



WYP Monthly Newsletter

Staffordshire Freemasons Digital News



Provincial Grand Lodge Special



Staffordshire Provincial Grand Lodge

19th May 2026

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE –

Address from the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master

Brethren, Thank you all for being here today, and thank you for the warmth, support, and encouragement that has been shown throughout this very special day for the Province.

May I begin by congratulating all those who have received first appointments and promotions within Provincial Grand Lodge. To those appointed to active rank, enjoy your year. You are encouraged to visit as many installations as you reasonably can, to represent Provincial Grand Lodge, to support our lodges, and to enjoy the fellowship of the Province.

The Provincial Grand Secretary and Director of Ceremonies will write to you over the summer to assist you in your roles.

I also congratulate those brethren who have today been promoted within Provincial Grand Lodge, and who will be invested in the autumn. Those appointments are valid from today. When that investiture takes place, we will invite your partners to accompany you, because Provincial Grand Lodge does not exist in isolation. It depends upon the support, patience, and understanding of those at home, and they deserve to be thanked.

I also want to emphasise that some brethren have been appointed to acting office in Provincial Grand Lodge despite already holding a higher past rank. This recognises that our capacity to serve changes throughout our Masonic lives. If the right opportunity has not arisen for you before, or if previous circumstances made active office difficult, that does not mean you will not be considered for active rank in the future when the time is right.



I want to thank the Provincial Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, W Bro Dave Griffin and W Bro Alan Clark respectively. We also wish Mike Seddon and Mark Fergusson well on their busy and important year.

To those who have served as active officers this year in Provincial Grand Lodge rank and now lay down that active office, thank you. Your service has been gratefully received. You have been brilliant.

I want also to place on record the thanks of Provincial Grand Lodge to V.W. Bro. David Thomas, Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, for his dedication to that office over the past eight years. It is a busy office, and one which requires skill, patience, energy, and judgement. It requires the careful management, the proper support of officers, and the steady handling of matters when things do not go according to plan. David has discharged that office with distinction, and we send him our gratitude for a job well done, together with our very best wishes for the next chapters of his Masonic service.

Brethren, I am pleased to report that Wilson Keys Court, part of the Masonic Housing Association (MHA), continues to exemplify the very best of our Masonic values. The house provides independent living for single people and couples over the age of 55, and is run firmly on the principles of integrity, friendship, respect, and service. I am delighted to confirm that Wilson Keys Court has been named "Affordable Housing Provider of the Year 2026 – Staffordshire." This year's success is particularly special, as it marks the third consecutive year the scheme has received such recognition for excellence in community focused sheltered housing.

As we look to the next 12 months and beyond, I invite all Brethren to support Wilson Keys Court as part of our Third Pillar – Community initiative. This period will be recognised as the "Year of the Visitor," and I encourage every Lodge and every Brother to engage with the house, strengthen our connection, and demonstrate Freemasonry's practical impact in the community. Congratulations to W. Bro. Paramjit Ram and his team.



May I also congratulate those brethren who received preferment in Grand Lodge in April this year.

On first appointment:

- W Bro Denis Brown, PAGDC.
- W Bro Paul Lockley, PAGDC.
- W Bro Reg Sargeant, PAGDC.

And on promotion:

- W Bro Matthew Gibbons, PSGD.
- W Bro Kerry Parkes, PJGD.
- W Bro Kevin Spencer, PJGD.

We are proud of you, and we are pleased that your service has been recognised.

Brethren, I also want to thank those who undertake the uncollared work of the Province. Much of the work that matters most is not always the work that is most visible. Thank you for your work.

In the coming months we will be strengthening our communications team. We are looking for talented people, particularly those with experience in marketing, digital media, design, photography, video,



copywriting, social media, and public engagement, keep an eye out for a WYP recruitment special.

I also want to thank our Visiting Officers. We could not operate effectively without them. Over the summer I look forward to announcing how the status of their role will be enhanced, because I believe their work is central to the future health of the Province and improving the membership experience.

Brethren, that brings me to the work ahead.

Our immediate focus will be The Membership Challenge. This is the challenge laid before us by the Pro Grand Master. He has challenged us to grow by one per cent now, and by two per cent by the end of the decade.

That will not happen by accident. It will happen only if lodges and chapters become the authors and champions of their own future.

To do that, we will use the Building Together strategy.

Building Together is a clear and practical set of activities which helps each lodge and chapter look honestly at where it is, decide where it wants to be, and then take the steps needed to get there.

In plain terms, Building Together is about helping your Lodge realise its future.

So I say this to every lodge and every chapter in this Province: I dare you to imagine what an exciting future could look like for you. Do not settle for decline. Do not accept drift. Do not assume that the next ten years must look like the last ten years. Ask yourselves what you want your lodge or chapter to become, and then use Building Together to help make that future real.

Task you Membership Officer and Mentors in getting to grips with the BT initiative and support them. Provincial Grand Lodge will support you and them in that work. We will deliver roadshows over the summer. We will help lodges and chapters understand the process, complete their profiles. If you get stuck, phone the Provincial Office or email HELP@staffordshirefreemasons.org.uk and you will receive help. You need to prepare your lodge for what is coming next.

In the autumn, there will be a national digital marketing campaign. That campaign will generate interest. It will produce enquiries. It will bring in candidates.

When those leads come to us from UGLE, the membership team will need to know which lodges and chapters are serious about

their membership growth and serious about their future. Completing your unit profiles will show us that you are ready. It will tell the membership team where candidates may best be introduced.

Provincial Grand Lodge will retain ownership of candidates until they are initiated or exalted, so we are looking for lodges and chapters that are prepared, welcoming, organised, and ready to receive them.

So the question is simple.

Are we ready?

Are our lodges ready?

Are our summonses attractive? Are our festive boards welcoming? Are our ceremonies well rehearsed? Are our mentors engaged? Are our newer brethren being looked after? Are we ready to welcome good men when they make contact with us?

If you get stuck, ask for help. We are in this together. We are going to build together.

The Craft will also continue to work closely with the Royal Arch in promoting Pure Antient Freemasonry.

I remember being raised to the Third Degree in a brilliant ceremony, and yet being struck by the sense that the lost secrets were, at that moment, something of an anticlimax. Without the Royal Arch, I might have carried that feeling of incompleteness and confusion with me. The knowledge of a Master Mason is, in truth, completed through more than one ceremony.

How many Master Masons have drifted away from the Craft because they did not understand that? How many have felt that they had missed something, but lacked the confidence to ask?

We must help them ask. Better still, we must help them understand before they need to ask.

There are danger points in Masonic membership. After initiation. After becoming a Master Mason. After stepping down as Immediate Past Master. After first appointment or promotion within Provincial Grand Lodge. At each of those points a



brother may wonder, "What next?" If we are wise, we will be ready with an answer.

You will also have noticed that other Orders have been invited here today. For those brethren who have or are completing their journey in Pure Antient Freemasonry, there are many further Masonic paths which can maintain their interest, deepen their understanding, and give them fresh opportunities for fellowship and service.

Later in the year, we will also introduce the Building Challenge. Our buildings matter. They are not merely bricks and mortar. They are the places where men meet, learn, serve, remember, celebrate, and support one another. But today, our immediate task is clear. First, we must prepare for the Membership Challenge. First, we must be ready for the autumn campaign. First, we must make sure that when good men come to us, we know where they should go, who will welcome them, and how they will be supported.

Brethren, the strength of Freemasonry in Staffordshire resides with you, its members. It resides in your lodges. It resides in the brethren who turn up, take part, encourage others, visit, mentor, organise, practise, welcome, and care.

Brethren, next steps are to think about your lodges with purpose. Talk about Building Together. Complete your unit profiles. Think seriously about membership. Prepare for the autumn. Look at your lodge as a candidate would see it. Look at your lodge as a younger member would experience it. Look at your lodge as a Past Master might need it after his year has ended. Then ask, honestly and constructively, what needs to be done.

Brethren, thank you for your support today. Thank you to the Provincial Grand Secretary and Director of Ceremonies teams for all they have done. Thank you to everyone who has worked to make today possible. Thank you to those who serve in visible roles, and to those whose work is unseen but indispensable.

Now the work begins.

Let us be ready. Let us be confident. Let us be serious about growth. Let us be ambitious for our lodges and chapters. And let us go forward together in the service of Freemasonry in Staffordshire.

