



## Tips for Greetings

Visiting is one of the great traditions of Freemasonry and is encouraged. It is customary for visiting Masters and other authorised brethren to give greetings from their Lodge on the 3<sup>rd</sup> rising. In the interests of ensuring that part of the evening is kept interesting and time efficient here are a few suggestions that may assist:

1. Keep greetings succinct, with any comments kept short. Do not mention Brethren who are not present; the risings are not the time for apologies to be given.
2. Some Lodges have established a lodge 'landmark' as to what the Master of your Lodge should say.
3. Congratulate the candidate if appropriate but refrain from observations on the quality of the ceremony.
4. Members of the lodge do not normally give greetings from another lodge unless they are present as Master of that other Lodge, they have been specifically requested to give greeting, or they give greetings to assist another visiting member of that lodge. It is appropriate to stand with another visiting member of your "other" lodge who is giving greetings.
5. It is normal for greetings to be given by brethren in the East, then other brethren around the Lodge. Be ready to give greetings in order. (A tip for Masters, give thanks "to all the Brethren that have given greetings. . .", not "to the W Brethren in the East who have given greetings and those that have accompanied you . . .", as this may miss those not in the East who have greeted you.)
6. At events when there are many visitors, such as an installation, it is the custom in some Districts for one visiting Master (possibly the most recently installed) representing the brethren present in that District to give greetings on behalf of those visitors – it streamlines the evening.

