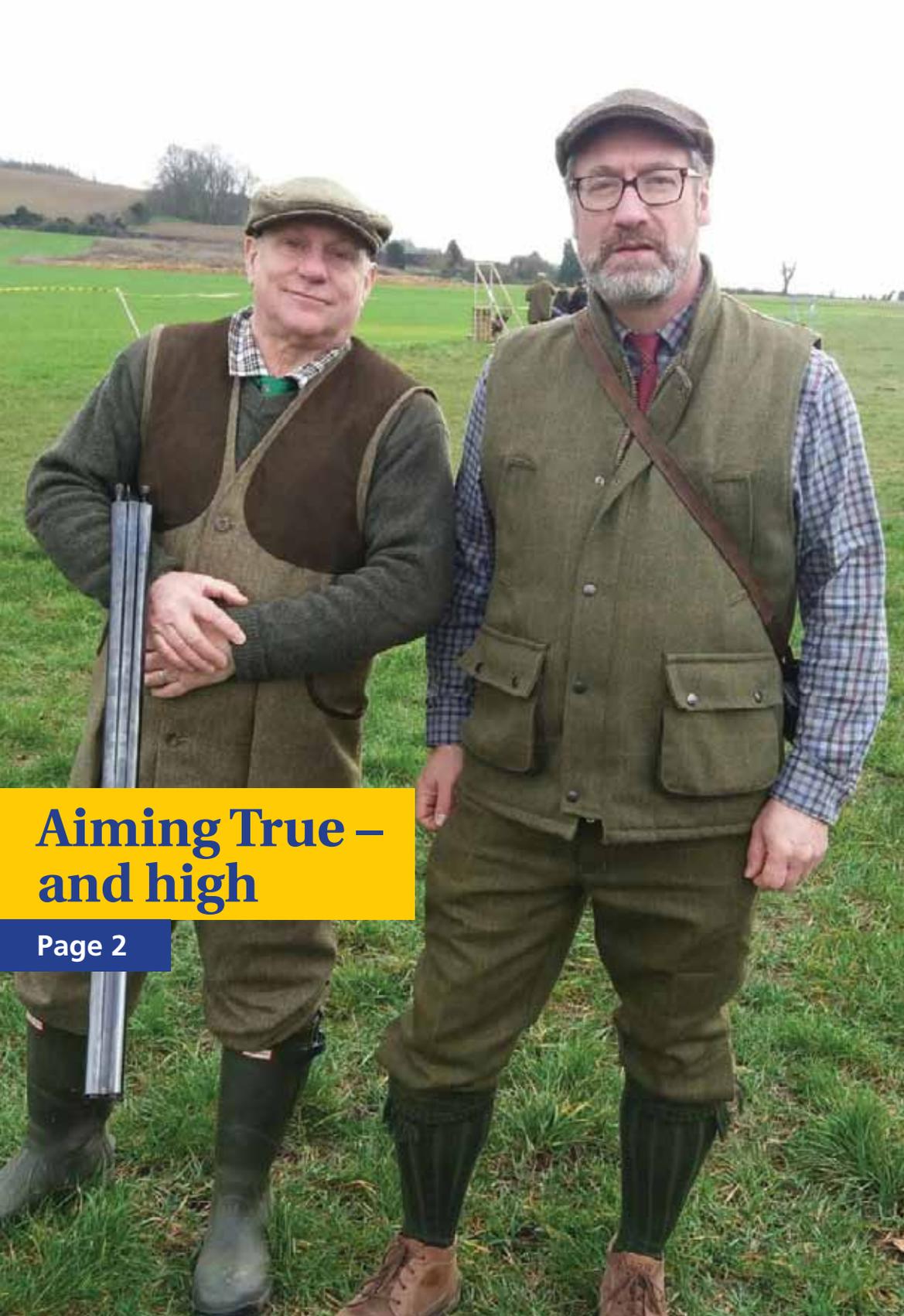


# Provincial News

The magazine for Hertfordshire Freemasons



No. 54 Spring 2019



**Aiming True –  
and high**

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## A Happy Hertfordshire welcome



### Editor Terry Mitchinson

Welcome to the latest edition of Provincial News. Hopefully, you will notice some subtle changes as we look to deliver

information to Freemasons in Hertfordshire in a variety of different ways.

With the introduction of our monthly newsletter, your Provincial Communications team is able to bring you regular updates on the many activities our Lodges and members are involved with.

It also allows us to bring you up to

speed with the latest information from Province and Executive on a range of issues such as the upcoming Festival Banquet.

This means we can use the Provincial Magazine in a slightly different way. You will see more in-depth features from Lodges and individuals as well as the usual favourites such as our museum, work with charities and articles from other Orders in Hertfordshire.

This month we delve into the workings of one of our newest and most interesting Lodges, give a great insight into the work of the Masonic Charitable Foundation and highlight the Annual Service of Thanksgiving at the Abbey in June, which this year has an interesting twist.

The team is currently working on updating and improving our website, a job which is a complicated and time-consuming one.

I would urge all of you who have not yet signed up to our monthly newsletter to do so. It is quick and easy. Log on to [www.pglherts.org/](http://www.pglherts.org/) email.

We are always keen to hear your news. If you have anything you would like us to consider you can email me or log on to the website.

We are also keen to spread the word of the great work done by Masons in Hertfordshire to a wider audience, so if you have any contact details for media outlets in your respective areas, please let us know. We have a number of contacts already, but the more we have the better.

Finally, if anyone can offer their services as a volunteer photographer to cover some of the events throughout the Province we would also be glad if you would get in touch.

We hope you enjoy this latest edition of your Provincial News.

## Aiming True – and high

Inspired by a love of shooting, a group of Hertfordshire Masons decided to consecrate a new lodge with that interest at its core.

It was first discussed early in 2015 by VW.Bro Richard Knifton, W.Bro Jim Harrison and W.Bro Stuart Hutchison.

With the approval of the PGM, they began to canvas support, and soon realised there was significant interest from within the Province and beyond.

After much groundwork, in January 2017, The Lodge of True Aim No. 9930 was consecrated at the Metropolitan Police Club in Bushey by the Provincial Grand Master, RW.Bro Paul Gower.

W.Bro Harrison told Provincial News: "The process of confirming interest, submitting all the necessary paperwork, acquiring or creating Lodge furniture and organising dates for the Consecration as well as the regular meetings all took some considerable time, but by late 2016 everything was in readiness."

At its inception the Lodge

had 29 Founders. More than 180 Brethren attended the Consecration, including a visiting deputation from the United Grand Lodge of Bulgaria.

"The meeting was moving and impressive but above all an occasion of great enjoyment for all involved," said W.Bro Harrison.

W.Bro Stuart Hutchison was installed as Primus Master, with VW.Bro Dick Knifton acting as the Lodge's first IPM.

W.Bro Harrison said: "All present were as impressed with the wonderful Lodge gavels, working tools chest and wands, specially made by DC W.Bro Jason Littlefield, as they were with the fabulous Consecration vessels used in the ceremony."

At the Lodge's first regular meeting, in March 2017, the pattern was set for its regular format.

In the morning, members and guests met for a shoot at Hertford Clay Pigeon Shooting Club. Starting with bacon sandwiches and coffee, a brisk 50 bird English Sporting layout, they then headed back to Mayflower Place, Hertingfordbury, for the meeting at 1pm. Once in the Lodge, where members typically dress in smart shooting attire





such as tweed jackets rather than the more usual 'stripes', the Lodge's first candidate, Mr Richard 'Pip' Hughes was initiated. Seven joining members were welcomed. Subsequent meetings set the trend for double initiations, or 'braces', such is the enthusiasm for the new Lodge. In September 2017, Stuart Hutchison was proclaimed Master for a further year. He held a very successful Ladies' Night at Hunters Meet that November. Further candidates and joining members followed. W.Bro Albert Bareham, a Northants and Hunts Mason, was installed as the second Master of the Lodge of True Aim in September 2018. "We also enjoyed a visit from a deputation of 20 visiting shooters from the Province of Derbyshire who, with their Provincial Grand Master, thoroughly enjoyed both the sport and the ritual of the occasion," W.Bro Harrison told Provincial News. As this magazine went to press the Lodge had just held its seventh regular meeting, initiating another brace of candidates. Since its consecration the Lodge of True Aim has initiated 11 candidates (with another two having been successfully balloted for, and more proposed) and welcomed 14 joining members. So busy has the programme been that other Lodges in the Province have carried out ceremonies on behalf of the Lodge, passing and raising members so that all prospective candidates can be initiated without too much delay. With more than 50 members, the Lodge is already on its way to being one of the largest in the Province, and its members' enthusiasm for both the Craft and the sport of shooting continues to take it from strength to strength.

## W.Bro Sidney Berman and W.Bro Michael Allen

Two members of the same lodge were presented with long service certificates by V.W.Bro James Young, Past DepPGM, recognising a total of 110 years' service to Masonry.

A 60-year certificate was awarded to W.Bro Sidney Berman and a 50-year certificate to W.Bro Michael Allen at the Burning Bush Installation meeting.

Provincial Charity Steward Chris Noble told Provincial News: "It was fascinating to hear facts and figures about the two brethren, and as usual V.W.Bro James entertained us all with his humour."



## Long Service Certificates

Oct 2018 to March 2019

### 2019 70 year certificates

|     |                  |             |      |
|-----|------------------|-------------|------|
| Mar | Reginald Luckman | James Terry | 2372 |
| Mar | Jack Carter      | Layston     | 6699 |

### 2019 60 year certificates

|     |               |               |      |
|-----|---------------|---------------|------|
| Feb | Trevor Tye    | Waltham Cross | 5359 |
| Feb | Vernon Tye    | Waltham Cross | 5359 |
| Feb | Sidney Berman | Burning Bush  | 9608 |
| Mar | Gerald Singer | Hartsbourne   | 9680 |

### 2018 50 year certificates

|     |                         |                       |      |
|-----|-------------------------|-----------------------|------|
| Oct | Gerald Macro            | Waltham Cross         | 5359 |
| Nov | Eric White              | Chorley Wood          | 3247 |
| Nov | John Argent             | Ludgrove              | 7766 |
| Nov | Keith Gibbs             | Grove Park            | 2732 |
| Dec | John Cook               | Charles Edward Keyser | 2518 |
| Dec | John Rolfe              | Temple Bar            | 5962 |
| Dec | (John) Stanley Saunders | Ashwell               | 7903 |

### 2019 50 year certificates

|     |                    |                          |      |
|-----|--------------------|--------------------------|------|
| Jan | Charles Huddleston | Godfrey Kent             | 9375 |
| Jan | Geoffrey Nixon     | Stanboroughs             | 9523 |
| Feb | Roger Tingay       | Herts Imperial Yeomanry  | 3192 |
| Feb | Roger Clarke       | Baldock Lodge of Harmony | 5262 |
| Feb | Thomas Payne       | Oxhey                    | 6864 |
| Feb | Michael Allen      | Burning Bush             | 9608 |
| Mar | Francis Adams      | Jubilee and Ionic        | 9475 |
| Mar | Anthony Nott       | Icknield                 | 4670 |
| Mar | Kenneth Collinge   | Royston                  | 4304 |
| Mar | Robin McCombie     | Royston                  | 4304 |
| Mar | John Illott        | Rickmansworth            | 2218 |
| Mar | Leslie Browning    | Edmonton with Chandos    | 4339 |

## Tudor Lodge

A demonstration of an early 19th century Third Degree ceremony entertained members and guests at Tudor Lodge. The meeting, at Bushey Sports Club, saw The Northumberland Demonstration Team in full authentic costume of the period. Team leader W.Bro Brian Denton (an APGM in Northumberland) first set the scene and then the demonstration of an 1805 ritual began.

A lodge spokesman told Provincial News: "We were treated to a highly involved rendition of the Third Degree as it happened in those days.

"The ritual was recognisable but was carried out with much greater theatrics so that the 'candidate' might learn and understand much more of what he was going through." Tudor Lodge Master W.Bro Stuart Adams thanked the demonstration team to rapturous applause from the audience. Those present, together with team members, then retired to a Trafalgar-themed Festive Board with place settings and tables named after Admiral Nelson's fleet.

A total of 111 Masons dined. Bro Harry Lomas acted as Master of Ceremonies and conducted the diners through two raffles and a game of Heads & Tails. During the evening the Worshipful Master presented W.Bro Brian Denton with a cheque for £500 in aid of charities supported by the Northumberland Masonic Demonstration Team.

A similar amount was raised for the 2019 Hertfordshire Festival in support of the RMTGB.

Our picture shows the demonstration team, including W,Bro Denton on the left, with W.Bros Stuart Adams, David Ellis and Andrew Ellis.



## Air Ambulance

When APGM W.Bro Jay Patel and charity steward W.Bro Chris Noble visited the region's air ambulance base they saw at first hand the vital work it does.

For on arrival the ambulance took off on a 'shout' leaving the pair to watch it disappear into the distance.

Chris told Provincial News: "We assumed the visit would be without the craft, but we were both delighted when it returned and landed just feet in front of us having received the stand down signal."

The pair were on a visit to North Weald Airfield where the two Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust aircraft are stationed.

It followed a recent MCF grant made to the charity on behalf of Hertfordshire's Provincial Grand Lodge.

Jane Gurney, the CEO, and fundraising manager Natasha Robertson, showed them around the station and explained about the work done by staff and volunteers. "Understandably they are very proud of the new £6.5m state-of-the-art second aircraft which predominantly serves the Herts area," said Chris.

"They reminded us that the 27 Air Ambulance Trusts receive no Government funding and rely solely on public donations. They told us that without the support of Freemasons the service would suffer considerably."

The pilot showed them inside the helicopter and explained that the onboard computers could manage a perfect hover, in windy conditions, above an incident site.

Chris said: "The four rotor blades alone cost £1.5m to replace.



"Unbelievably they have had to recently invest in 'stab vests' at £400 each due to rising incidences of crew attacks.

"They often receive verbal and sometimes physical abuse." Doctors and paramedics work on a three-year secondment from their hospital.

Paramedic Dave told Jay and Chris: "It's a wonderful opportunity and very different to hospital life.

"I am just getting my feet under the table after six months.

"I see more trauma cases in one day than I usually did in a week at the hospital. It is very exciting, very demanding, but extremely satisfying.

"One patient had stopped breathing and was receiving CPR when we arrived. We applied the full body automatic CPR unit which supported him for 46 minutes until the hospital team took control. He walked out of hospital three days later without any problems. Without doubt he would have died had it not been for the EHAAT support."

Chris said that the EHAAT team had offered any Herts Lodge interested a brief presentation at a future Lodge meeting. Contact Chris if you are interested.

## Father and son

The Brethren of Sprig of Acacia Lodge No. 3318 were treated to an exceptional Initiation occasion when both Steve Batt and his son Josh were made Entered Apprentice Freemasons in a double ceremony.

The ceremony was conducted by the Master W.Bro John Moran.

Both candidates were proposed by Bro John Goodenough, a fellow care worker at the Prince Michael of Kent Court.

The duo were seconded by the DC W.Bro Garry Colling who gave the address to the candidates.

The ceremony was at the Masonic Centre, The Rose Walk, Radlett.

Our photograph shows Bro Steve to the right of the WM with Bro Josh to the left.

**More family stories over the page.**



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## Keeping it in the family

It was a packed house when Bro Anthony Michael Wright was installed into the Master's chair by his father W.Bro Tony Wright, the Provincial Chaplain.

The Prae Wood Lodge ceremony at Ashwell House attracted 89 Masons.

Among those present were W.Bro Neil Connolly, Provincial Assistant Grand Master, accompanied by the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies W.Bro Barrie House.

A number of Acting and Past Provincial Officers, 23 Grand Officers and visitors from Lincolnshire, Devonshire, Cornwall and North Wales were also present.

During the evening £1,200 was raised to be divided between the 2019 Festival and a young family from St Albans where the father has recently undergone a double lung transplant.

During the ceremony W.Bro Jay Patel, Provincial Assistant Grand Master, presented the newly Installed Master with a pair of silver gavel cufflinks and W.Bro Tony Wright, with a gold inscribed pocket watch from the Lodge for his services as Master.

All 89 Brethren dined at the Festive Board, enjoying a five-course meal and entertainment by VW.Bro Keith Gilbert OSM who sang the Master's Song.



It was a very special day for Tring Lodge when W.Bro Tony O'Connor Initiated his grandson, Joshua Day, into Freemasonry.

He was ably assisted by W.Bros Dermot Doherty and Brian Miles and Bro Ray Uren.

Worshipful Master W.Bro Beej Parmar had vacated the Chair to enable W.Bro O'Connor to conduct the ceremony.

A lodge spokesman told Provincial News: "Bro Joshua Day had, in fact, recently been awarded a BSC Honours Degree in Physical Geography which was made possible, in part, by a grant from the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

"During his interview for membership, Bro Day had thanked the MCF for the grant and stated it was his intention to give something back to Freemasonry."

The occasion was all the more significant for W.Bro O'Connor as he was presented with an engraved glass tankard by the Worshipful Master in recognition of his being Initiated into Freemasonry 50 years ago, almost to the day (it was actually the day after their meeting).

On the Second Rising Provincial Grand Charity Steward W.Bro Chris Noble presented the Worshipful Master with a Certificate of Vice Patronage, in recognition of Tring Lodge's support of the Provincial 2019 Festival. This was accompanied by a Steward's Jewel for the Worshipful Master himself.

The spokesman added: "To complete the evening our Lodge Tyler, W.Bro Wally Randall, who, at 103, must be one of Masonry's oldest Tylers, rounded off the Festive Board with a perfect rendition of the complete Tyler's Toast, closing what had been a very special evening for all involved."



■ W.Bro O'Connor, W.Bro Chris Noble, W.Bro Wally, Bro Joshua Day and W.Bro Biraj Parmar

## T'was a family affair

The Lodge of Grand Design Installation meeting was both spectacular and special - particularly for the Clark family.

A Provincial deputation was headed by APMG W.Bro James Harrison. He was escorted by W.Bro Peter Albutt and attended by W.Bros Graham Raven and Robert Gurney.

The Worshipful Master, W.Bro Sid Clark (Jnr), obligated his younger brother Bro Jon Clark and subsequently declared the Board of Installed Masters. He then handed the gavel to his father W.Bro Sid Clark (Snr) who carried out the Inner Working installing his youngest son into the chair of King Solomon.

Sid Clark (Snr) then returned to his duties as DC and Sid Clark (Jnr) continued the ceremony proclaiming Bro Jon Clark as the new Master.

Bro Jon Clark then appointed and invested his officers "with aplomb".

A lodge spokesman told Provincial News: "All would be happy to be leaving such a meeting in good cheer, but there was even more to come under the heading of 'conducting any other masonic business'.

"Members and guests were made aware of six new initiates, which clearly gives plenty of work for our new master and his officers as well as a healthy outlook and future for Grand Design." Following the meeting, held at Halsey Masonic Hall, Cheshunt, the assembled gathering enjoyed a warm and friendly festive board. Even this was a little out of the norm being concluded in song by a guest singer, W.Bro Jon Meredith.



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## Charity Report

By Provincial Grand Charity Steward Chris Noble

May I take this opportunity to remind you about the MCF (Masonic Charitable Foundation) before I update you regarding our 2019 Festival.

The MCF is there for all members, our children, and our children's children should our families experience a problem. This may be through short-term health or monetary problems, or may be much longer term, severe health or perhaps a death of a parent, or both. The MCF will ensure such families do not suffer poverty and the children's education does not suffer.

I hear of so many different heart breaking stories but one common theme is that they are all so grateful to the MCF for their support and guidance and vow to pay back every penny.

Nearly 100 per cent of MCF funds come from within our Fraternity; yet 52 per cent is awarded to non-Masonic charities. We need to ensure we top up the MCF funds both during and outside our Festivals.

There is more about the MCF on page 15

Our latest Festival culminates on Saturday, July 6, at Guildhall, London. We hope to see many of you there, when the Provincial Grand Master will announce the final figure achieved. I am confident this will exceed the £3m minimum set by the PGM and it will be quite exciting to see how much we finally raised.

The size of your Lodge should not matter because targets were set pro rata with membership. Some small Lodges have reached amazing honorifics. We should all aim for at least Patron status (100%) and I sincerely thank you all for

your wonderful generosity and support of the Festival. The PGM encourages you all to wear your Festival Jewels with pride, and enjoy the Lodge honorific highlighted on the front of your summons.

### Proud to be a Mason.

May I urge one more push for you personally and your Lodges to achieve honorifics. Ask your Charity Steward what you or your Lodge need to achieve the next level in time for the Guildhall announcement.

### Festival fatigue!

Yes it has been a long five-and-half years of Festival, but spare a thought for your poor Festival Chairman VW.Bro Dick Knifton and his team who have been running at full steam for more than six years, but we do sincerely thank you for your most generous response to our efforts. Very soon you can concentrate on your local and national charities, although we have never asked you to ignore them to achieve your Festival honorifics. The MCF and Province continue to support our hospices, lifeboats, Air Ambulance, MTSFC and much more. During the last year in Hertfordshire alone the MCF awarded grants to families totaling £265K whilst the Province supported numerous local charities & the Prince Michael of Kent home to the tune of some £60K. Post-Festival I would encourage you all to continue giving and would suggest you sign a modest monthly contribution into your Lodge Relief Chest. This will build up nicely with Gift Aid and interest and may even achieve your next Festival honorifics from day one in 2024.

Once again thank you for your wonderful ongoing support and generosity in the name of charity.



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## Charity news round-up

**RIGHT:** Members of Herts Border Lodge No 6641 welcomed W.Bro Robin Crozier at Sawbridgeworth to present a Festival Vice Patron Certificate to the WM, W.Bro Paul Wilson and Lodge Charity Steward W.Bro Colin Mackay. At the same time a Certificate of Patronage was presented to W.Bro Derek Poole - Adams.



**BELOW:** The Province has part-funded a new MTSFC Herts Branch trailer to help support the work of the Masonic Fishing Charity. Chris Noble is pictured by its side.



**ABOVE:** Provincial Charity Steward Chris Noble made a surprise presentation to Dacre Lodge of its Festival Patron certificate at its December meeting. W.Bro Kieran Doyle, Dacre's Charity Steward, said: "It is always a great pleasure to have your Provincial boss at your meeting, but when he gives no warning and makes a presentation like that it took us all by a complete and joyful surprise. Without the members and visitors Dacre Lodge could not have achieved this milestone." The picture shows the WM, W.Bro Martin Zealey and W.Bro Doyle, with W.Bro Noble in the centre.



**ABOVE:** Representatives from two charities gave presentations about their work to members of Icení Lodge No 5975. Both Royal British Legion and Jackie's Drop In had received donations from the Lodge. W.Bro Chris Noble then presented the Lodge with its Vice Patron Certificate for the 2019 Festival.



**LEFT & BELOW:** A Festival Grand Patron certificate was awarded to Burning Bush Lodge No 9608 at its Installation meeting by V.W.Bro James Young and W.Bro Chris Noble.



## Stortford Lodge



Tradition is important to members of Stortford Lodge – and at its Installation meeting this was again amply illustrated, A single sprig table accommodated all members and guests, while they were served huge marrowbones. Provincial Junior Grand Warden W.Bro Bob Davis was the official guest.

During the meeting itself W.Bro Rodney Northwood installed his good friend W.Bro Richard Pearce. In turn, he will then be installing his son in 12 months time.

Both the WM and IPM agreed second time round was perhaps even more emotional than the first. The Provincial Grand Charity Steward W.Bro Chris Noble thanked the brethren and the Lodge Charity Steward in particular, W.Bro Bob Weston, for achieving the Platinum Award (175%) Festival Honorific.



## The Provincial Grand Lodge of Hertfordshire Service of Thanksgiving & Dedication of an Icon to St Michael the Archangel

There will be a double celebration at this year's Provincial Grand Lodge Service of Thanksgiving. For it will also include the Dedication of an Icon of St Michael the Archangel.

The service is at St Albans Abbey on Sunday, June 16. It will be led by the Dean of St Albans.

The icon has been presented to the abbey by the Brethren of the Province of Hertfordshire.

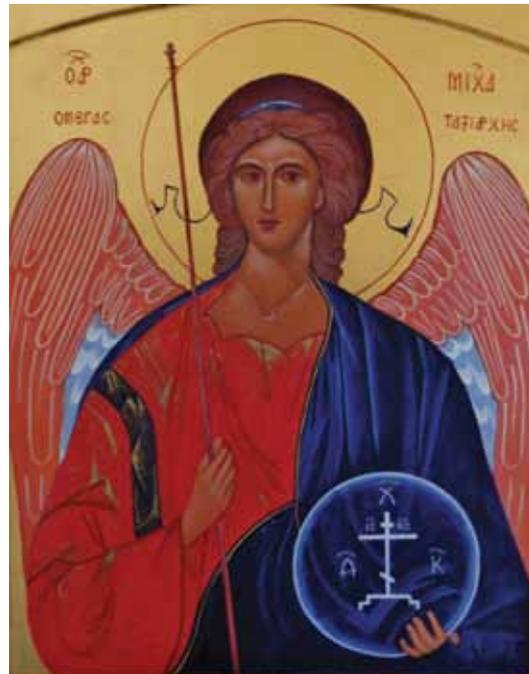
It is hoped as many Hertfordshire Masons and their families and friends as possible will support the event.

The Provincial Grand Master and most of his Executive will head up our attendance.

A spokesman for Province said: "We hope all our Lodges will be represented.

"It is especially hoped Lodge Chaplains will support this Service and an area will be designated for them."

After the service, and the dedication and placing of the icon in St Michael's Chapel, the Dean and PGM will host a reception in the North Transept. There is no charge for the Service or Reception, but anyone intending to attend is asked to use the link below.



The spokesman added: "Dress regalia will be worn and should be brought to the Service in a carrier bag because of space limitations. "It should also be noted that parking is at a premium around the Cathedral."

The icon was 'written' in 2018 (traditionally an icon is 'written', not painted) by Derek Bird.

The Archangel Michael is one of the few religious figures to appear in Christianity, Judaism and Islam. In all three religions he is the chief angel, the head of the heavenly powers, and the vanquisher of Satan in the Last Battle.

The Greek heading on the icon means: THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL THE GREAT LEADER OF THE HEAVENLY HOST

The icon is a copy of an original dated around 1350 and now in the Byzantine Museum in Athens

Icons are understood not simply as paintings but sacramental windows into the eternal, and are written as an act of worship, with prayer and fasting.

**To book log on to [www.pglherts.org/service](http://www.pglherts.org/service)**

**The service starts at 3pm and guest are requested to be seated by 2.30pm.**

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## Provincial Almoner's report

Simon Cooper PAGDC



Welcome to my Spring edition report. The office of Almoner is an important one. It is not just a symbolic role and all about wearing the collar.

The role should be applied proactively. Almoners should enquire about the welfare of any members who have not attended meetings to establish if they are experiencing difficulties and need help financially, have health issues or just need pastoral

support. For example, if a member hasn't paid his subscriptions, the Treasurer should be liaising with the Almoner as there may be a reason for this and support may be available.

The Almoner also needs to take the same proactive approach to widows of the lodge. You are all assistant Almoners and should help the Lodge Almoner in his capacity. In February, the Visiting Volunteer team received refresher training which was presented by Alex Taylor, training officer, from the MCF. As always we found this beneficial in supporting members.

The team is here to support you and your membership. Volunteers give up their spare time to do this and I cannot express my gratitude enough for the support they have given me, their compassionate nature and aptitude for helping those less fortunate than ourselves within the Province.

Also in February we held two Almoners' Workshops at the Cloisters Masonic Centre in Letchworth. The workshops were also open to Lodge Secretaries and partners/wives. There were also members of the Executive present. Mike Martin from the MCF and Suzanne Wright from the Advice and Support Team (AST) were in attendance to discuss their roles and interaction between Almoners and both departments of the MCF.

For those who attended the workshop, we hope you found it informative and a better insight into how you can support your Lodge members and their dependants. Hopefully, by the time this issue goes to print, I will have received some feedback on the workshops. Depending upon the feedback, we may run a further workshop at a different venue within the Province for those of you who were unable to attend.

**If anyone has any additional comments or is interested in the Province holding another event, please email me at [hertsprovgalmoner@gmail.com](mailto:hertsprovgalmoner@gmail.com)**

## Helpline

The Masonic Charitable Foundation has launched a new helpline campaign.

Advice will cover a range of issues including finance, health, family and care concerns.

An easy to keep card has been sent out to Masons across the country via the Freemasonry Today magazine. The card literature lists the sort of advice on offer along with contact details. It states: "Are you a Freemason, or a close family member of a Freemason? Do you have a financial, health, family or care related need? We may be able to help".

Two contact details are also included: 0800 035 6090, [help@mcf.org.uk](mailto:help@mcf.org.uk)



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## Bombay Lodge



It was a family occasion when Craig Oakes was raised in Bombay Lodge 3651. His step-father, Bob Fowler, was there to witness the event along with Bob's grandson Charlie Oakes.

Then, on the second rising, it was Bob's turn to take centre stage. Provincial Grand Almoner Simon Cooper presented him with the Provincial Grand

Master's Certificate of Service to Freemasonry.

Simon told Provincial News: "I delivered a few words about Bob's Masonic life over 47 years. Twenty-five of those he has served as the Almoner of his Lodge along with two stints in the Chair.

"Bob has also, over many years, worked with my predecessor helping Freemasons within Hertfordshire who require support.

"The occasion was well-received by the Lodge, with great acclaim, as Bob is a highly respected member."

Bob had celebrated his 90th birthday the previous day and his family and Lodge members threw a surprise birthday party for him.



## The Order of Royal and Select Masters

The Order of Royal and Select Masters, often known as the Cryptic Degrees, is open to those who are both Royal Arch and Mark Master Masons, and consist of four highly dramatic degrees. They form a vital and interesting link between the Craft and the Royal Arch, making the connection between the two more logical and completing the legend of King Solomon and his Temple.

The Degrees are:

Select Master

Royal Master – many say that this ritual is one of the most beautiful in Masonry.

Most Excellent Master

Super Excellent Master

Thrice Illustrious Master, also known as the Order of the Silver Trowel.

The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales and

its Districts and Councils overseas was consecrated on July 12, 1873. Within Hertfordshire there are eight councils:

Hertfordshire Council No 121 – Radlett

Willian Council No 135 – Letchworth

Portal Council No 179 – Cheshunt

St Albans Council No 215 – St Albans

Roysia Council No 233 – Royston

John Mortimer Council No 247 – Radlett

Saebeorht Council – No 330 – Sawbridgeworth

Ninth Arch Council – No 318 – St Albans

**If you would like to join this Order, or would like more information, please contact the District Grand Recorder, Tony Nutley : t.nutley@yahoo.co.uk or Neil Phillips : 2neilphillips@sky.com**



## Rickmansworth Lodge

There was no lack of experience at a special meeting of Rickmansworth Lodge.

For all acting officers at the third degree ceremony had received Provincial or higher office.

On the 50th anniversary of being initiated into the lodge, VW.Bro John Ilott was invited to retake the chair to raise Bro Andrew Hobbs.

VW.Bro Ilott was assisted W.Bro Rowland Mecklenburgh and W.Bro Peter Prior, who are affectionally known as the Three Pillars.

They currently have a combined total of 162 years of masonic service to the lodge between them.



# Hertfordshire Knights Templar

Provincial Prior  
Right Eminent Knight - Tony Lapsley

As a Christian Royal Arch Mason  
we welcome you to take your next step  
in Freemasonry and join  
The United Religious Military & Masonic Order  
of Knights Templar in Hertfordshire

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Please contact Ekt. David Greenland, PGtHer  
For full information and your nearest Preceptory  
07889 904826  
2davidgreenland@gmail.com

## Provincial Curator's Report

By Museum curator Brian Tierney

It has been another busy time in the six months since the last Provincial News together with some exciting new additions in the Museum and Library. Work is continuing on upgrading and extending the former Provincial Chronicle. This has been a massive task of research. We hope that in the next edition we can at last report completion and place it on the website.

Hits to the Provincial Banner website still continue at an almost unbelievable rate. By the time these words are published, we will have exceeded 10,000.

A member of our Province has donated a silver Nurses Masonic belt buckle, still on the belt, that his mother wore as a nurse at the Royal Masonic School for Girls. Coupled with the scarce RM Hospital Nurses qualification medal that we already have, they make a very impressive pair. It must also be remembered that the foundation of the RM Hospital was first suggested by a Hertfordshire Mason who saw the whole thing to completion and was on the first Board of Governors.

We also have all his jewels kindly loaned by the Royston Centre, a series of brochures for the opening and extending the hospital as well as two ward signs. A most generous donation of a large collection of books on Knights Templar in mint condition has been specifically placed in the Library for KT members and others to research the Order.

Some months ago, as reported in the last Provincial News, we received some large and varied collections of regalia, papers and artefacts. A number of items dealt with the 250th anniversary of the formation of the District Grand Lodge of Gibraltar. Since then the donor as found and donated a further item, a rare gold coin commemorating the same anniversary.

A new display cabinet has been placed on the staircase landing and filled with a number of interesting items. Enquiries to the Province for information of Masonic

history of former relatives regularly arrive and proves the usefulness of the establishment of a Provincial Archive. But there are still a number of Lodge and

Chapter archive files that have little or nothing in.

I welcome Consecration, Banner, Jubilee and Centenary brochures as well as photographs, history books, orations, etc. When we have completed the Chronicle I will send an email to those Lodges and Chapters whose files are virtually empty.

Only yesterday we received an enquiry from a military historian about a member who was killed in action in 1917. As we had the Lodge history book we were able to fully answer his questions.

As always, I ask that you don't throw items away, especially paperwork, certificates, photos, jewels, badges, etc. Compared to other masonic museums we are still short of old Masonic pottery and glassware. If you see any old pottery in antique shops or on the internet, please let me know.

If you are carrying out any research, especially for an anniversary history, please do enquire what information the Provincial Archive holds. You may be quite surprised. Also if you have a Masonic item you need identifying, again do ask. If we do not have the answer we are in direct contact with many who will. Visits to the museum are always welcome, especially Lodge or Chapter groups by arrangement.



## The 500-tin challenge



Masons meeting in Letchworth have been supporting a local food bank. Dacre Lodge's 'Bring-A-Tin' campaign began back at the end of

summer. It was organised in conjunction with The Cloisters and the help of Provincial Grand Charity Steward Chris Noble.

The idea was simple. A target of 500 tins was set as a starting point and in a little over two and half months about 280 tins had been collected in aid the food bank in Letchworth.

W.Bro Kieran Doyle, Dacre Lodge's Charity Steward, said: "The food bank is there to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

"Dacre Lodge is extremely proud to see that on the official Hertfordshire PGL link to The Cloisters, Provincial Grand Lodge is not only backing this idea, but has been promoting it as an ongoing challenge."



## Teddy Bears auctioned

Members of Dacre Lodge also held a silent auction of a number of donated teddy bears at its December meeting. The auction raised £172 for one of the Worshipful Master's charities, Breast Cancer Care.



## The Lewises

There are now five Lewises in Watford 404 Lodge following the initiation of Alex Handley, son of its ADC W.Bro Brian Handley.

Alex was recently passed to the degree of a Fellowcraft and the lodge was able to arrange a group photo with 'Father of the Lodge' and Past Provincial Grand Master, RW.Bro Michael Jones and its current Master W.Bro Nigel Stewart.

Pictured left to right are, Richard Fyles, Stephen Fyles, Alex Handley, Brian Handley, Nigel Stewart, Michael Jones, Peter Prior, Mark Prior, Phillip Mainwaring, David Mainwaring, Michael Green, Chris Green.

## The Living Room

### Helping people with eating disorders

An example of how the Masonic Charitable Foundation is helping people in the Province can be seen at work in Stevenage.

People in that part of Hertfordshire suffering from eating disorders will be able to attend a specialist eating disorder programme in the town - thanks to a grant of £59,982 from the MCF.

News of Hertfordshire's masons supporting the project was published in the local media.

At the tail end of last year APMG Jay Patel, Provincial Charity Steward, Chris Noble and information officer and Provincial News editor Terry Mitchinson went along to present a cheque and see first hand the work done by staff and volunteers.

It is estimated that around 1.2 percent of the UK population are living with an eating disorder, more than 13,000 of them in our county.

Against this backdrop, The Living Room, which treats people who suffer with alcohol, substance and behavioural addictions, launched its Disordered Eating group in December.

The service has a capacity for up to 15 people affected by conditions such as anorexia, binge-eating, bulimia.

It will benefit people like Jill, who attended a disordered eating group at The Living Room's St Albans centre two years ago.

She said: "Finding something that truly contributes to the long term healing of an eating disorder can be very difficult, but this is what I found at the Living Room. I'm so grateful for all the help and support they gave me.



■ From left to right: Chris Noble, Adrienne Arthurs (chief executive The Living Room), Mark Wiseman (fundraiser TLR), Jill (former client TLR), Jay Patel.

"I'm delighted this generous support from Hertfordshire Freemasons will allow more people with eating disorders to get the support they need."

The Living Room hopes to treat 90 people over three years at the Disordered Eating group. The charity adopts peer-led counselling treatment that will be facilitated by specialist professional counsellors. Within the safe space of group therapy, clients can step away from the isolation and secrecy that is so common among sufferers. The group offers clients an environment where they are encouraged to "trust, risk, share and support each other".

Adrienne Arthurs, chief executive at The Living Room, said: "We're really grateful to Hertfordshire Freemasons for their generous grant. "Eating Disorders are notoriously difficult to treat. There's a great deal of stigma about the condition and, even when a sufferer recognises they need help, treatment is hard to come by. We can now offer a weekly treatment programme that will be free and non-time-limited."

Chris Noble said: "We're very pleased to be able to help The Living Room, which is doing excellent work helping people with eating disorders. These are conditions which are terrible for individuals and their families and it's wonderful news that a new treatment programme is available."

## What is the Masonic Charitable Foundation?

### An explanation by chief operating officer Les Hutchinson.

Charity has always been at the heart of Freemasonry and the Masonic charities can trace their roots back to the 18th century. However, the amalgamated central charity, the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF), was only formed in 2016.

Each year, The MCF gives approximately £5.5 million in grants to more than 400 charities across England and Wales. In 2017 we celebrated the 300th anniversary of the formation of the United Grand Lodge of England by giving an extra £3 million to a further 300 charities – a grand total of more than £8 million.

Impressive though these figures are, they are only a part of the £33 million given to charities across England and Wales every year by Masonic Provinces and Lodges as well as by individual Freemasons.

The 400 MCF grants come out of around 2,500 applications annually, and are given to organisations that share our broad aim of working with the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people to provide access to opportunities and improve their quality of life.

Broadly speaking, MCF grants are separated into small grants of up to £5,000 and large grants for sums above that. Most small grants are bigger than £1,000 and while there is no fixed upper limit, grants over £100,000 are exceptional.

We look to forge close and lasting working relationships with those charities who receive an MCF grant. They are required to provide monitoring reports on the progress of the funded project. The MCF and individual Masonic Provinces will also work with the charity on publicity in the media and in promotional material.

We have worked hard to produce a grant application process that is as quick and easy as possible for the charity while at the same time providing all the necessary material to allow us to make a realistic judgement on the value of the project under consideration.

There are three grant rounds a year, which is essentially an online process, although our grants team stands ready to discuss queries where necessary. There is a helpful eligibility checker which allows any potential applicant to discover quickly whether their proposed project is likely to qualify under our rules.

For small grants there is a simple two page application form. We are very aware that small charities struggle to cope with large amounts of complicated and time-consuming paperwork. The MCF is currently investing more money into our smaller grants as we appreciate that the vast majority of charities are small scale, which allows us to have a greater impact.

Larger grants also have a quick two page form for the initial application. This means we can get back to the charity quickly if we believe that the application is unlikely to be successful. The timescale of the grants process from the application deadline through to final approval by the Grants Committee is about three months. We have a duty to carry out comprehensive due diligence, but we realise the need to make the process as fast as possible to assist charities with their financial planning.

As with all such applications, charities looking for a grant can maximise their chances by providing a concise project description with clear objectives and outcomes that

concentrate on the effects on the lives of beneficiaries, accompanied by supporting evidence.

We are especially pleased to see charities keen to collaborate actively in partnerships with the MCF and the rest of the Third Sector. We like to work closely with charities, to learn from their experience and share expertise. Conversely we are less likely to award a grant to organisations that do not have a culture of engagement and sharing.

One of the greatest strengths of the MCF is our connection on the ground with more than 200,000 Freemasons together with their families and friends across England and Wales. All these people have links to

their communities and will very often have active links with local charities. They are the ones who will be presenting the funds to those charities who receive a grant and they are often the ones who will maintain links with them over a period of many years.

In addition to MCF grants, there are substantial funds available at Provincial and Lodge level within Freemasonry. These have often been directed to charities with whom close relations have been established.

The MCF has now established itself as a significant presence in the Third Sector and is one of the largest grant-making bodies in the country. Our brand is becoming well-known across the charity world, and we look forward to going from strength to strength over the coming years.

**For further information on the MCF and on how to apply for a grant, please visit: [www.mcf.org.uk](http://www.mcf.org.uk)**



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## Royal Arch Masons

### Provincial Information Officer

E. Comp. Michael Gowland Tel: 01763 852961  
Email: provinfofficer@herts-chapter.org.uk  
I would be very grateful to hear of any news or events you might like to see featured in the Provincial News or to have promoted on the Province's social media and web site.  
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/Provincial.Grand.Chapter.of.Hertfordshire>  
[www.herts-chapter.org.uk](http://www.herts-chapter.org.uk)

### John Stuart Hay – 60 years in Royal Arch Freemasonry



At the January Convocation of High Barnet First Principals N° 8746, the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, Comp James Sharpley, presented E.Comp John Stuart Hay with his certificate marking his 60 years' distinguished service to the Holy Royal Arch.

Before the presentation, the MEGS gave a summary of E.Comp John's career in the

Craft and Holy Royal Arch.

E.Comp John was initiated into Harringay Lodge N° 2763 on July 7, 1951, in which he was passed and raised. He became an Honorary Member of that Lodge in 2011. In Hertfordshire, he was a joining member of Hertfordshire Masters Lodge N° 4090 in 1985; White Star Lodge N° 8727 in 1992 and Old Elizabethans & Totteridge Lodge N° 7987 in 2011. He was also a founder of Michael Batham Jones Lodge N° 9675 in 1998.

In the Holy Royal Arch, E.Comp John was exalted into Harringay Chapter N° 2763 in London on January 24, 1959 and became a joining member of High Barnet First Principals Chapter N° 8746 in 1993, where he held the office of First Principal in 2008. He also joined White Star Chapter N° 8727 in 1997 and was installed as First Principal in 2000 and finally joined Gresham Chapter N° 869 in 2017.

E.Comp John's continued service to the Royal Arch has been exemplary and the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent commented that it was not only a pleasure but a privilege to present a 60 years' certificate, which was indeed a rare occurrence.

E.Comp John thanked the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent and the Companions and in reply, delivered short reminiscences of his distinguished Royal Arch career to the Companions of the Chapter and guests, which was received to rapturous applause and a standing ovation.

### He that hath ears to hear, let him hear!

Two misconceptions about Freemasonry you will often encounter are that Freemasonry is an elitist secret society whose principal *raison d'être* is to keep people ignorant of its true secrets and that whatever great and invaluable secrets Freemasonry might once have possessed have long since been lost.

We, of course, know how absurd the first claim is. From Craft onwards, through the various Masonic orders and degrees, the vast majority of our efforts go into finding suitable candidates and doing our very best to communicate the secrets of



■ *Samuel Relating to Eli the Judgements of God upon Eli's House, by John Singleton Copley (1738–1815).*

Freemasonry to them through the ritual that we put so much effort into learning and delivering. Indeed, though there are some necessary requirements all candidates must meet (being of good character, belief in a Supreme Being and being genuinely motivated by a desire to become more serviceable to God and mankind being the principal ones) there is no insurmountable obstacle to prevent anyone who sincerely and honourably desires to participate in our mysteries from doing so.

Truly, our principal *raison d'être* is to communicate our mysteries rather than to conceal them!

The claim that we have long since lost our genuine secrets is another matter. The loss of the genuine secrets of a Master Mason is a motif that occurs in Craft ritual, and that motif has made its way into the public domain though the many exposes and parodies of our ritual that have been published over the years.

But, there are two important points that are frequently overlooked:

The first is that our ritual defines Freemasonry as, "...a peculiar system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols". In short, we are not meant to view the motif of the loss of the genuine secrets of a Master Mason as a statement of historical fact but rather as an allegory for our current state of moral development (and here it is important to note that our ancient brethren had a far more comprehensive concept of morality than is current, one that would include much that we would now regard as pertaining to our psychological or spiritual wellbeing). The fact that Freemasonry uses the loss of these secrets as an allegory in its ritual in no way implies that Freemasonry as a society or system of moral improvement has either lost its secrets or a genuine understanding of their significance.

"Secondly, it is important to note that the Third Degree of Craft Masonry is not the final step a brother can take in Freemasonry. There are other degrees a brother may choose to join, the most important of which is the Holy Royal Arch; which has been characterised as the completion of the Third Degree.

This is a fairly strong indicator that if a brother desires to repair the symbolic loss represented in Craft Masonry, the Holy Royal Arch is the natural place for him to direct his course. In the Royal Arch ceremonial you will be treated to a fourth allegorical mystery or drama, one that continues and develops the story begun in the Third Degree. Describing the ceremony on its website the Supreme Grand Chapter explains: "In clearing the ground of the original temple for the foundations of the second temple, the candidate makes a number of discoveries which emphasise the centrality of God to man's life and existence and, without transgressing the bounds of religion, lead the candidate to a consideration of the nature of God and his personal relationship with Him, whatever his religion might be."

## Royal Arch Province of Hertfordshire Annual Convocation 2018

Our Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, E.Comp James Sharpley presided over a wonderful Convocation, on Monday, November 5, attended by 468 Companions of the Province and guests, including 10 Grand Superintendents from neighbouring Provinces.

It was a truly memorable occasion. Thirty-five Companions were promoted, appointed or reappointed to active rank, with a further 67 Companions to past rank.

The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent re-appointed and invested the Deputy Grand Superintendent, E.Comp David Hampton. E.Comp Phillip Masters was promoted and invested as the Second Provincial Grand Principal and E.Comp Rodney Hancock was promoted and invested as the Third Provincial Grand Principal.

For the first time two Companions were appointed to the newly created offices of Assistants to the Principals. E.Comp Darren Bending, who help initiate the Chapter Liaison Officer Scheme in 2017, was appointed to assist the Second Provincial Grand Principal, E.Comp Phillip Masters, to ensure that the communication strategy between the Chapters and the Royal Arch Executive continues to thrive and flourish and E.Comp Peter Walters to assist the Third Provincial Grand Principal, E.Comp Rodney Hancock and the Provincial Mentor, E.Comp Tim Coles to drive the Royal Arch Representative recruitment initiative forward in our Craft Lodges. E.Comp Bob Wale was promoted and invested as the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and the remainder of the Executive were re-appointed to their



respective Offices, namely E.Comp John Linley, Provincial Grand Scribe E; E.Comp Tim Huckle, Provincial Grand Treasurer; E.Comp David Broomer, Provincial Assistant Grand Scribe E and E.Comp Tim Coles as Provincial Mentor.

The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent and the Deputy Grand Superintendent welcomed and congratulated six representative Exaltees to the meeting in the persons of Comps Thomas Day, East Hertfordshire Chapter N°3748, Ty Harris, Cranbourne Chapter N°1580, Rory Forbes William MacDonald, Concord Chapter N°767, Philip Masters, Earl of Clarendon Chapter N°1984 and Preben Christiansen and Jan Petersen of Old Fullerian Chapter N°4698, both of whom had only been exalted three days earlier in Watford.

Of particular note, was the presentation of the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent's Certificate of Service to Royal Arch Masonry to E.Comps Edwin Roach of Potters Bar Chapter N°8704, Martin Walker of Stanstead Abbots Chapter N°9085 and Derek Hester of

East Hertfordshire Chapter N°3748, who received their certificates and grateful thanks from the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent and a commemorative gold tie pin from the Deputy Grand Superintendent. The Companions were warmly applauded by all those present. The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent addressed the Companions highlighting current and new initiatives and thanked all Companions for their support and enthusiasm for the Royal Arch in Hertfordshire.

The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent also made mention of the retirement of the Second Provincial Grand Principal, E.Comp Paul Blakemore for his unstinting continuous service to the Province and to the retiring Provincial Director of Ceremonies, E.Comp Robert Asser for his valuable contribution over many years. Although both were unable to be present due to health reasons, the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent acknowledged their help and support, thanked them for their past service and wished them both a speedy recovery.

The Festive Board was well attended and received, with 274 Companions and guests dining in the Grand Connaught Rooms, following which the Deputy Grand Superintendent thanked the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, on behalf of all the Companions, for presiding over such a wonderful meeting before proposing a toast to his continued success and health. The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent responded with grateful thanks and that he was enjoying the companionship and support from all Companions in this Province of Happy Hertfordshire.

### Provincial weekend away



It had been some years since the Royal Arch Province of Hertfordshire had hosted a social away weekend and so the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent and Executive took the decision to resurrect another occasion in our social calendar.

The weekend was hosted at the Queens Hotel in Bournemouth and was attended by more than 80 Companions and their guests. They were treated to first-class dining and service alongside some first-rate entertainment comprising a mind-boggling quiz and discotheque on the Friday night, the host playing old favourites from the 60s, 70s and 80s alongside up-to-date songs, all of which were well received.

On the Saturday, we were treated to a sumptuous five-course banquet with a first-class band providing entertainment into the small hours. After the banquet, the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, Comp James Sharpley thanked Companions and guests for their attendance and stated that the success of the occasion had

been down to their support of the Royal Arch Province of Hertfordshire. After breakfast on Sunday, Companions and guests departed, having said their fond farewells, and commented on what was a truly memorable weekend away in Bournemouth. The weekend took place back in November.





## Mark Masons

### Provincial Information Officer

W.Bro Jack Franks Tel: 01279 865526

Email: jackfranks@ntlworld.com

Provincial web site [www.hertsmark.org](http://www.hertsmark.org)

Bro James Davis web master

If you have anything for the web site please contact Jack Franks

### Hertford Lodge No 366

The demonstration team travelled to Hertingfordbury for a RAM ceremony under the eye of W.Bro David Wavell. On this occasion there was a 'live' candidate for the RAM Degree (not that others had been dead but rather volunteers). The Lodge was opened and the team entered the lodge. Lodge officers vacated their posts and the team took their individual places.

W.CN, Philip Bignold, SD, Colin Dixon, JD, Roger Woolman, SW, Michael Gerschel, JW, Richard Harvey.

The ceremony was conducted in an excellent manner. The Signs were delivered by W.Bro John Lydon and the Working Tools were presented by W.Bro Chris Scott, both with much aplomb. The W.CN and PGM both congratulated the Candidate and welcomed him to the fraternity.

The Lodge was returned to WM and Provincial Officers retired from the lodge.

The Mark Lodge then welcomed a Candidate into the Mark Degree.

The W.CN, Derek Watson, Advanced Bro Laurence James Baker in a most eloquent manner without the use of the book or any aid. Not bad for an 85 year old.

The Lodge was closed and we retired. The festive board was excellent and we exchanged toasts. The end of an excellent day.



At the meeting of 1121, the installed Mark Masters Lodge, the PGM RW.Bro Richard Walker stood in for W.Bro Ted Long who was unable to attend following an injury to his back.

RW.Bro Keith Emmerson, PDepGM, was installed in the best tradition. He, in turn, went on to invest RW.Bro Richard Walker as SW and W.Bro Norwell Roberts QPM as JW.

A full list of Officers is below.

We then had an informative talk given by John McCombe, Chairman and Trustee of Services by Emergency Rider Volunteers (SERV) Herts and Beds.

This voluntary group of motorcycle couriers operates a free service transporting vital supplies to all area of the county. The group is now in possession of new motorbikes supplied by the Mark Benevolent Fund.

The latest technology Yamaha 1300cc bikes, pictured, have the power - and riders the road sense and skill - to enable the service to work efficiently. The volunteers do a grand job and Mark Masonry is proud to support them.

RW.Bro Keith Emmerson, PDepPGM Worshipful Master

VW.Bro Ted Long. PGJO Immediate Past Master

RW.Bro Richard Walker. PGM Senior Warden

W.Bro Norwell Roberts. QPM. PGJD.ProvGAlm Junior Warden

W.Bro Charlie Ager.PGJD Master Overseer

W.Bro Brian Meager. PProvGJD Junior Overseer

VW.Bro Mo Freeman PGO Chaplain

W.Bro Mark Saunders. PGJD. ProvGTreas Treasurer

W.Bro James Young. PGJD Registrar of Marks

VW.Bro Paul Ostwind. PGJO Secretary

W.Bro David Wavell. PAGDC. ProvDepGDC

Director of Ceremonies

W.Bro Norwell Roberts. QPM. PGJD. ProvGAlm Almoner

W.Bro David Horne. ProvGCh Stwd Charity Steward

W.Bro Chris Scott. PGStB. ProvGSO Senior Deacon

W.Bro John Wickes. PAGDC Junior Deacon

W.Bro Ray Hoyte. PGStB Assistant DC

W.Bro Graham Jelley. ProvDepGSec Assistant Secretary

W.Bro John Bluett. PAGDC. ProvG.Org Organist

W.Bro Rod Kent. PAGSwdB. PGSwdB Inner Guard

W.Bro Denis Gibney Steward

W.Bro John Worley. PAGDC Steward

W.Bro Geoff Cheshire. PAGDC Steward

W.Bro Alastair Probert Steward

W.Bro Dennis Cope. PPGJW Tyler

## Rudyard Kipling Lodge 1947 Banner Dedication

Early one February Saturday morning the Consecrating team were poised at 9am. They joined with lodge members for a rehearsal and after much practicing everybody knew their place and job.

All assembled, the Lodge was opened by the WM Graham Raven and Lodge business dealt with.

He then called off and received the ladies and guests.

There was then a report and W.Bro Roy Moth, the Provincial DC, announced that the PGM W.Bro Richard Walker with W.Bro Maurice Smith, DPGM, and the full Provincial Team would like to enter.

Permission was given and they entered.

The gavel was presented and accepted by the PGM. Provincial Officers took their places and PGM spoke of the occasion.

The Brethren nominated retired to the ante-room, before returning to process the Banner round the Lodge.

The Banner Bearer was Bro Scott Dicken.

The Banner was formally accepted and



placed in its stand.

A Prayer of Dedication was read and Provincial Chaplain VW.Bro Allan Atkinson gave an Oration.

The Dedicating Officer delivered the Banner to the Worshipful Master and he responded.

The WM and wardens then resumed

their seats. The WM expressed thanks on behalf of the Brethren to the Dedicating Officer.

The Dedicating Team formed up again and departed the Lodge.

The Festive Board followed and the ladies and all guests enjoyed a nice meal and a good afternoon.

## Provincial Grand Master's Lodges of Instruction

The Hertfordshire Mark PGM's LOI 'Bangers and Mash Supper' at the Watford Masonic Centre, was attended by 30 Brethren and proved to be a great success.

In his welcoming address the Provincial Grand Master, RW.Bro Richard Walker described the positive impact the three centre-based PGM's LOI at Watford, Cheshunt and St Albans, were having on the standard of ritual within Mark and RAM Lodges in their respective areas. The PGM also outlined his future policy and objectives for the PGM's LOI.

A powerpoint presentation was then given by the ProvGDC, W. Bro Roy Moth and the DepPGM, W.Bro Maurice Smith detailing and explaining the contents of the PGM's LOI website.

Following the presentation, and the Bangers and Mash Supper, RW.Bro Keith Emmerson, Past Deputy Grand Master, gave a motivational talk on his experiences within the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner degrees which was very well received by all present.

The DepPGM also announced that the Latimer Mark Lodge No. 962 was to become the home and management unit for the three centre-based PGM's LOI and associated activities, including the PGM's LOI Demonstration Teams, the PGM's LOI Lecture Teams and the PGM's LOI website.

The Latimer RAM Lodge No 962 will function as the DCs' Royal Ark Mariner Lodge in the same way the King Harold Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 1109 functions as the DCs' Mark Lodge.

To ensure the continued viability of the Latimer Lodges, 22 supporters of the centre-based PGM's LOI joined the Latimer Lodge of Mark Master Masons on January 23 and 20 joined the Latimer Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners.



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# Knights Templar

## Provincial Information Officer

Denis Gibney Tel: 01923 490314  
email denis.gibney@yahoo.co.uk  
www.ktherts.com

## Dates for your diary

**Sunday, April 28**

### ST GEORGE'S DINNER

At Bushey Sports Club, Aldenham Road, Bushey  
5.30pm. All Knights, Masons and friends welcome to  
this annual party. £30 per head  
Booking ahead to Mike Beaty - mbeaty@ktherts.com



**Sunday, May 12**

### THE ANNUAL CHURCH SERVICE AT WALTHAM ABBEY

2.45 for 3pm

All Knights, Masons and friends welcome to this annual  
party. Afternoon Tea available afterwards £14 per head  
Booking ahead to – John Roberts - registrar@ktherts.com



■ The Banners  
process in

■ The Abbey  
Apse

■ Preceptory Banners

**Wednesday, May 15**

### GREAT PRIORY

### AT FREEMASONS HALL, LONDON

Many Hertfordshire Knights receiving Honours  
and Promotions.

All Knights are eligible to attend.

**Thursday, June 27**

### THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL PRIORY OF HERTFORDSHIRE

At The Bushey Sports Club, Aldenham Road, Bushey Herts.  
Hertfordshire Knights will receive Honours  
and Promotions. All Knights welcome and  
encouraged to attend the most important  
date in our calendar.



## St John of Jerusalem Hospital, Jerusalem

The Macleod Preceptory received a remarkable and  
enlightening presentation on the work of the St John of  
Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group.



Our Provincial Prior and over 40 Knights were present, and  
gave a hearty welcome to Amy Foster from St John's Hospital.  
Amy gave a fully illustrated presentation to the assembled  
knights.

Many of us are aware of the hospital in Jerusalem, and to  
some extent, the work it accomplishes. Little did we know  
exactly what an incredible and valuable service it provides  
to the considerably disadvantaged groups in that troubled  
region, which has had life-changing effects on those in  
desperate need.



More than 100 years ago, The Pro Grand Master proposed  
that 100 guineas be donated to the hospital, thus cementing  
the Order's long association with the hospital, which has  
facilitated unique and ground-breaking medical services  
carried out in the heart of these largely isolated and deprived  
communities.

Based in Jerusalem, St John works at the centre of the  
three major world religions, and provides its services to all,  
regardless of circumstances. Amy's presentation continued  
with a most alarming expansion of the dreadful conditions  
many thousands in that region have to suffer. It was painful  
and heart-rending to learn that thousands of very young  
Arabic children start life with genetically influenced cataracts,  
which, if not treated, would lead to certain blindness.





Living within and close to conflict zones, poverty and deprivation affects 75 per cent of the indigenous population. St John is able to provide its world class eye care only with the direct involvement of talented staff. These used to be mainly ex-patriots, but now the hospital is successfully developing internal training and career progression with the assistance of top surgeons and eye-specialists from around the world.



This continues to have a major impact on their work. The training has enabled hundreds of home-grown practitioners to qualify, and to continue this valuable work. More than 145,000 patients have received medical treatment; 5,100 major operations have been completed. Across the range of ocular conditions, treatments have targeted glaucoma, macular diseases and cataracts, as well as many other diseases of the eye. Over the decades, thousands of patients of all ages and cultures have been given life-changing treatments.



This has only been possible through the massive generosity from many countries. Included in this has been the Knights Templar. Supporting St John has been a most valued facet of the charitable side of the Order, and one which we shall continue to vigorously support. In addition to funding for its clinical work, the Hebron Hospital is now completely renovated, thanks to the Knights Templar. So we are now seeking assistance to help support the running costs of this centre, as we are with all of our centres.



It was wonderful to see at close hand the ground-breaking work at St John, and we were pleased to confirm our continuing support with the presentation of a cheque for £250 by The RE Provincial Prior, Tony Lapsley. This was complemented by further pledges of £850 from representatives of other Preceptories present.

## Stuart Priory

The full Malta Ceremony was performed recently at Stuart Priory No 28, Halsey Hall, in Watford. Seventy-one knights assembled in the packed Temple for the Installation of the new Prior for 2019. EKt Alfred Smith Installed his successor, EKt Bill Wilkinson, in a most exemplary manner. The Malta Degree Ceremony in full is only performed three times in Hertfordshire each year, so it was a marvellous occasion for so many knights to be present. In addition, nine KT knights were Installed as Knights of St Paul, in ceremony given by EKt Richard Hime. The meeting was highlighted by the



■ Nine candidates for the Malta Ceremony

presence of our Provincial Prior RE Kt Tony Lapsley and the Provincial Prior of Northampton, Huntingdon & Bedford, RE Kt Roger Wortley, who was accompanied by the Provincial Vice



■ RE Provincial Priors with the Installing team and candidates.

Chancellor, EKt Russell Laxton. They had brought with them knights from their Province to complete their degree with us.



## Red Cross of Constantine

The Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and of St. John the Evangelist.

### District Information Officer

Em.Kt. Philip Hoy, Div.Sen.Gen, Asst.Div.Rec,  
Div Information Officer

Tel: 01279 817792 Email: philip.hoy@uwclub.net



■ R.III. Intendant General  
Terence Deakin

### DIVISIONAL CONCLAVE

The Annual Divisional Conclave was held in February at Ashwell House, St Albans. Our R.III. Intendant General Terry Deakin welcomed a host of visitors to a packed temple with good representation from every Conclave in the Division. The meeting was conducted in a friendly and sincere manner which was enjoyed and appreciated by all present.

This years Divisional Officers were appointed as follows:

|                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Dep Intendant General | VIII.Kt. J. Wickes, PGJW    |
| Eusebius/Viceroy      | III.Kt. G. Cheshire, PGPref |
| Senior General        | P.Kt. P. Hoy                |
| Junior General        | P.Kt. M. Odumosu            |
| High Prelate          | P.Kt. A. Wright             |
| Registrar             | III.Kt. N. Evans, PGChamb.  |
| Treasurer             | P.Kt. J. Hicks              |
| Recorder              | P.Kt. M. Pedroz.            |
| Almoner               | III.Kt. A. Yeowell, PGSB(L) |
| Marshal               | III.Kt. B. Hobbs, PGPref    |
| Sword Bearer          | P.Kt. J. Roberts            |
| Deputy Marshal        | P.Kt. J. Campbell           |
| Chamberlain           | Em.Kt. J. Ellis             |
| Sub-Prelate           | III.Kt. D. Adams, PGPref    |
| Standard Bearer(C)    | III.Kt. W. Rumford, PGWofR  |
| Standard Bearer (L)   | P.Kt. G. Long               |
| Assistant Recorder    | P.Kt. P. Hoy                |
| Prefect               | W.Kt. M. Trembling.         |
| Warden of Regalia     | P.Kt. G. Harrison.          |
| Organist              | III.Kt. W. Rumford, PGWofR. |
| Herald (1)            | W.Kt. P. Ellis.             |
| Herald (2)            | MP.Kt. J. Nuttall           |
| Steward               | W.Kt. B. Willis.            |
| Steward               | W.Kt. J. Meredith.          |
| Sentinel              | III Kt. G. Holmes, PGWofR   |

At the meeting It was reported that all Conclaves in the Division had been visited by either, the Rt.III. Intendant-General, Terence Deakin, or his Deputy V.III. Kt. John Wickes, (sometimes both) at least once during the year, supported by active Divisional Officers, and the newly revived Sepulchre



■ Past Viceroy, Intendant General  
and Deputy Intendant General

Guard, led by its Captain, W.Kt. John Ellis Div.Pref.; all were warmly received by the W. Knights. The Intendant-General the Deputy Intendant-General, Divisional Marshal, and the past Divisional Recorder, have represented the Division of Hertfordshire at Divisional meetings throughout the country. They are all grateful for

the generous hospitality accorded to them and we are pleased to reciprocate at our own Divisional Meeting.

It was also reported that contrary to the trend in other Knightly Orders, the past year had shown a small increase in membership, with three Joining members and six Installations. We had one death and four resignations, so an overall increase of four Knights.

### APPENDANT ORDERS

The Rose Walk Conclave No. 389 hosted the annual Appendant Orders meeting at Radlett in November. This is an extremely deep and meaningful Christian ceremony attached to the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine which is a necessary progression to enable a member to progress to the Chair.

At this most impressive ceremony the Hertfordshire Divisional team, under the guidance of the Divisional Marshal, Brian Hobbs, admitted three Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine to the Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and of St John the Evangelist. The Intendant-General, Terry Deakin, performed the 'Accolade' during the Ceremony. This year the Appendant Orders gathering will be held on Saturday, October 12, at the new venue of Mayflower Place, Hertingfordbury, as this is geographically central to the Division.

### GRAND CONCLAVE APPOINTMENTS

Our congratulations are extended to those worthy Knights from our Division whose efforts were recognised by the Grand Imperial Conclave in July 2018:

Promotion: III.Kt. Allan Atkinson, Past Grand Chamb.

First Appointments: III.Kt. Alan W Yeowell, Past Grand St. B. (L)  
III.Kt. Terence Gray, Past Grand Vice Chamb.

### SUNDAY LUNCHEON

We will be holding the highly successful Divisional Sunday Lunch again this year in October but this time we will be holding it at the highly rated Hertingfordbury Masonic Centre. Application forms will be sent to Conclave Recorders for onward transmission to members, but early applications are recommended as this is a very popular luncheon.

### JOINING RCC

The Red Cross of Constantine is a particularly good order for Masons who are interested in knowing more about Masonry and the foundation of early Christianity. The regalia of the order is simple and inexpensive consisting of a Sash and two Jewels although a sword will be required later on as you move up the ranks.

Any member will be pleased to discuss the order should you be interested in finding out more information or considering joining.

There are Conclaves in Radlett, Royston, Cheshunt, Watford and St. Albans.

**Anybody wishing to know more about this Christian Order please Contact Alan Yeowell, Divisional Recorder, alan.yeowell@ntlworld.com for membership details.**



## The Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom

### District Information Officer

Information Officer Ill.Kt.Pt. Philip Hoy PGIIIP Dep Dist Rec  
email: philip.hoy@uwclub.net

### JOHN OWEN PLACE MEETING

The District Meeting was hosted by The John Owen Place Tabernacle when R.Em.KT.Pt. Les Butler led his team giving a demonstration of one of the Appendant Degrees, in this case the Knights of the Black Cross.

The Knights of the Black Cross, or simply Order of the Black Cross, was a secret Cainite order within the ranks of the Teutonic Knights, named for the Black Cross of the Teutonic Order.

The Order of the Black Cross was formed after the Teutonic Knights were changed from a hospice brotherhood into a more militant order dedicated to fighting Pagans. In 1454, during the Thirteen Years War in which Prussia expelled the Teutonic Knights from their lands, the remnants of the Knights of the Black Cross were disbanded.



The Order, in its modern form, did not set out to be deliberately exclusive, but the 31 Appendant Degrees each have their own ceremonial working and it was determined, by our Founders, that a Mason needed to be of a certain standing and qualification within Freemasonry to comprehend and appreciate these special degrees.

### ORDER OF HOLY WISDOM

The recently reintroduced ceremony of the Order of Holy Wisdom differs from the Appendant Degrees in that there is a specific question/requirement in the ritual regarding membership of the Knight Templar Priests. This ceremony was worked in the 18th century, but it required a lot of costly equipment and at least two rooms for the ceremony to take place. The new abridged ritual maintains the spirit of the original while eliminating much of the cost involved.

We have had the opportunity to work this ceremony on three occasions and (at the time of going to press) will be doing so again at the meeting of the John Owen Place Tabernacle on April 25. There are currently a number of Kt Pts who are eligible to be admitted and it should be pointed out to them that progress in the Tabernacle is dependent on membership of the Order of Holy Wisdom.

### PILLAR FUND

The Pillar Fund was started in 2012 to celebrate the centenary of the Order in 2024 by providing funding for a new headquarters fitting for a worldwide organisation. The fund is now approaching £3million and two Hertfordshire Tabernacles have made significant contributions. The James William Turner Tabernacle has achieved Sky Blue status with donations equivalent to £100 per member and Southgate Tabernacle has obtained a Green collarette with contributions of £70 per member. The Grand Superintendent, Rt.Em.Kt.Pt. Barry Searle has expressed the hope that each Tabernacle in the District will achieve at least Green status.

The levels of qualification are as follows:

| Individual Members | Tabernacles (individual equivalent) |                 |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Green              | £100                                | £70 per member  |
| Sky Blue           | £150                                | £100 per member |
| Grey               | £400                                | £275 per member |
| Royal Blue         | £750                                | £500 per member |

A certificate acknowledging the level of contribution is sent to the Knight Priest concerned at their home address. On qualifying as a Green contributor, a lapel pin will be awarded. When a Tabernacle attains the first level of contribution, a collarette and jewel for that level will be issued which is to be worn by the High Priest and passed to his successor. On subsequently reaching a higher level, a different coloured collarette will be issued.

Contributions to the fund can be made at any time, either as one-off payments, or by regular standing order, for which an appropriate mandate is available. Knight Priests who are members of more than one Tabernacle should designate which Tabernacle they wish their contributions to support.

### MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

To be considered for membership of this deeply significant Order, you must be a subscribing member of the following Masonic bodies:

- A subscribing Master Mason of three years standing.
- A subscribing Royal Arch Mason.
- A subscribing Knight Templar.
- And profess the Trinitarian Christian Faith.

### TABERNACLES IN THE DISTRICT

- Hertfordshire Tabernacle No 29 meeting at Radlett.
- Halsey Tabernacle No 177 meeting at Cheshunt.
- Crux Roysia Tabernacle No 192 meeting at Royston.
- John Owen Place No 200 meeting at Watford.
- Southgate Tabernacle No 216 meeting at Southgate.
- James William Turner Tabernacle No 222 meeting at Watford.

If you are interested in joining this Order, please contact the District Recorder  
Illustrious Knight Priest John Roberts PGIIIP,  
5 Priory Gate, Thomas Rochford Way, Cheshunt, EN8 0SG.  
Tel: 01992 444689.  
email:j.d.roberts53@btinternet.com

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## Provincial Email Newsletter

To enable the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hertfordshire to communicate directly with our membership more quickly and efficiently we have launched a digital newsletter. In order to ensure this service reaches as many of our members as possible, we need everyone to give their permission to be contacted in this way and to provide some basic details (name, email, etc.). This information will be kept secure by the Province and not be shared with any third-party without your consent.

If you wish to receive this email newsletter please visit:  
[www.pghherts.org/email](http://www.pghherts.org/email)

