

## Address to Divisional Conclave 2023

**Distinguished Guests and Worthy Knights of the Division of West Yorkshire,**

**My address is basically a lot of ‘Thank You’s’,** some congratulations, and the agenda for the forthcoming Divisional year.

I have already welcomed our Distinguished Guests, so may I now thank the members of the division for attending in such good numbers. Your support is deeply appreciated.

Next, I would also like to thank everyone who has contributed towards the success of today’s meeting.

Firstly, the Divisional Recorder, P Kt Keith Tolan, not only for organising the meeting but also for all his hard work since taking over the role.

Ill Kt Michael Cooper, the Divisional Marshal, again, not only for his stewardship of the meeting, but also for the commitment he has shown to the role since his appointment, 8 years ago.

P Kt Graham Hoyle for stepping up to the Divisional High Prelate duties.

P Kt Richard Beecroft for commencing the Deputy Marshal duties a bit earlier than normal.

Ill Kt Stephen Galpin, Ill Kt Ron Murtagh and the members of Centurion Conclave for fulfilling their hosting duties.

P Kt Trevor White and the members of the Divisional Sepulchre Guard. Trevor is another stalwart of the Division not only being Captain of the Guard but also Warden of Regalia and driver of the Cleckheaton bus ensuring that virtually every meeting throughout the Division has at least 4 or 5 visitors.

and

A big thank you to the many others of you who contributed to success of today’s proceedings in any way whatsoever.

**Although it seems a long time ago now,** I am keen to extend the congratulations of the Division to the worthy knights who received preferment at the last meeting of Grand Imperial Conclave. They are: -

- Ill. Kt. David Staniforth who was appointed to Grand Prefect
- Ill. Kt. Jerry Anderson who was appointed to Past Grand Prefect
- Ill. Kt. Gilbert Jarrett who was appointed to Past Grand Warden of Regalia
- Ill. Kt. Ian Wright who was appointed to Past Grand Warden of Regalia

Worthy Knights, these appointments are well deserved, please acknowledge them accordingly.

**I would also wish to congratulate** the Worthy Knights who this morning have received appointments or promotions in Divisional Rank. Your preferment is based on the years of hard work and support given to the Division and your Conclave and I thank you for your endeavours. I also thank you in advance for the work you will be doing in the future.

It was a particular delight to be able to reappoint my deputy in office.

**We will be undertaking four Divisional Visits during the year,**

- The first of these will be to Saint Helena Conclave No. 165 on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Not only is this their enthronement meeting, but they will also be celebrating their centenary.

- On Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023, we will be attending the Enthronement meeting of Ebor Rosa Conclave No. 186.
- On Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 we will again be at the Centurion Conclave No. 170 for the Divisional Conference aka the Sovereigns and Records meeting.

As our Enthroned Sovereigns Conclave is composed of many experienced Red Cross Masons, I am keen that they should play a significant role in the functioning of divisional activities, such as hosting both the Divisional Conference and the Divisional Annual Meeting.

I have been very pleased with the conferences that we have held so far. The meeting falls halfway through our divisional year and is a good time to share our thoughts on how the division is doing.

I hope that you will also be able to see how the Conclave has been actively involved in hosting this meeting and the festive board.

The Conclave needs enthusiastic members to fulfil its role and I hope the divisional officers who have been appointed, re-appointed or promoted today and who are not members will seriously consider joining. You can't say that you haven't been asked because you have just been given a personal invitation from me together with an application form signed by myself and the Deputy Intendant-General.

**Looking to the future**, you will have heard the Deputy Intendant-General read out the names of those Knights who have been called to Higher Service. None of these Worthy Knights can be replaced, but we do need to rebuild our numbers. As I have said many times before, every Royal Arch Mason is a potential member and we are failing in our duty if there are Royal Arch Masons out there who haven't been asked to join our Order, provided they are suitable, of course. I also want to take this opportunity to thank P Kt Michael Bunce, M P Kt John Nichols and M P Kt Roy Mallinson for agreeing to give the talks to the Chapters in their areas and beyond. Also I would like to thank Ill Kt Stephen Adkin who I have asked to fill the Membership Liaison Officer's role.

**All that said, I am pleased to say** that we have had a steady stream of candidates being installed over the year and to facilitate their progress, we will hopefully be holding two KHS ceremonies.

- The first one will be at the joint meeting of St Helena and Wharfedale Conclave, which will be at Harrogate on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023.
- The second hopefully will be at Belgravia Conclave at Goole on a date later in the year. I sincerely hope that all of the Divisional Officers will support all of the meetings I have mentioned.

**Worthy Knights, I thank you once again** for attending in such good numbers to support our Divisional Conclave - I hope you have enjoyed yourself and I wish you a safe journey home.