

Provincial Grand Conclave  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Distinguished Guests and Brethren of the Province of West Yorkshire.

Today marks the end of my third year as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler and I can again reflect on a most enjoyable year.

Having already welcomed our Distinguished Guests, I must now thank the 65 Brethren of West Yorkshire for attending today, supporting the Province and the recipients of honours.

Changing the venue of this meeting after many successful years at Sheffield was a risk, however, I felt that continually hosting the meeting in the far South of the Province was a disadvantage to those living in the North. I am therefore heartened to see so many brethren here today.

Today we have invested the Provincial Officers for the ensuing year. This preferment recognises your work and commitment to the Province and your Conclaves over many years and I look forward to working you in the year ahead.

As well as the appointments and promotions conferred today, I did have the great pleasure of making a field promotion to Wy Bro Richard Drury-Smith at Dore Conclave in May to Past Provincial Grand Counsellor.

Today we see two Provincial Officers retire from their posts. I would like to thank -

- Wy Bro Graham Duffy, standing down after 3 years as Provincial Grand Visitor, and;
- Wy Bro Gary Milnes having completed 3 years of active service.

You have both given tremendous support to the Province and I hope that, although no longer in office, this will continue.

Last November at Grand Conclave the Most Worthy Grand Supreme Ruler was pleased to confer preferment on 8 Brethren of this Province - can I ask these Brethren, if present, stand, when named, and remain standing to receive acclimation. Receiving;

**Active Office**

Wy Bro Fraser McPherson	Assistant Grand D of C
Wy Bro Paul Bowen	Reappointed as Grand Organist

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**Promoted in Grand Rank**

To Past Grand Registrar	V Wy Bro Stephen Rhodes
To Past Grand Visitor	V Wy Bro David Grant
To Past Ass Grand DC	Wy Bro Les Boyes & Wy Bro Ron Murtagh
To Past Grand Sword Br	Wy Bro Gordon Renton

**First Appointment to**

Past Grand Standard Bearer - Wy Bro Bruce Lowis.

I extend my sincere congratulations to you all. These appointments are well deserved and in recognition of your commitment to the Order over many years. They are to be congratulated. (Be seated).

As always, I am most grateful to our Brethren who travel throughout the Province to visit and support other Conclaves.

I had the pleasure of attending all 13 Conclave Installations this year, and we have enjoyed some memorable evenings - with Provincial Visits to Dore, Lux Diei and Chantry Conclaves - together with visits by Grand Visitor to Lux Diei, Chantry and Phoenix Conclaves. All of which were well supported and exceeded my expectations.

Brethren from the neighbouring Province of East Lancashire continue to visit our Conclaves - and it is pleasing to see that the special bond between Roses in Concord Conclave (East Lancashire) and Roses Conclave (West Yorkshire) has continued.

The Provincial Sunday Lunch organised by Wy Bro Paul Levey was a success and will be repeated this year.

In the coming year we will undertake Provincial Visits to Skyrack Conclave on 29<sup>th</sup> April, Westwood Conclave on 26<sup>th</sup> May and Roses Conclave on 27<sup>th</sup> July. We will also be receiving the Grand Visitor to Bishop Blaze Conclave on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September and I would expect to see all the Provincial Officers appointed today attend and support these important events.

Chantry Conclave will celebrate their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in December and in order to recognise this achievement an additional Provincial Visit will be arranged to acknowledge this milestone.

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Brethren we have inducted 12 new members to the Order in the past year but let us not be complacent. We need to promote our Order, and in order to do so we must continue to be active in the Craft and Royal Arch and support those Annual Meeting of other Orders within the Province - many of which are represented here today.

During the year V Wy Bro Tom Wise stood down from administering the Provincial Web Site. I would like to personally record my thanks to Tom for all this hard work over many years.

As a consequence, a new web site was launched with R Wy Bro Graeme Hutchinson in charge. Graeme also manages the Provincial Face book page - which is a great success and I would encourage members to visit and contribute to these sites.

I would particularly like to mention the Order of the Scarlet Cord. Only members of the Secret Monitor are eligible to join, and membership continues to grow. I would ask brethren to consider if they are able to support this order - if you do, you will receive a very warm welcome.

Of the active officers receiving preferment today it is pleasing to see that two thirds are already members of the Order and I hope that this will increase in future years.

The Woodlands View Dementia Support Group is a registered charity caring for 40 residents all of whom are living with mid to late stage dementia and as such require specialist care.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of November a donation of £1000 was made from the West Yorkshire Benevolent Fund to assist with the purchase of equipment designed to encourage participation, engagement and interaction.

We can only continue to make such donations with your generosity and support - for which I am grateful.

In order to maximise our fund raising, I am most grateful to the Treasurer in arranging for us to seek to claim tax relief on our donations - by means of Gift Aid. To this end I would encourage brethren to make use of the small envelope on your seats for today's collection.

I would also ask that Conclaves consider any worthy local charities in their areas who may benefit from our support in the future.

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Brethren the generosity of the members of the Province never ceases to amaze me and I would like to personally congratulate all those who supported the raffles for the OSM Benevolent fund and the sponsored slim by R Wy Bro Cavell (Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for the Province Warwickshire) and his Deputy.

I will be presenting a cheque (for £1029) following the meeting and I would ask that the 10 Conclave Supreme Rulers here today join me for the presentation.

Finally, Brethren, I must give my personal thanks to those who have made today and the last 12 months a success

1. To all of you and your Conclaves for the warm welcome that I and my Deputy have received when visiting.
2. To Wy. Bro. Richard Drury-Smith - organiser of today's meeting.
3. To Wy. Bro. Neil Davies, David Spivey and Les Boyes for their support at Installations and organising today's ceremonial.
4. To Wy Bro Peter Firth, the Provincial Almoner, for his work with Brethren in adverse circumstances.
5. R Wy Bro. Graeme Hutchinson for his work on the new Provincial Web Site.
6. To Wy Bro Jim Wood for standing in today as Organist
7. To Wy Bro. Alan Webster my Deputy, who has been a tremendous support to me, the Province and all our Conclaves during the past 12 months.

Brethren, I thank you all for your support - continue to enjoy this Order and the friendship which that brings, and I wish you all a safe journey home.