

**ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE
UNDER
THE SUPREME COUNCIL 33°
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES
AND ITS DISTRICTS AND CHAPTERS OVERSEAS**

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Brethren,

I hope that you have all ‘summered’ well, I have been very happy with the recent sunshine which has meant that I have not had to cut the grass!

The wet days have also given me a chance to do my Annual Report for the District which has, unfortunately, seen quite a significant net decrease in membership of 22. Our membership does tend to be that bit older than the Craft and Royal Arch but it is still so sad to see our friends drop away.

Generally speaking our Rose Croix activities seem to me to be happy and enthusiastic and the meetings that I have attended during the year have been a joy. I consider myself highly privileged to be with you at your meetings and share in the pleasure and satisfaction that is ever present. I visit every Chapter in the District at least once a year and I thank you all for your warm welcome and generous hospitality.

I also take this opportunity of thanking our District Recorder, Bob Jones, not only for the way he carries out his duties as Recorder, but also for the way that he supports you all in your chapter activities.

As I have made very clear in the past, I am not a great fan of modern catchphrases, cliches and technobabble and the word ‘recruitment’ terrifies me, however, I do feel that there are far too many masons out there who do not know about our wonderful Order and I do encourage you all to take an active approach to ‘spreading the word’ and inviting your masonic friends to consider joining us.

May I also take this opportunity of reminding all who are Past Sovereigns that we have a special chapter – Kent Chapter No.1071 – which covers the whole of Kent and enables us to meet old and new friends in the celebration of our Ancient and Accepted Rite. If you are interested in becoming a member, and I really do recommend it, just ask me or our District Recorder to arrange it for you.

Finally, and my only moan, can I encourage you all to try and improve our lovely ceremonies by not using the ‘book’ too much. As most of you know, I am not a great ritualist and have every sympathy with those who find it difficult but there is a big difference between using the book to support one’s hard work and using it instead of making the effort in the first place. I am sure you will all agree that the sense of pride that comes from ‘a job well done’ makes all the effort worthwhile. I also worry that we may lose the focus of our meetings and members may drift away if we ‘let things slip’.

Conversely, I love to see little enhancements of our ceremonies so please let me know if you have any ideas for me to consider. I do not obviously have the authority to make changes in the substance of the ceremonies but parts of those ceremonies are deeply significant so anything we can do to make them more meaningful for the candidate will receive my positive consideration.

Continued overleaf

A couple of reminders:

17th September sees me hosting a Knight Templar Finance Seminar for treasurers, auditors and other interested people at The Franklin Rooms, Gillingham. Rose Croix members are also welcome, just email me and I will send you an agenda. It starts at 9.30 and will be finished by noon.

9th October sees the District of East Kent Church Service at Little Chart near Ashford in the afternoon. All West Kent members are welcome and my wife and I will be there at lunchtime in the pub across the road. Again, just email me if you are interested and I will send the details.

I wish you and yours well for the coming season and look forward to being with you, both at your meetings and at the above events.

Sincerely, fraternally and with very kind regards to you all,

Graham

6th September 2016