Freemasonry@86 News - 26 August 2022



Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Progressive Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

This bulletin is emailed to all Rulers in the Provinces, Districts & Divisions and their Secretariats, as well as subscribers.

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Progressive 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.

Thursday, 1 September - Mark St Giles Lodge of M.M.M. No. 760 Centenary, Province of North Wales

Thursday, 8 September - K.B.H.C. Annual Meeting of Grand Priory, M.M.H.

Saturday, 10 September - K.T. Installation of V.E.Kt. Colin Dann, P.Gt.Reg., as Provincial Prior for Sussex

Saturday, 10 September - R.S.M. Installation of V.III.Comp. Geoffrey Frederick Spencer, P.G.Lect., as District Grand Master for East Anglia

Tuesday, 13 September - Mark Communication of Mark Grand Lodge. Celebrating Prince Michael of Kent's 40th Anniversary as Most Worshipful Grand Master, and the investiture of recipients of Promotions in Grand Rank, F.M.H.

Saturday, 17 September - Mark Installation of W.Bro. Andrea Bonechi, P.G.S.D., as District Grand Master for Italy

Saturday, 17 September - S.C. Installation of Dist.Comp. Alan Webster, IV, P.A.G.D.C., as Provincial Grand Summus for West Yorkshire

Thursday, 22 September - Mark Installation of V.W.Bro. Barry Kirkbride, P.G.J.O., as Provincial Grand Master for Cumberland and Westmorland

Saturday, 24 September - K.T. Family Service at Wells Cathedral - see further down for booking instructions

Monday, 26 September - K.T. Installation of E.Kt. Paul Jeffrey Davis, P.Gt.St.B.(B.), as Provincial Prior for Somerset

Appointment of new Rulers in the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons



For the last fifteen years, M.W.Bro. Raymond Smith has given outstanding service to our Order in various offices. In 2007, he was appointed Provincial Grand Master for London, an office he held for four years before taking over the presidency of the Mark Benevolent Fund until 2013.

His reputation as a consummate professional discharging his duties with a quiet confidence and always with a welcoming smile, singled him out for further advancement and in 2014 he was appointed Assistant Grand Master. Two years later he was promoted to Deputy Grand Master and, in 2017, he succeeded to the office of Pro Grand Master.

Having served five years as Pro Grand Master and with a relocation to Jersey about to take place, M.W.Bro. Smith has indicated his wish to retire and will stand down at the September Communication of Grand Lodge. On your behalf I extend to him our thanks for all that he has done for Mark Masonry so wonderfully supported by his wife Anne and we wish them both a long, happy and healthy retirement in their new home.

In consequence of this news, the Most Worshipful Grand Master has been pleased to make the following appointments:

As Pro Grand Master – R.W.Bro. John Herbert Prizeman, Dep.G.M.



As Deputy Grand Master – R.W.Bro. Francis Charles Spencer, A.G.M.



And as Assistant Grand Master – R.W.Bro. Prof. Denovan Keith Wilson, Prov.G.M. for Durham.



I am sure you will join me in extending heartiest congratulations to our new Rulers Designate who will be invested by the Grand Master on 13 September.

Their appointments mark the start of a new Chapter in the history of our Order, and I feel sure that under their guidance we will continue our recovery from the effects of the pandemic and realise our ambitions for a stronger and more forward looking Order.

With fraternal regards and best wishes.

R.W.Bro. Ryan A Williams, P.G.J.W., Grand Secretary

Registration for the meting is now open.

<u>Click Here</u> to secure your place at what is expected to be a very well supported meeting.

Consecration of Montego Bay Council of Royal and Select Masters No. 345



After a long wait owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, a Warrant dated 25 July 2022 was duly received from the Most Illustrious Grand Master for the formation of the Montego Bay Council No. 345.

It had been the Grand Master's intention to undertake the consecration himself with the assistance of other representatives from Grand Council but travel difficulties meant that the visit had to be cancelled at the last minute.

The new Council which will meet in Montego Bay, Jamaica, was instead consecrated by the Grand Inspector, V.III.Comp. Harding O. Watler, *JP*, (pictured below) in the presence of several Companions from Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and the Bahamas ably assisted by Grand Officers in the Inspectorate as well as R.III.Comp. Llewellyn Gill, District Grand Master for South and East Caribbean and III.Comp.s. Peter Cole and James Bain from the Bahamas.



The after-proceedings were conducted in a festive atmosphere with the new Master expressing delight on behalf of the Founders.

The Montego Bay Council will serve the western area of Jamaica. It brings the number of Councils in the Inspectorate to five.



A new District Grand Prefect for East Midlands A.M.D.



On Saturday, 20 August. the Grand Master of the Allied Masonic Degrees, Most Worshipful Brother Thomas Girth Jackson, was pleased to attend Derby Masonic Hall to Install the new District Grand Prefect for East Midlands, Steven Graeme Barratt. He was accompanied by many of his Grand Officers of the year, pictured below.

Even in the middle of what many consider to be the Masonic 'off season' the meeting was extremely well attend, by Brethren of the District and representatives from other Districts across the Constitution.

At the start of the proceedings, the Grand Master paid tribute to the work of the outgoing District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. Richard William Davis, who has been at the helm since August 2007. The Grand Master then went on to instruct the new District Grand Prefect about his duties and responsibilities to the Order and the District, and introduced him to his fellow District Grand Prefects, reminding him cheekily of the tight network of intelligence gathering they operate on the Grand Master's behalf.



Following his Installation, R.W.Bro. Barratt was pleased to appoint W.Bro. Ralph Everett Hitchin, P.G.St.B., as his Deputy, followed by the other Officers of the District.

Two stalwart members of the Grand Team are always the active Grand Wardens, and this year has been no exception.

R.W.Bro. Stewart Middleton, G.S.W., and R.W.Bro. Keith Young, G.J.W., have given tremendous support to the Grand Master and the Order during their year of Office and were snapped here, relaxing off duty, the evening prior to the Installation.



Millom Network Centre presentation of £46,090 MBF Cheque



R.W.Bro. Keith Hodgson presented a Cheque for £46,090 to Angela Dixon (CEO) (Right) & Susan Dust (Office Manager) (Left) of Millom Network Centre on behalf of a petition presented to the Mark Benevolent Fund, following a brake-in at their premises when their Van was also stolen and vandalised.

The £46,090 is to replace the stolen/vandalised vehicle. A further visit will be made once the new vehicle has been purchased complete with Mark Benevolent Fund Logos, an excellent community project.



The presentation party were pleased to be joined by Volunteer's at the Millom Network Centre.



The Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Raymond John Smith, presented the cheque for Millom Network Centre to R.W.Bro. Keith Hodgson on behalf of the Mark Benevolent Fund at their Sesquicentenary Celebration on 6 August 2022.



Knights Templar Family Service at Wells Cathedral



The Great Priory Family Service will be held at Wells Cathedral, Cathedral Green, Wells, BA5 2UE on Saturday, 24 September at 2 p.m.

Please be seated no later than 1.30 p.m.

A registration fee of £10 per person is payable (which includes light refreshments after the service). No registration fee is required for children under 16, but you will need to tell us how many are attending with you.

Itinerary

1.15 p.m. The Avon and Somerset Constabulary Male Voice Choir will perform a selection of songs from their extensive repertoire, which has entertained people since their formation in 1974.

2.00 p.m. Great Priory Family Service – Enjoy the colour, splendour and pageantry of the Knights Templar, in the presence of the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, as we join together in this special service of dedication to our Order.

3.00 p.m. Light Refreshments (tea, coffee, cakes and savouries) will be served in the North and South Transepts. Wander the Cloisters and gardens and take time to enjoy the fabulous surroundings of Wells Cathedral.

4.00 p.m. Close.

Dress code for Knights of the Order is: Knights Templar regalia (no swords), over a lounge suit.

To go to the booking page, either scan the QR code below or Click Here



Scan to book in

Not seeing your news? Join us on Social Media

Social Media is becoming an increasingly important platform for how we get to hear about what is going on further afield in all of our Orders. If your Province/District/Division has a Facebook Page/Group or Twitter Feed, or if you represent a Masonic Club or Society linked to our Orders, please send us an invite to join or follow you.

We can be found at:

Facebook - Mark Secretariat - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall

Or you can email us at communications@mmh.org.uk

Calendar of Annual Meetings

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Grand Meetings Calendar 2022 - All Orders

Booking now for the West Yorkshire 2023 MBF Festival



Click Here to book



At the meeting of Mark Grand Lodge at Freemasons' Hall on Tuesday, the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Raymond John Smith, announced that the Mark Benevolent Fund would be donating £25,000 to the Mark Inspectorate of Romania who have been working proactively in many ways to provide support and relief to their neighbours in Ukraine.

This tremendous endeavour has touched Freemasons across the Constitution and many of our Brethren are keen to add their own support by making a donation.

We have set up a Relief Chest with the M.C.F. under the name of the **Mark Emergency Relief Fund** and you can now make donations in a variety of ways.

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 <u>Click Here</u> - remembering to use your **Craft Lodge name and number**, not your Mark Lodge.

For a Single Donation Form <u>Click Here</u> - 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 <u>Clicking Here</u>

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 <u>Clicking Here</u> and a simple transfer guide available by <u>Clicking Here</u>

The Shop@86

Click Here to visit the Shop@86 website

Please note: The Shop@86 is closed for the summer recess and will re-open on Monday, 22 August.



MBF Festival Stewardship Jewels

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

2023 West Yorkshire

2024 Cheshire

2025 Oxfordshire

2026 Hampshire & IOW

2027 Warwickshire

2028 Somerset

2030 Essex

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.

Helping to Combat Covid



At the start of Lockdown the Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. Ryan A. Williams, P.G.J.W., shared the <u>COVID Symptom Study</u> app.

As local lockdowns and UK cases increase, with over 4 million users, this app is a useful source of information regarding the situation in your area, as well as being a portal through which people of all ages and backgrounds are joining together to fight COVID, support the NHS, help scientific research and help get us out of lockdown safely.

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.

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