



My Beloved Brethren.....

I write as I am about to leave for London for the Tercentenary Celebrations.

All packed and ready to travel south to meet with Brethren from all over the World on such a joyous and historic occasion. It is a glorious morning with clear blue skies and bright sunshine. I can see frost on the car so it is a typical late Autumn morning. I am fortunate to see the sun rising in the East from my window and that is a constant reminder to me of all that is enlightening in Freemasonry.

October Already! - Where has this year gone?

My Diary - London beckoned earlier this month for me to attend the meeting of Provincial Grand Masters. There is vibrancy emanating from Grand Lodge with reports that the implementation of strategic plans is going well. The positive report delivered regarding Tercentenary activities throughout our all parts of our Constitution has stimulated great interest in Freemasonry in our wider communities. This is a once in many lifetimes opportunity to be seized.

The Provincial Team of 2017/18 visited Gothic Lodge at Swinton. Once again, a "Full House" where we were delighted to witness an excellent First Degree Ceremony followed by a most enjoyable Festive Board. If your Lodge is interested in being visited by myself and my Team in the future – Please speak with your Liaison Officer.

There is never any cost to a Lodge as the Provincial Team stands its own corner!

Following the memorable Service at Ripon Cathedral, The Dean, his wife and members of his immediate Team were honoured guests at a dinner of thanks held at Ripon Masonic Hall. The operative working tools used to set the stone at the Service were presented to the Dean and also a magnificent donation from West Riding Masonic Charities to fund weeks of music at the Cathedral. Please watch this space as I would like as many members as possible to attend during the weeks that we have sponsored.

A trip to Carlisle to attend the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting of the Province of Cumberland & Westmorland was a pleasure. It is always interesting to see how other Provinces conduct business.

The Tercentenary Ball at Ripon was an evening of style and celebration. My thanks to De Grey and Ripon Lodge for such generous hospitality extended to myself and Rita and also for organising the event at the Ripon Spa Hotel. It was a splendid evening that will be remembered for many years. The attendance of the Mayor of Ripon confirmed the importance of positive engagement with Civic Leaders.

Our Masonic Family - I was invited to attend the Annual meeting of the Provincial Priory of Knights Templar at Batley and was warmly received by the Brother and Sir Knights assembled. My thanks to the Provincial Prior, REKt. Paul Grafton for the courtesies extended.

A New Assistant Provincial Grand Master Announced

WBro. Alan Elstone, PProvSGW, will succeed WBro. John Gledhill, PSGD. I do thank WBro. Gledhill for his outstanding support, dedication and hard work as both a Ruler in the Province and also as a personal and valued friend.

WBro. Elstone will be installed on the 26th of January 2018 at Greenhead Masonic Hall, Huddersfield.

Fraternal Greetings and Regards to you and yours!

RWBro. David S. Pratt – Provincial Grand Master