chapter. At this same Meeting of the Chapter Most Illustrious Brother The Reverend Doctor Michael Morgan, 33°, Grand Prior was elected, with acclamation, an Honorary Member of the Chapter. After the closure of the Chapter a photograph was taken of the Members in this Silver Jubilee Year who were able to be present.

We have now reached the end of the beginning of our Chapter, and what is written above is a chronicle of some of the events which have enabled us to travel together thus far on the Silver Road, with kerbs besparkled by the rich jewels of its members whose efforts have paved the way to make it possible to reach this now. What it does not do, because the writer lacks the intellectual skill and the word power, is to reveal the hearts, minds and spiritual strengths of the Members past and present, who reflect the true history of the Chapter, who have made, are still making and will continue to make, the real core and beauty of the Chapter. It is the first movement of a great symphony orchestrated by truly great Masons. As we turn to view the Golden Road ahead, the second movement will be enriched by Members of equal greatness in orchestrating its affairs. The love and zeal for the Order of the present Recorder, Illustrious Brother Melville Everett, 20°, the driving motivation of the Director of Ceremonies, Illustrious Brother Derek Hadley, 31°, who brings to the Chapter the skills and modulations of his Mother Chapter, Sandeman Chapter No. 32, so ably assisted by the Assistant Director of Ceremonies, Illustrious Brother Michael Homer, 31°, who is so deeply steeped in Masonic skills and a delicate feeling for the spirit of the Order together with those stalwart Founders, Illustrious Brother Thomas Lewkes, 30°, and Illustrious Brother Derek Bullivant, 31°, both of whom are jealous guardians and promoters of the sparkle of the Order. But all the Members are ready to add their own lustre to the brilliance of the symphonic sound. And so Princes with the glittering beckoning of the Golden Road ahead, for the Silver Road hitherto consummatus est.