



ADDRESS BY THE MOST EMINENT AND REVEREND GRAND MASTER

It is my privilege, today, once again, to stand here to address you, after what has been another busy but enjoyable year. It was, of course, interrupted by a somewhat unexpected heart attack in February, which is not supposed to happen to young Drs in their 40's. But, the short sojourn in the Cardiac Unit did enable me to recruit a very keen male nurse to join the Craft, with also a promise of interest from the Consultant as soon as he retired. Interestingly, I seem to remember my predecessor, Michael, experienced a similar episode during his tenure of office, although that didn't slow him down one jot! Oddly enough, when the Consultant was giving me my discharge information, he advised that I could do anything, even fly anywhere. Obviously, he had not met my wife!!

But, that event has not prevented what has been another most enjoyable year. Last December, I was pleased to visit the Prefecture meeting of Avalon, whilst my planned attendance at Brigantes was lost, because of a silly heart. In May, I was able to attend the Heart of England Prefecture, and it was a delight to be back at my old haunt. All being well, Anglo Saxon and Avalon will appear on schedule later this year. I was very grateful for the attendance of our Deputy Grand Master to represent our Order at the Grand Priory of Helvetia in Geneva. Thankfully, I was then fit enough to experience a unique opportunity at the Installation of a new Grand Master of the Knights Templar of Scotland, the Most Eminent Knight Ray King, at Edinburgh, where all the Heads of Orders in attendance were asked to wear the regalia of their respective Orders, which was indeed a great spectacle. All the delegates were introduced separately and then led in by a piper. As my turn to enter approached, I did ask him if he knew "Mae Hen Wlad fy'n haddau", but, sadly, he didn't!!

This morning, we were able to enjoy the Armament Ceremony for 20 new Knights Beneficent. To see so many, resplendent in their new cloaks, was most uplifting and I hope you all enjoyed the ceremony as much as we did.

Today, of course, my congratulations go to all who have received promotions or first appointments. These are reflections not just on the work you have done, but also indicators of what shall be expected of you in the future. You are, of course, by definition of your positions, all senior Masons and I urge you never to lose sight of our origins and to encourage a constant support of our own Craft Lodges.

My thanks today must go to the Prefects of our Prefectures, for their constant support and hard work and also for any who have stood in today. I was delighted to both see and hear Graham Redman here today, and, as ever I express my thanks to the members of my Council for their support, along with the newest member, Graeme Hutchison, our new Grand Visitor, who has already been to many Scottish Masters Lodges across the country.

My gratitude is further extended to our Grand Chancellor and the team at Mark Masons' Hall for all their work that is done on our behalf.

I turn now to our guests here today, and, from the Grand Priory of Switzerland, M.Revd.Kt Rosario Principe, P.G.M. accompanied by Revd.Kt. Alessandro Raimondo.

From The Great Priory of America, V.Revd.Kt. Robert Chan, Great Chancellor From the Great Priory of Belgium and its Prefectures in Australia, M.Revd. & Em.Kt. M.F. Lacante accompanied by 6 other brethren.

From the rectified Great Priory of France, Revd.Kt. Patrick Canivet, Visitor General and from the Grand Priory of Spain, M.Revd. Kt. Julio Gomez, Grand Prior.

And, from our own Constitution, we welcome

R.Revd. Kt Paul Clement, OStJ, GCHC, my Deputy and Grand Master of the Knights Templar

V.Revd.Kt. Graham Flight, my Treasurer and Grand Sovereign of the Red Cross of Constantine

R.Revd.Kt. Kessick Jones, KCKC, Grand Master of the Royal and Select and President of my Council

V.Revd.Kt. Andrew Sweeney, Grand Supreme Ruler of the Secret Monitor

Revd.Kt. Dr Paul Mycock, First Master Mason of the Operatives.

I know that we have struggled to be here today, and I can but thank each and every one of you who have made the journey, and for those who are not able to remain with us to dine, I wish you safe journeys home.

May the Great Captain of our salvation have you in His safe keeping, until we meet again on this, or some distant shore.