

4864 NEWS



APRIL 2022

The Newsletter of St Mary's Lodge No. 4864

WELCOME!

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

ON Friday the 4th of March 2022, Bro. DAVID STANYON was, as last, raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason by the Past Masters of the Lodge in a very well worked ceremony.

David has been waiting 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 Master Mason amongst us.

David is a very keen Freemason and has attended our Lodges of Instructions on many occasions. He is anxious to learn, but we will nurture his enthusiasm, and make sure he is ready to take office at the right time in the future.

We are also waiting to Raise three other Fellowcrafts, Bros. MARTIN RENWICK, KEITH TYLER and DOMINIC MARK TAYLOR, again these brethren have been waiting patiently and their time will come over the next few months.

We are delighted to be able to say that further candidates are being processed to join our Lodge, probably in the autumn.

So we are working hard to maintain the steady flow of new members to our Lodge. At the same time we MUST make sure that these potential candidates are suitable and that they will realise their Obligation in attending regularly.

The creation of a Lodge Membership Officer is being requested by Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham and also United Grand Lodge. This is a big responsibility whoever takes it on, BUT we all must shoulder the responsibility of looking after our new members; advising them, encouraging them, educating them and making them feel part of this special organisation we are proud to be members of.

As an organisation that is based on "caring" sometimes we lose sight of what we should be doing for new members and those who do not attend, for whatever reason. It is our duty to encourage them back, to give them a call, send them an email, drop them a message or just ask "how they are" . . . it makes such a difference and it is part of what we *should* be doing anyway.

Freemasonry is returning slowly to some kind of normality following the COVID-19 restrictions. We must encourage those Brethren who are still apprehensive to consider coming along and enjoy the fellowship within our Lodge that only Freemasonry offers.

Almoner's Report . . .

“Hi All

I have been contacting some of our brethren:

Joe Smith

Not in a good place he has said Carol is still poorly with Covid-19. I have arranged flowers to be sent to her.

Jim Armstrong

I called his home number but no answer, however I also sent a txt he is feeling a bit better but it's a slow process following his surgery.

Geoff Brown

Geoff will not make March meeting hope to get to the next three meetings.

Harry Nichols

Was in good spirits but I have concerns about Harry being able to return to St Marys; I said I would call in to see him.

Ray Watson

Sounded great on the phone, told him about how well St Mary's is doing and that we have four Third Degrees coming up. He was really pleased.

David Thompson

David was in very good spirits and is hoping to get to the April meeting.

Keith Forster

Sent Keith an email asking how he is doing and if there is anything we can help him with. Others could call him!

Sent txt messages to

John Woolley, Steven Carr, George Harle

Informing them we have a Third Degree in March and the next few months and that we would love to see them back in the Lodge to have a few beers with the Brethren.

The brethren liked receiving the Newsletter and Summons and the Letter Ray hasn't got his yet, but very positive feedback. If we can give a positive report about Brethren who do not or cannot attend, then we can make them feel they are still very much a part of St. Mary's Lodge.”

Regards, **Paul**

HISTORY of **ST MARY'S LODGE**

ST MARY'S LODGE was Founded and Consecrated on 15th January 1927 in commemoration of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Lodge of Industry No. 28, 1725-1925, our 'Mother Lodge', also to be found in Gateshead, to whom we have a great affinity.

The 50th Anniversary of St. Mary's Lodge took place on Friday, 4th of March 1977. The Worshipful Master was Bro. Nicholas Alan Knox and in attendance was the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Rt. Hon. The Lord Barnard TD, accompanied by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master VW Bro J. MacMurray, M.C., B.SC., PGSWDB. The Assistant Provincial Grand Masters W.Bro. T.N. Thompson PGD, W.Bro. S. Hudson CBE PGD, W.Bro. C.V. Armitage OBE PGD, and the Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham present and past. Many Grand Officers and other Brethren were in attendance. The History of the Lodge was prepared at the request of the Brethren of St. Mary's Lodge by Bro. Clayton Welsh, PAGDC, PPJGW. This text was also reproduced in the 50th Anniversary Booklet.

The 75th Anniversary of St. Mary's Lodge took place on Friday, 1st of March 2002. The Worshipful Master was Bro. Paul Sutton and in attendance was the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Dr. Alan Martin Davison accompanied by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master VW Bro. Charles Sheldon Marshall PGSWDB. The Assistant Provincial Grand Masters W.Bro. Derek Richmond PSGD, W.Bro. Norman Eric Heaviside PSGD, W.Bro. Raymond Norman Dinning PSGD and W.Bro. Colin Eric Penna PSGD with the Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham present and past. Many Grand Officers and other Brethren were in attendance. The Address to, and History of the Lodge below, were prepared at the request of the Brethren of St. Mary's Lodge No. 4864 and presented by Bro. Charles Norman Fawcett, PM, PPJGD. This text was also reproduced in the 75th Anniversary Booklet.

'The History of St. Mary's Lodge, presented on the occasion of the commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Lodge commences with a letter dated 21st November 1924 to the Provincial Grand Lodge Secretary from Bro. Alex Black, Secretary of the Lodge of Industry No. 48, stating "It is our intention to form another lodge to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Lodge of Industry and are asking for a Petition Form".'

A Petition was duly completed and forwarded to the Provincial Grand Secretary on 23rd March 1925. It was signed by 21 Founders: 15 members of the Lodge of Industry 48; three members of Rowlandson Lodge 3360; one member of Minerva Lodge 3385 and two members of Insurance and Banking Lodge 3885 in the Province of Northumberland.

The leading signatories were Matthew Pearson, the then Worshipful Master of the Lodge of Industry and his two Wardens. Bros. T.G. Stafford and D.G. Craig. Mat Pearson was a brother who for many years was a redoubtable Tyler of Lodges meeting at Jackson Street Masonic Hall and the provider of formidable meals at festive boards at costs which in retrospect seem unbelievable – one shilling and six pence, two shillings or five shillings, if you wanted a seven course meal at an installation banquet.

In forwarding their petition the petitioners stated ... "The reason for our application is to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Lodge of Industry whose Minutes date back to the year 1725. Also to promote the general tenets and principles of Antient Freemasonry as introduced into the Province of Durham by the Lodge of Industry. We think this an appropriate way of honouring the old lodge and celebrating a great occasion."

The response to the application was a disappointing rebuff to one of the major desires of the petitioners, for on 19th January 1926 the Provincial Grand Secretary wrote ...

"I am instructed by the Provincial Grand Master to inform you that he will recommend the petition on condition the work be Emulation."

The petitioners asked for the return of their Petition so that they could reconsider their position and a period of exchanged correspondence and consultations, including a Deputation to Grand Lodge ensued, during which the petitioners stubbornly held their resolve to practice only the Old Industry Ritual. Eventually the Provincial Grand Master withdrew his objection. Lord Ravensworth graciously in his own hand from Eslington Park on 9th August 1926 saying ...

"After long and serious discussions in Great Queen Street, I have under the exceptional circumstances withdrawn my objection to the Old Ritual being used and give my assent to a Warrant being granted. The mere fact of a Lodge celebrating its bi-centenary does not by itself warrant the creation of a new Lodge to record the event. However, I think there is room for a new lodge and under the exceptional circumstances I have waived my objection to the Old Ritual being used, though this is not to be taken as a precedent and I trust in future nothing but Emulation will be considered."

This generous concession to tradition allowed the petition to proceed and on 15th January 1927, at Jackson Street Masonic Hall in Gateshead, the Provincial Grand Master, Rt.W. Bro, The Rt Honourable Lord Ravensworth, conducted the Consecration Ceremony, supported by the following officers: Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Cuthbert Wilkinson; Assistant Provincial Grand Master W.Bro. The Revd. J. Short; Provincial Senior Grand Warden W.Bro. Brigadier-General H. Conyers Surtees; Provincial Junior Grand Warden W.Bro. W. Wallace; Provincial Grand Chaplain W.Bro. The Revd. T.H. Perkins, who also gave an oration on the Nature and Principles of the Craft; Provincial Grand Secretary W.Bro. R.W.E. Dixon; Grand Director of Ceremonies W.Bro. W.H. Cook; Assistant Provincial Grand Secretary W.Bro. W.J. Moore; together with the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Northumberland, W.Bro. Chas. W. Hodgson and his Provincial Senior and Junior Wardens, W.Bro. J.H. Colley and W.Bro. W. Storey; together with many other distinguished brethren.

The First Officers of the Lodge were . . .

TO BE CONTINUED 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.