



## INSPECTOR GENERALS' MISSIVE WEEK 61 FINAL EDITION



Final IG COVID Missive 20 May 2021

Last week was to be the last Covid missive but I have decided to send out this last weekly issue to give my answers to last week's questions and to suggest a few points to be considered on resuming meetings.

My answers to the week 60 questions are as follows:

1. St Luke says the disciples were near Bethany when Jesus was carried up into Heaven although Acts says it was at the Mount of Olives (or Olivet).
2. Salvador Dali's paintings of Jesus rarely show our Saviour's face.
3. The Liturgical colour from Easter to Ascension in many Anglican churches is usually white (or gold).
4. Ascension Island was originally discovered by Portuguese seafarer João da Nova Castella in 1501 and named Conception but then re-discovered and re-named on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1503 (Ascension Day) by Alphonse D'Albuquerque
5. The circumference of the Earth being 24,900 miles and the speed of light being 186,000 miles per second, it would take very slightly over 2 seconds for a ray of light to travel 15 times round the earth (provided one ignored the likely loss of speed in persuading light to travel other than in a straight line).
6. Elijah was translated to Heaven in a Chariot of Fire and Elisha saw it happen.
7. "The Two Noble Kinsmen" was written in around 1612/13 and is supposedly Shakespeare's last play.
8. Setae and Spatulae are the very fine hairs on lizards' feet which enable many species to climb vertical walls or even walk across ceilings.
9. The Babylonians developed a counting system using the joints of the fingers, so the index finger was 1,2,3, the second finger 4,5,6 and so on. After four fingers they had reached 12 so used one digit of the other hand to remember it while counting down and across the fingers again for the second twelve. After 5 digits in the "remembering" hand, they had reached 60 which was divisible by very many smaller numbers and therefore extremely useful in many areas of life.
10. Otto Hahn won the 1944 Nobel Prize for Chemistry. He had been working on nuclear fission since 1934 and was an expert on bombarding uranium atoms with neutrons to produce radioactive elements. Had his research progressed faster (and some of his valued research assistants not fled from Nazi persecution of Jews) it might have been Hitler who developed atomic weapons and "shortened the war".

The Craft is resuming Rule-of-Six meetings at many of our Bucks centres already but UGLE have advised continued care. Dining is to recommence soon too, and one hopes that once the 21<sup>st</sup> June Step 4 release is authorised, we shall all be able to resume masonic activity. That said, a number of our members may still be wary of resuming pre-covid undertakings. Some planned meetings might still have to be abandoned through not being quorate despite Step 4 being declared. As a twice vaccinated

and fairly fittish chap, I shall plan to attend all meetings to which I may be summoned but all members are perfectly entitled not to be quite so keen.

The first Bucks Rose Croix meeting of which I am so far aware is Signum Lucis on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June. I plan to attend, and I hope many visitors will be helping to augment the numbers. Here are a few points which may require consideration when resuming meetings:

Several Sovereigns have served more than 2 years (with dispensations obtained) and all will likely be serving 2 years by the next Enthronement meeting.

Accounts may not have been presented (and some were already overdue after bank lethargy caused disruption following Treasurer changes).

Elections of Sovereigns, Treasurers, Outer Guards (and candidates) may need re-endorsement.

Adjustments to ceremonies have been issued by SC and must be followed – chapter rehearsals to familiarise all active officers with the revised floorwork will be very worthwhile.

Actual numbers likely to be available for any particular meeting should be established by a quick poll amongst members in plenty of time to confirm or cancel bookings and dining.

Any questions on procedures or administration should be referred as usual to District Recorder Peter who will be able to help. Above all, maintain the careful approach which has seen us through this far and Stay Safe!

Best Wishes and I hope to see you all soon.

Peter Harborne 33°