

Freemasonry@86 News 17 November 2023

#FridayFeeling



Welcome

Here you will find your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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Companion Orders Diary

Below are some upcoming dates of events for our Grand teams in their respective Orders. You can find the calendar of the regular annual meetings of our Orders further down this newsletter.

Saturday, 18 November - A.M.D. Installation of W.Bro. Lawrence James Hinde, P.G.S.D., as District Grand Prefect for Cumberland and Westmorland

Tuesday, 21 November - K.T. Chapter of Great Priory of Malta, Freemasons' Hall, London [Click Here](#) for more details

Monday, 4 December - K.B.H.C. Consecration of Verulamium Lodge of S.M.S.A. No. 22, Prefecture of Anglo-Saxon

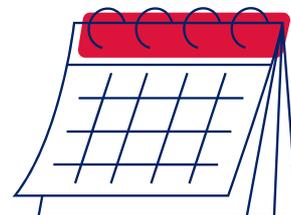
Monday, 11 December - R.A.M. Annual Assembly, Freemasons' Hall, London [Click Here](#) for more details

Wednesday, 13 December - R.S.M. Consecration of Lancashire Council of Anointed Kings No. 344, District of Lancashire

Wednesday, 17 January 2024 - O.S.M. Consecration of The Dennis Slights Conclave No. 635, Province of North & East Yorkshire.

Wednesday, 31 January 2024 - R.C.C. Consecration of The Mamucium Conclave No. 534, Division of North & East Lancashire.

Updated calendar



50 years Certificate Presentation - W.Bro. Stan Griffiths



On Friday, 27 October, W.Bro. Stan Griffiths marked his 50th anniversary since joining the Mark Degree at Sincerity Mark Lodge No. 327, in the presence of the Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Gary Raymond Horstman, and the provincial team, accompanied by Grand officers, with over 50 brethren in attendance. R.W.Bro. Gary Raymond Horstman shared Stan's remarkable journey within and outside the Mark Degree and proudly presented certificates from both Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge, honouring Stan's achievements.



Celebrating with his Lodge Members.

Whilst attending the Lodge, our Prov.G.M. was delighted to present a number of honorific collarettes, to the lodge as a whole, and to Barry Harper and Brian Maddocks on achieving a personal level of honorific, and to acknowledge three more brethren, Trevor Roberts, Julian Hill, and Paul Lucock, who became Festival Stewards.



50 Year Certificate Presentation - W.Bro. Graham Ramsden

Thursday, 09 November 2023, members of St. Chad Lodge No. 374 gathered to celebrate Graham's 50 years in Mark Masonry. The 50 year certificate presentation and the 'this is your life' chat was done by Grahams great and long-term friend Past Provincial Grand Master (for West Yorkshire) R.W.Bro. James Steggles.

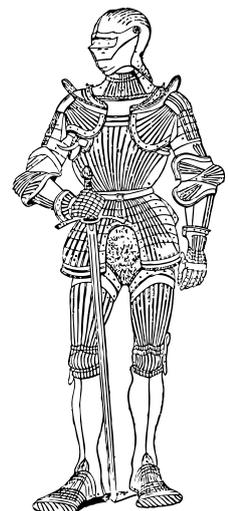


It was a great privilege for both Jim and Graham for this to happen. Jim had the blessing and permission of R.W.Bro. J. Trevor Bolton the Prov.G.M. for this special occasion. Graham joined the Mark on 08 November 1973, not long at all after being initiated in to Adel Craft Lodge No. 6250 in 1972. He took the chair of St. Chad in 1979 and his first Provincial appointment was to Prov.A.G.Sec. in 1983. Graham's first Grand Rank was to P.A.G.D.C. in 1997 and he is currently P.G.S.D., appointed in 2008.

The Province of Essex Welcomes New Knights to the Malta Degree and says Goodbye to the Great Sub-Prior of Malta



The Essex Provincial Malta meeting was held at Saxon Hall on Friday, 27 October and 11 Knights were welcomed into the Malta degree. This special occasion was enhanced by the presence of the Great Sub-Prior of Malta, V.E.Kt. Stephen J. Warwick, who attended and took part in the ceremony on what was his last official visit in that capacity. The ceremony was conducted by the Provincial Sub-Prior, E.Kt. Mark Harrison and the meeting was overseen by the Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Roger Langdon Smith. The meeting was delighted to welcome R.E.Kt. Anthony John Helliard K.C.M., the Past Provincial Prior. The address was delivered in dramatic fashion by E.Kt. Malcolm Peter and E.Kt. Chris M Smith. Following the meeting which was attended by over 120 Knights of the Province 94 Knights dined together including distinguished guests from other Orders in the Province of Essex.



Annual meeting last week of the Provincial Priory of Malta in the Knight Templar Province of Monmouth and South Wales

A large attendance and a busy agenda were all hallmarks of this year's annual meeting last week of the Provincial Priory of Malta in the Knight Templar Province of Monmouth and South Wales. The meeting, was held at Penarth. This was followed by the admission of nine new members to the Order, who were dubbed by the Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Dr Paul Calderwood, in a ceremony led by the Provincial Sub-Prior, E.Kt. Richard Phillips, assisted by E.Kt. Terry Jones and E.Kt. Peter James. After thanking the Officers of the Province who were retiring that day, the Provincial Prior then appointed and invested the new team of Officers for 2023-2024. An unexpected item - not on the agenda - then emerged, to the delight and applause of the 65 Knights present, when it was announced that an Award for Outstanding Service to the United Orders within the Province was about to be made. Only once has such an award been made by the Provincial Prior, 7 years ago. As intended, it caught the recipient and all who were present by surprise. In making the award to V.E.Kt. David Court, the Provincial Prior outlined David's distinguished Masonic career and some of his many achievements - in at least nine Orders of Freemasonry. Adding serendipity to the occasion, he said what a delight it was that this presentation fell precisely on the day when David became a Knight Templar on 11 November, 30 years ago. Having been a member of four Preceptories, the author of The Registrar's Handbook and Provincial Sub-Prior for six years, V.E.Kt. David was, in the words of the Provincial Prior, "a very worthy recipient of this rare award".



Installation Meeting of Montego Bay Council No. 345



On Saturday, 11 November the Installation Meeting of Montego Bay Council No. 345 was held at the Masonic Temple in Montego Bay, Jamaica and saw Comp. Thomas Charles Smith, *JP* installed as Thrice Illustrious Master. The Installation was conducted in fine fashion by the Grand Inspector, V.Ill.Comp. Harding O. Watler, *JP* assisted by other Grand Officers in the Inspectorate. Before the Installation the Council admitted two Candidates on whom were conferred the Select Master Degree. The Grand Inspector then accepted the invitation of the T.I.M., Ill.Comp. Carl A. McDonald, *JP*, Prov.G.Std.B. to take the Chair and the Installation of Comp. Smith was completed and a new Administration was invested. Immediately before proceeding with the Installation the Grand Inspector congratulated the Council on its growth over the past 16 months since its Consecration, by admitting four new Companions into the Order. He was very pleased to also learn that there are plans to admit even more Companions in the coming year and also joining members who reside in the West Jamaica area, which this Council is intended to serve. Ill.Comp. Thomas Charles Smith, *JP* is the R.W. District Grand Master and M.E. Grand Superintendent of the Craft/Royal Arch Districts of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. For the Installation the chairs of Deputy Master and Principal Conductor of the Work were filled by R.Ill.Comp. Afeef A. Lazarus, Prov.G.Coun. and V.Ill.Comp. Walter H. Scott, K.C., Prov.G.Lect., respectively, both being Past District Grand Masters/Grand Superintendents of the same Districts. Under the Second Rising The Grand Inspector presented the Council with a set of gavels he had made personally, and they were very graciously received by the new T.I.M. who expressed their thanks and appreciation for such a fine gift. The meeting was followed by a sumptuous Festive Board and a merry time was enjoyed by all.



Warwickshire Annual District Meeting 2023

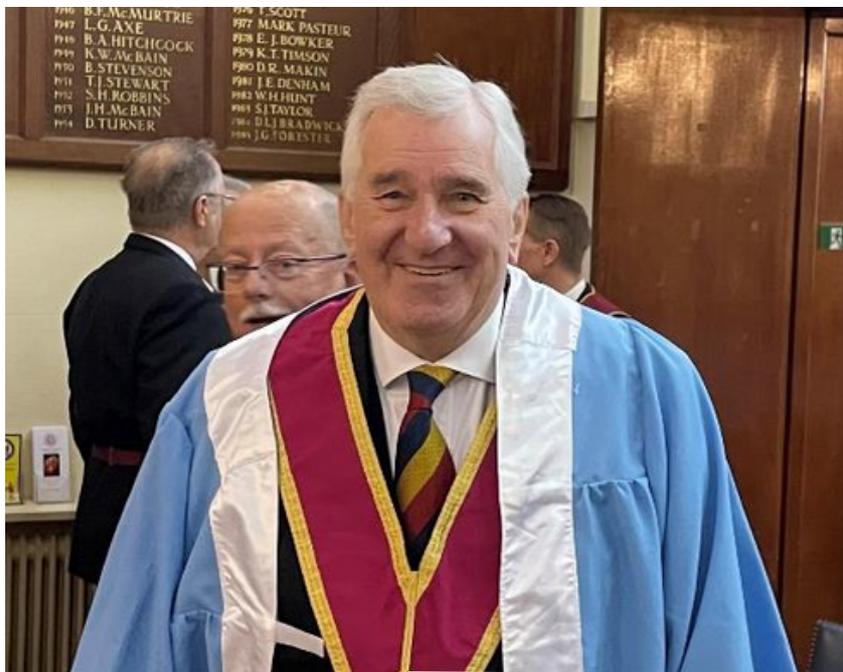


Left to Right - Pictured above are the District Grand Master, R.Ill.Comp. Peter Wellings, with Ill.Comp. Paul Harrison, Deputy District Grand Master, and Ill.Comp. Peter Stokes, District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.

The annual meeting of Warwickshire District Royal & Select Masters took place on Saturday, 04 November at Arnold House, the Rugby Masonic Centre. The meeting was honoured by the presence of R.Ill.Comp. Paul Norman, the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work. During the meeting, R.Ill.Comp. Norman addressed all present, and explained the intention behind the Sesquicentenary Appeal, which aims to raise at least £150,000 during the celebratory year. He encouraged all members to support the appeal and to spread the word of the importance of this very special Order. During the meeting, Ill.Comp. Peter Stokes, who had served 5 years as District Grand Director of Ceremonies, was invested as District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work. Regular annual business dealt with, the Deputy District Grand Master, Ill.Comp. Paul Harrison was reappointed, and Ill.Comp. Peter Stokes was invested as Principal Conductor of the Work. Newly appointed and re-appointed Officers and promotions were then announced and invested. A Silver Trowel certificate was presented to Ill.Comp. Tony Cheesman.

The District G.M. paid special tribute to Ill.Comp. Chris Rogers, who had retired as Principal Conductor of the Work at the meeting, for his setting up of the Ambassador Recruitment Scheme, and was pleased to announce that he would continue with this initiative. Chris was appointed as the unofficial Membership Officer to continue this valuable work.





The retiring District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, Ill. Comp. Chris Rogers.

Following the meeting, a very pleasant lunch ensued, at which the District Grand Master proposed the toast to the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, and following his response, R.Ill. Comp. Paul Norman proposed a toast to the District Grand Master and the District of Warwickshire. He thanked  all concerned for a very efficient and enjoyable meeting, and encouraged all present to continue to promote the Order, and to enjoy our very special hobby. The collection at the meeting realised £475 to which gift aid will be added, for the benefit of the Sesquicentenary Appeal.





Remembrance Day



Mark Masons across West Lancashire placed wreaths on Remembrance Sunday. Among them was 104-year-old Mark Mason, W.Bro. Tony Johnson P.G.J.D., who laid a wreath at Urmston Cenotaph representing his Mark Lodge No. 1173.



Charities round up



St John of Jerusalem
Eye Hospital Group



**Grand Sovereign's
Care for
Children Fund**

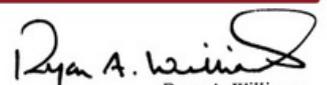


METROPOLITAN DIVISION

CANCER SUPPORT UK

*Funding new tech
for Support Staff
who provide practical
and emotional
support to
cancer sufferers*

£2,500


Ryan A. Williams
Grand Recorder



**CANCER
SUPPORT UK**

@CSupportUK
@MarkMasonsHall
#Freemasonry

Grand Sovereign's Care for Children Fund - Supporting Children with Cancer with the Metropolitan Division

Cancer Support UK was the destination for a delegation from the Red Cross of Constantine Metropolitan Division this week. A grant of £2,500 was awarded to the charity and will go towards providing over 70 'Kid's Kits' specifically put together for children. These Kids' Kits are designed to brighten the days of children living with cancer and undergoing treatment.



Mark Guyer, CEO of the charity was delighted to accept the cheque from R.Ill.Kt. Stuart Graves, Intendant-General for the Metropolitan Division along with his Deputy, V.Ill.Kt. Eric Hampson, P.G.H.Alm., accompanied by W.Kt. Darren Coleman-Heald, Charities Manager at Mark Masons' Hall.

Cancer Support UK provides practical and emotional support to people living with cancer, both during and after the treatment period. We support people with all kinds of cancer across the UK. 4,213 cancer kits were delivered in 2022 helping to reduce isolation & loneliness.

The kits include Cosy Socks; Notebook and Pen; Colouring Set; Wooden Yo-yo; Bubbles; Antibacterial Wipes; Packet of Tissues; Puzzle Book; Animal Bookmark; Canvas Drawstring Bag and a microwavable Warm-Up Bunny Rabbit.



**Grand Sovereign's
Care for
Children Fund**



METROPOLITAN DIVISION

CANCER SUPPORT UK

**Funding new tech
for Support Staff
who provide practical
and emotional
support to
cancer sufferers**

£2,500



Ryan A. Williams
Ryan A. Williams
Grand Recorder
@CSupportUK
@MarkMasonsHall
#Freemasonry

Find out more about Cancer Support UK:
<https://cancersupportuk.org/>



The Grand Sovereign's Care for Children Fund was formed at the turn of the Millennium with the express intention and principle of using its charitable assets for the relief and assistance of Children. The Fund has donated almost £390,000 to dozens of causes and charities that directly impact upon and improve the social, educational and personal well-being of Children throughout the world. The Grand Sovereign's Care for Children Fund is funded with donations from over 5,000 Knights of the Masonic Order of The Red Cross of Constantine.



CEO's Update on Current Crisis (8.11.2023)

1. Gaza: Hostilities in Gaza and Israel have continued for the past month with an increased number of casualties. The ground incursion to the north of the Gaza Strip has continued, resulting in a large number of fatalities and injuries as well as destruction to infrastructure. Since the beginning of this conflict the Israeli military has ordered all hospitals in the north of Gaza Strip to evacuate. Today many hospitals remain functioning, and some have sustained damage including the governmental eye Hospital. The Israeli army seem to have encircled Gaza city separating the north from the south areas of the Gaza Strip. As for our Hospital, we have not been able to carry out any further inspection of the building. To the best of our knowledge there is no further damage to the Hospital. All our staff are residing in Rafah and other southern districts, and all remain unharmed. However, it is worth mentioning that we have not been able to contact all of them due to electricity and telecommunication difficulties. Four of our doctors undertake voluntary work at local hospitals providing both ophthalmic and general emergency services to war casualties. We are in discussion with Walid Shaquorah, our hospital manager, to prepare plans of action to respond to the huge needs of the people, especially those in the displaced communities. However, currently and without a cessation of fire, such arrangements are not possible as we still have no safe access to our equipment, outreach van and medicines located at the Hospital in Gaza City. Humanitarian supplies continue to reach from the Rafah Crossing. However, these supplies, according to the UN, remain lower than the huge needs of the people, especially those who have been displaced to the south of the Gaza Strip. For detailed information on the current crisis, please refer to the latest update on the website of the United Nations' Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs website.

2. Jerusalem: Clinical activities for the month of October show almost 65% of the normal workload as compared to the same period of last year. The slight recovery has been possible as some of our surgical patients from the West Bank were able to reach the Hospital. Management has coordinated this with the Israeli authorities as well as the East Jerusalem Hospital Network. In order to enhance our clinical activities in Jerusalem, we have entered negotiations with Clalit Israeli sick fund to expand the scope of services contracted with the Hospital. If all goes well, we should witness at least another 10% increase in the number of Jerusalemite patients treated at the Jerusalem Hospital. Outreach visits continue at an almost 75% capacity as reaching certain venues in the northern districts remains problematic and is deemed unsafe for the staff. All Jerusalem staff have been able to reach the hospital despite certain added restrictions on movements.

3. Kufor Aqab Clinic: The clinic, which is situated outside the separation wall, has been playing an important role in the provision of essential services to patients who have not been able to access the Jerusalem facilities. We now have regular medical retina, Avastin, orthoptic and paediatric services provided at the clinic. As a result, the clinic is now at almost 100% capacity as compared to the pre-war era.

4. Hebron Hospital: The Hospital continues to function at almost 100% outpatients and surgical capacities. Due to movement restrictions, we are now exploring the possibility of introducing general anaesthesia at the Hospital. This, of course, requires some adaptation to the operating theatres as well as approval from the Ministry of Health.

5. Anabta Centre: Last week, some of our subspeciality doctors were able to conduct clinics in Anabta. The workload at the center fluctuates between 50-60 % for the normal workload.

M.B.F. cheque presentation to the Therapy Garden (Surrey)



We are grateful to M.B.F. Trustee R.W.Bro. Ian Clark for visiting the **Therapy Garden** alongside W.Bro. Bill Barr, Dep.Prov.G.M. (Surrey), to present a donation on behalf of the Mark Benevolent Fund. It was inspiring to witness the dedicated volunteers' exceptional efforts benefiting the people of Guilford.



M.B.F. Trustees' Week

☀️ Trustees' Week ☀️

Being a trustee is a rewarding thing to do. It teaches new skills, develops an understanding of other people and the challenges they face, assists personal development, builds confidence and provides genuine job satisfaction.



Why be a Trustee?



☀️ Meet the Trustees 1/12 ☀️

Kevin Hicks, P.Prov.G.M. (Cornwall).

Retired accountant. Married with 2 children and 5 grandchildren. A freemason for 48yrs. Interests include rugby, lawn bowls and clay pigeon shooting at which he represented England.

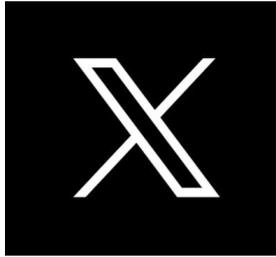


☀️ Meet the Trustees 2/12 ☀️

Ian Clark, P.Prov.G.M. (Surrey) G.M.R.A.C. Retired police officer. Freemason for 39yrs. President of Surrey Mark Festival 2022, which raised over £1M for the M.B.F. Member of the Mark General Board. Likes golf, travel and genealogy.



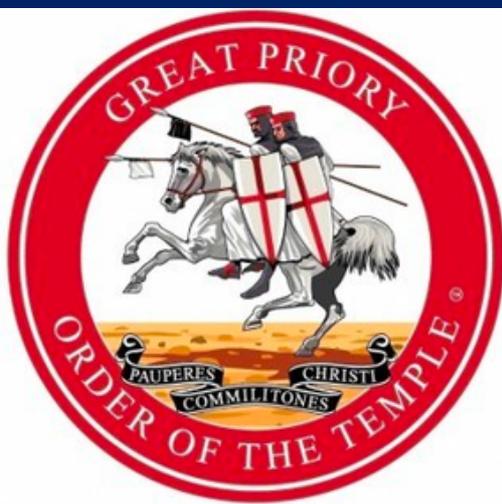
Social Media Guidelines



With our relatively new Pro Grand Masters in both the Craft and the Mark, we are continuing our close working relationship with our Brethren at Freemasons' Hall.

While we enjoy and encourage our members' enthusiasm for our Orders, it's important that we are mindful where and how we share our passion for Freemasonry.

Please ensure that any posts on social media about the Companion Orders are either restricted to groups, pages and websites that are open to all Orders or, if destined for Craft specific areas, are posted via a moderator to ensure they are a welcome additions to the news feed.



For those who may not have been able to get their hands on one of the K.T. £20 for 2020 Appeal Swift Pins, there are still some available.

Provinces can order in bulk, or individuals can purchase single pins, by contacting Linda Read, M.M.H. Charities Finance Manager at L.Read@mmh.org.uk and Finance Assistant, Millie Pilson, M.Pilson@mmh.org.uk

Pins are £20 each and funds raised will go to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital.

The Shop@86 - [Click Here](#) to visit the Shop@86 website



MBF Festival Cheshire 2024

Stewardship Jewels

The new-look MBF Stewardship Jewels have now been designed for the following Festivals:

[2024 Cheshire](#)

[2025 Oxfordshire](#)

[2026 Hampshire & IOW](#)

[2027 Warwickshire](#)

[2028 Somerset](#)

[2029 Durham](#)

[2030 Essex](#)

[2031 Northumberland](#)

We have added the bank account name to all the forms so please use the latest form and details as found in the links above.

We reported recently that the new style MBF Festival Stewardship is aimed principally, but not, exclusively, at members of each host Festival Province.

In return for a qualifying donation of £100, each Steward will be entitled to:

A distinctive Stewards' breast jewel, year bar and pocket jewel holder.

Inclusion of their name in the Festival Stewards' Roll of Honour in the Festival booklet

And for individuals making their first donation under the scheme, qualification as a Life Governor of the Mark Benevolent Fund – the first step on the ladder of honorifics.

Monies raised by the take-up of Festival Stewardships will, of course, be included in each respective Festival total.



The image displays the Stewardship Jewels for the 2024 Cheshire festival. It features a gold circular emblem at the top left with the text 'MARK BENEVOLENT FUND' and '1885'. To its right is a silver shield-shaped jewel with a red shield, a sword, and a chalice, with the text 'MARK BENEVOLENT FUND' and 'CHESHIRE 2024'. Below these are two larger jewels: a blue and gold 'STEWARDS' jewel with a circular emblem, and a red and gold 'Mark Benevolent Fund 2024 CHESHIRE' jewel.

156th MBF Festival Banquet
will be held at the
Concorde Conference Centre
Wilmslow Old Rd, Altrincham
WA15 8XQ
Saturday, 6 July 2024

[BOOK HERE](#)





Mark Emergency Relief Fund

The Mark Emergency Relief Fund allows you to make donations in a variety of ways to the Ukraine Fund and the Türkiye / Syria earthquake and the recent Morocco earthquake (via our partners ShelterBox). We know that there is enormous support for this already. To make the administration of donations as smooth as possible, enabling funds to be transferred efficiently to where they are needed most, we ask that you note the following advice regarding donations: For individual donations of less than £100 - please make arrangements with your Mark Lodge for these to be collected centrally and then for the Lodge to make one consolidated donation into the Fund. These consolidated donations will count toward the Lodge's M.B.F. honorifics, rather than each individuals.

Donations of £100 or more may be made by individuals directly into the fund and will count towards the Brother's M.B.F. Honorifics

In all correspondence please ensure you are donating to: Mark Emergency Relief Fund Relief Chest No.: MMM185622
The quickest and easiest way to donate is by scanning the QR code below or following this [Link](#).

For a Credit Card Donation Form [Click Here](#) - remembering to use your Craft Lodge name and number, not your Mark Lodge.

For a Single Donation Form [Click Here](#) - remembering to use your Craft Lodge name and number, not your Mark Lodge.

If you would like more information about the ways in which you can donate using the digital options above, you can read the Digital Donations Guide by [Clicking Here](#)

And if you, or your Lodge, already hold a Relief Chest from which you would like to donate funds, there is a further, specific guide available by [Clicking Here](#) and a simple transfer guide available by [Clicking Here](#)

Mark Emergency Relief Fund
MMM185622

To make a donation
scan with phone camera to open
or visit URL

<https://gtap.uk/mmm185622>



Calendar of Annual Meetings

Grand Meetings Calendar 2023 - All Orders

Please note *all* timings are approximate. Refer to the Summons for confirmation.

Order	Meeting	Date	To be held at	Rehearsal Time	Meeting Starts	Meeting Finishes	Dining Start	Approx Finish
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 7 March 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	12:00 AM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council - Limited Capacity	Tuesday, 18 April 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	1:30 PM	3:00 PM
SC	Grand Senatus	Thursday, 4 May 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:00 PM
KT	Great Priory	Wednesday, 17 May 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Active & 1st	Tuesday, 13 June 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	1:00 PM	3:15 PM	4:15 PM	5:45 PM
RCC	Grand Imperial Conclave	Tuesday, 4 July 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Promotions	Tuesday, 12 September 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
KBHC	Grand Priory	Thursday, 14 September 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council -150 Celebration	Tuesday, 3 October 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM
AMD	Grand Council	Tuesday, 24 October 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:15 PM	3:00 PM	4:30 PM
OSM	Grand Conclave	Thursday, 9 November 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:45 PM	4:15 PM
KT - Malta	Great Priory of Malta	Tuesday, 21 November 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RAM	Annual Assembly	Monday, 11 December 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM

Please be seated 15 minutes before published start time

01/03/2023

[Click Here](#) to download a PDF copy of the Calendar



Admin Departments @86

All departments and teams at Mark Masons' Hall are available via email and telephone to help and support members and visitors. Most communication for Masonic Administration should go via the Provincial Secretary, or equivalent, and they will know who to contact here at M.M.H. if they are unable to answer the query themselves. Published by the Communications Team at Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1PL

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