

Freemasonry@86 News - 16 June 2023



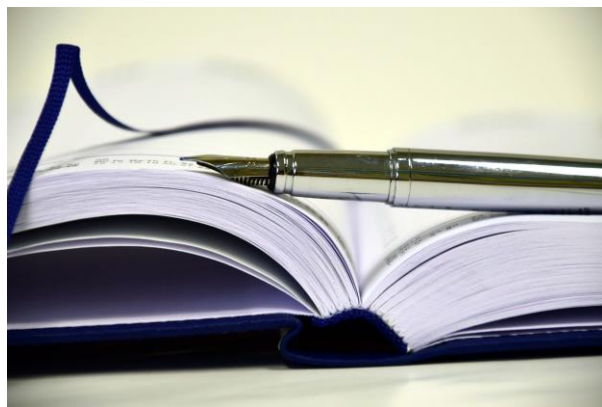
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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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, 24 June - Mark Installation of W.Bro. John David Sowerby, P.A.G.D.C., as Provincial Grand Master for Northampton, Huntingdon & Bedford

Saturday, 1 July - MBF Festival 2023 West Yorkshire - Harrogate

Saturday 1 July - R.C.C. Installation of V.Ill.Kt. Joseph Ebenezer Sudhakar, P.G.H.Alm., as Intendant-General for Cumbria

Tuesday, 4 July - R.C.C. Grand Imperial Conclave, Freemasons' Hall - [Click Here](#) for more info

Saturday, 8 July - R.S.M. Installation of Ill.Comp. Gary Michael Peard, P.G.Swd.B., as District Grand Master for Devon & Cornwall

Thursday, 13 July - S.C. Consecration of Vale of Pickering Consistory No. 144, Province of North and East Yorkshire

Saturday, 24 July - O.S.M. Installation of Wy.Bro. Stuart Robert Offord, P.G.St.B., as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Norfolk

Friday, 28 July - S.C. Consecration of Charlemagne Consistory No. 145, Province of Essex

Wednesday, 30 August - S.C. Consecration of Wiivnhou Consistory No. 146, Province of Essex

Tuesday, 5 September - S.C. Consecration of King Arthur Consistory No. 143, Province of Somerset and Dorset

Tuesday, 3 October - R.S.M. Celebratory meeting of the Sesquicentenary of Grand Council, Freemasons' Hall

At Mark Grand Lodge



1,450 Mark Brethren had notified us of their intention to attend Tuesday's Annual Investiture meeting of Mark Grand Lodge and by the very small number of vacant seats in the Grand Temple at Freemasons Hall, several others came to the meeting on the spur of the moment.

We had hoped to welcome M.W.Bro. HRH Prince Michael of Kent, *GCVO*, to last September's meeting so that we could celebrate his 40th anniversary as our Grand Master. However, Royal mourning for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II rightly took precedent and so this was our first opportunity to join with Prince Michael in celebration of this notable landmark in his Masonic career.



Grand Lodge having been open, there was much business to attend to, including a re-launch of the Keystone Fund.

V.W.Bro. Bill Divall, P.G.M.O., President of the Mark General Board, gave a short presentation explaining that the name and purpose of the "150th Anniversary Keystone Fund" has changed to "The Grand Master's Keystone Fund" to celebrate our Grand Master having given forty years of service to Mark Masonry.

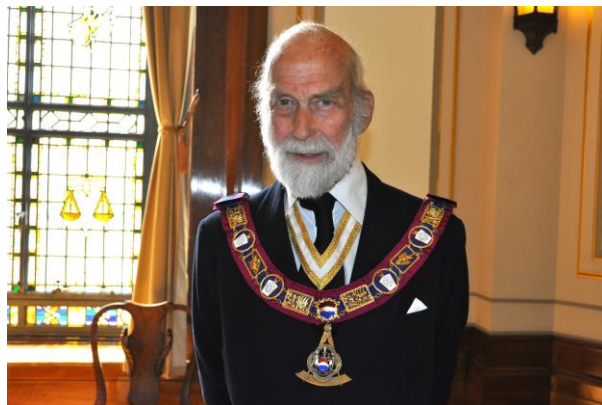
Initially, the purpose of the new fund is to grant awards to individuals to offer encouragement and financial support with their educational, vocational, and sporting achievements.

The Grand Master's Keystone Fund will be administered by the Mark Benevolent Fund Board of Trustees (see bottom of article for more information).

The M.W.Bro. HRH Prince Michael of Kent, *GCVO*, was then proclaimed as Grand Master. He then proceeded to re-appoint M.W.Bro. John Herbert Prizeman as Pro Grand Master; R.W.Bro. Francis Charles Spencer as Deputy Grand Master; and R.W.Bro. Prof. Denovan Keith Wilson as Assistant Grand Master.



Then followed the investiture of 81 Active Grand Officers and a further 137 first appointments to Past Grand Rank, each recipient being invested personally by the Grand Master, warmly shaken by the hand, and receiving a few kind words of congratulation.



The Grand Master then addressed Grand Lodge as follows:

"Brethren, change is often desirable, frequently necessary but always inevitable and in the wake of the recent pandemic our Order, like so many others, has had to adapt not just to the post-pandemic world in which we now live but also to meet the needs of our Brethren in the twenty-first century.

I am greatly encouraged to learn from the Grand Secretary that stability has returned to the Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall. Headcount and membership numbers are rising steadily; there is an increasing confidence among the Brethren and a renewed enthusiasm to resume our labours as Freemasons.

If evidence of this recovery was required, we need look no further than the Grand Temple today. That so many of you have made the effort to attend this meeting is very gratifying indeed and serves to underline the value we all place on our Brotherhood and sharing in the joys of Mark Masonry.

Brethren, each of the mainstream Masonic Orders is separate and distinct with its own story and teachings, but they all share a set of common values. Those values bind us together in the worldwide family of freemasonry and encourage us to work together for the good of all.

This has become a resoundingly strong theme of the renewed focus to bring the Craft and Companion Orders closer together which Most Worshipful Brother Jonathan Spence, Pro Grand

Master and Pro First Grand Principal, spoke about when he addressed Grand Mark Lodge in March and I encourage you all to actively embrace the opportunities this will undoubtedly create.

During the last year I have enjoyed exceptional support from the Pro Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Assistant Grand Master all of whom have travelled extensively in England & Wales and overseas. In each case, their reappointment today is an acknowledgement of their commitment to our Order, and I thank them for all that they are doing to develop Mark Masonry at home and abroad.

This afternoon I have been pleased to invest over two hundred Brethren with Grand Rank and to each of our worthy recipients, I offer my warmest congratulations.

The award of Grand Rank is not something that is given without careful consideration. It is a positive reflection of, and reward for, the work that each of today's recipients has carried out and I have no doubt that their preferment will stimulate them still further to promote the Order at every opportunity.

Brethren, I have always been impressed by the support you give to the Mark Benevolent Fund which has conscientiously distributed funds to worthy causes in our communities and supported Brethren and their families in times of hardship.

It speaks volumes about the Order and its members that even after making these grants, the Fund continues to grow and is now more financially stable than at any time in its history.

During my visit to Romania late last year, I was able to meet a group of Ukrainian refugee families for whom the Mark Benevolent Fund has been a lifeline providing food, shelter, clothing, and education via an initiative run by Mrs Diana Constantin-Tiglar. Those of you present at the March Communication will have heard her speak passionately about the work she is only able to do with our support and although the size of the Ukrainian refugee population in Romania far exceeds our capacity, the impact on those families we are able to assist is life changing.

Today sees the retirement of Right Worshipful Brother John Bell after nine years as a Trustee of the Mark Benevolent Fund, the last three years of which he served as President of the Fund. Brother Bell has been a great advocate for the Mark Benevolent Fund, working diligently to foster strong relations with various grant recipient charities, most notably Hope for Tomorrow. I am most grateful to Brother Bell for all his efforts on our behalf and wish him well in his retirement from active office.

Also retiring as a Trustee today is Right Worshipful Brother David Ashbolt who was first appointed to the Board of the Mark Benevolent Fund in 2017. He too has displayed a deep commitment to the Fund achieving success with the new Provincial Festival Jewel Scheme raising a significant sum in a relatively short time. I extend to him my personal thanks for his all that he has achieved in the last six years, particularly as Deputy President since 2020."

The Grand Master then welcomed representatives from eight Sovereign Mark Grand Lodges, and 13 of our own Districts Overseas, Including a staggering 87 Brethren accompanying the District Grand Master for Romania, R.W.Bro. Christian Mihutoiu

He continued:

"Brethren, I want to thank you all for making the effort to be here today on what is a very special occasion. I am immensely proud to have been your Grand Master for the last forty years and I can do no better than repeat what I said at my installation in 1982 the words spoken by my father when he

became Grand Master in June 1939: 'I can assure you that it will be my great endeavour during the time that I hold this high position to do all I can to promote the interests of the Order'".

Those present couldn't help but be touched by the emotion in our Grand Master's voice as he recollected his father's words, before he closed his address by saying:

"Brethren, I look forward to continuing to serve the Order for as long as I am able."

The address was met with warm applause from the assembled Brethren.

Grand Lodge was then closed and, to complete this special occasion, the London Banqueting Ensemble's trumpeters, who had provided fanfares throughout the meeting, launched into the rousing Gordon Jacob introduction to God Save The King.



With Grand Organist, Mario Rizzardi, accompanying the singing.



It had been a fantastically warm day, both outdoors and in the Grand Temple. But, overall, the warmth seemed to come from the atmosphere generated by the friendly and fraternal relationship which exists between Mark Brethren.

To cool down, the Brethren retired to refreshment before nearly 1,100 went through to the Grand Connaught Rooms to dine.

[Click Here](#) to see a galley of photographs from the day courtesy of V.W.Bro. Chirs Eley, P.G.J.O., and V.W.Bro. Bob Tuthill, P.G.M.O., pictured below. With additional pictures from W.Bro. Paul Rowlands, P.A.G.D.C., and W.Bro. Darren Coleman-Heald, P.G.S.D.



You can access a donation form for the Grand Master's Keystone Fund by [Clicking Here](#)

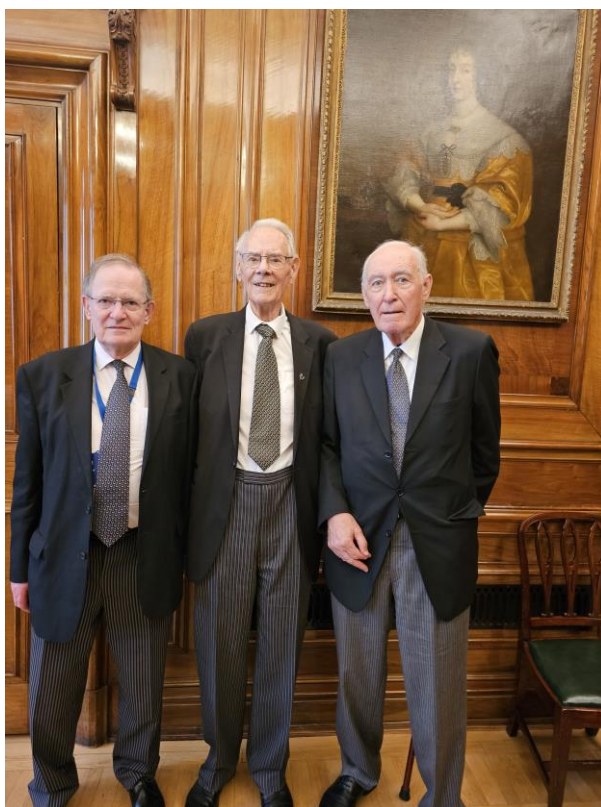
There is a new button which can be appended to existing Keystone Jewels and Collarettes, shown here:



And the collarette and jewel now available look like these:



Duly recognised



At Wednesday's quarterly communication of the United Grand Lodge of England, our Mark Past Deputy Grand Master, Michael Edward Herbert, was honoured with the Craft's "Grand Master's Order of Service to Masonry".

Michael was warmly welcomed to receive his award by the Craft Pro Grand Master, M W Bro Jonathan Spence, who has known Michael for many years in Freemasonry.

The award marks Michael's unstinting support for Craft Freemasonry, and also reflects his notable achievements in the Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall:

Mark and R.A.M. - Past Deputy Grand Master

Knights Templar/Malta - Knight Grand Cross of the United Orders

Red Cross of Constantine - Knight Grand Cross of Constantine

Royal and Select Masters - Past Deputy Grand Master

Allied Masonic Degrees - Past Grand Master (Grand Master 1996-2011)

Order of the Secret Monitor - Past Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler

Order of the Scarlet Cord - Past Deputy Grand Summus

Knights Beneficent of the Holy City - Past Grand Master (Grand Master 2011-2022)

Michael is pictured above, flanked by two of his closest Masonic Friends, Graham Redman (left) Deputy Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England, and Dr John Wright, another holder of several high positions in our Orders.

At the meeting on Wednesday Graham Redman delivered an historical paper which highlights the significance of this award and the distinction it carries. The award was first presented in 1946 and there can only ever be twelve holders at any one time.

Our congratulations go to Michael on this very well-deserved recognition of his service.

50 Years in the Craft for the Mark Assistant Grand Master



Thursday, 8 June saw well over 100 Masons attend Palatine Lodge No. 97 at Wearside Masonic Temple to celebrate 50 years in the Craft for V W Bro Prof. Denovan Keith Wilson, PGSwdB, PDepProvGM.

A man as well respected as 'Denny' was always sure to draw a crowd. The Durham Provincial Grand Master in the Craft, R W Bro. John Paul Thompson, attended with a Deputation of Provincial Officers, which included the Deputy and two Assistants. The Past Provincial Grand Master, R W Bro Norman Eric Heaviside, was also there.

As you would expect, the Mark was well represented, with the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Francis Spencer, travelling up for the occasion. Province was represented by the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. David Nigel Hanson, the Deputy, the Assistant, and a litany of other current and past Provincial Officers.

Despite seating for 103, extra seats were required in the Lodge room. Once the Lodge was opened and the Provincial Grand Master had processed in, the first business of the evening was to receive a lecture, written by members of the Lodge but delivered by Denny, highlighting Warrants in General and Palatine's in particular. Palatine's warrant, dated 14 January 1757, was the first ever issued by the Premier Grand Lodge, and by extension, the United Grand Lodge of England, and it is still proudly displayed, as it rightly should be, at every Lodge meeting. (Letters of authority were issued prior to this date.)



Then the main item of business, celebrating Denny's 50 years. Two chairs were placed on the Square in front of the pedestal and R W Bro John Thompson invited Denny to join him. They discussed his initiation on 14 June 1973, and the many wonderful years he has spent in Freemasonry, at the conclusion of which he was presented with his 50 years certificate, it being read out by W Bro Mike Davis, Provincial Deputy Grand Secretary, who also happens to be the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies in the Mark!

As you can imagine, a full Lodge room also meant a full festive board. A fine four-course meal was provided, and all were delightfully entertained throughout by a fabulous four-string quartet playing on the balcony.

In response to his toast, Denny gave an eloquent reply, as is his style, thanking everyone for attending and the work that had gone in to making the night so special for him, referencing the Mark by saying "among Mark Master Masons you will ever find friends". Fitting words for a man that has friends wherever he goes and was surrounded by friends on the night paying tribute to his service to Freemasonry.

The raffle raised more than £500 and the choice of charity was left to Denny. He chose to split it equally between the Craft Durham Benevolent Fund and the Durham 2029 Mark Benevolent Fund Festival.

A truly wonderful occasion that will be well remembered for years to come.

With thanks to W.Bro. Wayne Rumley, Prov.G.S.W. Durham Mark

1757 -  - 2023

PALATINE LODGE

No. 97.



50TH ANNIVERSARY

V.W. BRO PROF. DENOVAN KEITH WILSON
PGSWDB, PDEPPOVGM







Amble Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 780



Another Centenary Meeting in Northumberland on 24 May, this time for Amble Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 780 as they celebrated 100 years of continuous working.

Amble Lodge of M.M.M. was Consecrated on 21 February 1923. It was hoped that the Consecration ceremony would be held in Amble, but for some reason this was not possible, and the ceremony was held at the Masonic Hall, Grainger Street, in Newcastle upon Tyne. The Consecration ceremony was carried out by the Provincial Grand Master, Colonel Charles Warren Napier-Clavering, assisted by the Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge. It was one of the first Lodges to be consecrated after the formation of the new Mark Province of Northumberland in 1920.

At the Centenary Meeting, the Lodge welcomed the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Raymond Arthur Walton, along with his Provincial team. The Lodge was also greatly honoured and delighted with the presence of the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John Herbert Prizeman, who was accompanied by his Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro. Andrew Brown, and his Grand Sword Bearer, W.Bro. Anthony E. Farrar. W.Bro. Jim Thompson had the honour of acting as Grand Standard Bearer for the evening.

After the M.W. Pro Grand Master assumed the Master's chair he expressed how happy he was to be back in Northumberland and to be present at Amble Mark Lodge's Centenary Celebration. The original Warrant of the Lodge was then read by the Acting Provincial Grand Secretary W.Bro. John Park, and the Centenary Warrant was read by the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies W.Bro. Andrew Brown. The M.W. Pro Grand Master went on to present the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Graham Bainbridge, with the Centenary Warrant of the Lodge after which the Worshipful Master was placed back into the Master's chair.

The history of the Lodge was read by W.Bro. Selby Snaith in an exemplary way and this was followed by the Oration, Service of Thanksgiving and Benediction, which was delivered in his usual commendable manner by the Provincial Grand Chaplain, Bro. Gareth Davies.

The M.W. Pro. Grand Master then took the opportunity to present a number of Honorifics to those brethren who were present in recognition of their donations made to the Mark Benevolent Fund. He thanked the Brethren for their support, re-iterating how important such efforts were, and how many worthy causes were helped by such contributions.

After this the M.W. Pro Grand Master was introduced to the members of the Lodge and he presented them with their Centenary Jewels.

The W.M. of the Lodge went on to present Centenary Jewels to the M.W. Pro Grand Master and the R.W. Provincial Grand Master. However, as only members of the Lodge are officially allowed to wear the Jewels, the M.W. Pro Grand Master and R.W. Provincial Grand Master thanked the Lodge for their kind gesture.

After the Lodge was closed, everyone was treated to an excellent meal during a very enjoyable evening. It is worth mentioning that, at the Festive Board, by permission of the W.M., W.Bro. David Fuller announced that he was going to have all his hair shaved off the following day and asked for donations in aid of the MacMillan Nurses. The tremendous sum of £200 was raised thanks to the generosity of the brethren present and W.Bro. David thanked everyone for their generous contributions. He also thanked the Macmillan Nurses for their support during his wife's illness before passing, and the care offered to him during the time that he looked after her at home.

The M.W. Pro Grand Master thanked all for the kindness that had been afforded to him during his visit to Amble Lodge M.M.M. and wished the Lodge all the best for the future. He also said how much he had enjoyed the evening. He and the Grand Director of Ceremonies were each presented with a bottle of local gin, for which he expressed his gratitude on behalf of himself and his Director of Ceremonies.

I'm sure that everyone who attended this memorable occasion had a very enjoyable time too.

Congratulations go to Amble Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 780 for over 100 years of Mark Masonry, and we hope that the Lodge continues for many years to come.

Many thanks go to everyone who worked so hard to make it such a memorable occasion for all and the same thanks to the staff at Amble Masonic Hall for the food and service.

Another wonderful 'Mark' evening.

With thank to V.W.Bro. Richard Northey, P.G.J.O., Dep.Prov.G.M.





Public Schools Mark Lodge celebrates a new W.M. - and a Centenary



Earlier this week, members of Public Schools Mark Lodge No. 791 – in the presence of the Pro Grand Master, the Past Pro Grand Master and the Provincial Grand Master – saw their new Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Richard Higginson, installed in an excellent and sincere manner by W.Bro. Oliver Handy.

Following the Installation, the Pro Grand Master took the Chair to present the Lodge with its centenary warrant and to say a few words of congratulations.

The 80 or so brethren then repaired to the dining room, where glasses of Champagne were eagerly consumed (it had been extremely warm in the Grand Temple!). There then followed a sumptuous 7-course banquet, which again proved just how extremely capable the catering staff at M.M.H. are. The evening ended with port and snuff.

Over dinner, the Pro Grand Master took the opportunity to reiterate how close is the relationship between Mark Grand Lodge and UGLE and that, regardless of the Companion Order, or Orders, we may belong to, we are all Freemasons.

All-in-all it was a superb evening, expertly organised by the Secretary, W.Bro. Tony Selkus, and the Treasurer, Bro. Adrian Lewthwaite!

W.Bro. Richard Criddle P.Prov.G.J.O., Province of London Comm's Manager

Leicestershire Provincial Grand Master's Discretionary Fund supports Memphys Nursery School



Wigston Memphys Nursery School is a nursery for children aged 2-5 years who have special educational needs. It is situated in Wigston, South Leicestershire. The Centre was built by the Leicestershire based Memphys Charity and is currently funded by the Local Authority. The nursery is staffed by Teachers, Nursery Nurses, Teaching Assistants, Learning Support Assistants, Health Care Worker, and Admin Staff.

The nursery's practitioners work closely with parents, carers and professionals who regularly visit to support the children's learning. These professionals include Speech and Language Therapists, Physio and Occupational Therapists and staff from the Specialist Teaching Services. Wigston Memphys Nursery Schools' philosophy is the importance of recognising and working with each child as a unique individual, recognising their strengths and working on areas for development.

V.W.Bro. Rev. Tony Avery the Provincial Grand Chaplain nominated Memphys for support after he had visited the nursery and observed the excellent work that they do supporting children with special educational needs. R.W.Bro. Phil Mann, on behalf of all the Leicestershire Mark Masons was pleased to present a cheque to Memphys for £2000 from the Provincial Grand Master's Discretionary Fund.



The Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Phil Mann, accompanied by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Andy Lee, and The Provincial Grand Chaplain, V.W.Bro. Revd Tony Avery, attended the Nursery to see how the money had been effectively used to create a welcoming family room for parents and apparatus for the children.



Laura Jeffs the Head Teacher expressed her thanks and those of the children, parents, and staff, to the Mark Masons of Leicestershire for their generosity and stated that she was overjoyed with the impact of the assistance provided.

You can read Wigston Menphys Nursery School more about on their website [Here](#)

With thanks to W.Bro. Andrew S. Lee, Dep.Prov.G.M.



Presentation of MBF Grand Patron Jewel to Mrs Vivienne Feeley



Saturday, 10 June 2023 marked a very special occasion for Mrs Viv Feeley (wife of W.Bro. Ron Feeley, P.Prov.G.J.O., a member of the Ferrers Lodge of M.M.M. No. 1341) when she was unexpectedly presented with a Mark Benevolent Fund Grand Patron jewel by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. David Sowerby.



The occasion and presentation at their home had been masterminded by W.Bro. Ron – a loyal and longstanding supporter of the MBF - as a very special surprise for his beloved partner of 25 years.

The accompanying MBF certificate, from the Most Worshipful Grand Master, His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO, was read out to Viv by the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, W.Bro. Jeff Chambers.

Viv was not only surprised but also clearly moved by the occasion and is now as proud of her special new jewel as she is of her very special husband.

With thanks to W.Bro. Jeff Chambers, Prov.G.Ch.Stwd., and photographs by W.Bro. Chris James, P.G.S.D.



Northumberland Provincial Priory Church Service



Saturday, 20 May saw the Northumberland Provincial Priory Church Service once again return to their new home of Hexham Abbey.

Numerous members of the order, resplendent in their full regalia, in company with their respective wives and partners, sojourned from the far reaches of the Province to gather at the Abbey, as part of the Annual Meeting, to join in the celebration.

Hexham Abbey, one of the earliest seats of Christianity in England, has witnessed periods of immense turmoil and change across both the region and within the English Church itself, and has been a site for religious celebration for more than 1,300 years, since Queen Etheldreda made a grant of lands to Wilfrid, Bishop of York c.674.

Of Wilfrid's Benedictine Abbey, the Saxon crypt and apse still remain, however, there have been additions made every century since the Abbey was first founded. The oldest part is the Saxon crypt from 674 and the east end was rebuilt in 1860 to a John Dobson design, and the nave, whose walls incorporate some of the earlier church, was rebuilt in 1908.

During 2014, building work was completed on the £3m restoration of the medieval monastery complex at the Abbey to create a major visitor exhibition, function rooms and community meeting spaces. This is one of the most significant events in the Abbey's life, and it reunites all the buildings on site for the first time since the Reformation, when the monastic complex was removed by Henry VIII.

Since the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1537 the Abbey has been the parish church of Hexham and today is a centre for worship and witness to the Christian faith. The oldest of the 10 bells was cast in 1742. The youngest two were installed for the Millennium.

After the service all present continued the celebrations at Hexham Masonic Hall to avail themselves of a buffet luncheon.

With thanks to Kt. Nick Deakin







All Saints Preceptory No. 320



On Monday, 6 June 2023 many members and several visitors attended All Saints Preceptory No 320 to hear the presentation by E.Kt. Rev'd Niall Johnston, Dep.Gt.Alm.

For many years E.Kt. Rev'd Johnston has organised Pilgrimages to the Holy Land. The Pilgrimage in 2024 will be linked with the Provincial Priory of Lincolnshire.

(see below for links to documents and details)

[2024 Pilgrimage Poster](#)

[2024 Pilgrimage Brochure](#)

[2024 Pilgrimage Registration Form](#)

His very interesting and informative presentation was well-received by all. He highlighted the important role Knights Templar play in the upkeep of the work carried out medical staff and all workers at St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. Eye and sight problems are ten times higher in that part of the world than in western countries. Without the tireless efforts of those who treat patients from all religions and ethnic backgrounds, many would lose their sight. On conclusion of the presentation, the Preceptory pledged a donation to the SJOJEHG. The Preceptor, E.Kt. Nick Probert, thanked E.Kt. Rev'd Johnston for such an interesting and, at times poignant talk. E.Kt. Rev'd Johnston thanked the Preceptory for their generous donation.

After the formal proceedings, everyone retired to the banqueting Suite for a superb Festive Board

Pictured above, L to R: The Sub-Prior, V.E.Kt. Michael Carter; All Saints Preceptor, E.Kt. Nick Probert; and E.Kt. Rev'd Niall Johnston, Dep.Gt.Alm.

With thanks to E.Kt. Chris Bradley, P.Gt.A.-de-C.

50 years for E.Kt. Peter Astfalck



A great milestone was celebrated in Warwickshire on 8 June when E.Kt. Peter Astfalck was presented with certificates to mark 50 Years as a Knight Templar.

The presentation took place in Peter's 'Mother' preceptory, Holy Trinity Preceptory, No. 331. There was not a seat to spare in the Temple at the Coventry Masonic Rooms. Declared as a Formal Provincial Visit the preceptory members and well-wishers were joined by a full Provincial Team.

Before formally presenting the certificates the Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Roger Dixon, K.C.T., conducted a 'Parkinson' style interview to illicit from Peter some background to his life, both personal and Masonic.

Born and bred in Coventry, he grew up in the city, remembering well the bombing of WWII and, with his mates, collecting shrapnel and silver anti-radar strips after the raids.

From school he went to Coventry Technical College which secured him a position with Armstrong Siddeley Aircraft, later to become Bristol Siddeley and then Rolls Royce. On completion of his apprenticeship he became a Freeman of the City of Coventry.

Provincial Certificate presentation



As a child the gift of a magicians starter kit kindled his love of magic. He was a natural. He took the stage name of Peter Pocelli; by the age of 20 he was president of the Coventry Magic Circle. Richard Nixon was the guest of honour at his presidential dinner. He worked all the local working mens' social clubs. On the theatre scene he shared the bill with Anita Harris, Less Dawson, Engelbert Humperdinck, Shirley Bassey and many more.

Performing on cruise liners provided him with free international holidays.

He became interested in Masonry because the magic and masonic books were next to each other on the library shelf; on impulse he took one home and loved the whole idea of Freemasonry. He made approaches to join and after a five-year wait was admitted. His career has culminated in Grand Rank in the Craft, Royal Arch, Mark, RAM and 31st Degree in the Ancient and Accepted Rite.

He is an exceptionally dedicated Knight Templar. A Founder of one of his preceptories and a 'three-times' Eminent Preceptor. He continues to hold active 'office' and rightly is a Great Officer; Past Great Herald.

Perhaps his greatest achievement was becoming Grand Superintendent and High Priest of West Midlands No.3 District of Knights Templar Priest. This was followed by appointment as an Assistant Grand High Priest of the Order.

E.Kt. Peter is an interesting and dedicated Mason; loved and respected by all who know him. 'Characters' don't come any bigger than Peter.

Congratulations Peter!

Pictured top, receiving his Great Priory Certificate:

Centre – E.Kt. Peter, with The Provincial Prior, Sub-Prior, Vice-Chancellor, and Marshal

With thanks to R.E.Kt. Roger E Dixon, Prov.Prior







**New Eminent Preceptor for the Owain Glyndwr Preceptory of
Installed Preceptors No. 547**



On 3 June 2023 at the Neath Masonic Hall, by Dispensation, the Owain Glyndwr Preceptory of Installed Preceptors No. 547 held its Installation Ceremonies of a new Eminent Preceptor and

Eminent Prior in the presence of E.Kt. Richard J. Phillips, P.G.A.-de-C., the Provincial Sub-Prior of the Province of Monmouth and South Wales.

The “new” Eminent Preceptor and Eminent Prior being installed was E.Kt. Timothy R. Clark, P.Prov.Her., who is a Past Preceptor of the Castell Nedd Preceptory No. 577 (and is the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies in the Craft Province of South Wales as well as holding significant positions in a number of other Companion Orders).

The excellent Ceremonies were carried out by the Installing Preceptor E.Kt. Nigel Williams, P.Dep.Gt.Swd.B. (who is the Provincial Vice-Chancellor of the Province of Monmouth and South Wales) and who was assisted by E.Kt. Roger Thompson, P.Gt.Capt.Gds, (the Deputy Marshal of the Province) and supported by the Past and Present Provincial “Team” of Officers, plus a number of Great Officers, Provincial Officers, Past and Present Members of the Provincial Prior’s Bodyguard and Members of the Preceptory.

The very convivial Festive Board (which lasted well into the afternoon) was held in the Dining Hall of the Neath Masonic Hall.

With thanks to E.Kt. Chris Mugford, P.Prov.Swd.B., Prov.Comms







R.S.M. District of North & East Yorkshire



Saturday, 3 June was the annual meeting for the District of North & East Yorkshire, held at Beverley Road Masonic Hall in Hull. Our District Grand Master, R.III.Comp. Neil Thomas Woodward, welcomed eighty-eight members and visitors into the meeting room, with eighty-three remaining for the meal.

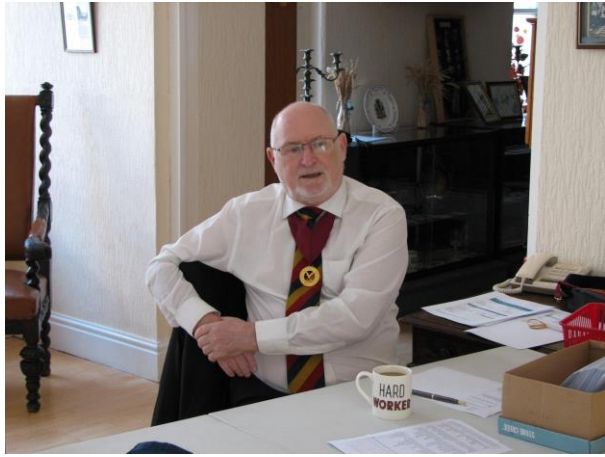
The visitors were led by seventeen District Grand Masters with members from nineteen Districts. R.III.Comp. Michael Graham travelled with nine others from Durham. Had there been a prize for the most attendees from other Districts, they would have easily won.

The Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, R.III.Comp. Paul Anthony Norman, IX, supported by Ill.Comp. Andrew C. Jennings, P.Dep.G.D.C., was there to witness a very busy meeting, and addressed our two newly appointed Officers of Grand Council.

The highlight of every District meeting is the appointment and investment of the District Grand Officers of the Year, but we had the added bonus of witnessing the dedication of our new District banner. Our Dist.G.Chap., Ill.Comp. Martin Tempest Elwick, P.G.St.B., began the dedication by explaining just why we have banners and flags in all sorts of organisations and groups, including Freemasons. If you would like to read his words, or the address by the District Grand Master, you can find them on links on the District's website [Here](#)

With thanks to V.III.Comp. Tom Spinks, P.G.Lect., Dist.G.Rec.















Division of South Wales and Monmouthshire R.C.C. Annual Church Service



On Sunday, 11 June 2023 at St John's Church, Newton, Porthcawl, the South Wales and Monmouthshire Division of the Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine held their Annual United Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication.

The Service was conducted by V.III.Kt. Dr. Vivian Thomas, *JP.*, G.J.Gen. (who is also the Grand Master of the Order of Knights Beneficent of the Holy City of the Rectified Scottish Rite of England and Wales) and was attended by R.III.Kt. Nigel L. Angell, *JP.*, the Divisional Intendent-General; III.Kt. John Steward, P.G.Chamb., Deputy Intendent-General; plus a significant number of the Divisional Officers (some of whom also hold senior positions in Companion Orders). These included III.Kt. Peter W. Hughes, P.G.Chamb. (Past Divisional Eusebius); III.Kt. Richard O.W. Edwards, P.G.Her; III.Kt. Terry Ll. Price, P.Div.Eus.; P.Kt. Michael Lewis (Divisional High Prelate); P.Kt. William Jenkins, P.Div.S.Gen.; P.Kt. Phillip Aubrey, P.Div.J.Gen.; P.Kt. Hugh Thomas, *OStJ*, P.Div.St.B.(C.); III.Kt. D. Geraint Puw, P.G.Pref. (Captain of the Grand Sepulchre Guard); P.Kt. Alan Hulbert (a member of the Grand Sepulchre Guard and Captain of the Divisional Sepulchre Guard); W.Kt. Peter Turner (Assistant Recorder); and W.Kt Chris Mugford (Div.Comms). In addition to the goodly number of Members of the Order who attended, many of the attendees were accompanied by their wives.

At the conclusion of the Service, all of the Congregation (under an Arch of Steel provided by the Divisional Sepulchre Guard) processed out of the magnificent medieval Church and Grade I listed building in Church Street, Newton, Porthcawl, Wales, which was built in the late twelfth century.

Picture: R.Ill.Kt. Nigel L. Angell, Intendent-General, and V.Ill.Kt. Dr. Vivian Thomas, G.J.Gen.

With thanks to W.Kt. Chris Mugford, Div.Comms

Surrey Showstopper



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, and how we share the most up-to-date information with members. 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

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 Ends	Dinner Start	Approx. Finish
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 7 March 2023	F.M.I., 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	2:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
SC	Grand Semaius	Thursday, 4 May 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	5:00 PM
KT	Great Priory	Wednesday, 17 May 2023	F.M.I., 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 & List	Tuesday, 23 June 2023	F.M.I., 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	F.M.I., 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 Princes	Tuesday, 12 September 2023	F.M.I., 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 Graduates	Tuesday, 3 October 2023	F.M.I., 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	F.M.I., 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	F.M.I., Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:45 PM	4:15 PM
KT - <i>only</i>	Great Priory of Malta	Tuesday, 21 November 2023	F.M.I., 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	F.M.I., 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

06/09/2023

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

Additional support for earthquake rescue efforts



Further to last week's announcement that the MBF had made an emergency grant of £50,000 to help with the Türkiye/Syria earthquakes rescue efforts, we have been inundated with requests to make it possible for Brethren, Lodges and Provinces to make donations to directly support the work of our trusted partners at the ShelterBox charity.

It has been agreed that we will accept donations in to our MCF Relief Chest.

The donations will be channelled through our trusted partners at the ShelterBox charity reg no. 1096479 and will also count towards MBF honorifics.

Donations for Türkiye (formerly Turkey) and Northern Syria should be sent using the following details:

MARK EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

MMM 185622

For Individual donations - Please add your **Surname** and the reference **Turkiye**

For Lodge donations – use the **Order** with **Lodge number** and the reference **Turkiye**

For Provincial donations – use the **Order** with **Province** and the reference **Turkiye**

To make a donation you can

- **use the QR Code below**
- [Click Here](#) to go to the donation page
- [Click Here](#) to download a Credit/Debit Card donation Form
- [Click Here](#) to download a Cheque/Chirty Voucher donation form



Please share with your Brethren and if you have any queries or concerns please contact the Charities Department at Mark Masons' Hall.

We thank you all for your generosity.

You can find out more by [Clicking Here](#) to read the latest ShelterBox update and there is additional info in the images below.

You can visit ShelterBox on their various media outlets:

<https://shelterbox.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ShelterBox>

[ShelterBox](#)



ShelterBox

£50,000 donated to ShelterBox

On Monday, 6 February 2023 a series of powerful earthquakes devastated southern Türkiye (formerly Turkey) and northern Syria. The Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund were quick to act and by the close of business on Tuesday 7, had approved an emergency grant of £50,000 to help with the rescue efforts in association with our trusted partners at the ShelterBox charity. The charity is sending an emergency response team to carry out crucial assessments and establish how best their help can be deployed. Their international assessment team will arrive in Türkiye in a few days and will be liaising with contacts on the ground to establish how best to proceed.

The humanitarian need in Türkiye and Syria is immense and growing – it is the most devastating earthquake to hit the region in 100 years and could become the worst. The death toll is likely to rise significantly, and thousands of buildings have been destroyed in both countries leaving people homeless, with nowhere to sleep, in the middle of a bitter winter.

ShelterBox provides different combinations of emergency shelter aid and essential household items during its responses depending on what is needed. This could be sending tents and shelter kits, stoves, thermal blankets and clothing to keep people warm through the freezing winter nights. It could be cash to help people buy what they need to survive. Or it could be solar lights that help people when there is no electricity. Getting aid into countries and on to where it's needed after a disaster of this scale presents huge challenges especially with damage to infrastructure and supply routes. That's why ShelterBox strategically pre-positions aid around the world, including in Syria.

This donation of £50,000 from the Mark Benevolent Fund will allow ShelterBox to act quickly, adapting how they work to best support people affected by the earthquakes and allowing them to tailor aid packages to what is needed. There are currently no plans to set up a central fund from Mark Masons' Hall.

This is what the grant will be used for by the ShelterBox charity (information taken from the ShelterBox website):

SHELTERBOX TENT - £350

When disaster strikes, families need shelter to feel safe again. When they can't start rebuilding their homes immediately, durable tents can make them feel safe and protected. Depending on the weather and the place, the shelter needs of families differ. That's why we're committed to providing families with the best possible solutions that suit their needs. From padded tents that can safely accommodate a stove, to medium-sized tents that fit in small spaces and ones that can last years if needed, families can feel at home again.



SHELTER KITS - £60

We provide shelter kits which include a selection of hardwareing tools and materials that are customised to suit the needs of each community.

The tools and materials we send provide the essentials families need to start rebuilding homes straight away, ranging from tough tarpaulin and timber to corrugated sheeting and even room dividers.

The versatile tools we provide help with everything from clearing rubble to building shelters and even tending crops. Our tools can also be used to build furniture, cut firewood and make repairs.



BLANKETS - £7

Blankets, groundsheet and mattresses not only provide vital warmth, but comfort too when families are recovering from disaster. These simple items can be used in a variety of ways, from bedding to room dividers, and help turn a shelter into a home.



SOLAR LIGHTS - £11

Our solar lights can last up to 24 hours on just one charge on the lowest setting. They are lightweight and waterproof, making them easy to carry in any situation. Because they are so safe, cheap and easy to use, families use solar lights in different ways – for work, education, family activities, or simply moving around at night.

They are more than just light – they can provide comfort and allow families to regain their livelihoods.



Find out more about the work of ShelterBox



<https://shelterbox.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/ShelterBox>



@ShelterBox



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](#).

Mark Emergency Relief Fund
MMM185622

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

<https://gtap.uk/mmm185622>



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](#)

Swift pins still available



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.

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.

The Shop@86

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





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](#)

[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.

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

Find us here [///prefer.status.sharp](http://prefer.status.sharp)