



ADDRESS BY THE MOST EMINENT AND SUPREME GRAND MASTER

'Distinguished guests and Brother Knights, I begin by offering you all a most hearty welcome to our Chapter of Great Priory here in London today. Many of you have made a considerable effort to be with us and have dealt with travel and transport issues, and I do sincerely hope that the occasion will prove a memorable, trouble free and happy day for you all.

'In 1873 a number of Knights were awarded, for the very first time, the 'honour and dignity' of Knight Grand Cross. These Knights included The Prince of Wales, The Emperor of Germany, the King of Sweden and Norway, along with a number of Dukes, Earls and senior Freemasons. In May 1930 we entered into a concordat with the Great Priorities of Ireland and Scotland to restrict the number of Knights Grand Cross and Knights Commander in our respective Great Priorities at any one time. Today I have been delighted to confer Knight Grand Cross on R.E.Kt. Kessick John Jones who was first appointed P.Gt.A.-de-C. in 1999, and served as Provincial Prior for Kent from 2004-2012. He was appointed a Knight Commander in 2009 and serves on the Grand Master's Council to this day. Similarly, I have appointed as Knights Commander R.E.Kt. Richard Scott, Prov. Prior for Durham, and R.E.Kt. Graeme Hutchinson, Prov. Prior for Derbyshire, both of whom also serve on the Council. These 3 Brother Knights have given, and are still giving, meritorious service to the Order, and I would ask you to join me in wishing them well in their new stations.

'In our congratulations we include all the Brother Knights who received appointments and promotions in Great Priory today. This is your day, your special occasion and I trust you will enjoy your new roles to the full, ever remembering that with rank comes added responsibilities and even more so as Great Priory Officers. We look to you to offer help, encouragement and support to your Preceptories and the Brother Knights therein and never to rest on your laurels.

'As usual I will bring you up to date with the latest news from the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. The hospital is living through some of the most difficult times it has ever faced. In spite of that, it continues to deliver its services with care and compassion to our many and varied patients. Gaza is doing better than one might think, in that laser treatment is now available when there is power available and the hospital building there is usable. They are able to treat about 1000 patients a week but that doesn't really dent the waiting list unfortunately. The key issue is the lack of operating theatre disposables which are just not being prioritised to get over the crossing into Gaza.

'Elsewhere the various satellite hospitals are doing well and over all the group is on target to see over 250,000 patients this year. None of this would be possible without the dedicated support the Hospital gets from the Knights Templar Fund of Benevolence, for which the patients, staff and board, remain forever grateful. It is the constancy of your support that allows the Hospital to plan with confidence which is all the more necessary in the current very difficult situation. So, thank you Brother Knights for your continued support.

'I can hardly believe that it has been 9 years since I was installed as your Grand Master, and I wish to thank you for re-electing me for a further term. I do hope that I can fulfil your expectations of me and live up to the ideals of our wonderful Christian Brotherhood. I have learned many lessons over the years and realise more than ever how passionate our members are in ensuring the success of their Preceptories. I believe that the key to the future of all our Companion Orders lies in the strength of the foundations on which they stand. In this ever-changing world we need, more than ever, to ensure that our Craft Lodges and Royal Arch Chapters are in good health and will continue to provide the lifeblood of candidates we need in our Orders.

'Another truth I am more aware of than ever is that our Provincial Priors play an important and vital role in forging good relations between us, the Craft, Royal Arch and other Orders. Today, I reflect on the wise words of the late John Prizeman when he said, 'We are all in this together'. The past 6 months has seen the installations of 2 Provincial Priors, and I am sure you would like to welcome them both on their first Great Priory appearance in this capacity. On February 9th I installed R.E.Kt. David Frederick Bull, in charge of Leicestershire and Rutland, and on 14th March I installed R.E.Kt. Stephen Ranson for Northumberland. Now Brother Knights, let's give them a hearty welcome in their new roles.

'I now turn to welcoming our distinguished guests from Sister Great Priories who have collectively made the proceedings of this afternoon that much more special for us all. It may be better on this occasion to withhold your applause until the end of the list.

From the Great Priory of Ireland, M.E. & S.Kt. Robert G Quigley, G.C.T., Grand Master, and V.E.Kt. Sir Alistair Thompson, Gt.A-de-C.;

From the Great Priory of Scotland, M.E. & R.Kt. Raymond King, G.C.T., Grand Master; R.E. Frater Ronald John Simpson, K.C.T., Great Seneschal; and V.E. Frater Alan Buntain, Grand Secretary;

From the Great Priory of Greece, M.E. & R.Kt. Konstantinos Kalogerakos, G.C.T., Grand Master; M.E. & R.Kt. Andreas Spyropoulos, G.C.T., Past Grand Master; V.E.Kt. Paul Johnston, Great Chancellor and V.E.Kt. Konstantinos Karmalis, Great Vice-Chancellor;

From the Great Priory of Germany, M.E.Kt. Roderick Mackenzie, G.C.T., Grand Master, R.E.Kt Norbert Schoen, Grand Constable, R.E.Kt. John MacKinnon, G.C.T., and R.E.Kt Lt Col. Ian Harper, Grand Chancellor;

From the Great Priory of Finland, R.E.Kt. Jussi Matias, Great Seneschal;

From the Great Priory of Spain, V.H. & R.E.Kt. Keith Halliwell, G.C.T., Great Seneschal;

From the Great Priory of the United Orders of France, M.E. & S.Kt. Michel Manueco, G.C.T., Grand Master; V.E.Kt. Ronald Barham, 1st Great Constable; and R.E.Kt. Jean-Paul Dupinay, K.C.T., Great Chancellor;

From the Great Priory of Italy, M.E. & S.Kt. Alessandro Fisco, G.C.T., Grand Master, and

R.E.Kt. Fabrizio Pisciotta, Grand Constable;

From the Great Priory of Benin, M.E.Kt. Christian Bonzi, G.C.T., Honorary Past Grand Master;

From the Great Priory of The Netherlands, M.E. & S.Kt. Frank Cornelis Johannes Poot, G.C.T., Grand Master; V.H. & R.E.Kt. Herman Lioe-A-Tjam, G.C.T., Great Seneschal; V.E.Kt. Dyonisius Vandijck, Great Marshal; E.Kt. Teun de Bruijn, Deputy Great Marshal; E.Kt. Henk van Tuil, Grand Masters's Bodyguard; and Kt. Martin Tellekamp Booland, Bodyguard;

From the Great Priory of Belgium and its Prefectures in Australia, R.Revd.Kt. Keith Stevens, Assistant Great Prior; and R.Revd.Kt. Thomas Leslie Duffin, Honorary Great Dean;

Order of the Knights Freemasons of Romania, Bro. Vasile Popa, Grand Master, and Bro. Greg Coica, Knight Commander.

Let's show our distinguished guests the warmth of our welcome.

'We now turn to the Brother Knights from overseas within our own Constitution and Heads of other Orders:

From the Far East, E.Kt. George Wing Chung Li;

From South East Asia, R.E.Kt. Brian Shergar, Prov.Prior; E.Kt. Lt Col. Russell Alexander Stuart, CSC, P.Gt.A-de-C.; E.Kt. Capt Dr Julian Brown, P.Gt.A.-de-C.; E.Kt. Christopher Moore, Gt.W. of Reg.; E.Kt. Ratnaswamy Jeyaraj, P.Gt.A.-de-C.; and E.Kt. Ian Philip Ellston;

From Walter Rodwell Wright Preceptory No. 640 (Malta): E.Kt. Leslie Sinclair – a recipient Gt.Her., E.Kt. John David Campbell, P.Gt.A-de-C., E.Kt. Robert Chilvers, Gt.Her., and E.Kt. David James Broxup, P.Gt.Her.;

From Iyanola Preceptory No. 588 (St Lucia): V.E.Kt. Gaspar Llewellyn Gill, SLMM, 2nd Gt.Con.;

From Preceptory of La Valette No. 649 (Malta): E.Kt. Nigel Henry Morris;

From Preceptory of Kolossi No. 684 (Cyprus): E.Kt. Antranik Ashdjian, P.Gt.A.-de-C., and Kt. Kyriacos Andreou

'We are fortunate in enjoying a productive working relationship with many other Masonic Orders in England and Wales, and today from the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, we welcome:

E.Kt. Prof Denovan Keith Wilson, P.Gt.Her. – Deputy Grand Master of Mark Master Masons;

E.Kt. Revd Dr Simon Thorn, Gt.Alm. – Grand Prior, Supreme Council 33rd Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Rite; and E.Kt. Dr Giles Shilson, P.Gt.Her., Secretary-General;

R.E.Kt. Kessick Jones, K.C.T. – Grand Master of the Royal and Select Masters;

R.E.Kt. Thomas Firth Jackson, K.C.T. – Grand Master of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees;

R.E.Kt. Andrew Sweeney, K.C.T. – Grand Supreme Ruler of the Order of the Secret Monitor;

R.E.Kt. Christopher Maiden, K.C.T. – Grand High Priest of the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom;

R.E.Kt. Dr Vivian Thomas, JP, K.C.T. – Grand Master of the Grand Priory of the Knights Beneficent of the Holy City;

E.Kt. Anthony Llewellyn, P.Gt.Her. – Supreme Magus of the Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia;

Let's express our appreciation for the attendance of all these Brother Knights. 'Across our Preceptories, particularly those that predate Great Priory, variations to our ceremonies exist, such as the Anterior Address and Vigil readings; but, with a few exceptions, our core ceremony should remain consistent across the country. It was therefore very pleasing that, earlier this year, on 13 January, 87 Knights representing every Province in England and Wales, as well as one who had travelled all the way from South-East Asia, attended the King Edward VII Preceptory of Improvement Marshals meeting, to receive a detailed demonstration and explanation of our beautiful ceremony. As well as the meeting in January, the team of the KEVII Pol has now provided demonstrations to nine Provinces over the two years with a tenth visit lined up for next month.

'As a follow up to these demonstrations, the Pol has produced a handbook, which has been circulated to all Provinces earlier this month for onward distribution to their Preceptory Marshals. This is an excellent resource for all those who are keen to see our ceremonies delivered in an enthusiastic yet reverential manner, and I am grateful to the Great Marshal and all those involved over the last two years for their hard work. This handbook will be of particular use to those who wish to take the Tests of Marshals and Preceptor, and I am pleased to congratulate E.Kt Brian Connor, of the Provinces of Lincolnshire and Worcestershire, who passed his test last month. I will be pleased to present him with his certificate.

'Before we close, I would like to express my personal gratitude to the Great Vice-Chancellor and the staff at the Chancery for all they do to ensure the smooth running of the Order and this meeting in particular. Similarly to the Great Marshal and his Deputies for the exemplary ceremonial we have enjoyed today, and a special 'thank you' to the Grand Master's Bodyguard, who in my experience, has always set the standard for meetings of Great Priory. You will have noticed that the Commander of the Body Guard changed today, the outgoing Commander, E.Kt. Adam Lancashire is very soon to be installed as Provincial Prior for Derbyshire, and I thank him for all he has done in his role as Deputy Commander and latterly as Commander in maintaining the traditions and standards of this incredible band of Knights.

'I also wish to thank E.Kt. John Vazquez and those at Freemasons' Hall for all their support and for making these magnificent facilities available to us. Today has seen a very important and significant meeting for us, and I feel more than ever that we are highly privileged in being members of this great Order, drawing its inspiration from the Christian Religion and the faithful practice of Christian virtues. It extends to us the privilege of sharing in its priceless heritage of the past, as defenders of the faith.

'Thank you Brother Knights, for your attendance today, and I look forward to seeing you all again at our Malta Great Priory in November.



ADDRESS BY THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER

The Most Illustrious Grand Master addressed the Companions as follows:

'Companions, I am delighted to see so many of you. I bid a very warm welcome to you all and thank you for showing your loyalty and support, not only to those Companions who are receiving preferment today, but also to those of you who have travelled to support them and to enjoy lunch together afterwards, thus making it a great day of celebration. It is good to see you here all together, because, as it says in an old Kenyan proverb: "Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable." So, it is heartening to see you all here showing such strength in numbers and demonstrating your unbreakable spirit.

'I am very conscious of the fact that as your Grand Master my tenure is an annual one, subject always to the wishes of all of you – in that bundle – and therefore, I thank you once again for my re-appointment, which leaves me looking forward to the ensuing year with excited anticipation and humble determination. I know that I speak on behalf of all of you when I congratulate those Companions who I have appointed to Grand Council rank and promoted in it. This Annual Investiture is a major milestone in your Cryptic career, and I trust that you will remember today for a long time to come. I must pause here and reflect upon the words submitted by Grand Chaplain, following the 'In Memoriam', in echoing all our sadness at the passing to the Grand Council above of R.III.Comp. John Prizeman, P.G.Chan. – even more so, as he was today to be promoted to Past Deputy Grand Master. You will need no reminding that your new status brings with it new duties, new horizons and new dignity. Work together with your junior colleagues and set high standards. Do the best you can until you know better, then when you know better – do better. Remember only the mediocre are always at their best. I wish you all good fortune as you continue to increase your efforts on our behalf to stimulate the progress of the Order.

'It has been a busy year for the Active Officers, and I thank them all enormously for their generous and enthusiastic support, I look forward to working with the members of the new team who I am confident be equally as eager and diligent.

'The President and Members of the Executive have had a fairly easy run, and even the District Grand Masters Annual Conference was a most civilised affair, as were the activities of Keith Hind Council. I thank the committee for their sage counsel and all of the team, from the most senior officer to the most junior, for their loyal support.

'Further to the subject of promotions and appointments, there have been some changes at District and Inspectorate level. There is now a new District Grand Master for London, in the person of Simon White in consequence of the retirement of Vincent Driver. Simon, please stand and be recognised. Andrew Dive is now District Grand Master for Kent and Derek Upton is the new Grand Inspector for the Channel Islands. We offer them our congratulations and best wishes for an enjoyable and successful tenure. There are also to be some further changes later in the year as certain District Grand Masters have declared their wish and intention to hang up their chains. Therefore, attending their last Grand Council in that capacity are Neil Woodward, District Grand Master for North and East Yorkshire; Ken Downes, District Grand Master for Wyvern; and Jeremy Shaw, District Grand Master for Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight. I will install their successors later in the year. I am sure that you are eager to know who they are so I will tell you. I have appointed Geoffery Rankin for North and East Yorkshire, Mark Winfield for Wyvern, and Peter Dack for Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight. They will all be installed at their next respective District Grand Meetings. Arthur Thomas, who is currently Deputy District Grand Master in Charge of the South and East Caribbean, following the retirement of Llewellyn Gill, will be installed later this year. I am sure that you will wish to join me in congratulating the newcomers, and thanking their predecessors for the wonderful contribution they have made to their Districts and to the Order. We wish them a very happy retirement.

'I continue with my expressions of gratitude now to all my District Grand Masters and Grand Inspectors, here today in their entirety, for your unstinting support, energy and endeavour in the superintendence of your charges. I know that during the past year, you have all basked in the delight of delivering the allotted proceeds of the sesquicentenary charity appeal to local worthy causes within your Districts. A pleasing success. The fact that you are all so successful is not by chance, or that I am a brilliant judge of character! It is because you subscribe to the essential principles, posited a long time ago by Joseph Addison, a 17th century writer who maintained: "If you wish to succeed, make perseverance your bosom friend, experience your wise councillor, caution your elder brother and hope your guardian genius." I am also heartened by the presence today of Custodians of the Ninth Arch, and Past District Grand Masters and Inspectors, no doubt keeping a watchful eye of their successors.

'Now to give you a snapshot of our activities. Shortly after Grand Council last year I consecrated Carolean Council No. 347 for Warwickshire, and in early June I attended the District Meeting of North and East Yorkshire. Late June saw the installation of Derek Upton and Simon White. In July, I attended the Annual Meeting of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, and visited Far East Council No. 156 in Hong Kong. August heralded the delightful Croft Dinner hosted by the generous auspices of the District Grand Master for Northumberland. In mid-September, I attended Peter Baikie's funeral and in early October visited Merthyr Tydfil Council No. 120. In November, I presented a wreath on behalf of the Order at the National Memorial Arboretum and installed Andrew Dive.

In January, I visited Keith Hind Council in London, and presented a centenary certificate to Public Schools Council No. 37. Towards the end of that month, I had the pleasure of presenting a fifty-year membership certificate to R.III.Comp. Desmond Payne-Jeremiah in Swansea. In February, I consecrated Prins van Oranje Council No. 348 in Brussels, an unattached Council that will meet in Antwerp. I also made a return visit to Merthyr Tydfil, to witness a three team Royal Master event and unveiled a delightful marble plaque they had generously presented to me, commemorating my visits. I will admit to checking the obverse to ensure it didn't say "In loving Memory!" And only last week, I visited Kent to see the District Grand Master install his new team at an especial emergency meeting.

In addition to their involvement in consecrations and installations, the Deputy Grand Master and Grand Principal Conductor of the Work have also shared in the heavy lifting by making visits to East Anglia, East Midlands, Somerset and Wiltshire, Lancashire, Cumberland and Westmorland and to Wessex and Sole Bay Councils. I am indebted to the Deputy Grand Master for presiding over Grafton Council of Anointed Kings No. 16 at the February conferral of the Silver Trowel and Excellent Masters whist I was overseas.

Both these degrees continue to maintain their popular appeal. I thank the members of No. 16 and all the Installed Masters Councils for the splendid work they do in this direction.

The year ahead will see the installation of new District Grand Masters, as I have mentioned, and the reponement of Councils in Cumberland and Westmorland, London, and the Caribbean, together with two centenary celebrations and two fifty-year membership certificate presentations. A busy and rewarding year just gone by and an interesting and challenging one coming up.

I now move on to one of the most agreeable aspects of this meeting, which is the opportunity to welcome visitors from our daughter Grand Councils, from overseas and the Rulers of our Companion Orders. May I ask you to refrain from your usual affectionate acclamation until I have finished:

From our Daughter Grand Council of South East Asia, the Grand Master, M.III.Comp. Dr Harry Chin, accompanied by your G.D.C., V.III.Comp. Ian Ellston. Harry. I am sorry that I cannot get to your meeting this year as I will be engaged on duties in London, but it is good to see you again;

From the Grand Council of Greece, the Grand Master, M.III.Comp. Vasillios Papanikolaou, accompanied by your Grand Recorder, V.III.Comp. Konstantinos Karmarlis, and V.III.Comp. Dennis Wilson, Past Grand Chaplain – it was good to be with you last year;

And from the Grand Council of Cryptic Mason of Utah, M.III.Comp. Jason C Varner, P.G.M. – Utah, known I understand as the Beehive State. Famous for fry sauce and funeral potatoes. Good to see you again Jason;

From Sri Lanka, R.III.Comp. David Rose, P.G.Coun.;
From the Inspectorate of Jamaica and Cayman Islands, the Grand Inspector, R.III.Comp. Harding Overton Watler, P.G.Coun., accompanied by R.III.Comp. Graham Smith, IX, P.G.Insp., and P.Dist.G.M. for Kent; Ill.Comp. Albert Anderson Jnr, P.G.Cond.C. – a recipient today; Ill.Comp. Neville Scott Snr, JP, G.Cond.C. – a recipient today; Ill.Comp. Robert Whorms; Ill.Comp. Bryan Lewis Ashenheim, P.A.G.D.C. – a recipient today; and Comp. Neville Anthony Scott Jnr;
From the Channel Islands, V.III.Comp. Derek Arthur Upton, Grand Inspector; accompanied by Ill.Comp. Ian Crosby, P.G.Cond.C., who was installed on the same day as Derek but in the AMD!;
From the District of South and East Caribbean, Ill.Comp. John Aspinall, MBE, P.G.Capt.Gd., and Ill.Comp. Ignatius Jean, P.G.Swd.B. – both recipients today;
From South Africa, Ill.Comp. Reginald Garnet Marshall, P.G.Cond.C. – thank you for making such a long journey to be with us today;
And the usual invasion from Flanders Council No. 177 (Unattached – Belgium) in the persons of Illustrious Companions Gilbert Denys, P.G.St.B.; Geoffrey Declan Kavanagh, P.G.St.B., a recipient today; Pierre Ambrody; Jean Verbist; and Comp. Michael Kavanagh;

From Koning Salomo Council No. 293 (Unattached – The Netherlands), Illustrious Companions A. G. M. (Loek) Captijn, P.G.Cond.C., and Pieter Jan Nagel, P.A.G.D.C. – both recipients today;

'It is always comforting to have the support of the Heads of our Companion Orders, so with equal enthusiasm I welcome:

R.III.Comp. Prof. Denovan Keith Wilson, P.Dist.G.M. (Durham) – Dep.G.M., Mark and RAM;

R.III.Comp. Paul Clement, OStJ, P.G.Chan. – M.E. & S.G.M. of the United Orders of the Temple;

R.III.Comp. Graham Flight, P.G.Chan. – Grand Sovereign, Red Cross of Constantine;

R.III.Comp. Tom Jackson, P.G.Chan. – Grand Master, Allied Masonic Degrees;

R.III.Comp. Andrew Sweeney, P.G.Chan. – Grand Supreme Ruler, Order of the Secret Monitor;

R.III.Comp. Dr Paul Mycock, P.G.Chan. – First Grand Master Mason of the Operatives;

R.III.Comp. Christopher Maiden, P.G.Chan. – Grand High Priest, KTP and Order of HW;

R.III.Comp. Dr Vivian Thomas, JP, P.G.Chan., G.Chap. (a recipient today) – Grand Master, KBHC;

R.III.Comp. Anthony Llewellyn, P.G.Chan. (a recipient today) – Supreme Magus, Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia;

'It is also wonderful to have Richard Gan, JP, IX, P.G.P.C.W., and Grand Historiographer, in attendance. Companions, our distinguished visitors.

'My prime objective continues to be to enhance the strength and development of the Order, thus making it readily available to Craft, Royal Arch and Mark Masons. The successful growth of our Order will be promoted and encouraged by investing energy and care in keeping our Craft Lodges and Royal Arch Chapters vibrant and relevant. You know the quality of candidates we would welcome, who would enhance your Councils and in return reap the rewards of Cryptic Masonry.

'Regarding the health and well-being of the Order, I am happy to say without an ounce of complacency that I am quite pleased with our current situation. But we must maintain the current swell of enthusiasm, so keep it going. I want to return to and underline that word 'Quality'. If we provide quality of commitment, quality ritual and ceremonial, we will attract quality candidates which will build and sustain quality Councils. Steve Jobs, the former CEO of Apple said of this: "Be a yardstick of quality. Some people are not used to an environment where excellence is expected." Provide that excellence, Companions, and maintain it.

'Companions, I cannot conclude this meeting without drawing to your attention once again to the great debt of gratitude we owe to those who organise, administer and direct Cryptic Masonry throughout the year in general, and at this meeting in particular. I refer to the Grand Recorder and his staff at No. 86 for the administrative excellence of this meeting. Grand Recorder, please convey to all on the 4th floor how much we value what they do on our behalf and thank them for their patience and courtesy, which is shown to us at all times, and this of course includes you!

'I thank the Grand Director of Ceremonies and his team for all the preparations, arrangements and ceremonial executed not only at this meeting but throughout the year. Executed, I might add with all the dignity, precision and professionalism that is as good as you will see anywhere else.

'Our thanks go to John Vasquez and his colleagues for the support and assistance we receive here at Freemasons' Hall. Companion G.D.C., if you can find him, will you present W.Bro. John Vasquez to me please. John, sadly you are not in this Order so I cannot promote you, but you have been a loyal servant to us for many years. Over those years your help has been invaluable and on more than one occasion you have, at the last minute, saved our bacon. Please accept this token of our appreciation.

'Companions, we have had another good year, so let us make the effort to have an even better one this year and I leave you with the words of Robert Browning: "Aspire, break bonds, endeavour to be good and better still – be best". This Order is very special Companions – please keep it that way.

'Finally, Companions, be of one mind, live in peace and may the Supreme Master of the Universe delight to dwell amongst you and bless you for evermore.'