

**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 but I am particularly pleased with the increased attendance of our own members from the District of Yorkshire. As you can see, the Temple is full, bearing in mind there are other events going on around the country. In fact, I could have been in the District of Surrey today for a Royal & Select District Meeting and I am sure that, by the time I sit down, many of you may wish I had been.

W Bro Sam Cariss 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 must, however, make special mention of W Bro Anthony Peter Kaddish and my dear friend R W Bro Sydney John Bruton Barlow who have given this District and the Order excellent service over the years. They will be greatly missed although, my car will be a much quieter place on my journeys around the country in the future.

W Bro Sam Cariss has stood down as Deputy District Grand Prefect today after three years of loyal service. Sam, I thank you for all the support that you have given me and I wish you well for the future. I do hope that you have enjoyed the experience. I also pay tribute to those District Officers who have retired today and I thank them for their support and service during the past year. In Sam's place, I welcome W Bro Graham Bailey whom, I have just had the pleasure of installing as Deputy District Grand Prefect. I have been watching your progress in the Allied Masonic Degrees since your being admitted into South Riding Council No. 243. I wish you a happy and successful term of office and the most important point is that you enjoy yourself. When I announced your appointment, a number of brethren were heard to say, "who is he?" Well brethren, you now know who he is and I am confident that his enthusiasm and personality will enable you all to get to know Graham much better. I welcome all those new District Grand Officers that I have just appointed and I look forward to working with them in the coming year.

When I travel round the Councils, contrary to what some brethren may think, I do not have a sleep, I am always on the lookout for brethren who stand out in their Masonic duties whether it by ritual, administration or their general conduct of life. I can inform you, brethren, that I do have a few more on the radar. I take all these points into consideration when I decide on District or Grand appointments. My point to you is, contribute and you will be rewarded.

In October 2018, 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 Ian Colin Smith	Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro Graham Henry Fenwick	Past Grand Senior Deacon
W Bro Eric Gosnay	Past Grand Assistant Director of Ceremonies
W Bro Michael John Collinson	Past Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro Roger Leonard Booker	Past Grand Inner Guard

Brethren, please congratulate them in the usual manner.

Grand Council have revised the system of Grand Council appointments. The District Grand Prefects are now allocated a number of appointments in relation to the number of members that we have in the District. Previously, the allocation was based on Memberships, therefore, it is no longer an advantage to have multiple memberships to increase the allocation of Grand Honours. Personally, I agree with this change in policy. I emphasise the point I have mentioned before that, "if you wish to receive honours at District or Grand Council, you must work for them." They will not come by the course of time.

There has been an improvement in the ritual within the District, however, there are still a number of brethren who do not appear to make any effort to learn the work. They are in the minority but, nevertheless, I find it very disappointing because, not only are you letting the candidate down, you are letting yourselves down as well. These incidents are recorded in my memory. I cannot ask brethren to be perfect ritualists but, I can ask you to do your best.

I am concerned that the delivery of the Annual Accounts within the Councils needs to be tightened up and I am instructing the District Grand Secretary and the District Grand Treasurer to ensure that this is regularised. I shall also be introducing a standard audit report for completion.

Four weeks ago, the Grand Master and his team consecrated Saddleworth Allied Council No. 281 at Uppermill. It was a grand occasion enjoyed by all and I thank you Sir for carrying out an excellent ceremony. I also had the pleasure to install R W Bro Mervyn Wilson, the District Grand Prefect for East Lancashire as the Primus Master.

The Travelling Gridiron is still slow in moving around the District, however, I urge all councils to observe the spirit of this innovation and visit other councils in order to keep it on the move. Not only does it swell numbers at council meetings, it is designed to get to know the members of our Order.

On Friday 26 April 2019, the St Lawrence Council of Installed Masters will be doing the ceremony of the Holy Order of Grand High Priest. This will be the sixth year that we have performed the ceremony as a district event. This year, it will be conducted by W Bro John Green assisted by Bro Arthur Wainwright.

The District of Yorkshire now has 197 members and 267 memberships. We continue to grow with councils having candidates in the pipeline and I am confident of a bright future. In order to maintain this momentum, we must support the Craft, Royal Arch and the Mark because we need these Orders to be strong so that we have the opportunity to draw candidates for Allied Masonry.

Days like this do not just happen and I would like to congratulate V W Bro Tom Spinks for his administration skills and the maintenance of an excellent website. W Bro Raymond Johnson and his team for the well organised ceremonial work on the floor. With these two important brethren and their teams, I just have to turn up and enjoy myself.

Lastly, I would like to thank all those brethren who have travelled around the country visiting other Districts. I also thank the District Grand Prefects in those District for the warmth of their welcome and it is a pleasure for the District of Yorkshire to return that hospitality today.

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 23 March 2019