

The Newsletter of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Leicestershire & Rutland Freemasons



# LEICESTER SQUARE

ISSUE 50  
Winter 2023

Masonic Mystery Bus Tour – p6



## In this issue:

- ◆ Enhancing our Meetings – p8
- ◆ Widows Sons Mason Bikers – p11
- ◆ Freemasons' Charity Pledges £50,000 – p21



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# Contents

## 6 Feature

Including: Editor's Welcome,  
The 3rd Column, Masonic Mystery Bus Tour

## 8 Provincial News

Including: Provincial Grand Lodge 2023, Enhancing our Meetings

## 10 Lodge News

Including: Wyggeston Lodge Lewis Receives Unique Gift, Double Initiation at Castle of Leicester, Entertainment at Installed Masters, Widows Sons Leicestershire and Rutland Chapter's Summer Adventures, Gabriel Newton Team Outing to Lords, Installation at Lodge Semper Eadem

## 16 Sports

Including: Masonic Bowling

## 17 Charities

Including: Two Brethren - Two Charities - Twice the Impact  
Wyggeston Lodge Volunteers at Pie Nights to Feed the Homeless, A Reminder about MCF Support from the Provincial Grand Almoner, The Leicestershire & Rutland Freemasons' Charity Pledges nearly £50k of support, Leicestershire and Rutland Freemasons donates £20,000 to support the work of Mesothelioma UK

## 24 Royal Arch Matters

Including: Catmos Centenary Celebration, St Martin's Centenary, Dates for your Royal Arch Diary, A Grand Day Out with Companions, Heartlink Donation

## 26 Mark News

Including: Mark Grand Rank Appointments, East Goscote Mark Donation to Macmillan Cancer Care Trust, Enthroned Commanders No.1786 Donation to Blood Bikes

## 28 Beyond the Craft

Including: Ancient & Accepted Rite (Rose Croix) - membership criteria changes, A Special Knight, Michael E. Herbert

## 29 Long Service

Including: Farewells

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# Editor's Welcome



It is an honour and a pleasure to welcome you to this edition of the Leicester Square. This edition brings about some changes, as the magazine's former editor has now graduated to the role of Chairman and handed over the reins to me. I would like to extend my thanks to Richard Barnett, who has guided The Leicester Square, through many successful years, both at its most challenging - during the pandemic - and during its finest times. Your counsel is always most welcome.

While the core aspects will remain, you will notice changes. While the articles will still reflect what is happening in the province specifically, and masonry in general, over time it will have new features, content and layout. I hope that you will still enjoy the magazine as it begins to evolve and I look forward to taking you on this next stage of Leicester Square's evolution, as we begin to reflect the changes in modern masonry, sharing our endeavours and experiences.

“ *Each editor stands on the shoulders of the ones who have gone before them. If I am to see further than others, it is only because of them. I take no credit.* ”

As a voluntary led publication, run for and by Freemasons in the province, we are inspired by the stories and voices of the members of our Lodges, along with information from the Province and United Grand Lodge. I am indebted to the teams of committed volunteers, the Provincial Communication Team, and contributors who make this magazine happen.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of each and every article, from time to time, some errors will slip through the keen eyes of the editorial team. If this does happen, please use the contact information and a correction will be made in the next published edition.

If you wish to contact the magazine, or are keen to have articles published, then please write to [leicestersquare@pglleics.co.uk](mailto:leicestersquare@pglleics.co.uk).

All that remains is for me to thank you all; our members, readers, and those who contribute articles. It is you who make this magazine great. Keep reading and sending in your stories and photos.

I wish you well.

**Jason Clothier,**  
*Editor Leicester Square*



## LEICESTER SQUARE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVINCIAL  
GRAND LODGE OF LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND

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# The 3rd Column

The eagle-eyed amongst the readers of this magazine will have spotted that on the home page of the Provincial Grand Lodge website the word “Service” has been substituted for “Charity” as one of the four key terms in strong foundations.

In the late autumn of last year, the United Grand Lodge of England published their seven-year strategy after a finely detailed review. The statement on top of the 3 pillars above is the key mission statement for the UGLE strategy. Freemasonry has been an important part of the development of our society for more than 300 years. The impact of our charitable efforts and member contributions cannot be overestimated.



We all have a golden opportunity to play our part in implementing the strategy. From a Charity view-point we can focus on that third Pillar. As the UGLE strategy states, we can already demonstrate that we do the engagement bit with our communities very well. Traditionally this has been through supporting the local masonic charity in our Province who, in turn, assist to support good charities and community good causes with donations and grants.

# Masonic Mystery Bus Tour

Saturday 29th August saw the return of the “Masonic Mystery Bus Trip” since the Covid pandemic. The event was well attended with 50 brethren and friends participating in a scenic tour of the beautiful Leicestershire countryside with several ‘pit stops’ for a relaxing libation on the way. En route, entertainment was arranged including live music and street magic which was enjoyed by all.

This is now the third time the bus tour has been held, and as well as a great day out, the event is a good opportunity for brethren to meet other brethren from across the province, make new friends and encourage visiting. Moreover, it is a great opportunity for individuals who are interested in joining the craft to come along and chat with brethren and get to know more about what the fraternity is and does.

The event will be running again in 2024, hopefully we can have a double decker next time! More the merrier!

W. Bro. Andy York commented,

“ We had a great day out visiting several watering holes. We had 12 potential candidates attend the event which gives them a chance to get to know more about freemasonry in an informal setting. As a result of the bus trip, we already have 5 firm candidates that should be initiated this coming season. ”

Covid enabled Brethren to go further rather than withdraw. There were numerous examples of brethren supporting the NHS, vaccination centres, making face masks, and pulling together to support the vulnerable and isolated in their communities. Overall, in 2019 Freemasons gave well over 18.5 million hours of volunteering time.

We all joined together to make the last Festival 2022 a thumping success and our links with the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) have never been stronger. The Leicestershire and Rutland Freemasons' Charity (LRFC) is the charity belonging to the members of this Province and together we are working to build on the donations of the members to make an even greater impact in our communities.

We now hold grant meetings every month rather than 2 or 3 times a year and we have done away with Cheque Presentation mornings in favour of going out into the community to see first-hand what impact a donation can

make. This has been warmly welcomed by many but most especially by the charities themselves who are so proud of the work that they do.

We now need to seek opportunities to do more, and the Giving Time initiative is one such scheme linked to supporting the RMBI's care home in Oadby, Devonshire Court. Another example is Tudor House Lodge No. 8481 who are establishing an initiative to support young people in the YMCA in Leicester. Many more initiatives will surely follow.

It is not only what we give in terms of money these days, but also what we give in time. We hope that the charity office, with the support of the Provincial Communications Officer, are demonstrating more openly and explicitly the full scale and community impact of members' current engagement through charitable donations and volunteering.

Nic Merrett, Chairman of the LRFC.



# Provincial Grand Lodge 2023

The Annual Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge was held on Friday 24th November 2023 at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester.



*Pictured, The Provincial Grand Master, Peter Kinder (bottom middle) accompanied the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, and visiting Provincial Grand Masters and Past Provincial Grand Masters*

The work undertaken to organise and set up the annual meeting had begun in earnest long before the date of the meeting. The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, the Secretariat, Provincial Grand Stewards, and many others had been meticulously planning the event for some time, and all gathered at Freemasons' Hall early on the morning of the 24th to see the fruit of their efforts.

The Provincial Grand Master was delighted to receive over two hundred brethren from around the Province and beyond into the Oliver Lodge room, packed with provincial Officers for the outgoing and incoming year. It was also a very pleasing sight to see so many Masters and Wardens in attendance proudly representing their lodges.

After welcoming the many distinguished guests, the Provincial Grand Master proceeded with the order of business, starting with reports from the Provincial Grand Secretary, Treasurer, Almoner, Charity Steward, and LRFC, before starting with the business of appointing his officers for the year ahead. To begin with, the Provincial Grand Master was pleased to re-appoint his Deputy, Brian Carrithers, and his assistant, Andy Green, for a further twelve months.

There were several notable retirements from active office who all received a personal thank you, including the Provincial Grand Secretary, Paul Wallace, the Provincial Grand

Superintendent of Works, Garry Symonds, and the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, Ian Nesbitt. All of whom were warmly thanked as their successors were appointed.

After the Officers had been appointed, it was time for the Provincial Grand Master to give his Address to the brethren. This year the focus was on the Pathway, work of the Provincial Care Team, and how to grow and support our lodges. A large focus was also placed on thanking individuals who had worked tirelessly over the previous year to ensure we all enjoy our Freemasonry and will continue to do so for years to come.

After Provincial Grand Lodge was closed, everyone retired to receive reception drinks before sitting down to a fantastic meal. The Toast to the Provincial Grand Master was given by Paul Wallace, the months of preparation certainly paid off as he gave a humorous and emotional tribute to Peter Kinder. Of course, it goes without saying, the Provincial Grand Master always gets to have the last word, and he certainly did with his response. As Paul had retired from his position of Provincial Grand Secretary, passing the reigns over to Tim Dixon, it gave Peter the perfect opportunity to not only thank Paul for his service, but to also reward him with gifts as a memento of a great term in office.

With nearly two hundred brethren dining, the evening continued on with much laughter and entertainment.



# Enhancing our Meetings

Over the course of the last few months, several communications have been received by your lodge secretaries for onwards communication to assist in the smooth running of our meetings.

As an aide memoir, those suggestions, which have been warmly received, included:

**Ties and Dress Code:** The PGM has expressed his wish that we should move away from the wearing of black ties and bows but rather should wear the Provincial (formerly the Festival Tie) or Royal Arch ties. Specialist Lodges are of course at liberty to wear their own ties with the permission of the PGM. It is also requested that any member attending a formal Masonic meeting should wear proper Masonic dress throughout the evening and that jackets and ties should not be removed until the member has left the building to go home.

**Pre-circulated Reports:** As part of the widely published time saving exercises, a quick reminder was circulated that time can be saved by Treasurers, Almoners, Charity Stewards, by circulating any reports by email prior to the meeting rather than reporting in the meeting itself.

**Start Times:** You will already be aware of the desire of the Executive that Lodges should start as late as possible to facilitate the attendance of working Brethren. 6.00pm is recommended as the desired earliest time. Please also try to ensure that Lodges are actually open at that time and not that

the process starts at that time.

**Distinguished Visitors:** It is desirable that the WM should greet visiting Past Masters en-bloc rather than as individuals. The DC or ADC should request all visiting Past Masters to rise so that the WM can welcome them.

**Demonstration Ceremonies:** It is the Provincial Grand Masters earnest request that, if a Lodge has no ceremony to perform, that it should instead have a talk or presentation, ideally from Solomon. These can be simply read by a member of the Lodge. This way the members would leave with a potential daily increase in Masonic knowledge rather than working through ceremonies that they have already seen, probably many times and at the end of the day is simply another rehearsal!

**Social Functions at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester:** If your Lodge meets at London Road (or indeed elsewhere) and is holding a social function could you please consider obtaining a quote from Devonshire Place.

## Double Initiation at Castle of Leicester

The Castle of Leicester Lodge No.7767 were delighted to receive a delegation of Officers from the Provincial Grand Lodge to witness a superb ceremony as two of our newest members were welcomed into Freemasonry.

On Tuesday 14th November 2023, a delegation of Provincial Grand Officers, led by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Andy Green took to their seats in the Oliver Lodge room to see how the Castle of Leicester Lodge would conduct a double initiation. With assistance from the Wyggeston Lodge, the Deacons performed excellently as the two candidates were conducted around the room from start to finish. A festive board followed, where both Allan and Jarrad, our two new members were able to get to know other members of the lodge and the Provincial team.



*Pictured left to right:  
APGM Andy Green, Bro. Allan Taylor,  
WM Lee Timson, Bro. Jarrad Morden, PGM Peter Kinder*

# Wyggeston Lodge Lewis Receives Unique Gift

At the Wyggeston Lodge No.3448 meeting in October 2023, Bro. Thomas Cole, a student at the University of Leicester, was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. He was supported by his father, W.Bro. Robert Cole, an Assistant Provincial Grand Master in Yorkshire West Riding and a number of other visitors from his father's lodge, Mexborough Lodge No.6117.

At the Festive Board, Thomas was surprised with a unique gift: a 3D-printed Lewis and Ashlar made by one of the visitors W.Bro. James Cole (no relation). This was a special way to mark his Raising and celebrate his status as a Lewis, an uninitiated son of a Mason.

This unique gift is a testament to the strong bond between Thomas and his father, as well as the camaraderie and support that exists within the Wyggeston Lodge.

Thomas remarked on the evening by saying,

*“ I had a fantastic time, I doubt I'll ever forget it and hope everyone else enjoyed it as well. Thank you to all involved in the ceremony, it was brilliant. ”*



Photo Left to right: Robert Cole, Thomas Cole and James Cole

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# Entertainment at Installed Masters

The Leicestershire & Rutland Lodge of Installed Masters No.7896 was entertained by the musical and comedy talents of W.Bro. Steve Barclay from Chelsea Lodge No.3098.

Steve Barclay has an impressive pedigree as a comedy entertainer, pantomime dame, actor, after dinner Speaker, and is a proud member of the showbusiness fraternity and charity the Grand Order of Water Rats. A very popular and celebrated figure within show business, Steve is a good all-rounder and especially popular at panto time. He has been Dame so many times that he is held in esteem as an expert at being a clown in a frock. But he has played so many other parts in this and other stage dramas and comedies as well as a full range of other shows, TV and radio.

Steve has been a Freemason for 38 years, being initiated in 1985, and now a subscribing member of Chelsea Lodge No.3098 in London, and Paulinus Lodge No.3957 in Lincolnshire, where he holds the rank of Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon. Steve is also a member of Hugh of Avalon Chapter No.1386 in the Royal Arch in Lincolnshire.

Steve, a seasoned entertainer, took his audience at the Festive Board on a delightful trip down memory lane, reminiscing about the golden days of show business and the iconic figures who graced the stage. With a twinkle in his eye and a warm smile, he regaled his listeners with stories of Max Miller, the "The Cheeky Chappie" whose witty banter and sharp observations never failed to elicit laughter. He fondly recalled Hylda Baker "She knows, y'know!", whose infectious energy and comedic timing left audiences in stitches.

Steve's voice filled with admiration as he spoke of Two Ton Tessie O'Shea, the vaudeville performer who captivated audiences with her booming voice and flamboyant stage presence. He chuckled as he recounted the antics of Tommy Cooper, the magician whose hilarious mishaps and impeccable timing made him a beloved figure in British comedy.

As Steve's reminiscences drew to a close, he reached for his ukulele and ended by playing George Formby's classic tune, "When I'm Cleaning Windows." When the final note faded away, the room erupted in applause and laughter.

The Leicestershire & Rutland Lodge of Installed Masters

No.7896 meet twice a year in October and April, has a low subscription and always contains something slightly different to a typical lodge meeting. Any Master or Past Master wishing to join should contact the Secretary, Richard Barnett [barnettrichard1@gmail.com](mailto:barnettrichard1@gmail.com)

W.Bro. Tony Sibson, Master said,

*"A most entertaining and interesting evening with comedy and music."*





# Widows Sons Leicestershire and Rutland Chapter's Summer Adventures

Buckle up because it's been one heck of a ride this Summer. The Leicestershire and Rutland Chapter of the Widows Sons are a tight-knit group of Masonic motorcycle enthusiasts who are all about three things: having a blast on our bikes, making a positive impact in our community, and of course enjoying freemasonry.

From organized rides that filled the streets with roaring engines to catching up with brethren at the annual Widow Sons rally, despite the rain, we've been on a mission to make this summer unforgettable for all the right reasons.

### It's Official

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the summer was 600 bikers attending the National Rally of the WSMBA in Hull from the 26th – 28th of July with families and friends, where we were formally presented with our Charter recognising us as an official Chapter of the Widows Sons. We were also privileged to attend a meeting of the Widows Sons Lodge 10011, something quite spectacular with the three principal officers astride their motorcycles.



### A Ride to Remember: Iron Horse Ranch House Adventure

On the 14th May, with the sun shining, we rode off to the iconic Iron Horse Ranch House in Market Deeping. The warm sunny weather and the anticipation of a fantastic day riding ahead drew a remarkable turnout of

bikers. We weaved through picturesque landscapes of Leicestershire and Rutland, each twist and turn bringing us closer to the promise of cake and coffee.

### Supporting Brother John's Masonic Journey

The next day, we visited the Lodge of the Golden Fleece No. 2081, where we were able to extend our unwavering support to Bro. John 'Doc' Kelly on his raising. Brimming with enthusiasm we joined the brethren of the lodge in witnessing this significant milestone in John's masonic journey in a double celebration as John was not only raised within the lodge but also proudly patched in as a member of the Widows Sons.

### Lowestoft Adventure

In May a large group, along with their wives, partners, and even two furry companions, embarked on an adventure to Lowestoft where Bro. Mark 'Baldrick' Edmunds and Sarah



Widows Sons Leicestershire and Rutland Chapter's Summer Adventures continued....



'Hamster' Hammond graciously hosted a memorable escapade. Battling the elements on Friday, four intrepid souls braved the relentless rain to journey down - a feat even Bro. Howard (Bod) undertook. As day turned to night, and in the comfort of warm and dry clothes, the group united for a hearty meal and a few drinks. The next day, under sunny skies, Gunnie and Muzz joined us, enjoying blissful sunshine as we strolled along the seafront, indulging in ice creams. The day reached its crescendo with a lively BBQ at Mark's pub, The Trowel and Hammer, attended by locals, fellow bikers, and brethren alike. The air hummed with the joy of live music, forging connections that lingered long into the night. As Sunday's sun dawned, the return journey was bathed in sunshine once more, perfectly encapsulating a weekend of shared rides, laughter, and precious memories.

**Biker Down Course**

On the evening of the 23rd May, the chapter embarked on a journey of learning and safety when we attended a "Biker Down" course at Birstall Fire Station, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to being responsible road users. An invaluable evening with the training led by seasoned firefighters and experienced bikers, covering crucial aspects of road safety, first aid, and accident response to understanding the dynamics of a motorcycle crash scene, equipping us with life-saving skills, vital insights that could make all the difference in an emergency.

Throughout the evening we exchanged experiences and tips, fostering a supportive environment for the entire group, demonstrating our dedication to safe riding practices and our unwavering commitment to being responsible road users.

**Pork Pie Pursuit with Cobble Stones**

In June, the Chapter went to Northampton and had a great breakfast with the "Northamptonshire Cobble Stones" followed by an unforgettable ride to Melton Mowbray in pursuit of a savoury delight, the iconic Pork Pie. With engines roaring in harmony, the journey was not just about the destination, but supporting each other. Arriving in Melton we were joined by the "Lincolnshire Imps" where we enjoyed welcome refreshments at the "All Things Nice" cafe, and much Brotherly and Fraternal love.

**Northampton's PGM Patched in as a Widows Son**

On the 6th of August, we travelled South to support our Northamptonshire colleagues as they celebrated the patching-in ceremony of Northampton's PGM who was made an "Honorary Widows Son". Though he doesn't ride a motorcycle, his passion for luxury and speed is evident through his impressive collection of Aston Martins, earning him the affectionate road name "007."

**Scenic Ride to The Greyhound Inn:**

A few days later on the 10th August, a few of the Brethren enjoyed a very scenic ride with fantastic views through

Derbyshire to The Greyhound Inn a charming pub nestled in the village of Warslow in Derbyshire which is owned by Bro. Lee Wilson-Hart, a member of Merlin (Derbyshire) Chapter.

**Southern Chapter's "Big Ride"**

For the second year in a row Southern Chapter took part in an 1800-mile ride around the UK over four days to raise funds for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. Having enjoyed a great breakfast that morning at The Hobby Horse in Syston, the LRWSMBA met with the Southern Chapter for lunch at Muston. W. Bro. John 'Meatloaf' Sanderson, who had been patched in that morning, presented them with a cheque towards their fundraising. We then took the opportunity to ride down the A1 with them to Peterborough where we broke off and visited the "Graffiti Tunnel" a hidden tourist attraction in the city, before heading home via the Two Flags Cafe on the A47. A super day out.

**Ride out to the Triumph Factory**

On the 3rd September, despite the warm and humid air and the looming threat of thunderstorms hanging over us we embarked on an exciting ride to the Triumph factory. Remarkably, we successfully navigated our journey, defying the threatening skies, and managed to return unscathed, keeping dry throughout the morning and enjoyed a fascinating visit.

**Upcoming Toy Collection for Botsford Toy Run:**

Looking ahead, we are starting to organize a toy collection, aiming to assist families in distress as Christmas approaches, ensuring that their children have something to open on Christmas day. More details on this will follow in the next article.

**How to find us and join:**

We meet for a social evening on the 1st Monday each month at The Gate Hangs Well and for Breakfast the 2nd Sunday at The Hobby Horse both in Syston. If you are interested, just pop along for a chat or contact us at:

[secretary@landr.wsmba.uk](mailto:secretary@landr.wsmba.uk).

# Gabriel Newton Team Outing to Lords

Leicestershire & Rutland's latest Special Interest Lodge, the Gabriel Newton Cricketing Lodge, spent a day at Lord's Cricket Ground in support of Lashings World, and their incredible charities.



*Pictured: Back row left to right, Paul Wallace, Adrian Pearse, Rob Wood, Matt Watters, Mark Pierpoint.*

*Front row left to right, Dale Page, John Peberdy, Richard Barnett, Peter Kinder, Duncan Keates.*

The Master of the Lodge, Adrian Pearse, was accompanied by many Lodge Officers to the lunch, which was hosted by someone well known to all Sportsman's Dinner goers, Roger Dakin. The guest speaker was one of the greatest English bowlers of all time, Stuart Broad. Stuart is only the

second Englishman to take 400 test wickets and is one of the most popular English cricketers in the game.

There was also the incredible Geoff Miller MBE, one of the country's greatest sporting speakers, who regaled stories of his cricketing career to a full Long Room audience.

The Gabriel Newton Lodge has been recently transformed into a home for all cricketing enthusiasts in the Province, with special attention to the furniture in the lodge, such as using stumps instead wands during the ceremonies. The Lodge is going from strength to strength, with a double initiation planned to round off a great 2023.

**Adrian Pearse, WM of the Gabriel Newton Cricketing Lodge said,**

*“What a superb day to promote the Province's newest special interest lodge, the Gabriel Newton Cricketing Lodge.”*

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# Installation at Lodge Semper Eadem

The Chair of King Solomon is for many, the pinnacle of Masonry in any lodge, and to attain it is the culmination of years of service and dedication to the Craft. From 16th November 1810, when the Grand Treasurer, John Brayford, and three other senior Masons formed a board of Installed Masters at the Lodge of Promulgation, and since April 1813, when the Duke of Sussex formed a special Lodge of Installed Masters, boards have been duly formed, *'for the purposes of giving instruction in the Mysteries and Ceremonies of Installation ...and to install such Brethren as now are or have been or hereafter may be Masters of Regular Lodges and also any Past Grand Wardens and Provincial Grand Masters who may not yet have received the Benefit of Installation.'*

In today's ceremony, once the Master-Elect has taken his Obligation as regards his duty, the Lodge forms a Board of Installed Masters, whose function is similar to the Past Master who presented the Master-Elect, to signify their support and confidence in the new Master. No new degree is conferred, the Master's authority to rule and govern his Lodge is derived solely from the support of the Brethren who elected him, and the endorsement of the Board of Installed Masters. This is known as the *'Benefit of Installation'* (for more, see Solomon <http://solomon.ugle.org.uk> – The origin of our Ceremony). This is the ceremony that Bro. David Hall recently experienced.

On 27th September 2023, David was installed in the Chair of King Solomon of Lodge Semper Eadem, No. 3091, by W. Bro. Matthew Zmija, who had been the Master for the past 2 years. In the splendid surroundings of the Holmes Lodge Room, the newly installed Master appointed and invested his Wardens and Officers for the forthcoming year.

David was initiated as a Freemason in December 2013, having been proposed by W. Bro. Trevor Rogers. After becoming a Master Mason, David completed his fourth and final stage in Pure Antient Masonry joining Reynard Chapter No. 9285.

So why the history lesson? It was only after W. Bro. David had become a Freemason that he discovered that his great grandfather, W. Bro. Jonathon Padley had been a Master of the Harmony Lodge Number No 272 in Boston, Lincolnshire in 1887. Both ceremonies would have been recognisable by each of the Masters as it has remained largely unaltered since this date. This familiar and masonic link is what binds Freemasonry across time and place.

Along with 28 brethren of the Lodge and numerous from sister Lodges, Lodge Semper Eadem was honoured by the presence of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V.W. Bro. Brian Carruthers, accompanied by the Provincial Director of Ceremonies, W. Bro. Robert Wood.



*Pictured: from left to right Bro. Ian Aldridge, W. Bro. Nicholas Clarke, Bro. Gary Foster, W. Bro. Trevor Rogers, W. Bro. David Hall, W. Bro. Matthew Zmija, Bro. Nitesh Bhundia, Bro. Andrew Jackson, W. Bro. Brent Goodwin, W. Bro. Paul Cullen.*

# Masonic Bowling

The Masonic Annual Charity Event (M.A.C.E.) took off again this year on Friday 11th August at Welford-on -Avon Bowling Club, Warwickshire

Happily, the bowlers were blessed with fine warm weather and fifteen Provinces were represented with twenty-four rinks involved, two of which were occupied by members of the team from Leicestershire and Rutland Masonic Bowls.

This year brethren from the province of Bedfordshire were the worthy winners. Last year, Leicestershire and Rutland were runners up, but could not emulate that success this year with the competition getting stiffer year on year. However, the team were not disgraced, with the two rinks of Leicestershire and Rutland winning five out of eight games.

Two charities, Motor Neurone, and the local Acorns Children's Hospice, shared the £4600 raised on the day. This total is just a part of the incredible total of £76000 raised by M.A.C.E. since it was founded in 2011.

Next year the competition will be held in Maidenhead, Berkshire, where it will undoubtedly raise even more for charities near and far! If you are a regular bowler and or just are interested in representing your Province, please contact Jim Williamson at [gandjwilliamson@btinternet.com](mailto:gandjwilliamson@btinternet.com).

Jim Williamson, one of the L&RMB organisers, commented,

*“ I am most grateful for the support of four other brethren Chris Garratt, Richard Smith, Bill Roberts and Paul Cramphorn together with three willing guests.”*



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# Two Brethren - Two Charities - Twice the Impact

The date, 24th September 2023, will long stick in the memory of two brethren who set out on very personal challenges for charities so dear to them.

When the LRFC was approached by W. Bro. Martin Gain of Sparkenhoe Lodge No.8063 to ask if it might be possible to support his fundraising activity for Alzheimer's disease, they were pleased to be able to do so. Martin has been a supporter of Alzheimer's UK for several years as a result of his wife Francis suffering from this terrible disease. He had set up a JustGiving Page and hoped to raise a suggested £160. His final fundraising total was announced in October - a wonderful £2050 after the LRFC was able to 'match fund' the original total.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) revealed earlier this year that Dementia and Alzheimer's disease were the leading cause of death in 2022. Collectively they accounted for 65,967 deaths (11.4% of the total), up from 61,250 (10.4%) in 2021. Dementia and Alzheimer's disease was the leading cause of death among females (42,635 deaths, 15.0% of all female deaths registered in 2022).

In a recent survey, 2 in 10 people are unaware that dementia is even a cause of death, yet last year it claimed nearly 66,000 lives in England and Wales alone. There are still no treatments available on the NHS that can slow or stop dementia. As the UK's leading dementia research

charity, Alzheimer's Research UK is dedicated to ending to heartbreak of this devastating condition.

The charity organises a series of Memory Walks each year around the country. Martin, accompanied by his wife (both 87) and their daughter-in-law, who had flown in from Canada especially early to do the walk, undertook the Memory Walk in Abbey Park on Sunday 24th September. The event attracted a large number of supporters all who added to the lovely atmosphere.

It is great to see Martin, with 55 years of masonic experience to his credit, give his time and energy to fundraise for such a worthwhile cause. This year the Memory Walks involved 28,000 walkers from 26 centres nationally and a staggering £2.7 million was raised. Registration for the 2024 walk is now open on the Alzheimer's website should you wish to take part next year.

Meanwhile, Bro. John Kelly a new member of the fraternity, in contrast to Martin's 55 years in Freemasonry, was initiated into the Lodge of the Golden Fleece No.2081 in 2022 and has wasted no time at all putting into practice those truly Masonic values which brought him into Freemasonry. At the end of the summer, he competed in the East Leake Triathlon to fundraise in aid of Epilepsy Action. John, a rugby player, and by his own admission a very large forward, suggested he was built for strength and not speed, but has always kept himself quite fit. However, the challenge of the



*Martin Gain, his wife and daughter-in-law*

Triathlon was a serious one and now in his 60s, he trained for months in order to compete. John has a very close association with the charity Epilepsy Action who have supported his daughter who lives with this condition.

John completed the gruelling swim, cycle and run along with approximately 400 other competitors all starting at 0800 on 24th September, whilst at the same time and day the Alzheimer's Memory Walk was undertaken by Martin and his family.

The LRFC was able to match the totals that each of these brothers raised and we congratulate them, their Lodges, and their friends for all coming together to ensure that two worthy causes close to their hearts gained support and recognition.



*Crowds mustering for the Memory Walk.*



*Bro. John Kelly with his medal*



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# Wyggeston Lodge

## Volunteers at Pie Nights to Feed the Homeless

In the spirit of the King's Christmas speech, several members of Wyggeston Lodge No.3448, provided food to the homeless and those in need.

The lodge members donned their aprons and served hot pies, jacket potatoes and baked beans, along with drinks, to over 60 people a night. They also took the time to greet and chat with everyone.

This is just one example of how the lodge is working to improve social engagement, which was organised with the charity by Andy Green, Past Master. By volunteering their time, members can connect with people from all walks of life and make a difference in their communities. This is particularly true for student members who might not have the disposable income to fulfil charitable giving as many will have had to take out loans to cover their tuition fees and living costs.

The members of Wyggeston Lodge are proud to be able to give back to their community and look forward to doing it on a regular basis. They believe that everyone deserves to have a hot meal,



served with a friendly face, and are committed to making a difference in the lives of those in need.

The Wyggeston Lodge is planning to volunteer at another Pie Night in the future, and they hope it will be as rewarding as this time.

**Chris Panteli, a former student and now Junior Warden said,**

*I volunteered at Open Hands, not knowing what to expect. I have to say, the people I have met through this, whether homeless or struggling for other reasons, have inspired me to be a better person, to realise what I have, and not to judge those who may appear different. Volunteering for Open Hands has been, and will continue to be, a truly humbling experience. We can all learn a lot from opening our hearts.*



# A Reminder about MCF Support from the Provincial Grand Almoner

In June 2022 the Province came to the end of the 2022 Festival raising £2,022,00 to support the continuing work of the Masonic Charitable foundation. Whilst we now are out of festival that does not mean that the MCF stops providing support.

That being the case I thought it useful to share with you the support the MCF have given since the end of the festival, including those lodges who the recipients of grants are associated with.

Support grants totalling **£247,000** have been made to members, their families, and dependants in our Province. Recipients of the grants have been associated with twenty six of our eighty lodges. These are Beacon, Castle of Leicester, Derek Buswell Lodge of Provincial Grand Stewards, Edward Sherrier, Ferrers and Ivanhoe, Gateway, Grace Dieu. Grey Friars, Guthlaxton, Highcross, Howe and Charnwood, Humber Stone, John of Gaunt, Leicestershire and Rutland Rotary, Lodge of Gratitude, Lodge of the Golden Fleece. Lodge of Welcome, Newarke, Old Oakhamian. Roundhill, Rutland, Showmen's, Sparkenhoe, St Mary's, Tudor House, Wiclif, Wyggeston.

Obviously, confidentiality must be maintained as to who has received support, however whilst maintaining that confidentially several Lodge Almoners have been pleased to report in most grateful terms to the members of their lodges what marvellous support the MCF is providing to those needing assistance.

This is also an opportunity to remind brethren of the Province of the range of support that the recipients have been provided with:

**£67,500** to assist with a range of health matters for example: medical assessments; consultations and occupational therapy assessments; investigative tests, scans and minor procedures; orthopaedic knee and hip operations; ophthalmic support; mental health counselling; and provision of a range of mobility aids.

**£38,000** has supported children and young people with educational costs support, talent aid and other support grants.

**£101,000** has gone to assist with daily living costs: £71,000 have assisted couples and single working age people, struggling with the cost of living. Whilst £19,000 has assisted pensioners who have been finding it difficult to pay their living costs.

Alongside the MCF support several members and widows have been provided with assistance from our own Leicestershire and Rutland Freemasons Charity, which is available when sudden financial distress arises.

We never know when health, family or financial distress may befall any of us, but assistance from the MCF is there when we may need it most. It only takes a call on 0800 035 60 90 to the Enquires Team. Hopefully this holiday season, none of us will need to call for the assistance of your Lodge Almoner or to make a call for support to the MCF, but it is reassuring to know it can be made if needed.

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## Warning Zone

The Provincial Grand Master, Peter Kinder, and the Provincial Grand Communications Officer, Richard Barnett, visited the Warning Zone premises in Leicester to unveil a new sign, showing the way to the "Freemasons Room".

Warning Zone is a charity based in Leicester, dedicated to teaching life-skills and safeguarding children. The mission of the team at Warning Zone is to deliver life-saving messages to children aged 10 – 11, catching them on a key transition in their lives as they venture into secondary schools. At this age, children are given more independence and are responsible for the actions, behaviours and decisions they make; both in their day-to-day life and online.

Every day volunteers greet parties of school children to educate

and entertain them on skills they will need to keep them safe. Activities aimed at creating a sense of fun, whilst also teaching valuable lessons, such as keeping safe whilst online, and safe-guarding personal privacy. As a regular beneficiary of assistance from the Leicestershire & Rutland Freemasons' Charity, the team at Warning Zone provided a warm welcome, and extended their invitation to any Freemason who wishes to give up some of their time in charitable service as a volunteer to aid in the running of Warning Zone.

# The Leicestershire & Rutland Freemasons' Charity Pledges nearly £50k of support

On Saturday 7th October 2023, local charities gathered at Freemasons' Hall in Leicester to promote the good work we do for our local communities. Also in attendance were members of the Leicestershire & Rutland Freemasons, and the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Mike Kapur, and his predecessor, Lady Jennifer Gretton.



LRFC: Leicestershire & Rutland Freemasons Charity

During the morning, the Leicestershire & Rutland Freemasons' Charity, the grant making charity pledged nearly £50,000 to eight local charities, all of whom were present to showcase the work they do and receive the grants given to them.

The Leicester Hospitals Charity received over £16,000 to assist with the refurbishment of the Children's A&E Department at

Leicester Royal Infirmary. The Leicester Hospitals Charity exists to support patients, their carers, and the NHS staff who look after them in Leicestershire, Rutland, and beyond.

The Read for Good Charity, who provide books and stories for children in hospital to comfort, distract, reassure and entertain during their stay, received a donation of £3,000 from The Leicestershire & Rutland Freemasons' Charity to assist with the running and purchase of brand-new books.

The Carers Centre also received £3,000 to assist with the extremely valuable support they provide to carers within the local community.



Rainbows: Representative from Rainbows talking at the charity morning.

Leicestershire & Rutland Freemasons have been a supporter of Rainbows for many years. The recent pledge is a further £20,000 over four years via Lifelites to help provide the invaluable service over the coming years. As the only children's hospice in the East Midlands, Rainbows cares for hundreds of families every year who have a baby, child, or young person with a serious or terminal illness, meaning their lives will be shorter than most.

The LOROS Tree of Life initiative received a donation of £1,400 to help run the Overnight Response Service for a year to help care for people in their darkest hours. A specialist nurse, trained in end-of-life care, will be made available to patients and families for advice and support when needed most.



LHC: The Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Mike Kapur presenting £16,312 to the Leicester Hospitals Charity

Also, present were representatives from the Sue Young Cancer Support group, and LAMP, the Leicestershire Action for Mental Health Project, who will both be supported throughout November by the Leicestershire & Rutland Freemasons.

The last presentation was by the Teddies for Loving Care initiative. For the last 21 years, local freemasons have provided nearly 30,000 teddy bears to local hospitals, with the aim of comforting children in A&E departments, helping to reduce the shock and distress of their experience through the gift of a cuddly teddy that they get to keep. This is part of a nationwide project, which to date have provided nearly three and a half million teddies to over 400 hospitals. Two of the key instigators of this initiative, Michael Turnbull and Gautam Bodiwala were in attendance along with a selection of Teddy Bears!



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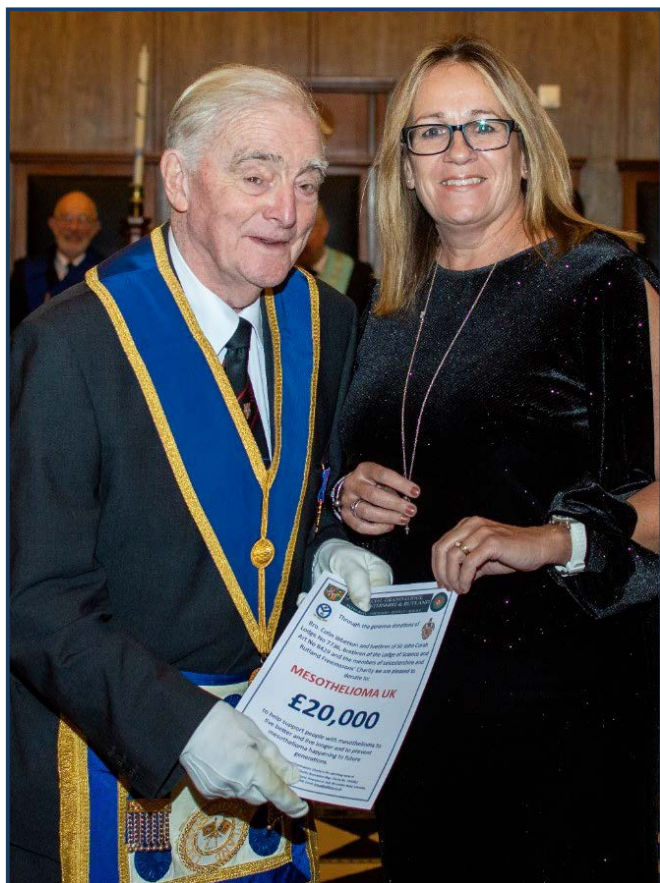
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# Leicestershire and Rutland Freemasons donates £20,000 to support the work of Mesothelioma UK

This generous gift is a much-needed boost for the asbestos-related cancer charity.



*Pictured: Colin Ibbetson presenting £20,000 to Liz Darlison*

£20,000 has been donated by two Leicestershire and Rutland Lodges to a national asbestos-related cancer charity, Mesothelioma UK. The headquarters are located

locally in Mountsorrel, Leicestershire and the funding will help to support its vital work in supporting patients and their families diagnosed with mesothelioma, a cancer caused by asbestos.

The Sir John Corah Lodge No.7736 in Leicester, and Lodge of Science and Art No.8429 in Loughborough, joined forces to support Mesothelioma UK with additional help from the Leicestershire & Rutland Freemasons' Charity, which is funded by you, our members and readers.

Colin Ibbetson of the Sir John Corah Lodge, a mesothelioma patient who has benefitted from the support given by Mesothelioma UK, was the instigator of the donation, with the assistance of Barry Hasdell and other members of the Lodge. Colin said, "With the support and expertise of Mesothelioma UK, my life expectancy has been extended, for which I am very grateful."

Liz Darlison, Chief Executive of Mesothelioma UK added, "Although we are a national charity with a network of clinical nurse specialists supporting mesothelioma patients throughout the UK, Mesothelioma UK began as a small charity based at Glenfield Hospital. We're proud of our Leicestershire roots and are delighted to receive this generous donation from the Leicestershire and Rutland Freemasons."

Leicester Square is always on the look out for advertiser, so if you would like to advertise in the magazine or know someone that would benefit from advertising, please get in touch with Tony Sibson (*see page 5 for full contact details*). We offer adverts from as little as one eighth size to full pages and all proceeds help towards the production costs of the magazine which helps in maximising our donations to local charities.

# Catmos Centenary Celebration

The Vale of Catmos Chapter No.1265 celebrated its centenary at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester, on 5th July 2023 exactly 100 years to the day when it was consecrated at Victoria Hall in Oakham, in 1923

The First Principal of the Vale of Catmos Chapter, E. Comp. Philip Lewin, opened the emergency convocation to celebrate its centenary. The meeting was attended by 81 companions comprising of chapter members, guests and officers of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Leicestershire & Rutland, proudly led by the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, E. Comp. Noel Manby, who is also a member of the chapter.



The Chapter was presented with their Centenary Charter, read by the Past Deputy Grand Superintendent, Paul Wallace. The companions also heard an inspiring oration by E. Comp. Revd. Canon Michael Wilson, on wide-ranging set of topics. In celebration of the occasion, Noel handed out special Centenary Jewels to the subscribing members of the chapter. Finally, Philip Lewin welcomed and presented chapter bylaws to E. Comp. Peter Kinder, who had recently been elected an honorary member of the chapter.

After a convivial reception, the companions sat down to a sumptuous festive board, which ended with an amusing toast to the Chapter by E. Comp. Peter Kinder. The evening was capped off with a most generous collection of £548, this with other collections, and a donation from the Province, made a grand total of £4300 donated to the First Principal's chosen charity, Leicestershire Search and Rescue, who are a team of highly trained and dedicated volunteers who work alongside Leicestershire Police with the aim of locating vulnerable missing people and preserving life.

The photograph shows the MEGS with the three Principals and members of the Chapter.

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## St Martin's Centenary

**In 1923, the burial chamber of Tutankhamun was discovered; New York state abolished the prohibition of alcohol; the first 24 hour Le Mans race was held and, on 1st June, the Grand Superintendent, E. Comp. Lt.Col Charles Oliver consecrated St Martin's Chapter No. 3431**

On 1st June 2023, the Chapter celebrated its centenary with a special meeting in the same Lodge Room at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester when the Grand Superintendent, E. Comp. Noel Manby, accompanied by his Provincial Officers joined the current MEZ, E. Comp. David Turner, E. Comp. Ben Farrelly and E. Comp. David Sumpter and the members of the Chapter and their guests to distribute the Centenary Jewels which the members are now permitted to wear.

E. Comp. Canon Rev. Michael Wilson then delivered a most informative oration to the 84 Companions present.

Afterwards, Companions enjoyed a festive board with a menu reflecting the original meal and were later entertained by E. Comp. Miki Travis, a well-known speaker and a member of the Chelsea Chapter, in a response to the toast to the Chapter, proposed by the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent.

A collection and raffle later raised over £1000 for charity.



# Dates for your Royal Arch Diary

- Annual Dinner Dance Saturday 27th January 2024
- Provincial Grand Chapter Thursday 28th March 2024
- Supreme Grand Chapter London Thursday 25th April 2024
- Provincial Officers' Mess Thursday 2nd May 2024

## A Grand Day Out with Companions



On Wednesday 8th November 2023 seventeen companions from Leicestershire & Rutland, despite rail disruptions, made the journey to London to support the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, Noel Manby, at Supreme Grand Chapter at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London.

The companions saw the launch of Archway, the Royal Arch equivalent of Craft Masonry's The Members' Pathway. Companions in the Province will all be hearing more of this in the future, as the Provincial Grand Chapter takes up the Royal Arch Membership Challenge.

After the Convocation, 16 of the companions had a very enjoyable lunch together in a private dining room at a Covent Garden restaurant.

## Heartlink Donation

E Comp. Duncan Keates presented a £2,000 cheque from the Companions of The Holmes Chapter and the Provincial Grand Chapter of Leicestershire & Rutland to Geoff Smart MBE, Chairman of the HeartLink Charity.



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Menu

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Main

**Fillet of Beef Medallions,**  
accompanied by a Brandy Cream Sauce

**V. Homemade Vegetable Wellington,**  
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**All served with Roast Potatoes & selection of Vegetables**

Dessert

**Melting Chocolate Fondant Pudding,**  
served with Salted Caramel Ice Cream  
or  
**Fresh Fruit Salad & Vanilla Ice Cream**  
Filter or Decaffeinated Coffee & Mints



# Mark Grand Rank Appointments

A delegation of Mark Masons from Leicestershire & Rutland travelled to London on 13th June 2023 to witness our Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, W. Bro. Iain Walker, receive a first appointment to Grand Rank as Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. He was invested by The Grand Master, M.W. Bro. HRH Prince Michael of Kent, at the Mark Grand Lodge meeting held in the Grand Temple, Freemasons' Hall, London.

At the same meeting, our Provincial Treasurer, W. Bro. Ian Johnson, received a first appointment to Grand Rank as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, and our Provincial Grand Chaplain, V.W. Bro. Anthony Avery, was re-appointed to Deputy Grand Chaplain.

At the Mark Grand Lodge meeting W. Bros. Andy Lee and Peter Gibson-Leitch, were both honoured with promotion to the rank of Past Grand Senior Deacon.

The Pro Grand Master, M.W. Bro. John H. Prizeman, presided in the presence of Mark Masons from all over the World . To make a great day even better, at the meeting W. Bro. Iain carried out his duties as an Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies for the first time. After both meetings our delegations enjoyed a banquet in the Grand Connaught Rooms, amongst many good friends from across the country.



*W. Bro. Iain Walker is pictured here, resplendent in his regalia and Chain of Office.*



*W. Bros. Andy and Peter are shown with the Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Phillip Mann.*



## East Goscote Mark Donation to Macmillan Cancer Care Trust

On 14th September 2023, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Andy Lee, presented £3,500 to the Macmillan Cancer Care Trust.

£3,200 was raised by the members and friends of the East Goscote Mark Lodge No. 970 at a BBQ held at the Star Inn, Thrussington. An additional £300 was donated by W. Bro. William Hutchison, making a grand total of £3,500. The presentation took place in the Holmes Lodge Room at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester. Sharon Starbuck, the Lead Volunteer for the charity gave a comprehensive talk on the work and history of the Trust.

## Enthroned Commanders No.1786 donation to Blood Bikes

The Royal Ark Mariners attending the installation of the new Commander W. Bro. Peter Gibson-Leitch on 20th October 2023, once again demonstrated their generosity in raising a total of £500 with matching funding from the Leicestershire and Rutland Masonic Benevolent Fund in favour of the Leicestershire and Rutland Blood Bikes.



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# Ancient & Accepted Rite (Rose Croix) - membership criteria changes

The Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Rite (Rose Croix) has announced that it has reviewed some of its conditions of membership application so that it is now aligned with almost all of the other Supreme Councils throughout the world.

The Order has made the following changes in order that membership can be extended to freemasons of all faiths and not just to those who profess a belief in Trinitarian Christianity.

A summary of the changes is as follows:

1. There will no longer be a requirement for applicants to profess a belief in the Trinitarian Christian Faith, but they must understand that the ceremony will continue to be reflective of the life and teaching of Jesus and must maintain the Christian character of the degree.
2. Applicants will need to have been a Master Mason for a minimum of six months and to be of good standing in his Craft membership (rather than existing the twelve-month requirement)
3. There will be some minor changes to the terminology used in the ritual to accommodate membership of those of other faiths.

Individuals who wish to have further information and wish to be considered for membership should contact any of the Recorders listed in the Provincial Yearbook.

Henry Kukiewicz, said,

“One of our members summarized his feelings toward the changes, “We are not losing our Christian ethos, but inviting more brethren, from different backgrounds, to share in it. It will have my full support. More than ever, in a troubled world, we need Freemasonry to promote its values of tolerance and friendship.”

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# Long Service Awards

The following Brethren have received continuous long service awards since our last edition.

<b>W.Bro. Anthony Hughes</b>	Temperantia Lodge No.4088	60 Years	17/12/63
<b>W.Bro. David Mitchell</b>	Morley Lodge No.8320	50 Years	21/09/73
<b>W.Bro. John Phelan</b>	Newarke Lodge No.6794	50 Years	01/11/73
<b>R.W.Bro. Peter Kinder</b>	Humber Stone Lodge No.7744	50 Years	11/12/73
<b>W.Bro. Robert Orridge</b>	Reynard Lodge No.9825	50 Years	12/12/73
<b>W.Bro. John McCormack</b>	Lodge Semper Eadem No.3091	50 Years	28/11/73
<b>W.Bro. Farquar MacIvor</b>	Roundhill Lodge No.8639	50 Years	21/11/73



## Farewells

We are sad to announce the passing of the following Brethren to the Grand Lodge above and our thoughts go to their families and loved ones. Each one will be missed but not forgotten.

Frederick Charles Arthur	Moore	East Goscote Lodge	No.2865
Michael Henry	Roalfe	Reynard Lodge	No.9285
Roger	Kenning	Howe and Charnwood Lodge	No.1007
Timothy Charles	Bryan	St Mary's Lodge	No.7164
Alan	Beverley	Lodge of the Argonauts	No.8210
Alan Christopher	Trott	Wayfarer Lodge	No.8679
John Joseph	Maidment	Ratae Meridian Lodge	No.9673
David Scott	Geary	Knighton Lodge	No.4711
Victor Harry	Buck	Ratae Meridian Lodge	No.9673
Christopher Hugh	Jerman	Halford Lodge	No.3919
Frank Anthony	Forsyth	Enderby Lodge	No.5061
Myles James	Byrne	The Holmes Lodge	No.4656
David Martin	Fairbairn	St Mary's Lodge	No.7164
John Alan	Berry	Lodge of Gratitude	No.6514

# A Special Knight, Michael E. Herbert

A Special Meeting of the De Verdun Preceptory No 613 of Knights Templar was held on the 7th July at Lutterworth Masonic Hall. One with a singular order of business, to celebrate a Knight of the Order whom many can only aspire to emulate. Right Eminent Knight Michael E. Herbert was to be given a certificate of 50-year service by the Most Eminent and Supreme Knight, Paul Raymond Clement, G.C.T. Grand Master of the Order of the Temple and Holy Sepulchre, more widely known as the Knights Templar.



The Preceptory was opened by the Acting Preceptor, Very Eminent Knight Richard Heap and the officers of the Preceptory, then welcomed the Provincial Prior for Leicestershire and Rutland Right Eminent Knight Adrian Padmore K.C.T., accompanied by Provincial Sub Prior, Eminent Knight David Bull, P.Gt Herald, members of the Provincial team and Provincial Bodyguard. On his arrival, Adrian was offered and accepted the Chair of the Preceptory. Soon after, he, as well as those present, were pleased and honoured to welcome the Grand Master accompanied by the Great Seneschal, The Very High and Right Eminent Knight Andrew Christopher Rainbow, G.C.T and the Great Marshal, Eminent Knight Timothy John Wheeler, along with other members of Great Priory, many of whom had travelled long distances. On entry,

the Grand Master too was offered the Chair, which he was pleased to accept. The gathered Knights were then given a summary of Michael's masonic and Knights Templar career.

On the 18th December 1972, Companion Michael was installed as a Knight of the Order of the Temple and Holy Sepulchre in the Ivanhoe Preceptory No. 294. He was installed as its Preceptor in 1982 and, following a series of promotions at Provincial and Great Priory level, was appointed to the honour and dignity of Knight Grand Cross in 2015, a rank to which no more than 15 can be appointed at any time.

On presenting the certificate, the Grand Master referred to Michael's outstanding contribution to the Order and the many others to which he belongs, and to the special personal friendship they have shared over a period of 35 years. He mentioned that Michael's service to Freemasonry was recently honoured with the award of the Order of Service to Freemasonry, the highest honour the Grand Master can confer on a member of the Craft. Michael's response was full of love and joy, delivered with his accustomed humility.

On resuming the Chair, the acting Preceptor, Richard Heap thanked the Grand Master for his attendance and presented him with a donation of £1500 for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital.

Whilst at the Festive Board, Adrian spoke of Michael's dedication and commitment to the Knights Templar Order and its members, the support he gave to the Province, and the many cards, letters and emails he had received from Provincial Priors throughout England and Wales and the Provinces overseas; each congratulating Michael on his achievement and thanking him for his friendship and support.

It was a special and memorable night, for a remarkable and prominent Right Eminent Knight.

## Cost of living is rising, but your Stamp Duty Bill doesn't have to

Energy costs, fuel, everyday goods – it seems like every single thing we have to buy at the moment comes with an increased cost, be it something we need or something we just enjoy. The headlines make for grim reading, and the Chancellor's Statement fell a little flat for consumers being hit in the wallet.

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Our research indicates that as many as one in ten buyers are paying the wrong amount of Stamp Duty on their residential or commercial purchases, and in most cases that means they're paying too much.

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