

Calder Vale Consistory 19 TI

The Masonic Hall
Blenheim House
Batley Field Hill Lane
Batley
West Yorkshire
WF17 0BG

Meets on:

1st Monday in March, August and October (I).

Contact:

Distinguished Companion Michael Bunce III
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Doncaster
DN9 2HA

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Email: michaelbunce@sky.com

South Yorkshire Consistory No92

The Masonic Rooms
Rotherham Golf Club
Doncaster Road
Thrybergh
Rotherham
S65 4NU

Meets on:

1st Thursday in February, June and August (I)

Contact:

Distinguished Companion Michael Bunce III
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White Rose Consistory No95

The Masonic Hall
Westbourne House
Westbourne Grove
Bradford Road
Otley
LS21 3LG

Meets on:

3rd Monday in May (I) July and October.

Contact:

Eminent Companion John F Clough III
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The Province of West Yorkshire.

Constituted 8th May 2014

Provincial Grand Summus

Rt Distinguished Companion John Marrison V

Deputy Provincial Grand Summus

V Distinguished Companion David C Staniforth IV

Assistant Provincial Grand Summus

Distinguished Companion Alan P K Webster III

Provincial Grand Recorder

Distinguished Companion Michael Bunce III

Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies

Distinguished Companion Stephen Rhodes III



THE ANTIENT AND MASONIC ORDER OF THE SCARLET CORD

IN THE BRITISH ISLES AND ITS DISTRICTS AND
CONSISTORIES OVERSEAS

Inaugurated July 2010.

Most Distinguished Companion Ian S. Currans.
Grand Summus

Right Distinguished Companion Francis C. Spencer
Deputy Grand Summus

Right Distinguished Companion Howard S. Markham
Assistant Grand Summus

**Increase and improve your Masonic
knowledge by reading this
introduction to this interesting and
informative Order.**

Provincial Website: www.oscwestyorks.com

A Brief History of the Order

Although the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord is the most recent Masonic Order to become widely accessible to brethren in the United Kingdom, it was first introduced in to this country by His Honour Judge Frederick Adolphus Philbrick KC, in 1889. The Order was derived from Holland and founded upon 18th century documents from the Amsterdam Masonic archives in The Netherlands, so is truly ancient in origin.

Throughout the late 19th century, the Degree was only conferred upon the most senior members of the major Masonic Orders, and other very distinguished brethren at the behest of the Grand Summus. Consequently it was known to only a very small number of high ranking freemasons, and was kept by them as a closely guarded secret.

As time passed, the Order then inducted fewer and fewer members, and by the early 20th century, it ceased to exist at all, except as a forgotten archive in the vaults of Mark Masons' Hall.

The archive was re-discovered during building work at Mark Masons Hall in the late 20th century, but many of the documents containing the ritual of the Order were badly damaged by water. Fortunately sufficient information remained to reinstate the Order, and it was re-established in 2006, by the then Grand Supreme Ruler of the Order of the Secret Monitor, Right Worthy Brother Peter Glyn Williams.

Scarlet Cord Conclave No 500 in the Order of the Secret Monitor was consecrated in 2006, with the authority to transpose itself into a Consistory, and confer Grades of the Scarlet Cord upon senior members of the Order of the Secret Monitor.

Between 2006 and 2010, the Order's popularity developed rapidly, and 62 Secret Monitor Conclaves, dedicated to become Scarlet Cord Consistories, were consecrated throughout the United Kingdom. By 2010, the Order had developed sufficiently to warrant its separation from the Order of the Secret Monitor, to form an independent Sovereign Order.

The inauguration ceremony took place at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London on 21st June 2010 when all of the Scarlet Cord Conclaves were erased from the register of the Order of the Secret Monitor and were constituted, dedicated and consecrated as Consistories of The Order Of The Scarlet Cord. The new Consistories were formed into 16 Provinces, each with three or more Consistories, and 12 Inspectorates, all with less than three Consistories.

The Ritual

As can clearly be seen, the Order was derived from the Order of the Secret Monitor, and it remains very closely associated with it.

Only Princes of the Order of the Secret Monitor are eligible to join, and there are three initial Grades in the Order – equivalent to the three degrees on Craft masonry.

Upon their Induction, Companions initially become Ostiarii or Doorkeepers within the Order, and thenceforth may designate themselves as Companions of the Scarlet Cord.

The Second and Third Grades are also conferred in a Consistory, when the candidates become Lectors and Fellows respectively. An unusual feature of the Order, is that a Companion may be elevated to a higher Grade in any Consistory, so long as there are 28 days between his respective ceremonies.

Further preferment within the Order is only conferred upon candidates at the invitation of the Grand Summus.

Like most Masonic Orders, the Order of the Scarlet Cord has ceremonies which are based upon biblical allegory, centred around incidents found in the Old Testament.

Each inspiring ceremony is derived from a different, and at first an apparently unrelated biblical incident, which are ultimately bound together in an informative and dramatic climax in the Third Grade.

All the ceremonies involve participation by a relatively large number of Consistory members, and whilst there is every opportunity for keen ritualists to shine, there are also many possibilities for less practiced Companions to participate in a rewarding and meaningful manner.

Each Consistory is presided over by a President who is elected annually. Uniquely, the aspiring President must first be "prepared" for the Office in a Preparation Ceremony, following which he becomes an Eminent Companion. After Installation, he becomes a Distinguished Companion.

As there are currently only three Consistories in the Province, there is a small, but exclusive membership, which inevitably forms strong bonds of friendship. Visiting is also a strong feature of the Order, and visitors are always very warmly welcomed. Visiting other Provinces is also encouraged, and much reciprocal visiting takes place, thus forming lasting friendships.

The Regalia

Regalia in the Order, like that of the Order of the Secret Monitor is minimal. The Badge of the Order is a tasselled Scarlet Cord, initially worn around the waist, and in the Third Grade, worn as a sash over the right shoulder.

Together with the position of the sash, the status of each member is indicated by the wearing of either a jewel suspended from the neck by a Scarlet Cord, as in the First and Second Grades, or alternatively by a breast jewel in the Third Grade.

Jewels for the First and Second Grades are usually provided by the Consistory, as these are both progressive Grades, but the Third Grade jewel and tie are both usually provided by the Candidate himself, similar to that of a Master Mason in the Craft.

The Provincial Website gives further detail.
www.oscwestyorks.com

Province of West Yorkshire

West Yorkshire currently has three Consistories and is therefore a Province which was constituted by the Grand Summus in May 2014 at Westbourne House, Otley. The three Consistories are:

Calder Vale Consistory No19TI – Batley
(Consecrated on 20 October 2009)

South Yorkshire Consistory No92 - Bawtry
(Consecrated on 31 October 2013)

White Rose Consistory No95 - Otley
(Consecrated on 8 May 2014)

The suffix "TI" after a Consistory's number, refers to "Time Immemorial", and indicates that it was one of the original 62 "Scarlet Cord" Secret Monitor Conclaves which existed prior to the inauguration in 2010. Consistories consecrated after the inauguration are not entitled to bear this suffix.

For Brethren interested in joining the Order, contact details for each Consistory in the Province of West Yorkshire are all shown overleaf.