



Provincial Grand Chapter of Warwickshire

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2011

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Annual Convocation Report
- New Deputy Grand Superintendent
- 50th Past Principals' Dinner and Demonstration of Ceremony of Veils
- New dates for Provincial Events

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All Change at Annual Convocation

At the Annual Convocation of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Warwickshire on 7th June, a very warm atmosphere inside greeted our Companions and guests from other Provinces.

After five years in office, E Comp David W Old, **PGSwdB** stood down as Deputy Grand Superintendent and E Comp Rex J Lowin **PGStB**, who is well known to Companions from his extensive previous service as Provincial Grand Scribe E and Second Provincial Grand Principal, was appointed and invested as Deputy Grand Superintendent. E Comp Stephen W Fowler, **PGStB** was re-appointed as Second Provincial Grand Principal and E Comp Frederick Coldfield **PGStB** of Peace and Harmony Chapter No 3929



The ME Grand Superintendent, E Comp John I. Saint with the Deputy Grand Superintendent, E Comp Rex J Lowin **PGStB**

was appointed as Third Provincial Grand Principal.

E Comp John F R Handley of Holte Chapter No 1246 was appointed as Provincial Grand Scribe E in succession to E Comp John Starley **PGStB**. After the Provincial Appointments and Promotions were conferred the MEGS addressed the Companions and

congratulated the recipients of Provincial Honours. He then outlined some of the developments which were being introduced to promote the Royal Arch and encouraged all Companions to seek to introduce new members to their Chapters.

The Grand Superintendent then closed his remarks with a wonderful tribute to E Comp David

W Old for his constant support for the Royal Arch as Deputy Grand Superintendent over the past five years and his experience, knowledge and dedicated service. He passed on the good wishes of all for a happy and fulfilling retirement which was echoed by the Companions present with resounding applause. The remaining business was then completed and Provincial Grand Chapter was closed.

Come and Join Us In The Holy Royal Arch

Within the English Constitution, after one month as a Master Mason, a Freemason is entitled to join the Holy Royal Arch of Jerusalem, more familiarly known as the Holy Royal Arch. The Holy Royal Arch whilst being an integral part of Freemasonry is organised as a separate Order. It is variously described as the "essence of Freemasonry", the "foundation and keystone of the whole Masonic structure", and as "the root, heart and marrow of freemasonry". Every Master Mason has, and should take, the opportunity of discovering these qualities for himself by joining the Holy Royal Arch.

As with other Masonic Degrees, the ritual takes the form of allegory but the Holy Royal Arch is concerned with encouraging the spiritual aspects of life without compromising or encroaching on an individual's belief or religion.

The ceremony in the Holy Royal Arch is colourful, thought provoking and uplifting. It is based on the legend of the rebuilding of King Solomon's Temple and invokes simultaneously sensations of humility and our dependence on our unseen Creator.

We meet in Chapters and our meetings are known as Convocations. Members are

known as Companions. As with Craft Masonry, each Chapter is organised individually and is normally attached to a Craft Lodge.

The Holy Royal Arch is similar in some respects to Craft Masonry, it is different in many aspects and, indeed, it is most interesting in its differences.

There is a Holy Royal Arch Representative in each Craft Lodge in Warwickshire who is there to give guidance, provide members with information on the Holy Royal Arch and encourage applications so do contact him, ask questions and then,

Come and join us!

50th Anniversary of Principals' and Past Principals' Dinner

This most important event in the Provincial calendar will be held on 24th November 2011 and will follow a similar pattern to previous years, with an informal dinner after which the Grand Superintendent will announce the important appointments and promotions to be made at next year's Annual Convocation.

As this is a special occasion, being the 50th Anniversary of the Principals and Past Principals Dinner, the M E Grand Superintendent has arranged for the Acting Provincial Officers to perform a Demonstration of the Ceremony of the Veils at

4.30pm before the main Dinner meeting commences. This will last for approx. 45 minutes which will allow ample time for pre-dinner drinks and chat.

The Ceremony, which has been developed by Supreme Grand Chapter solely for use as a demonstration by Provinces, is modelled on the Veils Ceremony used by Chapters in the Province of Bristol as well as in Ireland, Scotland and the United States.

This will provide a wonderful opportunity to view a special ritual not normally seen in the UK outside Bristol and it should not be missed. It is

also open for Companions who have not attained the Chairs to attend.

The MEGS seeks the support of all Chapter Principals who hopefully will lead a party of Companions from their Chapters to ensure a good attendance.

The Dinner will be followed by the traditional question and answer session, which the ME Grand Superintendent and the rest of the panel will be delighted to respond to. All Companions who wish to submit Questions should send them to the Provincial Grand Scribe E, E Comp John Handley in advance.

Chapter of Instruction Festival - 18th April 2012

The date for this season's Festival is 18th April 2012 and all Companions are urged to support this excellent event. Over 150 Companions were present at last year's Festival to witness a superb demonstration of the Royal Arch Exaltation Ceremony by members of the Chapter of Instruction and enjoyed a first class presentation.

The Festival is a demonstration of the Warwickshire working of the ceremony of Exaltation, by Companions of the Province below the rank of Chapter Principal, drawn from several different Chapters. This demonstration is particularly relevant to newer members of the Order but just as relevant to all those who hold office in their own Chapter. It is important that the participants are Companions and all MEZs are therefore requested to encourage those Companions below the Principal Chairs to consider getting involved.

The MEGS will as usual issue a special invitation to all Companions below the Chairs attending to join him at the President's Reception prior to dinner.

The MEGS hopes that Companions in the Province will support this event and arrange a party from their Chapter. Booking forms will be sent to Chapter Scribe Es in November when bookings may be made with E.Comp. N.T. Malden, on 0121 308 5735.

Warwickshire First Principals' Chapter No 4538

Continuing the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the Chapter the MEZ, E Comp Rex J Lowin hosted a Ladies' Festival in May with the theme of *Casino Royale*. After a splendid dinner the attendees were royally entertained by International singer Miss Dawn Alacey who was well received by all. For those who preferred something more risky, a fun Casino gave the opportunity of having a flutter with the roulette or Blackjack tables. The evening was a great success with over £500 raised for the Royal Arch 2013 Bicentenary Appeal for the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

The Principals installed at the 102nd Meeting of the Chapter on 17th September 2011 were E.Comp. R. Michael E. Irving, **PGStB**, PProvGJ, as MEZ, E.Comp. H. David Butterworth, C.M., PProvGSN, as H and E.Comp. Roy C. Clews, PProvGSwdB, as J.

The Chapter continues to bring together the senior members of the Province to share events and experiences as well as provide an opportunity to discuss matters affecting the Province. Past First Principals of Chapters are reminded that they are eligible to join this most prestigious Chapter. It meets twice a year and the annual subscription is just £10.00!

Supreme Grand Chapter Meetings

Companions are again reminded that **all** Companions, who are subscribing members of a Chapter, are eligible to attend meetings of Supreme Grand Chapter and the luncheon following the meeting. If you would like to attend, please contact the ProvGSE to apply for tickets. The next meeting of Supreme Grand Chapter will be held on Weds 9th November 2011 at Great Queen Street.

Did You Know.....

Lodge RA Representatives' Meeting

The annual meeting of Lodge Royal Arch Representatives will be held on Saturday 12th November 2011, as usual, the same day as the Service of Remembrance at Stirling Road.

Details will be sent to all Lodge Representatives nearer to the event.

Almoners' and Charity Stewards' Meeting Saturday 14th January 2012

E Comp Paul Wheeler, **PGStB**, Provincial Grand Almoner and E Comp David J Satchwell, Provincial Grand Charity Steward will lead this meeting which will cover a number of new issues relating to this important role. It will be of great interest to Chapter Almoners or Charity Stewards who will be invited to attend shortly.

Directors' of Ceremonies Handbook

A booklet entitled "Guidance Notes for Chapter DC's". was produced in 2007 to assist Directors of Ceremonies in ensuring that our ceremonies and proceedings are carried out to the highest possible standards. Chapter DC's, ADC's and those aspiring to these offices should read them in conjunction with the Warwickshire Royal Arch ritual.

Copies of the booklet are available from the Provincial Grand Scribe E, at a cost of £3.50 per copy, including p&p.

Annual Royal Arch Church Service Sunday 25th March 2012

This popular event will as usual be held at St Peter's Church at Coughton, again led by E Comp Rev Stephen J Cooke with the theme "The whole armour of God". It will be followed by a very pleasant tea at The Kings Court Hotel. Full details will be sent with the booking form later in the year.

General Chapter of Instruction Festival

The Festival will be held on 18th April 2012 and full details will be sent to all Chapter Scribes over time.

Exaltees' Meeting

29th May 2012 will see the annual Exaltees' meeting at Stirling Road which has proved very helpful to new Companions. Chapter Principals will be expected to accompany their Exaltees to this important event and further details will be sent to Scribe Es.

Website www.royal-arch.org.uk

The Provincial website has been updated and is re-launched in a new format. It will now be updated regularly and includes more information for interest to Companions. We are looking for interesting articles so do please contact the Provincial Scribe E if you are able to assist in preparing material for inclusion.

Warwickshire Ties

Companions are reminded that our own Warwickshire tie should be worn at Royal Arch meetings within the Province and these are available via the Provincial Scribe E for only £10.00.

And Finally.....

Please note the new date for the **Annual Convocation** which will be held on Tuesday 19th June 2012 at 4.00pm.

The Provincial Newsletter is edited and produced by the Provincial Scribe E, E Comp John Handley, to whom all news should be sent:

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