



# Provincial Grand Chapter of Cumberland & Westmorland

Masonic Hall, Station Road, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 6BT

## Address of the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent to Provincial Grand Chapter 2012

Companions, I greet you well and welcome you to our Annual Convocation and Investiture, the highlight in the Royal Arch Masons Calendar. I am so glad that so many of you have been able to attend our assembly today.

It is most encouraging and certainly very gratifying to know that all our Chapters are represented here today thus showing your support and enthusiasm for Royal Arch Masonry.

I congratulate the Companions I have had the pleasure of appointing to and promoting in Provincial Grand Rank and I hope that their new ranks will stimulate them to encourage their subordinates to emulate them and at the same time encourage newly raised Master Masons to join our Supreme Degree.

Leadership demands skill and commitment and I am delighted that the Principals of many of our Chapters are in attendance today and I invite them to stand so that I can address them.

Companions, you have the responsibility of ensuring that your respective chapters and their members enjoy their Royal Arch Masonry and that your Chapters make progress in the years ahead. Thank you for attending today and so holding high your Chapter Banners. Thank you also for all you are doing and for the work you will do in the future. *(Please be seated)*

We are looking forward with great eagerness and interest to the consecration of Flowerden Chapter later this year. The Chapter will meet at Milnthorpe and I understand that the consecration will be held in the Masonic Hall in Kendal.

Today I officially launch the Royal Arch website. I have seen the preview and it contains much valuable information and I commend its use to you, please ensure all the members of your lodges and chapters are made aware of this new and important facility.

It was suggested to me some time ago that we support a Royal Arch Visitors cup. This I have been pleased to do and full details will be circulated to chapters and the information will also be on the Royal Arch website.

The Provincial Grand Scribe E mentioned in his report the appointments and promotions received by members of this Province at the Investitures held in London last month and I congratulate all the recipients.



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I thank all the acting officers of last year for their support and in particular E Comp Brian Robinson the retiring Scribe N for his commitment in visiting the chapters.

Today sees the retirement of E Comp Michael Davies, PAGSoj as our Scribe E. He has worked extremely hard for 3 years streamlining our administration and putting new systems in place, not least in the Group System, to enable us to face the future with confidence. We need as he has said more of our own Companions to come forward and help. I thank him for his hard work friendship and support.

Our Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, E Comp John Beadle PGStB also retires today but continues as chairman of the Carlisle Group of Lodges Chapters, I thank him for his help and support.

2013 (twenty thirteen) sees the Bi-centenary of the Royal Arch and as you all know we are supporting the Royal Arch Masons 2013 Bicentenary Appeal for the Royal College of Surgeons of England. I hope all companions will make the minimum donation of £10-00 plus gift aid so that we can achieve the target set for the Province. Following today's convocation we will welcome representatives from the college who will give us an insight into their work.

Last November Custodes Copiae Royal Arch Stewards Chapter gave a demonstration of the Veils Ceremony to a capacity audience.

Following on from that the chapter will give a demonstration of the Building of a Royal Arch Temple to be held at Cleator Moor Masonic Centre on Thursday 31 of this month.

On Saturday 21 July Brigantes Chapter will give a demonstration of "sharing the work" in the Exaltation Ceremony in Penrith Masonic Hall. There appears to be some myths about sharing of the work and I am sure this demonstration will lift the veil on this matter.

The Provincial Church service will be held on Sunday 24 June at St James's Church, Whitehaven, companions I hope you will support all these events, they are organised for your benefit.

I welcome all our guests and Heads of Orders who have been introduced to you when they were received into Provincial Grand Chapter and I hope they have an enjoyable time with us.

Some weeks ago on behalf of all the Freemasons of our Province I sent loyal greetings and congratulations to Her Majesty the Queen on her Diamond Jubilee. I have received the following reply from Christopher Sandamas the Chief Clerk to The Queen.

The Queen has asked me to thank you and the Freemasons of the Masonic Province of Cumberland and Westmorland for your kind letter containing a message of



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congratulations to Her Majesty, sent on the occasion of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Queen's Accession to the Throne.

Her Majesty was interested to learn of the lighting of beacons taking place on 4<sup>th</sup> June to mark the Diamond Jubilee and sends her best wishes to all concerned.

Once again companions we are lifting the profile of Freemasonry, I wish you all well.