

## Consistory Details

### The Dorset Consistory No 3Ti

Masonic Hall, Howards Lane,  
Wareham BH20 4HU

**Meets on:**

Fourth Friday in February (Installation) and  
June

**Recorder:**

Dist. Comp Matthew Burt  
91 Wimborne Road,  
Corfe Mullen,  
Wimborne BH21 3DS  
01202 842294

[SC3@dorsetandwiltshire-osm.org.uk](mailto:SC3@dorsetandwiltshire-osm.org.uk)

### The Blandford Consistory No 103

Masonic Hall, West Street,,  
Blandford DT11 7AW

**Meets on:**

Second Wednesday in April (Installation) and  
November

**Recorder:**

Comp Bruce Chisholm  
58 Newtown  
Westbury BA13 3EF  
01373 864774

[SC103@dorsetandwiltshire-osm.org.uk](mailto:SC103@dorsetandwiltshire-osm.org.uk)



At present, there are only 2 Consistories in the Inspectorate of Dorset. We are small in number but are exclusive in membership thus forming lasting friendships. Visiting other Consistories is a strong feature within this Order and as a visitor, you will be warmly received and made very welcome. This also applies to visiting other Consistories outside of Dorset.

If you would like any further information on this wonderful Order, please do not hesitate to contact me directly on [ianrobsullivan@btinternet.com](mailto:ianrobsullivan@btinternet.com). I look forward to receiving you into this Order.

*V Dist. Comp Ian R Sullivan*

*Grand Inspector*

## The Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord

In the British Isles and its Districts and Consistories Overseas



*MDist Comp Andrew C Sweeney*  
*Grand Summus*

*RDist Comp Ian S Currans*  
*Deputy Grand Summus*

*RDist Comp Charles J Aspinell*  
*Assistant Grand Summus*

*Inspectorate of  
Dorset*

*VDist Comp Ian R Sullivan*  
*Grand Inspector*

# A Brief History of the Order

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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 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 the Order 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 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 an archive in the vaults of Mark Masons Hall.

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

The 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 the Scarlet Cord were consecrated throughout the United Kingdom. By 2010, the Order had developed sufficiently to warrant its severance from the Order of the Secret Monitor, to form its own Sovereign Order.

The inauguration ceremony took place at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London on 21st June 2010. At that meeting, all of the Scarlet Cord Conclaves were erased from the register of the Order of the Secret Monitor, constituted dedicated and consecrated as Consistories of The Order of the Scarlet Cord.

The new Consistories were formed in to 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 Companies of the Scarlet Cord.

The Second and Third Grades are also conferred in a Consistory, when the candidates become Lectores and Fellows respectively. An unusual feature of the Order, is that a Companion may be elected 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's ceremonies 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 after being elected, the President Elect is then prepared for the Office of President in a Preparation Ceremony, following which he becomes an Eminent Companion. After his Installation he becomes a Distinguished Companion.

## 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 a breast jewel in the Third Grade. Also there is a splendid Tie of the Order available which may be worn after joining the Order.

## The Inspectorate

The Inspectorate of Dorset currently comprises of two Consistories:

Dorset Consistory 3Ti—Wareham

Blandford Consistory No 103—Blandford

The suffix "Ti" after each 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.

The Grand Inspector of Dorset is Very Distinguished Companion Ian Robert Sullivan, the Inspectorate Director of Ceremonies is Very Distinguished Companion Dennis Frank Cutler and the Inspectorate Recorder is Distinguished Companion Laurence Thomas Brookes.

For brethren interested in joining the Order, contact details for each Consistory in Dorset is shown overleaf.