



## A Christmas Message from our Provincial Grand Summus



Dear Companions,

Another calendar year is almost over and I am pleased to say our membership numbers have remained stable and I hope you have enjoyed your Scarlet Cord Masonry and will continue to do so for many years to come.

Last year in my Christmas message I focussed on one of the three principles of our Scarlet Cord rituals – Charity, a concept which should be close to any Freemason's heart and that is very relevant at this time of year with so many causes both here and abroad that deserve our attention and donations. I suggest giving our time to help in the community is an equally acceptable way of dispensing Charity. Do publicise what we as Freemasons do in our communities to help.

Maybe by now in December you are resting from your Masonic labours and thinking more about the Festive Season ahead, but the New Year is just around the corner. We will be soon be back to Masonic business, when I hope you will support your OSM Conclaves fully and speak to those members who have yet to experience the delights of the Scarlet Cord, telling them how our Order is very friendly, the ceremonies not long and written in a more modern way to easily allow them to be shared with several companions. Tell them what they are missing and invite them to join us! About 80% of Surrey OSM Brethren are members of our Order – can we get the other 20% to join in the next year?

May I offer you and those you love the very warmest of good wishes for a happy and restful festive season and a prosperous New Year. I Hope the God of our Fathers will keep you and your loved ones in his safe keeping over the coming year.

**R. Dist. Comp. Nigel Thomson**  
Provincial Grand Summus



The Bible mentions the scarlet cord or thread in several significant instances, from the Passover story, the story of Tamar and Judah, Rahab and the Spies, the Scarlet Thread in the Day of Atonement, as well as in many passages in the New Testament.

# Keep Calm and Travel On or the Autumn Adventures of your P.G.S.

We took a family holiday in September, which meant I missed a number of Masonic meetings including my Mother Scarlet Cord, Hill of Zion and the Consecration of a new Consistory in Sunderland.

This all changed in October, when I started a three day Masonic adventure, first having accepted an invitation to a Craft meeting in Sidmouth on the 1st, I went on the following day to Carlisle by train, not without incident. On Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Grand Summus and his Grand Team Constituted the new Province of The Borders where Right Distinguished Companion Alan Buntain was Installed as the first Provincial Grand Summus.



Then an horrendous train journey in appalling weather to Preston, where on the following morning, the East and West Lancashire Provinces were combined and Constituted into the new Province of Lancashire with Right Distinguished Paul Joynson being Installed as the first Provincial Grand Summus there. This photograph shows the Provincial Grand Summi at Preston.

Paul Joynson in his yellow robe and Alan Buntain at the back just to the right of Paul. By the time lunch was over, the weather had worsened and there were no direct trains to London – I finally got home at midnight.

The following Wednesday saw me at the Midland Counties Annual Provincial Meeting at Burton-on-Trent where the Summi were joined by the Deputy Grand Summus, R. Dist. Comp. Francis Spencer.

Then Saturday I was in Hull for the North and East Yorkshire meeting and Belper, Derbyshire on the next Wednesday for the East Midlands meeting. Fortunately, I was back in time for our Preparation Ceremony in Guildford, where five Companions became Eminent Companions, ready to be installed as Presidents.

Domestic duties meant I couldn't attend the Consecration of a new Consistory in Wetherby.

My first meeting of November saw me at Lowestoft – a new venue for the East Anglia Meeting. The following Saturday to Gateshead for Durham and Northumberland and Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> at Cirencester for the Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Wiltshire meeting. Perhaps these photographs all look similar – well yes until...Here is the photo taken at Cirencester:



That is before one of our number, R. Dist. Comp. Phil Clare, applied AI to it:



There were also a number of animated examples which unfortunately would be lost on the printed page – but get me to show you when we next meet.



It is not possible to attend every Provincial meeting, or indeed, Consecration, but I am pleased to say three of our members attended the Maurice Bendig Consistory Consecration at Wetherby in October. Dist.Comp. Robert Anderson, who acted as Grand Standard Bearer, Dist.Comp. Ian Parsons, a Founder of the Consistory, and Em. Comp. Mark Sharp.

A trip to the Somerset and Dorset meeting at Yeovil at the end of November was vetoed by my wife, as we had a function on the Friday night and we were going to Scotland on the Sunday (so I could attend my Royal Arch Chapter near Stirling). She said something like "it'll kill you" or maybe "I'll kill you" if you go to Yeovil.

I'll get a few Brownie points, as I am taking her to Devon for a long weekend so I can attend Devon and Cornwall meeting in Exmouth – the Exeter Christmas Market in open, so she will have something to occupy her. Some time again, my wife said "don't get up so early to go to these distant meetings, stay away the night." So I have, now she is saying "You are staying away a lot". You can't win!

I do it because I enjoy the magnificent friendship of the Order, and I hope you do too

*Thanks to Nigel Thomson*

## Brian Wareham Consistory



**In a fantastic display of Scarlet Cord Masonry, Surrey finest was on show at the Brian Wareham Consistory at Mark Masons Hall.**

R.Dist.Comp. Mik Barnes, Grand Regent Vicarius, took the chair for the President Preparation ceremony, of which Robert Anderson was asking questions. Followed by Ian Smith who was installed as Guarder for the ensuing year.

All under the watchful eye of Grand Summus, M.Dist.Comp. Ian Currans, and the Grand Director of Ceremonies, R.Dist.Comp. Trevor Currans. A wonderful afternoon of Masonry, with Surrey being very firmly represented.

*Thanks to Mark Sharp*

## Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey web site:

<https://www.surreycompanionorders.com/welcome-scarlet-cord>

