

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING TRICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS**

I attended the Provincial Grand Master's Forum in London on 4 November and one of the items under discussion was the Tercentenary Celebrations. We received an update from Grand Lodge on events that are planned. The principal event will be in July 2017 which will be a Grand Lodge Meeting in the Royal Albert Hall followed by dinner at Battersea. Numbers are obviously limited with approximately 4000 at the Royal Albert Hall and then just 2200 at Battersea for dinner. Tickets will be allocated at one per seventy members of each Province.

It is not difficult to calculate that anyone who secures a ticket will be very lucky indeed and the opportunity to go with some friends will be nigh on impossible (incidentally the events are for Masons only).

I have thought about this since and then began to think about our particular Province. We are planning three major events.

1. Grand Lodge Visit and Meeting Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017 Great Queen Street.
2. Church service and Parade Meeting Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017 Peterborough Cathedral.
3. Grand Ball Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017 Wickstead Park.

I have said that these are the only events that I want to happen in the Province. However, attendance at all three will be limited and this will mean that many members of the Province will be unable to partake in the celebrations.

The Tercentenary is a major event in the history of Freemasonry and I am sure that we will all wish to acknowledge it as such. I would, therefore, hope that all members both experienced and recently joined should enjoy the celebrations. For this reason I have amended my decision about how many events there will be. We will retain the three major Provincial occasions but I would also wish each centre, group of lodges or individual lodge to feel free to arrange some festivities. All I would ask is that every planned event is notified to William Diggins, Provincial Assistant Grand Secretary, and Chairman of the Tercentenary Committee. This is so a diary of events can be maintained. If a particular event seems like a good idea it can be promoted in other areas within the Province. The organisation of these events will remain the sole responsibility of the centre or lodge.

I have said that none of our events must be with a view to raising money but should be just cost neutral. I feel that we ask much of our brethren with festivals, regular payment promises, lodge collections and raffles etc. so this time I think we should not look for that. I also believe that anything that we do should include the general public wherever possible. If it is desired by a particular unit to donate some money to a local charity or charities at an event and therefore invite them along then I am sure that Provincial Grand Charity will assist with some funds. Grand Lodge hopes that we will use this significant event to help to persuade the public that we are an honourable institution that seeks to do well and to help in society; and hopes this can be achieved by involving them in our celebrations.

I am aware that this suggestion contradicts what I have previously said, but I am sure that all will accept that my change of mind and this new approach will benefit us all. Most of all I look for support for the three main events from the provincial membership and then in turn we can support the separate events that happen around the Province. I assure you that if you would like a member of the Provincial Executive to support your event then it will certainly be arranged.

R.W.Bro M W Bayes  
Provincial Grand Master

