

4864 NEWS



JUNE 2022

The Newsletter of St Mary's Lodge No. 4864

YOUKOSO!

Our worshipful Master, Bro. Dean Anderson greets you well

Consecrated in 1927.
Part of the Province of Durham.
Gold Badge Awarded for the
2021 RMTGB Festival



UPDATES & USEFUL INFORMATION

ON Friday the 6th of May 2022, Bro. KEITH TYLER eventually became a Master Mason in a ceremony conducted by the WM, his Officers and the Past Masters of the Lodge. Ironically our WM caught Covid-19 so ALAN JONES stood in as WM.

Keith Tyler has been waiting almost TWO years for this to happen as he was a victim of the COVID-19 restrictions. His patience paid off and we are so pleased that he has now become a MM amongst us. We hope he has a long and enjoyable masonic life with us and with his Freemasonry.

‘HERMES’ – What is it?

HERMES is the new web-based application that will allow Lodge Secretary's/Chapter Scribes to manage many of the administrative processes electronically and reduce the number of physical forms that have to be completed. Individuals will login and be able to see all the data pertaining to their Lodge or Chapter. The information is held on the Adelphi database, the system previously used before Hermes. This new system will be in place and running in our Province from May 2022 and should make the life of our Secretary easier.

‘LODGE MEMBERSHIP OFFICER’ – What is it?

THE LODGE Membership Officer is a new collared appointment within Lodges requested by United Grand Lodge. This individual will coordinate the Lodge's activities using the Membership Pathway. Concentrating mainly on a Plan for the immediate and long-term future of the Lodge. This Plan will include all the organisation from planning through to the candidate's election. This Lodge Development Plan will support individuals at all levels as they become integrated within the Lodge. It will assist Brethren to introduce and then support candidates

and integrate joining members. The Lodge Membership Officer is supported directly by the Provincial Grand Lodge Membership Officer and backed-up with information available from United Grand Lodge.

‘VSO SCHEME’ – What is it?

THE VSO SCHEME replaced the VGO Scheme in September 2021. In this new scheme Grand Officers and Provincial Officers (VSO's) are attached and appointed to a Lodge to assist them and to give them guidance, information and support. They are not members of the Lodge, nor do they have any influence within or over the Lodge. They are asked to pass on to the Lodge details of Provincial Events, Policies and information.

‘SOLOMON’ – What is it?

SOLOMON is the United Grand Lodge of England's on-line portal of material to assist "Learning and Development" for both Members and Lodges. The material contained within the website portal is freely available and is an important aid to assist anyone understanding Freemasonry. In bit-size pieces of information, it is an aid that is imperative for Freemasons at all levels to look at. Visit <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk>. Individuals need to register and then follow the easy instructions to gain entry to this huge area of masonic information.

‘MEMBER'S PATHWAY’ – What is it?

MEMBER'S PATHWAY provides a structured approach for Lodges to follow in order to assist them attract new members, while at the same time retaining and adding value to their existing membership. See the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham or the United Grand Lodge of England's Websites or search on the [WWW](#) for more details.

THE TRADITIONS of the Lodge were maintained into 1960 and beyond under the calm and kindly but firm and formidable guidance of Bro. Howard Black, PAGSTDB, PPJGW, as Director of Ceremonies and by a new generation of Worshipful Masters, including Bro. Fred Apedaile PJGD, PPJGW who became the Director of Ceremonies and also Treasurer of the Benevolent Committee of the Province of Durham; Bro. Bert Forster, PPJGD Treasurer from 1965 to 1975; Bro. Ray Wilson, PAGDC, PPJGW who became Lodge Treasurer in 1976 and was honoured as Junior Grand Warden of the Province in that same year. The most recent holder of this important office is Bro. Stephen Lee, PM, the current Treasurer. Another interesting fact is that Bro Jack Guy whilst Lodge Representative for the 1979 RMBI Festival ably upheld the reputation within the Lodge for supporting Masonic Charities, long cherished in St Mary's Lodge, by enlisting 100 covenanted contributors to the 1979 Fund, an outstanding achievement.

St Mary's Lodge continues to be a very charitable and responsive Lodge having donated many thousands of pounds in support of the various Festivals within the Province of Durham and to many other worthy causes during its existence.

Our Lodge is also proud of its record of members who have held Office in the United Grand Lodge of England and in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham. Within Grand Lodge these include ...

Bro. Thomas William Barron PAGDC in 1959; Bro. Clayton Welsh PAGDC in 1964; Bro. Howard Black PGStdB in 1972; Bro. Frederick William Hindmarch Apedaile, PAGDC in 1981, promoted to PJGD in 1989; Bro. Raymond Wilson PGStdB, promoted to PAGDC in 1992.

In Provincial Grand Lodge many of our Past Masters have been honoured including holding acting rank as follows...

Bro. Clayton Welsh JGW in 1958. Bro. Walter Harold Bevan GTreas in 1970; Bro. Bert Kenneth Forster SGD in 1970; Bro. Harwood Johnston JGW in 1972; Bro. Raymond Wilson JGW in 1976; Bro. Frederick William Hindmarch Apedaile, PJGD who served as Treasurer to Durham Benevolence in the 1980s; Bro. Robert Brayson Crosson JGD in 1989; Bro. William Baty SGW in 1995; Bro. John Richardson Bolam JGD in 1999.

In more recent years the brethren who have served the Lodge with credit and distinction include...

Bro. William Baty PProvSGW and Secretary for 11 years; Bro. Ron Batty PPJGW Treasurer for 11 years; Bro. James Armstrong PPJGW Chaplain for 18 years; Bro. Geoffrey Hindmarsh Brown, PPGSwdB Tyler for 13 years; Bro. Nicholas Alan Knox PPGSTDB Charity Steward for 20 years; Bro. Raymond Sharkey PPJGW, Director of Ceremonies for many years; Bro. Harry Atkinson PPAGDC and Bro. George Holland Morrod PPGStdB whom both served as Social Secretary for many years; Bro. Malcolm Marshall PM who continues to give assistance within the Lodge in providing music and entertainment for our social evenings, dances and festive boards; Bro. Harry Blake

Farnsworth, PPGStwd who served as Tyler for many years; Bro. Bill Pallett, PPGStwd and Bro. Frederick Charles Best PPGStwd who have served the Lodge for many years as Senior Stewards. Also Bro. Allan William Jones PPGSwdB, who serves as Lodge Director of Ceremonies and also acted as Social Secretary for 14 years and still continues to raise funds within the Lodge.

Of all these our late lamented Brother Thomas William Barron PAGDC, PPJGW, Worshipful Master in 1934, contributed significantly to St. Mary's Lodge. Bro. Tom, a Schoolmaster, skilled in Music and Art and a student of Masonic Ritual and History was ever a source of inspiration to his Brethren and a faithful and zealous servant of his Lodge.

His example was always a stimulant to his brethren and his love a warming cloak – but he could be coldly critical of any who held the Order lightly or whose behaviour was unseemly or disrespectful. Tom Barron pursued his researches into every order in Freemasonry, occupying the Chair in all of the recognised Degrees and Orders. His example and encouragement took many of his brethren forward with him and those who have followed him into progressive degrees and orders owe him a great debt of gratitude for the consequent enlargement of their masonic knowledge and happiness. Bro. Tom never looked for reward but I am sure nothing would reward him more than to have present and future members of St. Mary's Lodge continue this interest in our wonderful ideal we call Freemasonry and in the degrees beyond Craft Masonry.

In 1960 the Masonic Hall at Jackson Street was sold and St. Mary's Lodge with nine other Gateshead Lodges purchased the Central Methodist Hall in Queen's Terrace, Gateshead and developed it as a new Masonic meeting place.

In St. Mary's Lodge Bro. Percy Cowell PPAGDC organised the collection of donations and loans to the new Hall Company from individual members and Bro. Harry Hall was continually active in organising fundraising functions. His efforts resulted in St Mary's being a shareholder in the Hall Company to the extent of £4,757.

During the adaptation of the new premises our Lodge, together with other former tenants of Jackson Street, were, for a period, generously allowed to use the new Lodge of Industry premises on Coatsworth Road.

The first meeting of St. Mary's Lodge held at Queen's Terrace was on 6th of April 1962 and this was to be our home for the next 21 years. Because of redevelopment by Gateshead MBC the Lodge had to vacate these premises, having been compulsorily purchased and moved to new purpose-built premises situated here at Alexandra Road in Gateshead and the building was dedicated on 15th October 1983.

It now accommodates 14 Craft Lodges, 3 Chapters, 2 Mark Lodges, 1 Mariner's Lodge, 1 Rose Croix Chapter, 1 Knight's Templar's and 1 Order of the Secret Monitor.

TO BE CONCLUDED IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Contact Us

If you need any help then be sure to call, text, email or message our **Lodge Almoner PAUL McKIE on 07758 916242**; our **Lodge Secretary GEORGE TATTERS on 0191 4202079** OR our **Lodge Mentor BILL BATY on 07956 125851**.

All these individuals would be happy to assist you in any way and give advice on what is available using the masonic system.

If you are not a Freemason but have come across this publication and may be interested in finding out more about Freemasonry and our Lodge here in Gateshead, then use the same contact numbers, you will receive a prompt reply to your enquiry.

You can also visit our **Lodge Website (www.stmaryslodge4864.org)** or our **Facebook site** (search for **St Mary's Lodge 4864**) where more information is available.