

My Beloved Brethren.....



S – Supporting Our Brethren! There can surely be no greater honour than to have been made a Mason and to have become a Brother. I want to make sure that we are all encouraging and supporting each other and that every Brother feels valued. The C.H.O.I.C.E.S Programme is excellent for times of need however what about Brothers who are not attending their Lodges? Can I ask for regular contact to be made to show every member that we really do care?

E – Enjoyment! *“Let us Unite in the Grand Design of Being Happy and of Communicating Happiness”* I heard that somewhere? So what does that look like? In my view that is ensuring that every Brother is enjoying his Freemasonry and given every opportunity to contribute and to participate. Conducting our Meetings with dignity and to the highest possible standards followed by an enjoyable and memorable Festive Board are the essential components to return every Brother to their home happy and content.

P – Perfection? I see that the Ripon Stone laying ceremony is on You Tube with hits from all over the World. I do thank the Brother who pointed out to me with his only comment on the day that I had omitted one word. It’s a salutary lesson that even in moments of triumph that *“Perfection is not found among men”*. I promise that will try to get it right the next time!

T – Tercentenary! There are still so many excellent things going on around the Province – An Organ Recital at Giggleswick, another Grand Masonic Ball this time at Ripon and a Massive Curry Night at Bradford. Brilliant! Why not continue such Tercentenary events in future years? We do not need a reason to have fun with families and friends.

E – Enthuse Everyone attending your Lodge! Do make a point of extending a hearty welcome to everyone at the next meeting of your Lodge – Every Member and every Visitor.

M – My Thoughts? I sense a real “Buzz” around this Province and the highest standards of ceremony are very much in evidence. Increasing membership is a delight!

B – Bicentenary? Technically yes however nothing happened in the first five years here in the West Riding after Yorkshire was split into two Provinces. Let’s see what we can do to celebrate the birth of our wonderful Province.

E – Exciting Times Ahead - Again! 2018 is on the horizon – The Annual Provincial Quiz! My Assistant Provincial Grand Masters will be the Quizmasters for the Area Heats. There could be a “Celebrity Quizmaster” for the Grand Final. Intrigued? Watch this space! 2018 will be significant as there will be the launch of a programme of Provincial support to Lodges to attract and also to retain members. Don’t wait – carry on with all local activities and take advantage of the forthcoming Provincial support. As predicted, membership enquiries have indeed doubled during the Tercentenary year and these are being progressed. This is most encouraging however we must maintain standards and continue to ensure that only fit and proper persons are admitted to our ranks.

R – Ripon! Our Tercentenary Service. The sun shone and everyone was smiling. What a moment in history. The Civic Dignitaries and recipients of donations were delighted to have attended. The Dean of Ripon was superb. I cannot thank the Dean and his Team enough for the warmth of the welcome received and for the assistance provided during the planning of the Service. This was very much “Freemasonry in the Community” with the active participation of Brethren from many Faiths demonstrating “Masonry Universal” in action.

Thoughts that went through my mind as I was laying the Stone at Ripon:



“What will I do if the maul shatters or I break a piece off the stone?”

Fortunately all was well and the resounding echo of the maul on the stone provided a most satisfactory indication that appropriate contact had been made.
My thanks to all the Team who made Ripon such an outstanding success.

RWBro. David S. Pratt – Provincial Grand Master