

PGSR Address to the Brethren , Provincial Annual meeting 2021

Colleagues and Brethren.

Once again I find myself preparing an annual meeting speech that will be heard in a virtual environment. The decision to cancel the normal Provincial annual meeting has, despite the massive gains made against this terrible illness, been the correct one.

A debt of gratitude is owed to the secretariat at MMH, who have had a difficult time advising all the Orders in MMH about the pandemic, and for providing a constant stream of bedtime reading, and I thank my Prov Recorder, Alan Harrison for maintaining a handle on the latest processes and preventing mistakes on my part.

I am unable to personally thank those members of my acting team for the support and diligence they have shown over the past year and I regret our still not being able to undertake ceremonial duties together; thank you all for continuing in your positions and I'm sure we will meet soon.

Some changes of personnel have taken place and I thank Wy Bro. David Dobbs for taking on the role of Commander of my Arch of Steel, and I have promoted Wy Bro Bill Caren to Provincial Grand Sword Bearer, sorry we cannot see your expertise today Brethren, but soon I hope

To those who are receiving appointments and promotions today, congratulations, I do hope that you will accept the responsibility accompanying these acknowledgements of your work and continue to support me, the Province and our Order during your office tenure. You will have received information about what is expected of the role with

your offer letter, these role descriptions are also available on our web site.

Again I thank Bro Barrie Billinge for his fabulous work in continuing to update our web site which remains our main Provincial information point and recruiting tool. (www.osmcheshireandnorthwales.org.uk)

As you have already heard, we have been able to continue with our Charitable work, the latest cheques, each of £2,000, for the Parkinson's charity, and for Hope House Children's Hospice, both delivered in, of course, a socially distanced manner, by my Deputy, Tony Stringer.

My Arch of Steel continues to provide a platform for Brethren to understand the workings of the Province, to attend team visits with the Executive of the Order and provides myself and my team with the opportunity to assess the commitment and conduct of the members for the future, Any Prince of the Order is eligible to join don't be shy, if interested speak to Wy Bro David Dobbs.

This is my first opportunity to congratulate those members of this Province who received first appointment to or promotion in Grand Conclave at the 2020 annual meeting:

R.Wy.Bro. Paul Robert Crudge was re-appointed as the Grand Guide.

Wy.Bro. Raymond Bridgehouse was promoted to Past Grand Visitor and became a V.Wy.Bro.

Wy.Bro. Brian Benjamin Williams was promoted to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

Wy.Bro. Kenneth Bardsley was appointed Past Grand Standard Bearer

Wy.Bro. Trevor Charles John Simcock was appointed Past Assistant Grand Guarder.

Wy.Bro. Keith Andrew Bailey was appointed as an acting Grand Steward

Bro. Michael John Steggles was appointed as a member of the Grand Supreme Rulers Arch of Steel.

I send you all my most sincere congratulations.

I am delighted to report that the new Conclave in Bangor, named the Carreg y Wyddfa, Stone of Snowdon to those who are unable to speak Welsh, Conclave No. 633, will be consecrated by the Most Worthy Grand Supreme Ruler on Thursday 18th November 2021, and I hope that the Province will provide a good turn out to extol the virtues of our Province. I pass on my sincere gratitude to Wy Bro Martin Wynne Jones and Wy Bro Malcolm Orr for their extremely hard work in the organisation of this project.

In addition we will Consecrate a new Scarlet Cord Consistory in Rhyl later this year, I am sure many will want to update their knowledge of the OSM by continuing their journey via this attendant Order.

Brethren in Cheshire, two new units in North Wales, come on we need more in Cheshire too.

As always, all these, and many other important issues have been supervised by my superb Deputy Tony Stringer, and my gratitude to him is well known.

My thanks to you all for maintaining your interest in the Order and I look forward to our meeting again in safety, indeed we are planning a full Provincial ceremony, as an investiture meeting, to be held on Wednesday 20th. October, though the venue has yet to be decided. Please all who are here today put that date in your diary and I hope to meet and greet you properly.

Before that, we plan to hold our normal Sunday family lunch, organised by our Provincial Almoner, Wy Bro. Paul Richards, hopefully at Christleton, on Sunday 10th October where we can again get together as a Province, socially distanced and in a covid secure certificated environment, this is, in the absence of Alms collections and Installation meetings, our primary source of income, this year to benefit St Kentigern's Hospice and the East Cheshire Hospice, more detail from Paul shortly.

There has been much discussion on my Provincial suspension of OSM meetings, and very considerable determined resistance to its lifting, however, I have decided to lift my suspension with effect from Monday 21st June 2021. A formal notification and reminder of restrictions will appear on the Provincial web site immediately after this meeting and will be distributed to all Conclave secretaries. This a Provincial supplement to the information contained in the 2020 / 21 year book.

I thank you all for your attendance today, to those representing other Provinces, just like you I am missing the contact, camaraderie and banter.

Meanwhile please stay strong, be faithful to your God, your Country and your Order, stay safe, look after one another and look forward to our meeting again soon, never forgetting that this is our hobby and that when we can attend, we do so to have fun and enjoy yourselves.

May the friend of all friends, the founder of faithful friendship bless you all