

Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Berkshire

RW Bro Graham D Seeman
Provincial Grand Master



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Dear brethren,

As 2022 draws to a close it is my great pleasure to send you a message for Christmas and to thank you personally for your support over the last year.

It sometimes seems hard to believe that this is only my first full calendar year as your Provincial Grand Master. After two years when most lodges were forced to 'tread water' it has been so encouraging to see the Province starting to move forward again and I am full of hope and optimism for the future.

There is undoubtedly something very special about Berkshire freemasonry in general and that 'special something' finds a natural outlet in the Mark degree. As I travel round the Province to join you in your Mark and Royal Ark Mariner lodges I feel so lucky to be able to hold this privileged position and I am both touched and, frankly, humbled by the warm welcome I receive everywhere I go. I never forget that it is YOU the members who make this Province so special and it is a constant delight to be in your company.

What gives me the greatest pleasure of all is to welcome new members into our Order and there have been plenty of opportunities to do that over the last year. In welcoming all those members who will be reading this Christmas message for the first time I also thank the existing members for 'spreading the word' and helping to add new members to our Provincial family. Please continue your unstinting efforts in this regard. New members are our lifeblood and our future.

Rewarding those brethren who have given outstanding service to the Province is the nicest part of being a Provincial Grand Master and I know that the whole Province was delighted to see Worshipful Brothers Paul Ackland-Snow, Geoff Webb and Steve Talbot receive appointment to Grand Rank along with a thoroughly well-deserved promotion for Alan Spearman. Just a couple of weeks ago we saw Worshipful Brother Dr. Silverio Ostrowski receive Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank. I congratulate them all once again.

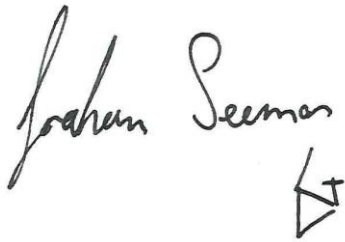
At Provincial Grand Lodge I was delighted to be able to reward those brethren who have contributed so much to their own lodges and to the Province over many years including, on this occasion, some of the unsung heroes who may not have attained the Chair but have nevertheless done sterling work in the background to keep their lodges running smoothly. Whilst I hope that all Provincial meetings are memorable, this year's meeting will undoubtedly be remembered for the sad passing of our dearly beloved Queen who gave a lifetime of dedicated service to our country and was a shining example to us all. That will be the only occasion that any of us will sing 'God Save the Queen' in the Temple and then toast the King at dinner! September also saw both the Craft and the Mark have a

complete change of Rulers on consecutive days. A change in the rulers of our nation, the Craft and the Mark all within the space of a week is surely unprecedented and reminds us that the sands of time are never still, but the end of an era is necessarily the start of a new one and I am very excited about the future of Freemasonry in general and the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner degrees in particular, and it is your enthusiasm for our degrees that fuels that excitement. Thank you brethren.

I know how much many of you look forward to the Provincial Grand Master's Reception. Having had to move it from January to April last year, the new date seemed to be very popular and avoids the concerns that some of our members have about travelling in winter weather. I have therefore decided to keep the new date and the next Reception will be on Friday the 14th of April. Fiona and I look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible along with your partners and friends.

In closing, I hope that you are all able to spend time with your families over the festive period, recharge your batteries and then take on 2023 with the joy and enthusiasm that I know you all have for our wonderful degree, and may the Great Overseer and Supreme Commander of the Universe have you in His special keeping, until we meet again in His Most Holy Name.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Graham Seeman". Below the signature is a small, stylized logo consisting of a triangle with a horizontal line through it, resembling a Masonic symbol.

RW Bro Graham Seeman
Provincial Grand Master