

Conclaves in the West Midlands Division

Handsworth **Rose of Sharon No. 161.**
1st Saturday in February, July and December.

Kings Heath **Morning Star No 249.**
1st Saturday January and September, 4th Saturday in March.

Worcester **St Oswald No 278.**
4th Wednesday in March, September and November

Stafford **St Chad No 320.**
3rd Friday in January, April and October

Tewkesbury **Tewkesbury No 334**
1st Tuesday in April and October, 3rd Wednesday June

Wellington **St. George No 344.**
2nd Wednesday in March, 3rd Thursday May, 1st Monday September.

Newnham on Severn. Stroud No 360.
1st Thursday April, 4th Thursday June and 2nd Thursday September

Kidsgrove **St Mark No 361,**
4th Monday February, 4th Wednesday May and 4th Monday September

Warwick **Guy's Cliffe, No 411.**
3rd Tuesday in January, 3rd Thursday in July and Last Friday in August

Cirencester **Forum No 455.**
2nd Wednesday February, 3rd Thursday June, 2nd Tuesday November

Sutton Coldfield **Holy Trinity No 458.**
4th Monday April, Last Weekday June, Penultimate Weekday October

Kings Heath **Divisional Recorders' No 474**
Last Saturday in May and November

Knowle , Solihull **Knowle Conclave No 484.**
1st Wednesday, March September & December (Mornings)

Rugby **Dr Thomas Arnold No 487.**
3rd Thursday January, 1st Thursday June, 3rd Thursday September

Rugby **The Labarum Guard No 503.**
(The Divisional Sepulchre Guard Conclave)
The Last Saturday in January & July

Leominster **The Marches No 512.**
4th Wednesday, February, June and August

Kidderminster **St Dunstan's No 519.**
2nd Wednesday, January, April and September

Nuneaton **The Richard Wallis Conclave No 520.**
4th Monday, January, 1st Monday July and 4th Monday November

Organisation

The Order is organised into Divisions and Conclaves. Each Division is under the direction of an Intendant General.

There are 27 Divisions covering England and Wales and others widely spread overseas.

West Midlands Division

Intendant General

R.III.Kt. John James Tristram
01564 794787

Deputy Intendant General

III.Kt. James Fredrick Peter Mulligan
01905 776662

Divisional Recorder

III.Kt. Geoff Watkins
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The West Midlands Division comprises
18 Conclaves, listed overleaf

Further information is available on the
Divisional Website
www.rccwestmids.org.uk

The Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine



and the Orders of the
Holy Sepulchre and of
St. John the Evangelist



West Midlands Division

Where does the Red Cross of Constantine sit with Freemasonry?

As with all Masonic Degrees and Orders, the precise date and origin are difficult to determine accurately, but there is evidence of workings identifiable with the current rituals existing in the late 1700s.

The Grand Imperial Conclave, based at Mark Masons' Hall, St James's Street, London, traces its succession of Grand Sovereigns back to 1865 and controls over 500 Conclaves in England and Wales, Benelux, South Africa, New Zealand, Jamaica, the far east and other countries worldwide.

The Grand Imperial Conclave has contributed to the foundation of Sovereign Councils in Australia and in other countries of Europe and North America.

How does the legend of Constantine support Christian Masonry?

Early in the 4th Century AD a series of events took place which had a profound effect on the history Europe, the Order and its development to the present day.

Caius Flavius Valerius Aurelius Claudius Constantius (Constantine) succeeded his father as Governor of Spain, Gaul and Britain and was proclaimed Emperor of the West by the Roman Legions at York in 306 AD.

However, the proclamation was opposed by rival claimants. Constantine, aware of disputes and treachery by his rivals remaining in Rome, was eventually compelled to return from the Western Province to Rome.

After a successful advance through Lombardy and cities of Northern Italy, he faced the final stage of his entry into Rome and in 312 prepared for battle against a much larger pagan army under Maxentius at the Milvian Bridge, near Rome.

The traditional legend of his path towards the Christian faith concerns the events prior to that battle.



The Legend of Constantine

It is said that, during the progress of his campaign, Constantine was inspired by a divine vision of a cross in the sky which led him to choose a Banner bearing a Cross to lead him into battle. As there were many Christians in his army it provided a clear focus in battle and led him to a decisive victory.

Constantine entered Rome in triumph on 29 October 312 to the acclaim of the populace and Senate. The triumphal arch raised three years later commemorates this victory and remains one of the landmarks of the city of Rome.

His legacy to the Empire is distinguished by a series of acts bringing justice and Christian enlightenment. His service to the Christian Faith started in 313 AD by him becoming the first Emperor to openly embrace and encourage Christianity which soon became the religion of the Roman Empire.

In 325 AD he directed that a Council of Bishops be convened and the result was the promulgation of the Nicene Creed still in use today.

Constantine later received baptism by the hand of Eusebius of Nicomedia, Bishop of Constantinople.

- THE CEREMONIES -

Knight Companion

The Order of the Red Cross of Constantine celebrates the conversion of the Emperor Constantine to the Christian Faith and begins with being 'Installed' as a Knight Companion of the Red Cross of Constantine.

- THE APPENDANT ORDERS -

Knight of the Holy Sepulchre.

A Knight Companion is a fitting foundation for the first ceremony of the Appendant Orders, that of 'Knight of the Holy Sepulchre'. The candidate is instructed in the work of Constantine and that of his mother, Saint Helena. She independently, searched for the sacred sites associated with the crucifixion of Our Lord and secured their protection

Knight of St John the Evangelist.

This ceremony is conferred immediately after, and on the same evening as the Knight of the Holy Sepulchre. This degree is called 'The Order of Knight of St. John the Evangelist.'

Here, the candidate makes a discovery leading to a striking interpretation of Craft and Royal Arch Masonry in a Christian context.

Enthronement as Sovereign

Eventually, subject to election by the members of his conclave, a Knight of the Order is eligible to progress to the grade of Priest-Mason, as Viceroy (SW) of his conclave, and finally to Prince-Mason (WM) * when elected as Sovereign.

(*Craft Lodge comparisons)

Qualifications for membership

Entry to the Order is open to Masons who are already members of a Holy Royal Arch Chapter. Knights of the Order explore Christian Freemasonry through the legend of Constantine's conversion to the Christian Faith.

Commitment

In this Division each of the Conclaves usually meet three times a year, one of these meetings being the Consecration of the Viceroy and Enthronement of the Sovereign. Details of the Names and meeting places can be found overleaf.

Regalia

The regalia consists of a sash and two jewels, with the military aspect of the Order being signified by special officers carrying swords.

- IS IT FOR YOU? -

This Order is full of great beauty and meaning and is recommended to all Royal Arch Masons.

It contains much to interest and involve the Mason of mature outlook and offers a warm & friendly welcome to every Brother who seeks the fellowship and instruction which membership promises.