



Faith,
Unity
and Zeal



Conclaves in Division

Edmund the Martyr Conclave No.222 ___Ipswich

Norfolk Conclave No.323 _____Gt. Yarmouth

Breckland Conclave No.376 _____Watton

Corpus Christi Conclave No.388 ___Cambridge

Richard Tydeman Conclave No.395___Lowestoft

St. Helena Conclave No.418 _____Sheringham

St. Gregory Conclave No.427 __Bury St. Edmunds

Past Sovereigns

Conclave No. 454_____Bury St. Edmunds

St. Huna Conclave No.525 _____Chatteris

Divisional Recorder

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Red Cross of Constantine

DIVISION OF EAST ANGLIA

The Masonic and Military Order
of the Red Cross of Constantine
and the Appendant Orders
of the Holy Sepulchre
and of St John the Evangelist



Intendant-General
R.III.Knight Perry Roger Balls

Deputy Intendant-General
III.Knight Tony Mason

www.eastangliarcc.org.uk



Introduction to the Order

Candidates for this Order see how Christianity can be embraced with Freemasonry by learning how the legend of the Emperor Constantine's conversion to Christianity is set within Masonic Ritual linked with the history of the Roman Empire.

There are two parts to this Christian Order:

The Red Cross of Constantine

The first ceremony consists of the candidate's admission, obligation and installation as a Knight-Companion of the Red Cross of Constantine, in which the historical basis of the Order is detailed.

The Knight of the Holy Sepulchre and of St. John the Evangelist

In the ceremonies of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre and of St. John the Evangelist, this knowledge is further explained and the ultimate aims of Freemasonry are revealed.

These latter ceremonies, together with the two Installation ceremonies which lead to the principal chairs, are probably the most impressive ceremonies in Freemasonry.



History of the Order

Prospective Candidates must be a Master Mason, a Royal Arch Mason and a Trinitarian Christian.

Constantine, a Roman, was destined for the college of Emperors, but following the death of his father, he was hailed by the Legions in York as Augustus and became the Governor of Britain and Gaul. After several successful battles across the Alps and Italy he eventually established himself as Emperor of both the East and West and transferred the capital of the empire from Rome to Byzantium, the latter afterwards to be renamed after him. It is said that his conversion to Christianity began one evening after a long day's march with his army.

He believed he saw a sign from heaven; a pillar of light in the form of a special cross.

A standard bearing this cross was ordered to be carried before him in battle.

Several Christians in his army came forward and avowed their faith, following which Constantine directed that they should wear on their armour a red cross. Having been successful in battle it is said that Constantine with the help of his chief bishop,

Eusebius, opened a Conclave of the Knights of the Order, whose members became the bodyguard of their Sovereign.

Versions of the Red Cross degree were being worked in Ireland, Scotland and the United States in the early eighteenth century and possibly earlier.

In England, the order was reorganised in 1865 and the ceremonies rewritten.

The first ceremony consists of the Candidate's admission, obligation and Installation as a Knight-Companion of the Red Cross of Constantine, in which the historical basis of the Order is explained. Progression through the Offices of Viceroy and Sovereign involve two additional 'chair' degrees (Priest-Mason and Prince-Mason). When the Red Cross Order was reorganised in 1865, two Appendant Orders were added: Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, centred on St. Helena's discovery of the True Cross, and Knight of St. John the Evangelist, based on an unsuccessful attempt to rebuild the Holy Temple at Jerusalem.

These, are undoubtedly among the most impressive in the whole of Freemasonry.