

The Ancient & Accepted Rite



District of Worcestershire The District Diary ~ Edition 19 ~ Summer 2024

This District Diary is for distribution by the Chapter Recorder to all Chapter members either by email or sent as hard copy by post.

1. Introduction



**By our INSPECTOR GENERAL
V.: Ill.: Bro. Ian M Fothergill 33°**

Dear Brethren,

We arrive at the end of what has been an historical and onerous year for the Order in general and our District in particular.

There is no doubt that the changes introduced by the Supreme Council, effective from 1st March, have led to the disillusionment of some, which has led to some resignations. It must be noted that many of these were initiated and took place before the publication of the changes in the requirements for Membership and the Ritual were published.

However, on a much more positive note I am delighted and thank every Chapter in the District for adopting the revised Ritual and that

every Enthronement since 1st March has been conducted using the 2024 ritual.

I must express my sincere thanks to the Preceptor and Deputy Preceptors of the Worcestershire Section of the MRCCI for their excellent contribution in providing the three Presentations of the Perfection Ceremony, which were so well received. Indeed, they also need to be thanked for the excellent hosting of the KEVII Chapter of Improvement on their visit to our District presenting the 17°, Knight of the East and West.

In looking forward to the new season I am honoured and delighted to announce that the Grand Prior, M.: Ill.: Bro Rev'd, Dr. Simon A. Thorn, 33°, will be our Guest Speaker at the Worcestershire Chapter 970 Meeting on Saturday 5th October 2024 at Freemasons Hall, Rainbow Hill, Worcester, to which every member of the District and guests will be made most welcome. It is a daytime meeting followed by Lunch.

May I wish you all the very best to enjoy the Summer break and for those who are currently suffering any ills a speedy recovery.

God bless you all.

Ian

2. Supreme Council



Announcement of the Extension of the Inspector General Patent



Our Inspector General, the V.:Ill.:Bro. Ian M Fothergill 33°, was humbled and overwhelmed to receive a letter from the Grand Secretary General, H.:E.: that the Supreme Council, at its meeting on 9 May 2024, considered his appointment as Inspector General for the District of Worcestershire, and decided to extend his Patent to cover a full 5-year period.

The Inspector General was delighted to accept this totally unexpected honour and sincerely pledge that with the help of every member, he will continue to serve the District to the best of his ability.



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Great Day at Grand East



A day that will long be remembered by Ill.: Bro Gerry Jinks, 32°. Not only did he receive his well-deserved Promotion, but he was also the representative Candidate, which was a great accolade for Worcestershire.

In company with the Inspector General and Ill.:Bro Simon Jinks 30°, the trio travelled by train to London and then met up with Ill.:Bro Maurice Hume 32°. The IG treated them to a

light lunch in the Cavendish Hotel. We were later joined by Ill.:Bro Gordon Stacey 30°, who was attending as a guest of Ill.:Bro Nick White 30°, the son of V.:Ill Bro. Dr. John H White, 33°, a Past Inspector General of our District. Nick was receiving his 30°, through the District of Devonshire, where he also holds the Office of Intendent General in the Red Cross of Constantine.

At the dinner following the HD Meeting Ill.: Bro Gerry was seated at the Top Table between the Sovereign Grand Commander and the Lieutenant Grand Commander. The rest of the Worcester Group were sat with the Devonshire contingent so many tales told of Dr. John.....

A great and grand day for Gerry and we offer our congratulations to him.



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Terrific Tuesday for Two



On Tuesday 9th July Ill. Bros, Royston Foster (St. Dunstan Chapter No. 12), and John Owen, (Halesowen Chapter No. 615), accompanied by the Inspector General journeyed to London for their installation as Grand Inspector Inquisitor Commanders 31°.

Following a light lunch in the Cavendish Hotel courtesy of the Inspector General, they, and 15 other worthy brethren, entered the Grand Temple at Grand East to receive at the hands of the Sovereign Grand Commander and other members of the Supreme Council 33° the usual exemplary ritual which, as always for the Higher Degrees, is conducted by them alone, and were installed and invested as members of the 31°.

Our Congratulations are extended to both for achieving this well-deserved honour and they in turn have commented on what a great and enjoyable day it was.

The District is delighted to welcome them in their new capacity and looks forward to them receiving their "Higher Degrees" Toast at the next meeting of their individual Chapters

3. The District



In Memorium

It is with great sadness that we record the passing to the Grand Chapter Above of three of our well-know brethren:

III.: Bro P M Woodward 30° - March 2024

E&P Bro P E Read 18° - April 2024

III.: Bro J F Swift 30° - June 2024

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WONDROUS WEDNESDAY



On Wednesday 17th July some 120 brethren, including the Most Illustrious Bro. James A. F. Thom, KC, 33°, Grand Chamberlain, and the Inspectors General from Berkshire, Derbyshire, South Wales and Monmouthshire and the Past Inspector General for Bedford & Hertfordshire, together with the District IG, attended the KEVII Chapter of Improvement Demonstration of the 17°, at Freemasons Hall, Kings Heath, hosted by the MRCCI and with members of Worcestershire assisting in the ceremony as four of the “Ancients”.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman of the KEVII Chapter of Improvement III. Bro. P. Brockbank who explained what was about to take place. Then the Demonstration Team, including the Worcestershire contingent, took their places. There then followed a very interesting and full demonstration of the Degree ritual for a Knight of the East & West. It was interesting to note that on several occasions there was clear reference to ritual in other Companion Orders.

On completion of the Ceremony the Grand Chamberlain gave a vote of thanks to the demonstration team which was greeted with extended acclaim.

Some 113 members in attendance then retired to enjoy a convivial drinks reception followed by a very enjoyable Dinner in the Refectory.

Yet again members of the District of Worcestershire and visitors enjoyed a wonderful evening of Rose Croix Masonry.

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Halesowen Chapter RC No 615 Sunday Lunch



Another Successful Sunday at Halesowen Chapter

On Sunday 30th June the members of Halesowen Chapter held another very successful Sunday Lunch at Newfields, with some 48 members, their partners and guests in attendance.

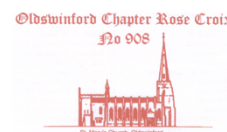
Following an excellent 3 Course meal the assembled company were enthralled by a first-class presentation by Dr. Kate Round, PhD, who is an outreach presenter and tour guide for Dudley Museum Service. Her knowledge and delivery of the history of glass making back to the 8th Century BC, and its development, focusing on and tracing the roots of Stourbridge glassmakers, was both fascinating and very informative.

We must remember of course that the Masonic Centre, formerly the Carlisle Hall in Victoria Street, Stourbridge, is dedicated; thanks to a most generous donation from the widow, Mrs Constance Webb; to James S Webb, a renown Stourbridge glassmaker.

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4. Chapters

Oldswinford Chapter RC No 908



On Thursday 4th April 2024 the Inspector General was warmly welcomed into the Chapter by the MWS who, with due respect to

his obligation, offered the Inspector General his Chair and Baton. The Inspector General thanked the MWS for his very kind and generous offer, but politely declined returning the Baton in his accustomed humorous manner.

After confirming the Minutes of the previous meeting and receiving a Treasurers report, the Inspector General was delighted to present Supreme Council Certificates to E&P Bro Alan Jasper 18°, and E&P Bro Mark Nalliah 18°, in his own most delightful and enjoyable way.

The main business of the evening saw the MWS Enthroned E&P Bro John G. Randle, 18°, in a most impressive and confident manner. The new MWS then appointed & invested his officers with impressive confidence and ability.

At the end of the Third Rising, the Chapter Prelate gave a short but extremely inspiring talk reference the recent changes within our beautiful order. He reiterated that similar changes had been made over many years in Craft and other Orders which may have upset some, but because of the strong foundations made all those years ago our belief ensured that we are still here!

On completion of the Third Point the members retired to the Refectory to enjoy a hearty meal with much humour, and great company.

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Gervase Paganel Chapter RC No 316



The Enthronement meeting of the Gervase Paganel Chapter RC No 316 was held on Thursday 11th April 2024. The Chapter was opened by the MWS, and the Inspector General and District Recorder were warmly welcomed to the Chapter.

The MWS was to remain 'in the Chair' for a second year and was duly Proclaimed for the ensuing year by the Director of Ceremonies. The MWS then proceeded to appoint and invest his officers with confidence and sincerity.

On completion of the Enthronement, the Inspector General gave the Address to the Chapter in a most delightful way.

The next item on the Agenda was to demonstrate parts of the ceremony of Perfection during which the MWS conducted the First Point using the 2024 Ritual. A job very well done.

The remainder of the business for the good of the Chapter or the advancement of the Rite was completed, and the Third Point was carried out by the MWS as per the 2024 Ritual. It is really encouraging to see Chapters embrace the 'new' ritual since it came into effect on 1st March 2024.

After the closing of the Chapter, members retired to enjoy a super dinner at the Old Edwardian Members Club.

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Bordesley Abbey Chapter RC No 918



On Monday 22nd April 2024 some nineteen members including the Inspector General met at Freemasons Hall, Redditch for the Enthronement Meeting.

The MWS, Ill.: Bro. Del Padmore, 30°, received the Inspector General and proffered him the baton, for which the Inspector General thanked the MWS but stated that as they both had work to do, he would prefer him to conduct his meeting.

In welcoming the Visitors, the MWS also mentioned the Chapter's very good attendance at the Installation Meeting of the IG on 2nd February, commenting on what an excellent day it was. The IG thanked to Chapter for their support.

The Enthronement of E&P Bro Steven Roadley 18°, was then conducted in an excellent manner using the 2024 Ritual, followed by the Appointment and Installation of the Officers for the ensuing year.

The Inspector General then had great pleasure in presenting E&P Bro. Daren Field with his Supreme Council Certificate in his usual informative style.

Following the conducting of the 3rd Point and the closure of the Chapter, 18 members retired to the Refectory to enjoy a very convivial evening meal, which was notable in that it was the first occasion since the Close Down for Covid that the Chapter had sufficient numbers attending to enable them to use the Lodge Rooms catering facilities.

The whole evening was a very good example of all that is good in Rose Croix Masonry.

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St. Francis of Assisi Chapter RC No 711



The Chapter held their 156th Regular meeting at Kings Heath Freemason's Hall on Saturday 27th April 2024 with twenty-two members & Guests including V.:Ill.: Bro I M Fothergill 33°, Inspector General, V.:Ill.: Bro Dr R N Hoar 33°, (Chapter member), Former Inspector General, and V.:Ill.: Bro S W Fowler 33°, (Chapter member), Inspector General for the District of Warwickshire.

Following the Opening Hymn, the Prelate gave the Chapter Prayer for St Francis of Assisi.

After opening the Chapter and confirming the Minutes of the previous meeting, the Chapter Elected the MWS, Treasurer, Account Examiners, and the Outer Guard for the ensuing year. The MWS Elect made a (humorous) request for a ballot to select the new MWS, which was very politely and equally humorously declined.....

The next item on the Agenda was to receive a demonstration of the Perfection Ceremony using the 2024 Ritual by the MRCCI Team. The Intermediate Degrees however, were conducted by E&P Bro N P Nicholls in a very confident and competent manner.

The demonstration was once again very well received and considered very helpful to all attending. The Inspector General is pleased that all the Chapters that he has visited since 1st March have used the 2024 Ritual throughout their meetings. Thank you.

On completion of the Third Point the members retired to the Refectory to enjoy lunch of broccoli & stilton soup, fish & chips, and fresh fruit salad or cheese & biscuits. A fantastic meeting and great company enjoyed by all.

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Breme Chapter RC No 862



The Chapter met on Wednesday 1st May 2024 with some fifteen members of the Order present, including the District Recorder.

The Business of the Chapter was to have included a Perfection ceremony and Enthronement but unfortunately the Candidate for Perfection was taken poorly the night before the meeting. The Perfection will now take pride of place on the Agenda at the July meeting.

Meanwhile prior his Enthronement, E&P Bro Richard Noakes 18°, gave a demonstration of the Intermediate Degrees. The MWS, Ill.: Bro S Cameron 30°, then performed a most impressive Enthronement ceremony, placing E&P Bro Noakes into the Chair. The new MWS then invested and appointed his Officers after which the District Recorder gave the Address to the Princes of the Chapter.

On completion of the remainder of the Business and the Third Point, the MWS closed the Chapter.

Due to being unable to dine at the centre on this occasion, the members retired to enjoy a very pleasant Curry at a local Indian Restaurant.

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St Ann of Malvern Chapter RC No 606



Also on Wednesday 1st May 2024 some sixteen members of the Order including the Inspector General, met at Rainbow Hill for the Enthronement meeting of the Chapter.

Due to circumstances Ill.:Bro Maurice A. Hume, 32°, was Proclaimed in the Chair for a second year.

Having thanked the Chapter for their continued confidence the MWS then appointed and invested his Officers with the authority of their office. Again, unfortunately due to ill health or work commitments several elected Officers were unable to attend but thanks to the support of Visitors, all posts were filled for the evening.

The Chapter were then provided with an excellent Presentation of parts of the revised ritual, namely the Intermediate Degrees and Second Point including the Collar Jewel and Signs, by the Worcestershire team of the MRCCI accompanied by a commentary from the Inspector General. This was received with acclaim.

Following the conducting of the Third Point the Chapter was closed and the assembled company retired to the Refectory for a very pleasant evening meal.

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St Dunstan Chapter RC No 12



On Friday 3rd May 2024, twenty-six members and visitors including the District Recorder assembled for the Enthronement meeting. It was very pleasing indeed to see half of those present were wearing red collars.

After singing the opening hymn and opening the Chapter, the MWS gave a moving eulogy to E&P Bro Phillip E Read 18°, who sadly passed to the Grand Chapter Above on Monday 15th April 2024.

After receiving the Minutes of the St Dunstan Chapter meeting held 100 years ago, The District Recorder had the honour and pleasure of presenting a Supreme Council Certificate to E&P Bro William J Hoe 18°.

The next item on the Agenda, the MWS, E&P Bro Bill Tucker 18°, Enthroned E&P Bro Phillip Abram 18°, in a most impressive, relaxed, and dignified manner. An Enthronement which

Sovereigns both past & present would have been most proud.

The incoming MWS appointed and invested his Officers with the authority of their office, again in a most delightful, relaxed and at times, humorous way.....

The Enthronement ceremony was completed with an Address to the Princes of the Chapter by the District Recorder.

On completion of the remainder of the Business, the new MWS conducted Third Point for his first time, in a very competent and impressive manner. The MWS closed the Chapter and everyone retired to the refectory and the rest of the evening spent in Harmony and Brotherly Love and enjoyed a super dinner.

A wonderful evening had by all.

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St Edmund King & Martyr No 730



Monday 14th May 2024, the Inspector General and District Recorder received a very warm welcome to the Chapter, however in such sad circumstances. Unfortunately, this was to be the very last meeting for the Chapter. Due to circumstance beyond their control, it was time to surrender its Warrant, and dispose of its Assets.

Immediately after opening the Chapter, the Chapter Recorder gave a Eulogy for Ill.:Bro Paul Woodward 30°, who sadly lost his battle with illness and passed to the Grand Chapter Above on 25th March 2024. Paul was also to be the very last Most Wise Sovereign of the Chapter.

After approving the Minutes of the previous meeting and before the formal transaction of the business for the proposals for the Chapter closure process, the Inspector General presented a Supreme Council Certificate to E&P Bro Graham Lloyd in his usual delightful and informative manner.

On completion of the Third Point, the Immediate Past Sovereign closed the Chapter for the final time. The rest of the evening spent

in Harmony and Brotherly Love in the dining room with a wonderful roast beef dinner enjoyed by all.

On behalf of the District of Worcestershire, huge thanks to all St Edmund King & Martyr members for their kind generosity and consideration in the disposal of their Assets. We wish them well and hope that they will soon find alternative arrangements to continue to enjoy our beautiful Order.

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Halesowen Chapter RC No 615



On Wednesday 15th May 2024 the Inspector General and District Recorder received a warm welcome to the Chapter for their annual 'Business' meeting.

Immediately after Opening the Chapter, the Recorder read the Dispensation authorising the change of date for the meeting. The reason for the change was to allow several members of the Chapter to attend the Centenary celebrations of All Saints Chapter RC No 217 in the neighbouring district of Staffordshire & Shropshire.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and Ill.:Bro Robert Bennett 30°, was elected as the MWS for the ensuing year, Ill.:Bro Peter Marks 30°, re-elected as Treasurer for the ensuing year, and the incoming Generals were elected as the two account examiners.

Following the Third Point and closing the Chapter, members retired to the Refectory where we were joined by 3 Master Masons who were given a very brief description and welcome to our beautiful Order by the Inspector General. Another fine dinner in super company was enjoyed by all.

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St Mary & All Saints Chapter RC No 688



On Friday 31st May 2024, the Inspector General and District Recorder were warmly welcomed to the Chapter for their annual Enthronement meeting.

In the unfortunate absence due to retirement of the MWS, Ill.:Bro V Fogarty 32°, opened the Chapter. After confirming and approving the Minutes of the previous meeting, the next item was to Ballot for, as a joining member, V.:Ill.:Bro Dr R N Hoare 33°, a Former Inspector General for the District of Worcestershire. It was a very close call, nevertheless, the Chapter warmly welcomed their new member and are so delighted to have him on board.

Ill.:Bro C Hart 30°, was then Enthroned as MWS of the Chapter by Ill.:Bro Fogarty 32°, in a most impressive and enjoyable manner.

On completion of the Enthronement, the Inspector General gave a delightful address to the Princes of the Chapter.

The new MWS completed the remainder of the business, carried out the Third Point and Closed the Chapter. Everyone then retired to the Refectory to enjoy a hearty dinner completing a super evening.

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Evesham Chapter RC No 994



On Thursday 20th June 2024 the Chapter held its Enthronement meeting.

The Inspector General was warmly welcomed into the Chapter by E&P Bro S Brotherton the MWS who, with due respect to his obligation, offered the Inspector General his Chair and Baton. The Inspector General politely declined the kind offer, as he 'had not prepared for the Enthronement' to the same level as the MWS.....

After confirming the Minutes of the previous meeting, fifteen Chapter members and four Visitors were treated to a most enjoyable Enthronement of the new MWS, E&P Bro S Hillard 18°. Upon completion of appointing and investing his officers, the Inspector General gave the address to the Chapter in his usual

enjoyable manner, and the new MWS presented a Past Sovereigns Jewel to E&P Bro Brotherton 18°.

The Chapter Recorder (and District Recorder) then had the honour and pleasure of presenting a Supreme Council Certificate to E&P Bro P Emmerson 18°.

On completion of the Third Point and closing the Chapter, members and guests retired to the Refectory to enjoy a super traditional Evesham Enthronement dinner of Asparagus & baked Gammon or baked Salmon.

During the formal part of the dinner, Ill.: Bro C Dyer 32°, & Ill.: Bro G Jinks 32°, received a toast acknowledging their recent promotion to the 32°.

A lovely evening had by all.

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Northfield Chapter RC No 1022



On Monday 24th July 2024, the Inspector General and the District Recorder were warmly welcomed to the Chapter for the Enthronement of E&P Bro Dr M Gohil 18°.

Prior to opening the Chapter, the Prelate gave a Eulogy for the very sad recent passing to the Grand Chapter Above of Ill.: Bro. Jonathan Swift 30°.

Immediately after Opening the Chapter, the Recorder read the Dispensation authorising the change of date for the meeting. The reason for the change was to allow for the safe return of the Sovereign Elect from his distant travels.

The MWS provided a most enjoyable and efficient Enthronement of E&P Bro Dr M Gohil 18°, who then proceeded to appoint and invest his Officers in a faultless and impressive manner.

Ill.: Bro J Pritchard 30°, then had the honour and pleasure of presenting the Immediate Past Sovereign Jewel to E&P Bro R Mulgrue 18°.

After receiving a very moving report from the Treasurer E&P Bro J Pegler 18°, reference the distribution of past & recent Alms collections, the Recorder Ill.: Bro S Rothero gave an

interesting and informative paper entitled 'The Words of the 18th Degree', which was very well received by all.

On completion of an excellent Third Point, the MWS closed the Chapter, and the rest of the evening spent in Harmony and Brotherly Love in the dining room, enjoying yet another delightful evening meal.

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Merston Culy Chapter RC No 883



On Friday 28th June 2024, the Inspector General and District Recorder received a warm welcome to the Chapter by the MWS who, with due respect to his obligation, offered the Inspector General his Chair and Baton. The Inspector General thanked the MWS for his very kind and generous offer, but politely declined returning the Baton with his accustomed humour.

It was to be a relatively short 'Business' meeting with E&P Bro E D Baker 18°, being re-elected to serve a second year as the MWS, and Ill.: Bro M L Thomas 31°, re-elected as Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The Immediate Past Sovereign, E&P Bro M R Hudson 18th, then carried out a delightful demonstration of the First Point, completing all the work necessary for recommendation for the Higher Degree.

On completion of an excellent Third Point, the MWS closed the Chapter, and the rest of the evening spent in the Refectory where everyone enjoyed a delightful meal to round off a super evening.

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Breme Chapter RC No 862



The Chapter met for their 128th Regular meeting on Wednesday 3rd July 2024. The main Business on the Agenda being the Perfection of Bro Mark Henderson, thankfully

fully recovered from illness which caused his absence from the previous meeting.

The MWS, E&P Bro Richard Noakes 18°, opened the Chapter, proved the Minutes of the previous meeting, and then proceeded to confer the Intermediate Degrees.

Ill.: Bro K Parkes 30°, conducted the 1st & 2nd Points in an impressive manner, and E&P Bro A Lewis 18°, gave a word perfect and delightful example of presenting the Collar & Signs.

On completion of the remainder of the Business and the Third Point, the MWS closed the Chapter, and a fine dinner was enjoyed by all in the Refectory.

Unfortunately, the Inspector General was unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments, but he would have enjoyed the quality of the work in the Lodge room. He will also be further pleased that there will be another Perfection ceremony at the next meeting of the Chapter.

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Dates for your Diary

Supreme Council



On Monday 16th September 2024, E & P Bros. S B Brotherton 18°, and W F Tucker 18°, will be accompanied by the Inspector General, District Recorder and Guests to Grand East for their Investiture as Grand Elected Knight's Kadosh.

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Worcestershire Chapter RC No 970



The next meeting of the Worcestershire Chapter RC No 970 on Saturday 5th October 2024 will take a slightly different format to their usual custom. In consultation with the MWS and other members, the Chapter will factor into the Agenda a 'District Annual Meeting'.

It is hoped that this will provide an opportunity for the Inspector General to share 'information of interest' throughout the past year, as well as extending relationships between Chapters in the District (and beyond) - aiding the process of forging inter-visitation and adopting new friendships.

The meeting will be open to all members of the Order and to include the surrounding Districts.

We are also delighted that the meeting will also welcome as a special guest speaker, the M.:Ill.: Bro The Rev'd Dr S A Thorn 33°, Grand Prior, who will present an address titled '**1786 and all that**'.

It has all the ingredients to be a great afternoon!

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Golgotha, The Crucifixion

Editors Footnote:

If anyone has an item they believe to be of interest please forward it to the District Recorder; Ill.: Bro. Lindsay (Taff) Hill 30°, at: taff.hill@yahoo.co.uk

Don't forget to visit the District website.

www.rose-croix-worcs.org.uk

Summer Greetings

To you and your families

From

Ian & Irene Fothergill

&

Lindsay (Taff) & Donna Hill