

4864 NEWS



MAY 2022

The Newsletter of St Mary's Lodge No. 4864

BONJOUR!

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



LODGE NEWS

ON Friday the 1st of April 2022, it was no "April Fools Day" but the day when Bro. MARTIN RENWICK finally realised his ambition to become a Master Mason after a lengthy wait because of Covid-19 restrictions.

Martin answered his Questions extremely well indeed and set the scene for a very well-worked Third Degree Ceremony, performed by the Worshipful Master, his Officers and the Past Masters, with Paul Sutton, Martin's Proposer, taking a prominent role by delivering the Obligation to him.

Martin's background in the military gives him a good understanding of standards and expectancy from being a Freemason and we look forward to him becoming a prominent member of our Lodge. Congratulations Martin.

We are still waiting to Raise two further Fellowcrafts, Bros. KEITH TYLER and DOMINIC MARK TAYLOR, again these brethren have been waiting patiently and their time will come over the next couple of months.

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

St Mary's Lodge have been contacted recently by a Lodge in Scotland. Lodge Possilpark, based in Possilpark, Glasgow, No. 1330 have asked if we could consider a regular Visit between our two Lodges, commencing this year.

It appears that one of their Brethren, Bro. George Bailkie, a PM and Secretary is friendly with PAUL SUTTON and their Lodge has expressed a desire to visit us. This first visit will probably take place at our September 2022 Meeting.

We look forward to welcoming them to St Mary's Lodge and Gateshead and hope this is the start of a mutually beneficial friendship between our Lodges and our Fraternity.

CAN YOU HELP? . . . Freemasonry is slowly returning 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 following that we offer. If you know of a Brother who is in this uncertain predicament, give them a call, assure and encourage them that it is safe to return and to enjoy their Freemasonry again.

PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER DESIGNATE . . .



United Grand Lodge have announced that WBro. JOHN PAUL THOMPSON, PSGD, PAsstProvGM will be

invested as the Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent over and in the Province of Durham.

We offer our congratulations and support to WBro. Thompson, whose Installation will take place on **Saturday 25th of June** at 'The Fed' (formerly the Lancastrian Suite), Dunston.

Rearranged dates for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham Annual General Meeting are **Saturday 3rd September 2022** and the Annual General Meeting of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Durham on **Friday 15th July 2022** both will be held at the Rainton Arena.

The conclusion of the 2021 Festival will take the form of a Festival Dinner at Ramside Hall on **Saturday 30th July 2022**. See our Lodge Secretary for more details or visit the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham website for details of all these events (www.durhamfreemasons.org).

THE FIRST Officers of the Lodge were ...

WM	Adam Dodds, PPGW
IPM	Athol Campbell, PPGREG
SW	J.H. Wright
JW	E.B. Johnson
Chaplain	J.H. Colley, PPW (Northumberland)
Treasurer	W.H. Coates
Secretary	Alex Black
DC	S. Southern, PPGD
SD	Charles Miller
JD	Matthew Pearson
ADC	Peter Childs
Organist	W.O. Ord
Assistant Secretary	W.H. Ord
IG	J.H. Stafford
Stewards	J. Haswell, J.C. Armstrong, W. Smith, D.G. Craig, Duncan Brydon, F. Hymers and Ben Tansley
Tyler	John Lawson

The first candidate initiated in the Lodge was Adam Dodds Junior, son of the Worshipful Master.

Many of the Founders and early Initiates of St. Mary's were engaged in the professions and in commerce and resident in Low Fell. Several were ardent golfers and members of Ravensworth Golf Club.

In 1927 Low Fell was still a village almost separated from Gateshead and High Fell and the Team Colliery by farmlands; the Team River from Lamesley to Bensham was clear fields and parkland overlooked by the Provincial Grand Master's Castle at Ravensworth. The Team Valley still provided idyllic swimming pools for roaming schoolboys. In those days on a walk along "The Fell", once was almost certain to know by sight and reputation almost everyone you met and this compact community undoubtedly assisted in the wise selection of candidates and the cementing of fellowship in the Lodge.

The modern sprawl of population into new urban housing developments and new towns has undoubtedly disturbed the old established pattern of community relations and places new difficulties in the selection of candidates and re-emphasises the need for careful investigation into the credentials of every applicant for entry into the Masonic Order.

The bye-laws of St. Mary's Lodge of Instruction stated the following ...

"The working of the ceremonies shall be in strict conformity with the recognised system of working as carried out by the Lodge of Industry."

The attendance of Brethren at the Lodge of Instruction was almost mandatory and woe was to them who attended unprepared. Early Directors of Ceremonies, particularly Brothers Jack Wright and Ernie Johnson, made certain that the ritual was meticulously carried out with style and dignity, resulting in a successful of Worshipful Masters in full command of the Ritual and who possessed easy address and with, notably Fred Hymers, Ben Tansley, Tom Burton, Tom Wilson and Ted Moffatt. They firmly established St. Mary's as a Lodge attractive to members and visitors alike.

Ritual work carried out in the Temple by the Brethren of St. Mary's has been and is always of a high standard, which is a credit to the successful Directors of Ceremonies.

It is a very rare occurrence that an explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board is given by we have in St. Mary's Lodge two brethren, Bro. R. Sharkey, PPJGW and Bro. R.B. Crosson, PPJGW who were excellent exponents of this extensive and impressive piece of Ritual.

All meetings were well attended until the outbreak of War in 1939 which restricted the normal progress of many lodges. A number of Brethren and Officers left for War service including Howard Black in the middle of his year as Worshipful Master. Some of our meetings were held under the menace of air raid warnings and attacks, fortunately without any damaging results. Restricted transport and lighting black out greatly restricted attendances.

On the cessation of hostilities the revitalisation of the Lodge was steadily established under the firm support and guidance of Tom Barron, Secretary from 1937 to 1960; Clayton Welsh, Treasurer from 1946 to 1964; and Howard Black (son of Alex Black the first Secretary), Director of ceremonies from 1953 to 1974.

A succession of Masters made their mark and contribution of whom, in the more immediate post War years included Bill Bleazard, Billy Muir, Harwood Johnston, Tom Tulip, Chris Kirby and Percy Cowell. Harwood Johnston had been a particularly able Charities Representative since 1959 and gave much assistance and comfort to the relatives of deceased members and to any needy cause. He had been a member of the General Purposes Committee of the Benevolent Committee of the Province since 1966.

The vital duties of Lodge Secretary since 1960 were undertaken with zeal and devotion by Bro. Chris Kirby PPJGW, a formidable Freemason within the Lodge and the immediate masonic area, and in more recent years by Bro. Jack Guy PPJGW, Bro. Bill Baty PProvSGW and the current Lodge Secretary Bro. Len Butler PPJGW. (And, of course, for more recent years since then by Bro. George R. Tatters, PPJGW.)

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.