

M E Grand Superintendents Address Annual Convocation 16th May
2019

Most Excellent 3rd Grand Principal, Distinguished Companions and Companions all. I have already earlier this afternoon had the greatest of pleasure in welcoming our distinguished guests and visitors; so many good friends which I again thank them all for their tremendous support and companionship. Today provides me and my Executive with the opportunity to return the hospitality that they so generously afford to us when we visit their Provinces and I'm delighted that so many of them are represented here this afternoon.

It has also been an absolute delight to have been able to welcome here today the 3rd Grand Principal M E Companion Gareth Jones OBE and his acting DC, E Comp Mark Hall. I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed your day here with us in Somerset and I very much look forward to your company at Dinner a little later.

Companions, today is very much your day and I have much pleasure in extending a hearty welcome to you all; I trust that you have enjoyed your time here so far and I sincerely hope that enjoyment continues later on in the Bar and at the Dinner Table.

I congratulate all those Provincial Officers that I have invested or promoted here this afternoon, and not only thank them for what they have done for the Holy Royal Arch in the past, but to remind them all, that by accepting their appointments, they are obligated to continue with that support and to encourage all brethren to take the final step and complete their journey in Pure Antient Masonry. To reinforce this message, I can confirm that in April at Supreme Grand Chapter the 1st Grand Principal, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent was very clear in his address; that no Master Mason should contemplate joining any of the other Orders until he has completed his Craft journey in 'Pure Antient Freemasonry'

Furthermore, I'm delighted to say that at the Supreme Grand Chapter Convocation the 1st Grand Principal took pleasure in investing Excellent Companions Clive Lambert, Roger Reina and Andrew Clapp with their Grand Collars; and we congratulate them on their preferment. There are several other Companions from other Provinces here this afternoon, who also received appointments or Promotions and I sincerely congratulate them in the same vain. I would also like to congratulate all those Brethren who were invested the previous day with Grand Rank in the Craft.

I am delighted to see so many Calderley Liaison Officers here today and I thank them for the very important duties that they carry out under the direction of the Provincial Liaison Officer E Comp Adrian Halliwell; I look forward to their continued enthusiastic support in the coming year. I do however, implore both the CLO's and you companions to pass on any and all suitable topics of interest to our Triple Taulk editor, E Comp Julian May. It's been awhile since the last edition was produced and this in part is due to the lack of support from all of us in generating suitable material. Companions, Julian is only as good as the information you are able to pass his way, please support him.

Since my Installation last October, the Provincial Team have carried out 3 Exaltation Ceremonies, the first at the Vale of Jehoshaphat Chapter No. 291 at Burnham-on-Sea the second at the Chapter of Brotherly Love No. 329 at Yeovil and the third at Tyntesfield Chapter No. 4494 at Nailsea and I'm delighted to say that with all three Chapters being full to capacity on each and those occasions; they all proved to be a most enjoyable and tremendous success. Next season's allocation is now in place and I sincerely hope that the same level of attendances continues as much now, as well into the future. The newly appointed Provincial Team will also be in action at Inkerman Chapter No. 1222 at Weston-s-Mare in September where we will be Dedicating the Chapter's New Chapter Banner in celebration of

their 150th Anniversary. I am confident it will not only prove to be a special occasion, but a rather splendid event as well.

I have also had the pleasure of presenting two Grand Superintendent's awards not only for outstanding services to the Holy Royal Arch in general but in recognition for their past and continuing contribution to their own particular Chapters.

Companions it gave me enormous pleasure to have been present last month at the Investiture of our newly Installed Provincial Grand Master R W Bro. David Medlock; David on behalf of all us here today, I extend the heartiest of congratulations and wish you good health and happiness for a successful term in office. Earlier in the year, it was anticipated that we would launch a newly revised procedure relating to Royal Arch Representatives in Craft Lodges, but in light of David's impending Investiture it was agreed to delay the launch to allow David time to vet and approve the content prior to its introduction. I am now happy to say with David's acknowledgment and approval, for which I am extremely grateful, the new procedures have now been launched. Following on from this launch a new initiative in conjunction with the Craft is now underway; the Craft have in the past year or so introduced a scheme of fraternal visiting, the scheme enables members of the Craft executive to visit individual Lodges throughout the Province, intermingle with the brethren and form greater relationships with their opposite numbers, by engaging in meaningful and supportive dialogue both during the meetings and afterwards at the festive board. Our Royal Arch Province are now by invitation from the Craft fielding our own teams, mainly consisting of Grand Officers to participate in these fraternal visits. These visits provide an opportunity to address the brethren, participate where appropriate by introducing 'nuggets' from the learning and development aid 'Solomon,' it also enables close contact with the Royal Arch Rep's enabling encouragement and support where it is most needed.

With this new initiative now gathering apace and for the Royal Arch Rep scheme to be the success it deserves; I have concluded it requires to be both managed and effectively coordinated. To that end I am appointing E Comp Neil Hurcum my immediate past 3rd Provincial Grand Principal to assume both roles as Coordinating Officer for the Craft fraternal Visits and Training and Support Officer for the Royal Arch Reps. Neil is in no doubt as to what is required and I have every confidence in his ability to ensure its success.

I would also like to take this opportunity to formally thank Neil for his enormous contribution and total commitment to the office of 3rd Provincial Grand Principal over the past year. Nothing seems to faze Neil and his command of the Royal Arch ritual has earned him the respect he rightly deserves throughout the Province and I look forward to his continued support in his new role.

Companions, today's Annual Convocation would not have taken place without a great deal of hard work by relatively few Companions. I thank our Provincial Grand Janitor, E Comp John Griffin, and his team who have transported the equipment from Bridgwater Masonic Hall to the Webbington and will again be returning it afterwards. I thank the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies E Comp Chris Moore and his team, which includes the Provincial Grand Stewards and to the Provincial Grand Treasurer, E Comp Tel Hayes.

Most of the work as usual has fallen upon our Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra, E Comp Tony Beaumont and I thank him for his attention to detail and hard work. I would also like to thank the sterling work undertaken by our Provincial Grand Registrar E Comp Roger Reina and to all the other Companions that have helped with today's organisation.

It would be remiss of me not to mention our Provincial Grand Organist, E Comp Barry Renwick, for the wonderful music that he produces on all occasions and for the great help afforded by E Comp

Toby Hammond, who has been responsible for the sound system here this afternoon.

I thank each and everyone of you for helping to make today such a success and I extend my thanks to all the staff here at the Webbington Hotel and Spa for the wonderful support that they provide to the Provincial Grand Chapter of Somerset not only for today, but on all the other occasions throughout the year.

Today's alms collection will be in aid of the Provincial Grand Masters 2020 festival and I urge you to use the gift aid envelopes to enable us to maximise on the tax benefits. This coming year is the last opportunity we will have to make a difference to the festival and I again implore you to make every effort this year to contribute. I thank all those Companions and Chapters that have contributed thus far and for their sterling efforts in raising funds. Following the conclusion of the 2020 festival we shall again be requesting your Chapter nominations for local charity considerations and for the benefit of all the Almoners here today, please start now by identifying worthy causes in your local areas.

Finally, Companions I thank you all for your company here this afternoon and I look forward to your company at dinner later on. I trust that you have all enjoyed your day here in Somerset and I wish you a safe and uneventful journey home.

May the True and Living God Most High be with us now and always.

Thank you Companions.