



A Christmas Message from our Provincial Grand Summus



Dear Companions

Our Scarlet Cord rituals focus on three principles – Faith, Hope and Charity, and at this time of year it is often the latter to which our thoughts go to those less fortunate than ourselves and we dig deeper into our pockets to support them. However, charity doesn't just have to be about money, have you thought of visiting a Companion or neighbour who lives alone and might appreciate your company for an hour? Or maybe, setting up a Zoom or similar meetings with those living further away?

The New Year will soon be upon us, when we get back to Masonic business after the festive break. I hope you will support your OSM Conclaves fully and explain to those Secret Monitors who are not yet Scarlet Cord Companions what a wonderful Order they are missing, and invite them to join us.

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. May the God of our Fathers keep you all in his safe keeping.

R.Dist.Comp. Nigel Thomson

Provincial Grand Summus

My First Five Months as Provincial Grand Summus

You may ask “what does a Provincial Grand Summus do from one Annual Grand Senatus to the next?”

Well, I have certainly been busy. We held an Emergency Provincial Grand Senatus at Guildford in October, where we conducted the Preparation Ceremony for three candidates, a necessary pre-requisite for their forthcoming Installation as President of a Consistory. Another Preparation Ceremony can be arranged, should there be other candidates needing it before next October.

My first official visit, accompanied by the Provincial officers, was to Guildford Consistory immediately after the Preparation Ceremony. It is my intention to visit each of our four Consistories before our next Annual Meeting in July, two of them officially. I will be inviting my Deputy and Assistant to carry out the official visit to the other two Consistories.



The second photograph shows the latter's PGS, Ian Sullivan and a Hall suitably decorated for the festive season. It was after this meeting that the collected noun for a group of Provincial Summi was coined “A Sunshine”.

Inevitably, I have not been able to attend all the Provinces to which I have been invited – next year. These are always most enjoyable of occasions, and I commend to you all visiting one or two with me, whether you are a Provincial Officer or not. They are generally held on Saturday mornings, followed by luncheon (for which you will have to pay). London on Thursday 9th January is one of the exceptions but is not too far to travel. Kent's meeting is the third Saturday in February. Please let me know if you would like to go to any of these (nigeltho@aol.com) and either our Provincial Recorder, David Thompson or I will send you details.

One of the great joys of my position is being invited to the Annual Meetings of other Provinces. My first visit was to Devon and Cornwall, held at Newquay in September. This first photograph shows the visiting Provincial Summi to that meeting, with the Provincial Grand Summus, R Dist Comp Barry Chalkley, robed, together with his Deputy and Assistant.

My wife accompanied me to enable us to take an extended break – the weather could have been better! Subsequently, I have been to the Midland Counties in Burton-on-Trent, East Midlands in Belper, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Wiltshire in Cirencester and most recently, in mid-December, Somerset and Dorset in Yeovil.



Provincial Grand Senatus of East Anglia

The Provincial Grand Senatus of East Anglia was held at 11:00 am at Ashlar House Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk
Just short of 100 companions attended, with many Provincial Grand Summi and other Companions from across the British Isles.



The Companions were seated by 10:45am to receive the processions of visiting Provincial Grand Summus and that of the Provincial Grand Summus with his supporting Provincial Grand Officers.



Provincial Senatus was opened at 11:00am, the usual business ensued, remembering those in the Province who had passed to Higher service during the year, the welcoming of guests, the re-appointment of the Deputy & Assistant Provincial Grand Summi, appointment and investiture of Provincial Officers, and the reception of the Provincial Tzaddikim.
The PGS, his Deputy & Assistant received the Companions admitted into the Order during the year.
Before the meeting was closed the PGS addressed the meeting.
During lunch the PGS presented a cheque for £2,000 to a representative of the Alzheimer's society.
A name card draw for a signed copy of Chris Packham's book for the new selected charity, Medical Dogs was conducted.

