

4864 NEWS



WINTER 2023

The Newsletter of St Mary's Lodge No. 4864

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

WHO IS JOE KENDALL?

WHAT ARE HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AS HE STARTS HIS JOURNEY THROUGH THE CHAIR OF OUR LODGE!

Consecrated in 1927



Part of the
Provincial Grand
Lodge of Durham



Gold Badge
recipient of
the 2021
RMTGB
Festival

QUITE SIMPLY, Joe becomes the "Front Man/ Freemason" of our Lodge from FRIDAY, 3rd of FEBRUARY 2023.

On Installation Day we witnessed the skill and the extensive contribution by Bro. **Dean Anderson**, as he installed his successor.



There is no doubt that becoming Worshipful Master of a Lodge is the highest achievement and proudest moment for any Freemason.

So, who is Joe Kendall?

Joe is a Gateshead Lad; proposed by Bro. **Paul Sutton** in 2016, and from the very outset he made it known that he wished to progress through the Chair of our Lodge. A Past Master of The Prince of Wales Lodge in Northumberland, Joe brought his masonic knowledge and experience to us. He has progressed through all the Offices of our Lodge to reach the very top of his Freemasonry. Steadfastly supported by his son **Michael**, who was invested as SW, the success of our Lodge for the immediate future looks good. JW for 2023 will be **Stephen Connor**, again a good friend of Joe's. Stephen's quality of ritual work to every office he occupies will add to the standards expected within our Lodge.

Our future looks bright as we look to maintain the standards, both in the Lodge Room and the Dining Room by having the continued support of many of our Members at our Meetings. Everyone has a role to play in keeping our Lodge at the forefront of Freemasonry in our Province and the enjoyment we gain is satisfaction for our efforts.

At the Installation Joe was supported by over 80 Brethren in the Lodge Room and Dinner afterwards, including Bro. K.E.C. Howe representing the PGM and 13 Grand Officers. Most of the Lodge Officers were present to receive their collars.

It is through the participation and attendance of our Members that our Lodge can be successful and we look forward to that continued success in St Mary's Lodge for the foreseeable future.

So, how can I help?

Do you wish to be involved within our Lodge? Then make it known what your skills are and what you feel you could offer to our wonderful organisation. The more people who become involved the wider we spread the workload.

Whether it is IT skills, organisational abilities, financial knowledge, training and education qualifications or man-management, we can use these to our advantage as we establish a Membership Plan for our future.

The Lodge urges anyone who has something to offer to get in touch with our Secretary, DC or WM where we can discuss any involvement with the individual concerned. Get involved, don't leave it up to others!

Looking back over the years we remember such real characters as **Bill Pallett, Fred Best, Bill Baty Snr, Paul McFarling, Jim Watson, Arnie Wilson, and Alan Ritchie**, to name but a few.

These brethren have in years past (with some continuing to do so even now), have made a selfless, and significant contribution to St Mary's Lodge and we are much the stronger for this.

Give it some thought Brethren, let us spread the workload and make our Lodge even better.

"Fide et Amore" as it says on our Lodge Summons. **"With Faith and Love"**, we can all make a difference.

WELL . . . December 2022, WHAT A MEETING THAT WAS!

ST MARY'S LODGE

FRIDAY, 2nd DECEMBER 2022

For many many years now we have enjoyed an Annual 'Talk' at our December Meeting. This Annual Event is a very special part of our Masonic Calendar; previous speakers have been the Past Provincial Grand Master, **RWBro N.E. Heaviside; Past and Present Deputy and Assistant Provincial Grand Masters** and many other distinguished Brethren from our Province and beyond. It forms the backdrop of our December Christmas Meeting and sets the tone for a most enjoyable night.

This year was no different with the Talk being professionally compiled and delivered by **Bro. Adam Lamb**, PAGDC, PPJGW (pictured), the Provincial Archivist, supported by **Bro. Tom Coulson**,



PJGD, PProvSGW and was enjoyed by the 50 or so brethren in attendance. Adam and Tom were thanked for their efforts and for travelling such a distance to present our Annual Lecture. The topic was "**The Provincial Grand Masters of Durham**" and was very interesting and rewarding to the Brethren fortunate enough to be present.

AT the Festive Board, our December Meeting was a very busy one. We held our Christmas Bottle Raffle, which was supported magnificently to the amount of £400 by the Brethren present.

Our WM thanked everyone for their donations and for making this fundraising event so successful. We also had some excellent and entertaining harmony from **Bro. Richard Straughan**. Richard delivered his jokes, observations and wit in a manner not unfamiliar than that of his late father, **Bro. Dick Straughan**, who used to provide Harmony to the Gateshead Lodges and the Music Halls for many years.

Our Christmas Dinner was a tremendous success, with over 45 dining on a traditional Christmas meal, very well cooked and presented by our Chef, Neil and professionally served by his waitresses.

Our WM also proposed a Toast to our SWME, wishing him well as he makes his plans and arrangements for February. **Joe Kendall** suitably replied and said he was aware of the responsibility he had undertaken and he would endeavour to carry out his duties to the highest standards expected. The Brethren acknowledged this with great applause.

A busy night reflected the slightly later finishing time and Tyler's Toast of 10.35pm, but everyone went home reflecting on a wonderful masonic evening, filled with smiles and happiness, supporting charity in a positive way, electing a new WM for the year ahead and being well entertained and well fed. If only we could bottle this and sell it on, Freemasonry would be a better and stronger organisation.

Thanks to everyone who attended, supported and were part of a very special evening. Good Luck Joe, our WM Elect in 2023–2024.

The Ravensworth Golf Trophy

In July 2022 the Ravensworth Golf Trophy was once more played for and the hosts were the Chester-le-Street Golf Club.

To support this Competition, which is over 100 years old, St Mary's Lodge entered two Teams; one was **Steven Lee** and **Paul McKie**, the other **Bryan Scott** (our VSO) and **Bill Baty**.

It was a lovely summer's day when the event was played and the competition was quite stiff; however Bill and Bryan prevailed with a joint score of 49 Stableford points (quite a high total) and were proclaimed the 2022 Ravensworth Golf Champions.

Although a Presentation was carried out immediately after the game in July, two of the Organising Committee Members, **Steven Willis** and **Alan Jenkins**, visited our Lodge in December 2022 and brought along the actual

trophy (very valuable indeed and kept in the Provincial Museum); it was formally presented.

The Presentation was made by **Adam Lamb**, the Provincial Archivist, who had earlier delivered his talk on "**The Provincial Grand Masters of Durham**" to the Brethren present in the Lodge Room.

