

District Grand Prefect
Address at the Annual General Meeting
22nd March 2025

Brethren I have great pleasure in welcoming you to the 36th Annual General Meeting of the Allied Masonic Degrees District of Yorkshire, and we thank each and everyone of our honoured guests and their supporters for their attendance, we also know that many of you have travelled long distances to be with us, and we really appreciate that. All the District Grand Prefects and their supporters really enjoy these meetings and miss it when unable to attend. Brethren any Allied Mason is able to attend other District meetings, and invitations and booking forms are distributed and put on our Website, please look out for them, and visit the other Districts as they are supporting us today

I have had incredible support and advice, from my fellow District Grand Prefects and made some wonderful friends in my short time as your District Grand Prefect, for which I am extremely grateful, and in return I have done my best to attend as many of the their District Annual meetings as possible, we are all subject to not being able to be in two places at the same time, however hard we may try.

Since our last meeting in March 2024 a lot of time and effort has been put into reforming the District Executive committee, details of which will be circulated to the members as soon as we are able.

During the last year we have admitted...5....new members, and 2 rejoining members, but as always we need good new members to maintain and grow our membership.

I would like to congratulate our incoming acting District Officers and thank them for accepting their Office and the responsibility attached to it, that of representing the District at Council Meetings and supporting Team Visits where required. I would also like to thank all the outgoing District Officers for the contribution they have made to the functioning of the District, particularly our District Secretary W.Bro. Michael Bunce and Director of Ceremonies W.Bro David Spivey, Suffice it to say that your work and contribution have been noted.

During the year we made 3 District Team Visits, 2 which by necessity were changed at the last minute, resulting in only a few of the officers being available to attend, this year we have decided have just 2. They are at White Rose Installation on 19th June and then at Stokesley on the 2nd October.

District Officers, you should already have these dates in your diaries, and any Past District Officer or Grand Officer who would like to accompany us would be most welcome as part of the objective of the exercise is to boost the numbers at the meeting so increasing the enjoyment and atmosphere for everyone.

Brethren we are maintaining our membership which in the current climate is good, but we must continue our efforts by encouraging good Masons to join us, show them the Website which is now also available on a link on the Yorkshire West Riding Craft Website, Last year we gained a member who when looking at photographs of our trips and meetings displayed on the Website, was so impressed by how happy they looked, he wanted some of that, he joined us, and is now loving this happy Order. Good ceremonies carried out well with ritual delivered in a meaningful way, will have a similar effect on candidates encouraging them to bring their friends to join us.

Every Mason comes through the door of Craft, then Royal Arch Chapter then Mark, so it goes without saying we must all keep our eyes open for good new members for our Craft Lodges, these Brethren are our lifeblood, please do not forget without the Craft Masons, Royal Arch Companions and Mark Masons we would not exist.

The Allied Masonic Degrees District of Yorkshire, provides Allied Masonry to the whole County and embraces two Craft Provinces, Yorkshire West Riding and North and East Riding, both of which support us, and the other Companion Orders.

Brother Director of Ceremonies would you please conduct W Bro James Newman and W Bro Stephen Cox to me.

W Bro Newman at the launch of your current Festival the Allied District of Yorkshire was asked, and we agreed to support the festival to the best of our ability. RW Provincial Grand Master of Yorkshire West Riding I have great pleasure in presenting you with a check for your 2028 Festival funds.

W Bro Cox as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master of North and East Riding I would also like to present you with the same, and please pass our good wishes to your Provincial Grand Master.

Brethren we must always be looking to the future and to that end as mentioned earlier the structure of Executive Committee has been changed in order to make the transition between appointments smoother and enable us to promote and develop new ideas and initiatives, also to re-establish existing ones, such as the Travelling Grid Iron for example, which has been allowed to fade away, we are intending to restore this, so watch this space, your Council Secretaries will be starting to receive more information and correspondence on this and other things and will then be communicating the information to their members in the not too distant future.

To get the full benefit of news, and items of interest, published on our various lines of communication, members need to get involved, familiarise themselves with the workings of the District Website, don't hesitate to ask our Webmaster for assistance if you are experiencing difficulty. Don't forget to feed our Media officer with members own material of interest. Brethren the facilities and information are their its up to you to use them.

Our Webmaster RW Bro Tom Spinks, and Media Officer Bro. Shaun Churt will be happy to receive all items of interest for publication.

Brethren there is nothing quite like the spectacle and ceremonial of the Grand Council Meeting at Great Queen Street every October and last year was no exception. It was a thrill and delight to witness the brethren of this District receiving their appointments I and I would like to congratulate them all, as I call your name would you please stand and remain standing until all the names are called.

They are:-

1st Appointments

W.Bro. Robert Clancy Past Grand Senior Deacon

W.Bro. Peter Taylor Past Grand Inner Guard

W.Bro. John Marrison Past Grand Inner Guard

V, W. Bro James Truswell Promoted to Past Grand Registrar

Reappointed to Acting Rank

V.W.Bro Glynn Goddard as Grand Director of Ceremonies

W.Bro Nicholas Page. As Deputy Grand Organist

R.W.Bro. Wg. Cdr. Brian Ward Price as Grand Historiographer

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as your District Grand Prefect, and I thank you all for the help and support you have given to me over the last year, and I can only hope for the same in the next.

Thank you all for your attendance today, I look forward to a festive board of happiness and enjoyment, and whenever you leave us today, please take care and have a safe journey home.