

Brethren, firstly I thank you for attending this meeting today under these difficult conditions. This is an important day for the Province, and I did not want to let it go by without holding this meeting if possible. I think we owe it both to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Designate and to the Assistant Provincial Grand Master Designate to have a full Installation rather than letting them take office in the default manner. I trust that by holding this meeting they will, like you, recall it with fond memories and in the annals of time we will all earn a beer or two telling the story of how we were part of an Installation meeting wearing masks and shields!

Brethren, before I install both W.Bro<sup>s</sup>. John and Richard I trust their appointments meet with your approval. They have both worked tirelessly both visibly and behind the scenes on behalf of you all and the Province in general and have given me first class support in particular.

For those who read my address contained in our PGL booklet you will have seen what I said about my outgoing Deputy, V.W.Bro. Richard Bowyer.

Richard has been an active officer in the Province for over 14 years in one role or another, and, to be honest, I could not have asked for a better, more hard working and knowledgeable Deputy. What Richard does not know about the administrative workings of the Province is not worth knowing. He has tried to keep me on the straight and narrow and not allowing me to get carried away by offering good, honest, and helpful advice. As well as all that, he was instrumental in the implementation of the awareness evenings, representing me and the Province on many visits around our Lodges as well as further afield in many parts of the Country.

I know Richard was disappointed when I asked him to stand down but, as I have always said, the only way others can experience high office is for those in it to move aside. We have had many a beer and laughs together along the way and I am sure that will continue. Richard has also agreed to remain active behind the scenes for me.

So, once again, and in public, I want to sincerely thank V.W.Bro Richard for his service, his help and support. Richard, genuinely, "thank you!"

Brethren today has, and will be, a long day so it is my intention to continue with the Ceremonies without further ado.