



## FESTIVE AND FRATERNAL GREETINGS FROM THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

*Love and joy come to you,  
And to you your wassail too.....*

As I write, it is the last day of 2017 and a time to reflect with pleasure on a glorious year so full of Tercentenary celebrations as well as the essential "Business as Usual" activities within our great Province. The great momentum of interest created by the Tercentenary will be our springboard into a "Great 2018" however I must conclude 2017 with a note of sadness.

### **Called to the Grand Lodge Above**

It was with great sadness that I received notification of the death of our well-loved Very Worshipful Brother Raymond Howarth, *PDepProvGM, PGSwdB* who has been called to higher service by the Great Architect. A stalwart and a "Good and Faithful Servant" of this Province and to the wider Craft. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Thelma and family.

### **2018 - This will be our Best Year Ever!**

#### **Our United Endeavour will be to Increase Membership with the Right Candidates**

Brethren should have received their personal copy of "*Freemasonry Today*" including details of the "The Pathway" – A Strategy with Tactics to attract members to our wonderful Fraternity. Provincial plans are being finalised for local briefings and the provision of tangible support to all Lodges who wish to participate. When it comes to membership, the future is in our own hands. Let's all be courageous and pro-actively talk with like and right minded gentlemen about becoming Freemasons.

#### **Certificates for "New Made Masons"**

Celebratory presentation evenings have been arranged across the Province including the wives, partners and families of Brothers who were initiated in 2017. Each event will commence with the delivery of the Ancient Charge to welcome the Assembly.

I am so pleased that the evenings will conclude with a buffet as this will enable me to "work the room" and meet everyone.

#### **Special Appointments to mark the Tercentenary Year**

I congratulate the Brethren being honoured by the Most Worshipful Grand Master by Appointment and Promotion in Grand Lodge.

In the Province, I have appointed a number of Brethren to the rank of Past Provincial Grand Steward and look forward to the especial investiture to be held at Castle Grove Masonic Hall, Leeds. I am very encouraged to learn that the event is nearly full to capacity with the presence of Lodge members, wives, families and friends supporting the recipients.

Such honours are richly deserved and I congratulate the recipients.

*.....And God bless you and send you a Happy New Year  
And God send you a Happy New Year*

My thoughts and Fraternal best wishes to you and yours as ever!

**RWBro. David S. Pratt – Provincial Grand Master**