

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

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# HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Dear Brethren All,

As I sit here this sunny morning, missing my golf because my wife has taken the ball and the tee, (we are pensioners you know!) I thought I would write to you all and say a big thank you for making my first year as your Inspector General such a joy and to wish you and your families all well for the coming year. I really hope that we will all be happy and healthy throughout 2016.

If I have not been to see you recently then I certainly will be doing so soon, attending your meetings is such a privilege and such a pleasure and I particularly look forward to the meetings where the work is shared around. This is a custom that is very particular to the Rose Croix and a successful 'Team Effort' creates such a feeling of pride and satisfaction throughout the Chapter. Our ceremony is so special that I always enjoy seeing little extra 'touches' that have been introduced to enhance it still further. I know that our excellent District Recorder will tell us if we go too far but, if you have any good ideas for making things even more special, please do not hesitate to let me know.

I am particularly keen that the candidate should appreciate (and the Princes be reminded) of the significance of that part of our ceremony where 'out of the light comes Raphael, an Angel of the Lord' to assist him as without assistance he would be unable to find his way out of the darkness. Raphael offers to guide him:

FOR HE KNOWS THE WAY WELL

So anything that emphasizes the significance of this moment will be welcome.

Another important moment which is frequently not given sufficient prominence is when the candidate is placed in the West to be 'proclaimed'. This is a moment of triumph and indicates the Soul at the pinnacle of perfection.

Looking forward to the coming year we have the King Edward VII Demonstration Team working the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> degrees on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at Great Queen Street and I do heartily recommend that you try and come to that demonstration and to the dinner afterwards where we have our own tables and enjoy a really good dinner together. I have even been known to buy the drinks!! Forms have been sent out within the last few days so ask your Recorder to arrange a party from your Chapter.

Please also, if you do not have any work to do at a meeting, feel free to ask me or the District Recorder to assist. It is entirely acceptable to qualify for the Higher Degrees by doing a 'formal' rehearsal and we can assist in this by attending and giving an informative commentary throughout the rehearsal. This is very interesting and many Chapters have indicated that they wished they had done it before. The Supreme Council are, in general, not happy for unauthorised lectures or talks to be given so please liaise with the District Recorder if you want to do something different.

As you know, we have no formal 'charity' function in the Rose Croix but we are indeed 'charitable people'. In the past we have supported the Craft Province Festivals but the current West Kent Appeal is for the major restoration work at Canterbury Cathedral and I have no hesitation in recommending this to you. I visited the Canterbury Masonic Library and Museum last week for the first time and I was incredibly impressed. If you have not visited then I recommend that you do, give yourselves and your friends and family a day out to remember in this beautiful city.

So Brethren, my apologies for being so long winded but I leave you with words that I saw in my 'paperwork' somewhere:

The 18<sup>th</sup> Degree should always be a means of getting closer to our God  
to worship him in Spirit and in Truth  
to love our neighbour and so make our contribution  
to making the World a better place

May you and yours Be Happy and Healthy during this Christmas time and throughout the coming year. I look forward to sharing the joy of our lovely Order with you all on as many occasions as possible throughout the coming year.

Sincerely, fraternally and with very kind regards to you all

*Graham Higgs, 33°*

Inspector General, District of West Kent