

The Ancient & Accepted Rite



District of Worcestershire The District Diary Edition No: 22

~ Summer 2025 ~

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°**

In welcoming you to this Summer and 22nd Edition of the "District Diary" I thought it would be an idea to review the past 12 months following what was a very difficult 23/24 year.

The foremost most welcome situation is that this is the first year since I became District Recorder in 2019 that we have not had a Chapter surrender its Warrant. That does not mean that there are those Chapters who have not given it consideration but, thankfully all have decided to stick with it and, hopefully gain a Candidate or two, for after all this is the lifeblood of every one of our Masonic Orders.

Whilst we have lost members this year, of which 6 have passed to "Higher Service" our losses are a third of last year. Amongst those who passed was our Centenarian, Ill. Bro. Dr. Alan J. Laidlaw, 32°. A past Sovereign of St.

Ann of Malvern Chapter and Founder of St. Theodore Chapter to whom I had the privilege and pleasure of presenting his 50-year Certificate, one of my first duties following my appointment in November 2023.



It has been pleasing to welcome 6 new members and 7 Joining/Re-Joining Members into the Order/District and very pleasing to know that there are those Chapters who have Candidates in the pipeline for the forthcoming season.

We also welcomed in February 4 newly promoted members to the 31°, and 2 to the 30° supported by some 13 members of the Order including 2 acting IG's plus myself and our Past IG V.: Ill.: Bro. Dr Richard Hoare, 33°. The majority travelling by mini coach to Mark Masons Hall for a light lunch, followed by the meeting at Grand East, returning to MMH for Dinner and then embussing back home which ensured the recipients had a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Finally, Merston Culy Chapter held its first Daytime Meeting in June which was well attended, has produced 3 Joining members, and hopefully now means that they will convene all their meetings and establish themselves as a daytime Chapter.

In conclusion I hope you have all been enjoying our early Summer sunshine and that you will all enjoy the break from masonic duty, recharge your batteries, and look forward to another successful season commencing in September.

God bless you all.

Ian

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2. Supreme Council



The District Recorder is pleased to report that all the Chapter Annual Returns were received in good time, entered into the Duke Street Online Portal, and all District dues were paid to the Supreme Council.

Many thanks to all Chapter Recorders and Treasurers for their continued hard work and support.

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3. The District



In Memorium

It is with great sadness that we record the passing to the Grand Chapter Above of:

Ill. Bro Joseph Willaim **Page** 30°, - in May 2025. A member of St Mary & All saints Chapter No 688.

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4. Chapters

St. Francis of Assisi Chapter RC No 711



A 'Business' meeting of the Chapter was held at Kings Heath Freemason's Hall on Saturday 26th April 2025 which saw E&P Bro Neil P Nicholls 18°, elected to become the MWS at their next meeting in September

2025, and Ill. Bro John M Phenix 31°, elected as the Treasurer.

Then followed a discussion reference the sustainability, progression and future of the Chapter. The Chapter are pleased to report that after an incredibly successful discussion the outcome being very positive, and a good, solid, five-year plan agreed. The Chapter will also remain as a 'Stand Alone' Chapter.

Three Candidates for Perfection were proposed, (with the possibility of a double Perfection in January 2026); one currently unattached joining member proposed; plus, four more joining members very close to proposal. The September meeting is scheduled to be the Perfection of W Bro Ravinder Mohan Dhody, followed by the Enthronement of E&P Bro Neil P Nicholls 18°.

All of the members present agreed with the ensuing and five-year plan however, the overarching factor is to ensure it comes to fruition.

All in all, very positive and encouraging news from the Chapter?

Next meeting (E) - SAT 27 SEP 25.

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Bordesley Abbey Chapter RC No 918



On Monday 28th April 2025, the Inspector General accompanied by the District Recorder attended Freemasons

Hall, Redditch for the Enthronement meeting. The Chapter was opened at 1800 hrs by the MWS E&P Bro Steven J Roadley 18°, who promptly welcomed the IG to the meeting, and proffered him the baton which as usual was very politely declined.

After confirming and approving the Minutes of the previous meeting which had been circulated to the brethren, a ballot was held for E&P Bro Philip Stanton 18°, to become a Joining member of the Chapter. The ballot proved in favour of E&P Bro Stanton, and he was warmly welcomed to the Chapter.

E&P Bro Steven J Roadley 18°, was then Proclaimed as the MWS for a second year in office, and he took no time in Appointing and Investing his Officers for the ensuing year.

The Chapter Recorder, Ill. Bro Bill Roberts 30°, presented a paper to the Chapter entitled 'A Potpourri from Rose Croix'.

Following the 3rd Point and the closure of the Chapter, members retired to the Refectory to enjoy a delightful dinner with a main course of Chicken Curry, Rice & Chips.

Next meeting - MON 22 SEP 25.

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St Dunstan Chapter RC No 12



On Friday 2nd May 2025, twenty-five members and visitors including the Inspector General and District Recorder assembled for the Enthronement meeting.

The IG was escorted into the Chapter by the DC and E&P Bro Phillip Abram 18°, the MWS, offered his Baton to the IG. Before returning the Baton, the IG informed the MWS that this evening was a most important night of his year in Office and wished him well.

The Chapter was opened promptly at 1800 hrs and the Minutes of the previous meeting were proved. The Recorder then read extracts of the Minutes of the meeting held 100 years ago, which included a very interesting entry providing the history, background and dedication of the weaved rug (incorporating the Ladder), which adorned the centre of the Chapter floor - and still looks as good as new.

The next item on the Agenda, the MWS, E&P Bro Phillip Abram 18°, Enthroned E&P Bro Karl L Haines 18°, in a most relaxed, and dignified manner. An Enthronement which the Chapter will be most proud.

The incoming MWS appointed and invested his Officers with the authority of their office,

again in a most delightful, relaxed and dignified manner.

The Enthronement ceremony was completed with the Address to the Princes of the Chapter by the Inspector General, who also declared his delight at the future progression of the Chapter with so many 'Red Collars' in Office.

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.

Another wonderful evening of classic Rose Croix enjoyment.

Next meeting - WED 29 OCT 25.

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Breme Chapter RC No 862



The Enthronement Meeting of the Chapter took place at the Masonic Hall Kidderminster on Wednesday 7th May 2025. There were 14 Members of the Order present including the Inspector General, a Past Inspector General and Honorary Member, V. Ill. Bro Dr. R N Hoare, 33°, and a visiting MWS, Ill. Bro Bill Roberts, 30°, of Bordesley Abbey Chapter No 918.

The Chapter was opened in due and solemn form and following the confirmation of the Minutes the Inspector General was invited to present two Supreme Council Certificates to E & P Bros, Mark Henderson, and Phillip Butler which he conducted with his usual panache.

There then followed the Enthronement of E & P Bro Ian Calvert, 18°, by the Enthroning Sovereign, Ill. Bro Richard Nokes, 30°, who had received his promotion to Knight Kadosh, 30°, since the last Regular Meeting of the Chapter.

The new MWS then appointed and invested his Officers with the authority of their respective offices and the meeting concluded as usual with a well conducted Third Point.

12 members of the Order then retired to the Refectory to enjoy a 3 course Dinner.

In response to his Toast the Inspector General remarked on the excellent development of the Chapter over the past few years and presented everyone with the new Rose Croix tri-fold leaflet to be used to encourage recruitment to our beautiful Order.

Next meeting - WED 02 JUL 25.

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St Ann of Malvern Chapter RC No 606



Also on Wednesday 7th May 2025 thirteen members of the Order met at Rainbow Hill for their Enthronement meeting.

The Chapter was Opened by the MWS, Ill.: Bro Maurice A Hume, 32°, at 1815 hrs, and the Recorder read the Minutes of the previous meeting which were formally adopted by the members of the Chapter and duly signed by the MWS.

Having thanked the Chapter for their support for the past year, the MWS had the delight of Enthroning Ill.: Bro Charles M K Dyer 32°, as the new MWS. As expected, the Enthronement, carried out between two of the Districts most senior, well respected and finest members, was a pleasurer to witness.

The 'new' MWS then appointed and invested his Officers with the authority of their office in an exemplary manner. In the absence of the Inspector General due his attendance at the Breme Chapter RC No 862 Enthronement meeting just up the river in Kidderminster, the District Recorder gave the Address to the Princes.

On completion of the Enthronement and thanking those taking part, the MWS continued the very interesting history of the weaved rug (incorporating the Ladder) adorning the centre of the Chapter floor belonging to St Dunstan Chapter RC No 12 but shared with St Ann of Malvern Chapter. The MWS elaborated that the particular style of 'weave' was unique to only a handful of weavers of 100 years ago, and two of those specialist weavers made the rug for St Dunstan Chapter which was presented to the Chapter at their

Enthronement meeting of 100 years ago. Sadly, one of the weavers died the night before the meeting. The MWS also commented that it looked as good as it (probably) looked when it was completed.

Following the conducting of the Third Point the Chapter was closed and the assembled company retired to the Refectory for a super evening meal of cold meats, salad & hot new potatoes, rounding off a fantastic meeting.

Next meeting - FRI 26 SEP 25.

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Halesowen Chapter RC No 615



On Monday 12th May 2025 the Inspector General and District Recorder received a warm welcome to the Chapter for their annual 'Business' meeting. The MWS, Ill.: Bro Robert Bennett 30°, offered the Baton and his Chair to the IG who replied saying that it was an honour and a privilege to receive the Baton but I have to politely decline.

Immediately after Opening the Chapter, the Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and signed for by the MWS and the IG.

The IG then had much delight in presenting a Supreme Council Certificate to E&P Bro Colin Edwards 18°, who thanked the IG for the lovely and informative way that he had presented it.

The MWS declared Ill.: Bro Phillip Hannah 31°, the MWS elect, and Ill.: Bro Peter Marks 30°, the Treasurer re-elected 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 for a super 3 course meal and in the company of 3 Master Masons who were given an enlightening description and welcome to our beautiful Order by the Inspector General. Another fine meeting and dinner in super company was enjoyed by all.

Next meeting - MON 03 NOV 25.

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St Mary & All Saints Chapter RC No 688



On Friday 30th May 2025, 37 members and Visitors including the Inspector General, District

Recorder, Inspector General for South Wales & Monmouthshire, & Past Inspector General for Staffordshire & Shropshire were warmly welcomed to the Chapter to witness a truly delightful Enthronement meeting.

The MWS, III.:Bro C Hart 30°, offered his Baton & Chair to the IG who, as expected, declined the offer as he was convinced that the MWS had put in a huge amount of hard work and effort to ensure the events of the evening went without any issues.

Immediately after opening the Chapter, III.:Bro S Jinks 30°, gave a wonderful heart felt and sincere eulogy to III.:Bro Joe W Page 30°, who had sadly passed to the Grand Chapter Above during the previous month.

After proving the Minutes of the last meeting, V.: III.:Bro Dr R N Hoare 33°, a Past Inspector General for the District of Worcestershire was then Enthroned as MWS of the Chapter by III.:Bro C Hart 30°, in a most impressive and enjoyable manner. The Enthronement was of 'text book quality', and you will certainly have difficulty in finding a better example Enthronement.

The 'new' MWS, V.: III.:Bro Dr R N Hoare 33°, appointed & Invested his Officers with his own delightful manner, injecting humour and other items of interest along the way.....

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

The 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, continued humour completing a super, super evening.

Next meeting - THU 30 OCT 25.

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Northfield Chapter RC No 1022



On Monday 9th June 2025, the Inspector General and the District Recorder received a warm welcome to the

Chapter for the Enthronement of III.:Bro M Hardeman 30°.

On his entry into the Chapter, the IG was welcomed by III.:Bro J Pritchard 30°, who in the absence of the Sovereign, continued to Act as MWS for the Enthronement, and enquired of the IG, "Do you want to do some work?" The IG gave a simple and straight forward reply - "No chance".....!

With the MWS still on his medical learning and development travels 'Down Under', and with a return to this country profiled for early in 2026, the Chapter continued in the very safe hands of III.:Bro J Pritchard 30°. And what a delightful, confident and entertaining Enthronement he delivered! III.:Bro M Hardeman 30°, was Enthroned as Sovereign of the Chapter with great skill and ability, a testament to the hard work and dedication of III.:Bro Pritchard.

III.:Bro Hardeman proceeded to appoint and invest his Officers in a faultless and impressive manner, using all of his own skill, ability and experience which he has developed.

The task of presenting the Immediate Past Sovereign Jewel to the now Past Sovereign, E&P Bro M Gohill 18°, will be carried over to their next meeting in January 2026.

Members of the Chapter then took part in delivering an interesting presentation titled 'The Words of the 18°. The presentation was broken down into 6 manageable parts allowing for 6 members of the Chapter to each deliver a portion of an excellent and hugely informative paper.

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 refectory, enjoying yet another delightful evening meal with the main course consisting of cold meats, salad & hot potatoes.

Next meeting - MON 12 JAN 26.

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Evesham Chapter RC No 994



On a very warm and sticky Thursday 19th June 2025 evening, sixteen members of the Chapter and six Visitors gathered for the Enthronement meeting - with a Perfection ceremony thrown in to make a super evening even greater.....

The Inspector General was welcomed into the Chapter by E&P Bro S Hillard the MWS who, with due respect to item 6 of the conditions to his office, offered the IG his Chair and Baton. The IG unsurprisingly declined the kind offer, as he 'was looking forward to a great evening'.....

Upon Opening the Chapter, the MWS warmly (didn't want to use that word as it really was so hot) welcomed the Visitors and hoped that they would enjoy what was on show this evening.

Due to unforeseen and sad circumstances, a request for a Dispensation to the Supreme Council was made for authority to Elect & Enthroned a Most Wise Sovereign at this meeting. The SC duly and promptly provided the Dispensation, and the Recorder read out the details in compliance with the letter accompanying the certificate.

After confirming the Minutes of the previous meeting, two ballots were held. The first to welcome Ill.' Bro Dr J C Mead 30°, as a Joining Member of the Chapter. Upon becoming a subscribing member, Ill.' Bro Mead presented the Chapter with an 18°, Apron which had been given to him a number of years ago. The Apron will be put to good use, and the Chapter give grateful thanks for the very kind and thoughtful gift.

The second ballot, that for a Candidate for Perfection was taken, and Bro Steve Worton, Junior Warden of Abbot Lichfield Lodge No 3308 was admitted a member of this beautiful Order in an (almost) faultless ceremony.

The 2nd General and Sovereign -elect, E&P Bro J Battell carried out the Intermediate Degrees. I am not going to tell you just how good he was, but he was good, really good. (No pressure from here on MWS). The IPS, Ill.' Bro S Brotherton 30°, conducted a perfect First Point in a slightly different 'ambiance'

than previous Perfections. The Marshal, E&P Bro W Duthie 18°, who was the Candidate proposer, conducted the Candidate with a well-rehearsed example of how the 33 day's journey should be done. Word (and step) perfect. Hats off too to the Captain of the Guard E&P T McMillan 18°, who is quickly adopting to life in the Order and performing with great confidence.

Having previously stated that the ceremony was (almost) faultless, the Second Point was conducted by the Recorder who couldn't quite live up to the same high quality of the work of those before him. However, standards were overall restored by the exquisite work of Raphael conducted by a great, ever present, and always ready to lend a hand friend of this (and every) Chapter of the District, Ill.' Bro Mike Tonkin 30°. The IG conducted the Accolade, and the Recorder presented the Collar & Words of the degree, completing a fantastic ceremony.

If anyone should want to know how the ambiance was different, then you will need to attend the next Perfection ceremony at the Chapter to find out.....

The evening continued with the Enthronement of the new MWS, E&P Bro J Battell 18°. Upon completion of appointing and investing his officers, and those elected by the Chapter, the IG gave the address to the Chapter in his usual polished, and enjoyable manner, and thanked the IPS for the way in which he Enthroned his successor. The new MWS presented a Past Sovereigns Jewel to E&P Bro Hillard 18°.

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

A lovely evening had by all.

Next meeting - THU 16 OCT 25.

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Merston Culy Chapter RC No 883



On a beautiful, sunny Friday morning on the 28th June 2025, the Chapter met for the first occasion as a 'daytime' Chapter, with

a start time of 1100 hrs. Going forward, 'daytime' meetings of the Chapter will provide a great opportunity for any past and present members that struggle to attend meetings later in the evenings due to health reasons, driving limitations or Saturday mornings due to family commitments etc, etc. And travel home before peak traffic issues!

On this, the first occasion of an earlier start, the Inspector General and members of the Chapter were delighted to achieve an attendance of **23** members and guests.

The V.°.III°.Bro Ian Fothergill 33°, Inspector General, and V.°.III°.Bro Dr Richard Hoare 33°, Past Inspector General, received a warm welcome into the Chapter by the MWS. V.°.III°.Bro Richard Hoare, who is the Prelate for the Chapter, took his seat and the MWS who, with due respect, offered the Inspector General his Chair and Baton. The Inspector General thanked the MWS for his very kind and generous offer, and politely informed the MWS that he did not want to deprive him the privilege of chairing his own Chapter and returned the Baton.

After confirming and approving the Minutes of the previous meeting, The MWS then had the pleasure if Investing two of his Officers who were unable to attend the Enthronement meeting.

With equally great pleasure, the MWS declared Ill°.Bro Martyn Hardeman 30°, Sovereign elect, and Ill°.Bro Mark Thomas 31°, re-elected as Treasurer for the ensuing year. Both were delighted to accept.

Over the past 12 months, many chapters of the District have received a most interesting and informative approved paper from the IG titled ***"Why did our Order remove the requirement of swearing Allegiance to the Trinitarian Faith?"*** Following on from this, the IG presented his latest paper called ***"The Foundation and History of the Ancient & Accepted Rite"***. This was another very interesting presentation which was well received by everyone present, and the IG is hoping to again present this paper at the Worcester Chapter RC No 970 meeting on Saturday 4th October 2025.

Following the presentation, V.°.III°.Bro Dr Richard Hoare 33°, was delighted to propose the V.°.III°.Bro Ian Fothergill 33°, Inspector

General, as a joining member of the Chapter. This was seconded by the Recorder, Ill°.Bro John Phenix 31°. Not to be outdone, Ill°.Bro Gordon Stacey 31°, proposed E&P Bro Allistair Page 18°, as another joining member of the Chapter and this proposal was again seconded by the Recorder. Great news indeed!!!

On completion of an excellent Third Point conducted by the MWS, he closed the Chapter, and the rest of the meeting spent in the Refectory where everyone enjoyed a delightful 3 course lunch to round off a super, super morning/early afternoon meeting.

Next meeting - FRI 27 MAR 26.

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Breme Chapter RC No 862



The Chapter met for their 131st Regular meeting on Wednesday 2nd July 2025 on another very warm and humid Kidderminster evening. A total of 14 members and guests were in attendance and the main business of the Chapter was to practice/rehearse the ceremony of Perfection

The MWS, E&P Bro Ian Calvert 18°, opened the Chapter, proved the Minutes of the previous meeting, and then asked the Treasurer to present the audited accounts for the year. The Chapter is in very good health indeed, but the Treasurer informed the members that it was now sadly necessary to increase annual subscriptions due to the ever-increasing costs in general. (Subscriptions btw have not been increased for 6 or 7 years). The Treasurer therefore proposed an increase of **£1-00.....**

The MWS confirmed that the Chapter would now perform a practice of the majority of a Perfection ceremony and invited Ill°.Bro Richard Nokes 30°, to confer the Intermediate Degrees, with E&P Bro Phillip Butler 18°, acting as the candidate.

E&P Bro Adam Lewis 18°, conducted the 1st Point, including the Collar & Signs in an impressive manner. Considering he did not know he was also presenting the Collar & Signs until just before the meeting, he did exceptionally well.

The Chapter were then pleased to propose the V.III. Bro Ian M Fothergill 33°, Inspector General for the District of Worcestershire as an Honorary Member of the Chapter. Subject to a successful ballot at the next meeting, I am sure the IG will express his delight and thank the Chapter accordingly.

On completion of the remainder of the Business and the Third Point, the MWS closed the Chapter, and the members retired to a local curry house to enjoy a most welcomed dinner.

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Next meeting - WED 03 SEP 25.

5. General

Grand East



Christmas will certainly come early for four members of the District when on Wednesday 3rd December 2025, E&P Bros F P S Abram 18°, P D Connor 18°, J G Randle 18°, and S J Hillard 18°, will be accompanied by the Inspector General, District Recorder and their Guests to Grand East for their Investiture as Grand Elected Knight's Kadosh, 30°.

A report on this momentous occasion will appear in the Christmas District Diary - Edition No 23.

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Worcestershire Chapter RC No 970



The next meeting of the Worcestershire Chapter No 970 will take place on Saturday 4th October 2025. The Chapter will again factor into the Agenda a 'District Annual Meeting'. The IG will also be presenting his latest paper called ***"The Foundation and History of the Ancient & Accepted Rite"***.

The meeting will be open to all members of the Order.

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Dates for your Diary

Strutt Chapter RC No 1001 (District of Derbyshire)



Strutt Chapter No 1001, in the District of Derbyshire have been granted permission by the Supreme Council 33°, to carry out a demonstration of the 25th Degree ***'Knight of the Brazen Serpent'***.

As you will know, this is an extremely rare opportunity to see a demonstration of a degree not usually worked in England & Wales. The Demonstration will take place on Saturday 18th October 2025 at the Masonic Rooms, Campbell Street, Belper, Derbyshire. DE56 1AP.

Sadly, only members of the 30° and above are eligible to attend.

Full details will follow in due course.

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King Edward VII Rose Croix Chapter of Improvement



Open to all members of the order under the authority of the Supreme Council 33° of the Ancient and Accepted Rite for England and Wales and its Districts and Chapters Overseas.

The next virtual rehearsal of 18th Degree will be held on Zoom at 1945 hrs on Tuesday, 28th October 2025.

The virtual rehearsal meetings are meant for those Princes who cannot attend the physical Chapters of Improvement held at 10 Duke Street, St James's, London.

To take part in one of the virtual rehearsals, a Prince should apply by e-mail to the KEVII Recorder, Ill.°. Bro Peter Lambert 31°, at plambert4033@yahoo.co.uk no less than 7 days prior to the scheduled meeting when a zoom link will be sent to you to enable sign-on. An e-mail application must include a Prince's full name and the name and number of their Chapter thus ensuring only qualified Princes are admitted to the virtual meeting.

During the rehearsal, the role Director of Ceremonies will be undertaken by a member of the team, who will also read aloud the rubric from the ritual book in order to set the scene and to help as a lead in to the next part of the ritual.

As with the physical Chapters of Improvement, held at 10 Duke Street, St James's, the King Edward VII Rose Croix Chapter of Improvement Preceptors will be on hand to assist any Prince delivering ritual and to provide helpful tips.

If any member wishes to undertake a particular role at the October Virtual Chapters of Improvement, he will need to mention it in the initial e-mail. The allocation of roles will be on a first come first served basis, but account will be taken of anyone, who is about to deliver a particular role in their own Chapter.

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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 31°, at:

taff.hill@yahoo.co.uk

Don't forget to visit the District website.

www.rose-croix-worcs.masonicwebsite.org



Summer Greetings

To you and your families

From

Ian & Irene Fothergill

&

Lindsay (Taff) & Donna Hill