

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE of MARK MASTER MASONS of DURHAM

R.W.Bro. Prof. Denovan Keith Wilson
Provincial Grand Master

**Report of the Provincial Grand Secretary to the
Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Durham
which was due to be held at the Lancastrian Suite, Lancaster Road, Dunston, Gateshead NE11 9JR
on Wednesday, 23rd June 2021, but which will be held virtually on the Zoom platform.**

Brethren, I present my third Report to the Mark Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham. As you will see from the items listed below, the last year has been very disappointing due to the various suspensions of Masonic activities. The Pandemic has now raged for well over a year, and we have all missed our Masonry. However, there is light at the end of the tunnel. By June, a great many of us will have had both vaccinations, and an even greater number will have had at least one vaccination. Small steps, Brethren, but ones which will lead to a brighter dawn down the line. At this point in time, all I can say is that the general administration of the Province continues to the normal set deadlines, and I rely on the various Lodge Secretaries to assist me in those matters. I look forward to seeing you all in the future – let us hope, sooner rather than later. Until then, stay safe, and I wish you all well.

Lodge Visits (4).

The Provincial Grand Master appreciates the support from his Active Team of Provincial Officers which has enabled him to accept invitations to Virtual Provincial Visits to the following Mark Lodges: Percy 122 (Sesquicentenary); Union 124 (Sesquicentenary); Ravensworth 718 (Centenary); Ambrose Crowley 1269.

Lodge of Instruction.

The Annual Festival of the Durham Mark Lodge of Instruction was unable to be held due to the Suspension of Masonic Activities.

Installations.

In the brief interval between suspensions in September, 1 Installation was held, at which the Provincial Grand Master was not represented as the maximum number permitted at the meeting was 6 persons.

Mark Grand Lodge Honours.

With effect from Tuesday, 8th June 2021, the Most Worshipful Grand Master was pleased to make the following appointments to Brethren from this Province:

Grand Steward (re-appointment)	Michael James Wilkinson, Hackworth Lodge 761
Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	William Henry Carlyon, Ravensworth Lodge 718
Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Jeff Awdas, St. Andrew's Lodge 854
Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Sidney James Watson, Ryton Lodge 1714

With effect from Tuesday, 7th September 2021, the Most Worshipful Grand Master will be pleased to make the following appointments to Brethren from this Province:

Past Grand Junior Overseer	Michael Davis, Bede Lodge 605
Past Grand Senior Deacon	David Nigel Hanson, Union Lodge 124
Past Grand Junior Deacon	Ian Hunter Morrison, Percy Lodge 122
Past Grand Junior Deacon	John Rowland, Union Lodge 124
Past Grand Junior Deacon	Allan Gurney, Unity Lodge 827
Past Grand Junior Deacon	Allan Monkhouse, Unity Lodge 827
Past Grand Junior Deacon	Donald Marshall, Steadfast Lodge 846
Past Grand Junior Deacon	Ronald Trevor Lynn, Walton Lodge 1106

Congratulations are extended to all the above, with the wish that they have good health to enjoy their preferment, and the determination to continue to work hard for the betterment of the Order.

Membership (all figures are taken as at 31st December 2020)

The Membership at the end of 2016 was 1233. Last year (2019), it had fallen to 1136. This year we have lost a net total of 18 memberships. This decrease represents a further decrease of 1.58% over the last year; and a total decrease of 9.33% over the last 4 years. If we consider that over the 4 year period, 100 Brethren have passed to the "Grand Lodge Above", and we had 203 resignations, then clearly, 'resignations' is still a major issue. All resignations are followed up by contact from either the Deputy or the Assistant PGM, and it is imperative that details of all resignations are sent to Province as soon as Lodge Secretaries are informed of them – a follow-up phone call is useless several weeks later.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Durham**Summary of Annual Returns of Lodges Year Ended 31st December 2020**

No.	LODGE	Total Members Installations 2019	A	J	R	D	Ex	HM	Total Members Installations 2020
39	Eclectic	23	2	2	0	1	2	0	24
122	Percy	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
124	Union	21	1	0	1	0	0	0	21
250	Darlington	13	0	0	1	0	0	0	12
293	Industry	25	1	6	0	0	5	0	27
356	Dunelm	44	0	1	1	2	0	0	42
362	Wouldhave Tyne Dock	40	0	1	3	1	3	0	34
596	Auckland	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
605	Bede	26	1	0	0	0	0	0	27
701	Jarrow	31	1	3	2	0	0	0	33
718	Ravensworth	21	0	0	0	1	0	0	20
740	Harte	23	2	0	0	0	0	0	25
761	Hackworth	37	0	0	0	1	0	0	36
778	Barnard Castle	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
827	Unity	18	0	1	0	0	0	0	19
846	Steadfast	23	0	1	1	1	0	0	22
854	St. Andrew's	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
860	Bernard Gilpin	21	2	1	0	0	0	0	24
896	Clavering	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
925	Moseley	26	0	0	0	1	0	0	25
929	William Todd	28	1	0	0	3	0	0	26
930	Castle Eden	26	0	2	2	2	1	0	23
981	Spennymoor	24	0	1	0	0	0	0	25
1015	Ernest Dixon	21	0	0	0	2	1	0	18
1055	Penshaw	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
1093	St. Lawrence	16	0	0	4	0	0	0	12
1106	Walton	28	1	0	1	1	0	0	27
1112	Elevation	22	0	0	1	3	0	0	18
1145	St. Aidan	20	0	0	1	0	0	0	19
1151	Cestria	53	3	0	1	3	0	0	52
1269	Ambrose Crowley	38	0	0	1	1	1	0	35
1271	Sportsman's	14	0	31	9	0	0	0	36
1274	Staindrop	11	0	0	1	0	0	0	10
1339	Hebburn	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
1492	Durham L of I M	45	0	0	4	2	0	0	39
1511	St. Thomas	17	0	0	3	0	0	1	13
1551	Stanhope	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
1560	Ferryhill	27	0	0	0	1	0	0	26
1626	George Washington	15	0	0	0	2	0	0	13
1714	Ryton	32	0	0	0	1	0	0	31
1806	Chief of the Builders	72	1	3	2	0	0	0	74
1820	Provincial Stewards	26	0	0	2	1	0	0	23
1936	Indaba	24	0	0	2	0	0	0	22
		1136	16	53	43	30	13	1	1118

NB: Lodges shown in RED, are Lodges where the Warrant is "in Abeyance".

Obituary (21).

The Province has suffered the loss of many Mark Brethren, whose names are recorded below. We acknowledge the service they gave to the Order in general, and to this Province in particular.

W.Bro. Ralph Howard Davidson	P.Prov.G.Reg.	Barnard Castle Lodge 778
W.Bro. Ian Craig Campbell	P.Prov.A.G,D.C.	St. Aidan Lodge 1145
Bro. Michael Cockerton		Cestria Lodge 1151
W.Bro. George Edgar	P.Prov.G.J.W.	Spennymoor Lodge 981
Bro. Alexander King		Hackworth Lodge 761
Bro. Norman Cooke		Ambrose Crowley Lodge 1269
W.Bro. John McCarthy	P.Prov.G.S.W.	Elevation Lodge 1112
Bro. Robert William Chisholm		William Todd Lodge 929
Bro. Raymond Harrison		St. Andrew's Lodge 854
W.Bro. David Benson	P.Prov.G.S.O.	Moseley Lodge 925
W.Bro. John William Scott	P.G.St.B.	Spennymoor Lodge 981
W.Bro. Robert Henry Greenman	P.Prov.G.S.D.	Ernest Dixon Lodge 1015
W.Bro. Peter Wiegold	P.Prov.G.J.W.	Auckland Lodge 596
Bro. Thomas Browlee		Jarrow Lodge 701
Bro. John David Bell		Ambrose Crowley Lodge 1269
W.Bro. Charles William Suttie	P.Prov.G.J.O.	Bernard Gilpin Lodge 860
W.Bro. John Brian Mitchinson	P.G.S.D.	Eclectic Lodge 39
W.Bro. Allan Sharpe Wilkinson	P.Prov.G.S.O.	Moseley Lodge 925
W.Bro. Frederick Lonergan Crawford	P.Prov.G.J.W.	Industry Lodge 293
Bro. James Franklin Bird		Moseley Lodge 925
W.Bro. George Martin	P.P.G.J.W.	Castle Eden 930

“THEY REST FROM THEIR LABOURS, AND THEIR GOOD WORKS DO FOLLOW THEM. THANKS BE TO GOD, THEY HAVE MARKED WELL.”

Visits to Other Provinces (1).

Since last June, due to the suspension of meetings, the Province has not been able to visit any Annual Meetings of other Provinces. However, the Provincial Grand Master will be 'zooming in' to the Worcestershire Annual Meeting on 12th June.

Other Events.

Due to the Covid Pandemic, and the subsequent suspension of Masonic Activities, I have to report that the Provincial Grand Master and his Officers have not attended any significant events in the past 12 months. However, it is worth recording that the Province 'celebrated' its Centenary; Percy Lodge 122 and Union Lodge 124 'celebrated' their Sesquicentenary; and Ravensworth Lodge 718 'celebrated' its Centenary.

Conclusion.

Brethren, I present my report for your information and consideration. My grateful thanks go to all the hard working Lodge Secretaries for their help and assistance during the last 12 very difficult months, and I am sure they will continue the good work in their Lodges.

My particular thanks go to my Deputy Provincial Secretary W.Bro. Graham Wharton, my Assistant Provincial Secretary, W.Bro. Doug Quickmire, the Provincial Registrar, W.Bro. Malcolm Ormiston, and the Assistants to

the Secretariat, W.Bro. Fred Beales, W.Bro. Ian Heaviside, and W.Bro. David Battensby. They have all executed their roles most efficiently, and I am indebted to them all.

Brethren at this point, I would normally hope that our annual pilgrimage to the Lancastrian Suite Conference Centre is a success, and that everyone has a most enjoyable day. Unfortunately, it has not been a normal year! So for now, Brethren, I wish you all well, and may the Great Overseer of the Universe enable us all to meet again soon.

Allan Gurney P.G.Stwd.,

Provincial Grand Secretary, 10th June 2021.