

## **IG's Address 2021**

Distinguished Guests and members of the West Yorkshire Division.

I am delighted by the number of Knights attending this meeting and I thank you all for your continued support.

Although we do not have with us this morning any members of the Mark Masons' Hall executive, I think it is only right to thank them for their vision in allowing us to use the available technology to enable us to progress, at least, some of our business.

As a Division, we embraced the Virtual Business and Social Meetings very early on and together with my Deputy, the Divisional Recorder and Divisional Treasurer we have had at least one 'Zoom' meeting with every Conclave in the Division.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Divisional Recorder for his efforts over the past year, particularly in organising those 'Zoom' meetings and indeed today's meeting.

I would also like to thank Ill. Kt. Bob Boyd, our Divisional Treasurer for hosting those and today's meeting. We should also thank Mrs Boyd who is the licence holder for allowing Bob to host the meetings.

The Conclave 'Zoom' meetings will continue to take place, although in zonal groups and with an emphasis on working towards the resumption of normal activities. I should stress that I only want Conclaves to resume normal meetings when they are happy to do so.

The aim of the meetings will be to ensure that you get the guidance and support that you need.

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.

Sticking with the theme of recruiting, we do have two Conclaves in the Division who are about to embark on exciting journeys and need more members to help them.

Roman Eagle Conclave, which is currently based in Bradford is in the process of moving to Morley and becoming a Daylight Conclave meeting on Saturday mornings

and

Centurion Conclave, which is our Enthroned Sovereign Conclave is to have the privilege of hosting on a continuing basis, both the newly created Divisional Conference and the Divisional meeting. When I say 'hosting', I mean 'hosting'. There will be very significant roles for the Sovereign and the members to play. So, if you like the idea of some Saturday morning Red Cross Masonry or playing a substantial role in some of the Divisional activities. I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Finally, Worthy Knights of the West Yorkshire Division, among the documents that you received as part of this meeting's send-out there is guidance on how to make a digital donation to our Division's Relief Chest, which is dedicated to raising funds for the Grand Sovereign's Care for Children Fund.

I can assure you that it is easy to make a donation using the QR Code. I did it, so anyone can do it.

However, if you are not happy using this technology you could make a bank transfer or even send the Divisional Treasurer a cheque. All the necessary information is provided among the send-out documents. But don't forget to let the Divisional Treasurer have a completed Gift Aid form.

At the start of the pandemic, the Grand Sovereign's Care for Children Fund made a contingency fund available to support any Children's or Young Persons organisation which might be in difficulty as a result of the pandemic. As a Division, we have received two substantial donations from the fund. This fund is still available, so Worthy Knights if you are aware of such an organisation, which is struggling please let me have an email giving me some details and requesting a donation.

So with that, Worthy Knights All, I thank you again for zooming-in and I call upon the Divisional Sub Prelate to recite our precepts.