



# Somerset Freemasonry



## Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset

### *Toast List*

*For use in the Province of Somerset from 24 April 2024 until further notice*

**The King, the Craft and Royal Arch Masonry**

**The Most Worshipful the Grand Master  
His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, *KG GCMG, GCVO, ADC***

**The Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master  
Jonathan Spence**

**The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master  
Sir Michael Snyder**

**The Right Worshipful Assistant Grand Master  
David J Medlock DL**

**The Right Worshipful Assistant Grand Master  
Arthur Steven Varley**

**And the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past**

**The Provincial Grand Master for Somerset  
Right Worshipful Brother Raymond Guthrie**

**The Deputy Provincial Grand Master  
Very Worshipful Brother Benjamin G W Batley PGSwdB**

**The Assistant Provincial Grand Masters  
Worshipful Brother Anthony R Guthrie PSGD  
Worshipful Brother Russell K Woodland PJGD**

**And the rest of the Provincial & London Grand Rank Officers, Present and Past**

**The Worshipful Master**

**The I.P.M. or Installing Master  
(On Installation night)**

**The Initiate (if any)**

**Visiting Brethren**

**The Tyler's Toast  
(Absent Brethren)**

## Guidance on the Conduct of Toasts

1. The Toast to The King, the Craft and Royal Arch Masonry (RA discretionary) and the Grand Master are mandatory at every festive board and will be given priority over any other toasts. Further Toasts are at the discretion of the Worshipful Master if the Office holder or no Grand Officers or Provincial Grand Officers are present at the Festive board.  
If the Lodge normally has a tradition to toast Absent Brethren at 9 p.m. or 9.30 p.m. then this must only be observed in the form of "Taking Wine" with Absent Brethren if the specified time falls before the official toasts can be given.
2. Masonic Fire, if given, should take place after all toasts whether or not the recipient of the toast is present and whether or not there is to be a response.
3. The Province has no reservations about toasts being given in sequence whilst remaining standing. The exception should be when the recipient is present.
4. When the Provincial Grand Master, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Assistant Provincial Grand Master or a representative is making an official visit, it is expected that, **prior to proposing the appropriate toast, the WM offers suitable words of welcome and thanks. There will normally be a response.**
5. At an Installation meeting, the toast to the Provincial Grand Master or Province MUST be proposed by the Past Master who is next under consideration for Provincial recognition and if not present, the Worshipful Master
6. As a courtesy, Provincial Officers of other Provinces and holders of London Grand Rank may be included in the Provincial Toast if desired.
7. The Provincial Grand Master recommends that the long pre-amble to toasts (WM, RW Provincial Grand Master, Grand Officers, etc etc) need only be given for the first toast. Thereafter it would suffice to say "WM, (Provincial Principal and/or Warden if present) and brethren".
8. While it is usual for toasts to be given after lunch or dinner, in the interests of time they can be commenced at any appropriate point during the meal, provided Grace has been returned.
9. The Director of Ceremonies must ensure the Master Elect is rehearsed in proposing toasts. He must be briefed on the correct pronunciation of names and titles and be aware that honorifics (GCMG etc) are omitted.

Officers of Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge should be referred to as Grand Officers or Provincial Grand Officers (the term Grand Lodge Officers and Provincial Grand Lodge Officer is incorrect).

### **Taking Wine**

10. The Worshipful Master may first take wine with his Wardens except when The Provincial Grand Master, his Deputy or Assistants or his Official Representative is in attendance.  
NOTE: If it is the lodges tradition to 'take wine' then please keep these to a minimum to avoid disrupting the brethren's enjoyment of the festive board.

### **The Presence of Non-Masons**

11. Lodge Directors of Ceremonies are strongly advised to familiarize themselves and their Worshipful Masters with the contents of the Handbook for the Craft Lodge Director of Ceremonies, Section 13 - Presence of Ladies and non-Masons. Therein can be found specific guidance on this subject and that of giving Craft Fire in their presence. This document can be found on the Provincial website under the 'Resources' tab > Lodge Officers > Lodge Directors of Ceremonies.