

## **ADDRESS OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER**

### **Right Worshipful Brother David Nigel Hanson**

Brethren, I am absolutely delighted to welcome our distinguished guests and Heads of Orders from the Province of Durham. Unfortunately, I have time constraints so cannot mention you all individually, but it would be remiss of me not to welcome W Bro Barry Kirkbride, from Cumberland and Westmorland, and W Bro Kevin Spencer, from Staffordshire and Shropshire, as it is their first time visiting our Province as Provincial Grand Master. Barry and Kevin, you are most welcome, and I am sure we will have many happy times visiting each other's Provinces.

Also, for the first time as PGM in the Craft, I Welcome Bro John Paul Thompson and a special mention to Bro Michael Stuart Shaw, who will be installed as Inspector General next Monday. John and Michael, I wish both of you, health and happiness to perform the duties of your high office, and I am confident the Craft and Rose Croix will flourish under your leadership.

Brethren, today I have installed a new Deputy Provincial Grand Master and an Assistant Grand Master. Trevor, Michael and I pledge our support to our wonderful Province. Please remember Brethren, without you we do not have a Province, so I ask each one of you to be ambassadors of this excellent degree and continue to promote Mark Masonry.

I am honoured, privileged and at the same time, humbled to be your Provincial Grand Master. Brethren you are an inspiration to me and together we will build upon the foundations that Right Worshipful Brother Denny has left us. Brethren the word great gets used, in my opinion far too much, but Denny has been a GREAT PGM, he is a GREAT Freemason but most importantly of all, is a GREAT GENTLEMAM.

As a Province we have been given the honour to host the 2029 Mark Benevolent Fund Festival. As PGM you automatically become President. I am absolutely delighted to announce that W Bro John Watts has accepted my invitation to become Festival Chairman. John is a well-known and respected Freemason, and I know he will do a terrific job along with his team. The Launch of the 2029 Festival is on Saturday 21st January at this venue. We need to sell approximately 250 tickets to make the event viable and to date we have sold 103 we need your support.

John has a meeting with the Festival Committee on the 10th December. If the event does not have the support, we will need to change the venue, so please book this week and support the launch, which will be a superb evening of food, entertainment and friendship.

Brethren days like today do not just happen, there is a lot of work and preparation that goes into it. Provincial Grand Secretary, would you please record my thanks to Right Worshipful Bro Frank Alexander Rankin and Very Worshipful Bro Danny Guy for opening Provincial Grand Lodge. To the escort and in particular Very Worshipful Bro Gil Crosley for being cushion bearer. Also, my thanks to Very Worshipful Bro Mike Davis the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and his team. Worshipful Bro Allan the amount of work you and your team get through is colossal and is always of the highest standard and it is very much appreciated.

Brethren, we have exciting times ahead. Continue to enjoy your day, continue to enjoy your Mark Masonry, but most importantly brethren, I THANK EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP.