

## DORSET & WILTSHIRE CONCLAVES

St. Candida No. 258 Recorder: Alan Harrison  
Lyme Regis Tel: 01297 22569  
Meets: 1st Thu Apr, 4th Thu Oct and 3rd Wed Dec

Hagia Sophia No. 313 Recorder: Graham Hatch  
Wareham Tel: 01929 553714  
Meets: 3rd Fri Jan, 4th Mon Jun and 1st Tue Nov

Magnaura No. 380 Recorder: Anthony Tykocki  
Branksome Tel: 01202 393288  
Meets: 3rd Thu Jan, Mar and Oct

Cathedral No. 398 Recorder: Maurice Lound  
Salisbury Tel: 01747 826800  
Meets: 1st Mon Apr and Sep, 2nd Wed May and 2nd Mon Dec

Wessex Sovereigns No. 399 \* Recorder: Robert Jowett  
Kinson Tel: 01202 778627  
Meets: 2nd Thu May and 2nd Tue Sep

Heraclius No. 404 Recorder: Stephen Tegg  
Kinson Tel: 01202 568547  
Meets: 5th Thu except Jul, Aug and Dec

Milion No. 447 \*\* Recorder: John Price  
Wareham Tel: 01929 554588  
Meets: 5th Fri except Jul, Aug and Dec

Scholarii No. 448 † Recorder: Derek Burt  
Wareham Tel: 01202 883870  
Meets: 4th Tue Apr and 4th Mon Oct

\* Membership restricted to those who have passed the chair, but all members of other Conclaves are welcome to attend

\*\* Meets in the forenoon and takes luncheon

† Membership restricted to Grand Officers who are Past Sovereigns of a Dorset & Wiltshire Conclave

Divisional Recorder: Colin Swain  
14 South Avenue, New Milton, Hampshire. BH25 6EY  
Tel: 01425 617068

Email: [recorder@dorsetandwiltshire-rcc.org.uk](mailto:recorder@dorsetandwiltshire-rcc.org.uk)  
Website: [www.dorsetandwiltshire-rcc.org.uk](http://www.dorsetandwiltshire-rcc.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

## Division of Dorset & Wiltshire



In hoc signo vinces



As a Royal Arch Mason, if you hold a sincere belief in the Christian Trinitarian faith, you are now entitled to seek membership of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine.

The Rancliffe Charter founding the order dates from 10th May, 1796 and the Grand Imperial Conclave from 1865. The order is world-wide.

The Order uses the Constantinian legend and subsequent conversion of the Pagan Empire as an object lesson in the acquisition and confirmation of faith and Christianity as the basis of Masonry.

The Roman Emperor Diocletian in 293 A.D. split the Empire into Eastern and Western Divisions for administrative and security reasons. He appointed a co-Emperor to govern the West and each appointed an heir apparent (known as Caesar). On 1st May 305 A.D. Diocletian and Maximian retired as co-Emperors. Constantine's

father Constantius succeeded to the Western Empire, governing Britain and Gaul. Constantius (whilst putting down a rebellion) died in York on 25 July 306. The legions in Britain immediately proclaimed Constantine as Emperor in succession. This led to the wars of succession that took Constantine to the decisive Battle of the Milvian Bridge at Sax Rubra northeast of Rome on 28th October 312 A.D. His victory left him undisputed Emperor in the west.

Legend holds that Constantine's conversion to Christianity was the result of a vision on the eve of this battle in which he saw a Cross in the sky inscribed with certain letters. This legend is taken as the Legend of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine.

Legend also holds that Constantine instructed the Christian soldiers in his army to place a Red Cross on their shields and subsequently he caused a standard to be made showing the first two Greek letters of the name of Christ superimposed. After the Battle, Constantine is said to have formed a Conclave of Knights from among his Christian troops and used them to replace the traditional Praetorian Guard as the personal bodyguard of the Emperor.

Constantine bravely espoused Christianity in his Pagan empire, the first Emperor to do so, and conversion spread apace to become the sole religion.

The Masonic Order of the Red Cross of Constantine is a trigradal system. The Candidate is admitted as a Knight of the Order in the first part of the first degree. The second part is conferred in the twin ceremonies of the Appendant Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and of St. John the Evangelist. The second degree is that of the Venerable Eusebius which is necessary to allow the candidate to act as Viceroy to the Sovereign whose office forms the third degree of the Order. These two offices correspond to those of Senior Warden and Master in a Craft Lodge.

These ceremonies and those of the Appendant Orders are among the finest in Masonry and are a reflection of merit and responsibility founded on a firm Christian belief. Membership of the Order is therefore not conferred lightly.

Regalia for the Order is simple – just a sash and two jewels. Most Conclaves meet only three times a year with a Divisional Conclave meeting each October.

Great store is placed on inclusion of family and friends in the social activities of the Order. A Summer Sunday Lunch is held at the Mayfair Hotel, Bournemouth in July. Sunday lunches are popular and a useful way of introducing potential candidates and their ladies to the members and their families. The Order adopts no sectarian Christian position and does not seek to affect personal worship. It holds the two Christian Festivals – the Discovery of the Cross and its Restoration – together with the date of Constantine's birth to be the commemorative dates of the Order.

Listed on the reverse of this leaflet are the names of the Conclaves in the Division, where they meet and the name of their Recorder. If you need any further help or information, just contact one of the Recorders or the Divisional Recorder who will only be too pleased to assist you.

