

I welcome you all here today and I thank you for attending **your** annual meeting to witness your friends and colleagues being appointed and promoted.

As a Division we have had another successful year but we have had some serious losses with eight of our W Kts called to higher service.

I have attended all enthronements this year bar one which I will address in January 2018. The Divisional Eusebius and Generals between them, have attended all Conclaves once, as my representative. At the end of November I attended Scardeburg Conclave with the Divisional Team to witness two new members being installed into the Order. A very successful night.

I, along with the Deputy IG and Recorder have attended 12 other Divisional meetings during the year and in addition I was accompanied by the Div Recorder to the Metropolitan Divisional Conclave in March to witness a new IG being Installed, and I also attended the Hertfordshire Divisional Meeting to see their IG installed and the Middlesex Divisional Meeting in July.

W Knights these meetings can be attended by any member for the cost of the meal and something towards the fuel. Please contact the Divisional Recorder if you wish to be notified about future Divisional Meetings that you may want to attend.

The annual meeting was held at London in July where several of our members were honoured. Geoff Nicholson was promoted to Grand Chamberlain, a great honour and well deserved; Derrald Perkins to PGHChancellor, therefore becoming a V Ill Kt, along with David Alderson who was promoted through London to PGHAlm. Our first appointments were Lawrie Lonsdale and Peter Audin both to Past Grand Prefect; I congratulate them all for the rewards of active membership of the Order.

Two days before our General Purposes meeting which was held in York in May a bomb exploded in the Manchester Arena killing 22 and wounding many others. We have all seen the graphic images shown on TV and other media sites. Two people who lived in York were killed while they were waiting to collect their child and many close relatives of masons especially in the Manchester area were also affected. The joint Craft Provinces of Lancashire set up a relief fund and we donated £500 there and then to support the work which was needed. You will be voting on a proposition later to ratify that amount, it is not something I wish to do regularly for obvious reasons but I think it important that we responded as we did.

We have had a good year with many installations and two excellent KHS meetings run in the Constantine of York Past Sovereigns Conclave, by Ill Kt Mike Graham; there are several more candidates for 2018 and I look forward to more first class evenings with the Appendant Orders. Younger members are making their mark too and I have received a very well written presentation by one such member which may be used at a Chapter meets the Red Cross meeting in the New Year and if successful I would hope to roll it out across the Division, watch this space! My Deputy will have some more news to announce re the formation of a Divisional Guards 'mess' so once again I await this with baited breath.

Last Sunday I attended the joint church service we hold with West Yorkshire on this occasion in the beautiful 12th century Adel Church in Leeds preceded by a meal at Castle Grove Masonic Hall. Unfortunately there were only 5 of our members present and after a poor response last year, where the service was held in York, I will review this event for 2018 to see if we should continue.

I wish to thank all of the Divisional Officers of last year who have supported me at Enthronement Meetings with an average of 16 attending to swell the numbers at these meetings. I must make especial mention of one or two of these, well five really, the Divisional Recorder, Graham Wanless and his Asst Geoff Nicholson along with V Ill Kt Peter Saxton the Past Marshal, and his Deputy Mike Jeffery and John Kettlewell the Divisional Almoner they make the Division tick.

To this year's Officers; please be in no doubt, this is an important masonic year for you all, make the most of the opportunities on offer during the year and enjoy your time. To the Generals I must say that this is the highest honour that this Division can award you and you are expected to support me and the Division to your utmost for this year. I look forward to working with you all.

I must now mention the Rulers of this Division and Heads of Other Orders who are members and who support the Red Cross. Please withhold your appreciation until I have completed the list.

It gives me great pleasure to again welcome R Ill Kt David Fox KCC Past IG. In addition we have two Past Deputy IGs in the persons of Mike Osgathorp and Geoff Butler, and I am very grateful for their continued support.