

## **Election Court Speech**

First of all, I would like to say thank you to the Court for showing faith in me to lead this ancient and august company for the next year. I will do my very best to live up to the confidence that you have shown in me. The Coachmakers' good will always be foremost in my mind in everything that I do.

My first duty is to say goodbye and a very big thank you to the Venerable Ray Pentland who is moving on, after the service that follows, having served us for 12 years as our Honorary Chaplain. He has done so with diligence and good humour. The Coachmakers will always look on him as a good friend and as an Honorary Liveryman of our Company will always be welcome.

We are delighted that Father Timothy Handley, from our own parish, has agreed to take over from Ray. We offer him a very warm welcome and very much look forward to getting to know him better. Father Tim, welcome.

I will certainly discover the feelings of a Master at this time of year when he or she has to hand over the reins to a new whippersnapper. That is how Sarah will be feeling right now. I know that she and her husband, John, forever now known as Consort No.1, have enjoyed every moment of the past 12 months. We have recorded in the minutes a formal vote of thanks to Immediate Past Master Sarah, but I would like to tell you why I now have a very difficult act to follow. I am in awe of her meticulous attention to detail and preparation. She even had a spare Consort, for goodness' sake. Although to refer to Adrian as spare, does not do him justice. On a serious note, I believe that she has introduced some very important initiatives that will serve the Company well into the future by keeping it focused and modern and yet preserving its ancient traditions.

I am sure my fellow Wardens will agree with me that we have been empowered to act as a tight team and that it has been a pleasure to have Sarah as our Master. Thank you from me, IPM.

It must not be forgotten that this is a big day for the Wardens,

Bettine Evans and Steve Fitz-Gerald as well, as they move ever closer to the Master's Chair and are now filling new shoes. Thank you for being a great team to work with and all I can say is that I hope I do not disappoint. Very good luck in your new roles.

As the Charter dictates, we now have a new Warden as David Barrett assumes the role of Junior Warden. David has been one of our Liverymen for a number of years having held many positions in the automotive industry before retiring. He has been Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards for 11 years, and he is currently the Secretary to the Fellowship of Clerks through which he has developed many contacts and associations in the City of London, and these have already proved to be invaluable. A very warm welcome to the team, David.

I am very much looking forward to serving as Master Coachmaker and will do my best to honour and continue the good work that those who have gone before me put in motion.