

**THE ORDER OF THE ALLIED MASONIC DEGREES
DISTRICT OF YORKSHIRE**

To receive an Address from the District Grand Prefect

Brethren, I welcome you all to our Annual District Meeting here in this wonderful setting of Castle Grove in Leeds. I have already welcomed our Distinguished Guests from other districts within England and Wales but I am particularly pleased with the attendance of our own members from the District of Yorkshire. The numbers are slightly down this year because I understand that there are other events going on around the country.

I would like to thank you all for the many cards, emails and good wishes that I have received over the past seven weeks, it is much appreciated. Your support has helped Margaret and I to cope with this dreadful period. I am under strict instructions to reduce my travelling up and down the country for the foreseeable future during my recovery; however, I shall resume normal service in due course.

My Deputy has read you the long list of those brethren who have passed from us this year and they will be sadly missed. Our thoughts go out to their families.

I pay tribute to those District Officers who have retired today and I thank them for their support and service during the past year. I make particular mention to W Bro David Staniforth who has been the District Grand Secretary and has served that office diligently and with distinction. We all wish you well in your new role of Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler in the Order of the Secret Monitor for West Yorkshire. I am pleased that David has agreed to stay on as Assistant District Grand Secretary for this coming year to aid in the transition. In David's place I welcome VW Bro Tom Spinks who has served this district as District Grand Treasurer and District Grand Secretary in the past. I was more than delighted when he accepted the appointment because he is a very experienced member of our Order. Tom has also taken over the administration of the Website and you will see some changes in its presentation over the coming months. In this respect I pay tribute to W Bro Tom Wise who built and maintained the existing website and the District is indebted for his tireless work. I welcome all those new District Grand Officers that I have appointed today and I look forward to working with them in the coming year. Please enjoy your office.

In October 2017, the Grand Master made the following appointments and I shall be grateful if you would stand and remain standing when I announce your name:

R W Bro Brian Ward Price	Grand Historiographer
V W Bro John Ernest Vince	Assistant Grand Chaplain
W Bro Anthony Burke	Grand Steward
W Bro Anthony William Llewellyn	Past Grand Junior Deacon
W Bro David Mark Grant	Past Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro Joseph Lawrence Lonsdale	Past Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro Paul Richard Smith	Past Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro John Barry Wilson	Past Grand Standard Bearer

Brethren, please congratulate them in the usual manner.

I have spoken in the past about the necessity to work for your District and Grand Council Appointments and Promotions because they will not come to you by the passage of time. Grand Council have re-assessed the qualification for allowing the District Grand Prefects to recommend brethren for Grand

Rank which may mean that I shall have fewer to recommend. I emphasise the point that I have mentioned in previous years that, "if you wish to receive honours at District or Grand Council, you must work for them."

We are in the process of forming a new council at Uppermill and I am hopeful that the petition will be sent to Grand Council within the next month.

The Travelling Gridiron is now on the move. I urge all council to observe the spirit of this innovation and visit other councils within the District. Not only does it swell numbers at council meetings, it is designed to get to know the members of our Order.

On Friday 20 April 2018, the St Lawrence Council of Installed Masters will be doing the ceremony of the Holy Order of Grand High Priest. This will be the fifth year that we have performed the ceremony and I am keen to make this meeting a district event. Once again, it will be conducted by RW Bro John Barlow and the setting is ideal to witness this wonderful ceremony.

Brethren, Masonry is a hobby and I encourage you to enjoy your Allied Masonry. As you all know, I prefer the ritual to be learned and the ceremonies performed well to impress the candidates but you should always enjoy what you are doing.

I look forward to your company at the lunch following this Annual Meeting. Thank you for your attendance and may the Great Disposer of All be with you and your families now and for evermore.

Thank you and God bless you all.

DAVID M CORDELL

Saturday 24 March 2018