

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE

OF

MARK MASTER MASONS

OF

DURHAM

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 103rd ANNUAL MEETING

**Held in the
LANCASTRIAN SUITE,
THE FED,
LANCASTER ROAD,
DUNSTON.**

WEDNESDAY, 28th JUNE 2023

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF DURHAM
ANNUAL MEETING 2023

The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Durham was held in the Lancastrian Suite, The Fed, Lancaster Road, Dunston, on Wednesday, 28th June 2023 when 247 Brethren signed the attendance sheets.

The Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. David Nigel Hanson presided.

The following Grand Officers were present:

W.Bro. R.T. Lynn P.G.J.D., Dep.P.G.M.; W. Bro. M.J. Wilkinson, P.G.Stwd., Asst.P.G.M., V.W. Bro. F.A. Rankin P.G.M.O., P.Dep.P.G.M.; V.W. Bro. D. Guy P.G.J.O., P.Dep.P.G.M.; V.W. Bro. S.A.R. Ingram P.G.J.O., P.Asst.P.G.M.; V.W. Bro. P.P. Paterson, P.G.M.O., V.W. Bros. A. Craven, R.N. Neville Prov.G.Ch.Stwd., M. Davis Prov.G.D.C., K. Liddell Prov.G.Alm., G. Crossley Snr. and G. Clark P.G.J.O.; W.Bros. J. Bulmer, N.E. Heaviside, P.G.S.D.; W.Bros. A.Gurney Prov.G.Sec., R.S. Hodgson, I.H. Morrison, F. Piggford, W.S. Malcolm, J.R. Bayles, D. Quickmire, K.I. Anderson,
 G.J. Mitchinson Prov.G.Treas., J.M. Nye, A.J. Clark, J.T. Dodds, G.S. Savage, J.A. Easton, K.P. Dale, G. Quinn Dep.Prov.G.D.C., L. Nevin, D. Marshall, and A. Monkhouse, P.G.J.D.; W.Bros. S.J. Watson, R.W. Emerson, A. Cuthbertson,
 M. Cuthbertson, M. Maddison, R.J. Hargate, M.J. Gilpin, P.G. Wilkie, R. Layton, J.S. Denham, G. Martin, G.D. Taylor, J. Green (L1132), G. Paylor, B. Kennedy, M. Rankin, P. Harrison, L.A. Young, K.U. Robson, M. Ross, J. Awdas, W.H. Carlyon, R.R. Tonner, R.F. Knight, L. Baker, and G. Wharton Dep.Prov.G.Sec., P.A.G.D.C.; W.Bros. K.L. Robson, J.M.B. Schoolkate Prov.G.Tyler, B.Eltringham and A. Crusher P.A.G.Swd.B; W.Bros. R. Hope, A. Wordingham, T.E. Bradley, F.A. Shaftoe, L. Howarth, W.E. Hobson, and L.J. Ayers, P.G.St.B. (70)

Distinguished Guests paraded in before the Opening (44):

Cumberland & Westmorland

P.G.M.	R.W. Bro.	Barry	Kirkbride
Dep.P.G.M.	V.W. Bro.	Douglas Graham	Sanderson
Asst.P.G.M.	W. Bro.	Phillip	Carruthers
Prov.G.Sec.	W. Bro.	Peter John	Sacre
Prov.G.Reg.	W. Bro.	Andrew Edward	Inglesfield
Prov.G.D.C.	W. Bro.	Richard John	Benn
Prov.G.Ch.Stwd.	W. Bro.	Robert	Nicholson
Prov.G.Tyler	W. Bro.	Craig	Thomason

West Yorkshire

Asst.P.G.M.	V.W. Bro.	John Edward	Vause
G.J.O.	V.W. Bro.	Philip	Oldfield

North & East Yorkshire

Asst.P.G.M.	W. Bro.	Ian Walter	Murdoch
P.G.Chap.	W. Bro.	Maurice	Hatton
Prov.Asst.G.D.C.	W. Bro.	Leslie	Race
P.A.G.D.C.	W.Bro.	David William	Kirkham

West Lancashire

P.G.M.	R.W.Bro.	Keith Alan	Beardmore
Asst.P.G.M.	V.W.Bro.	Geoffrey Michael	Bury
Prov.G.Sec.	W.Bro.	Michael Jeremy	Pinckard

North Wales

<u>P.G.M.</u>	<u>R.W.Bro.</u>	<u>John Stanley</u>	<u>Evans</u>
<u>Dep.P.G.M.</u>	<u>W.Bro.</u>	<u>Philip Joseph</u>	<u>Edwards</u>

<u>Prov.G.Sec.</u>	<u>W.Bro.</u>	<u>Colin Anthony</u>	<u>Lemin</u>
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Northumberland

P.G.M.	R.W. Bro.	Raymond Arthur	Walton
Dep.P.G.M.	V.W. Bro.	Richard	Northey
Asst.P.G.M.	W. Bro	Paul Oliver	Hilditch
Prov.G.D.C.	W. Bro.	Duncan Cruikshank	McIsaac
P.P.G.M.	R.W.Bro.	Gordon	Craigs

Nottinghamshire

Prov.G.Sec.	W.Bro.	Simon James	Morris
Prov.G.J.W.	W.Bro.	Graham	Jones
P.G.S.D.	W.Bro.	Alan	Naylor

East Lancashire

Dep.P.G.M.	W.Bro.	David George	Rainford
Asst.P.G.M.	W.Bro.	Martin Paul	Roche

Derbyshire

P.G.M.	R.W. Bro.	Graeme	Hutchinson
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Lincolnshire

P.G.M.	R.W. Bro.	Stephen Charles	Hallberg
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Cheshire

P.G.M.	R.W.Bro.	Gary	Horstman
Dep.P.G.M.	W. Bro.	Derek Joseph	Walsh

Essex

P.G.M.	R.W.Bro.	Terence Douglas	Sheern
Asst.P.G.M.	W.Bro.	John Henry	Stannard
G.Stwd.	W.Bro.	Clive Rodney	Snell
P.G.J.D.	W.Bro.	Barry Frederick George	Coombes
P.G.St.B.	W.Bro.	Ranjit Singh	Bhogal
P.G.St.B.	W.Bro.	Peter Andrew	Maloney

Staffordshire and Shropshire

Prov.G.D.C.	W.Bro.	Peter	Tyson
Dep.Prov.G.D.C.	W.Bro.	Peter	James

Northampton, Huntingdon, and Bedford

Prov.G.Treas.	W.Bro.	Ian Douglas	Henderson
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Kent

Dep.Prov.G.Sec.	W.Bro.	Christopher Stephen	Clark
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In addition, 132 Durham Brethren attended the meeting.

1. Opening of Provincial Grand Lodge

Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form and with solemn prayer at 2-00pm.

2. Representatives of the Royal Ark Mariner Lodges

The Representatives of the 20 Royal Ark Mariner Lodges paraded into Provincial Grand Lodge, forming the traditional triangle. The Representative of Industry RAM Lodge No. 362, W.Bro. T. Wilson, addressed the Provincial Grand Master, giving their Pledge of Allegiance. The PGM acknowledged their presence, and welcomed them to join him in this Provincial Grand Lodge.

3. Obituary

The R.W. Provincial Grand Master then called upon W.Bro. Michael James Wilkinson, P.G.Stwd., Asst.P.G.M., to announce the Obituary. W.Bro. Wilkinson read the list of the 25 Brethren who had passed to the Grand Lodge Above since the previous annual meeting in 2022, and then called upon the Grand Chaplain, W.Bro. Phillip Alan Carter P.A.G.D.C., to deliver an Obituary prayer.

Welcome

The Provincial Grand Master then welcomed the Past Rulers of the Mark Province of Durham. He then went on to welcome all the distinguished guests from other Provinces, the current and past rulers of the Craft in the Province of Durham, and the Heads of Other Orders in the Province of Durham. The Brethren were then invited to show their acclamation in the usual manner.

The Provincial Grand Master then requested the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies to present W.Bro. David Lonsdale, Worshipful Master of Walton Lodge No. 1106 to him. W.Bro. Lonsdale was so presented, and returned the Travelling Gavel to the Provincial Grand Master's care for the duration of the Annual Meeting. This was then returned to Walton Lodge at their 75th Anniversary Meeting on Monday, 3rd July.

4. Salutations

Appropriate Salutations and Proclamations were conducted by the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, V.W. Bro. Mike Davis P.G.J.O.

5. The Provincial Grand Master then welcomed to the meeting our distinguished guests from other Provinces, our own Past Rulers of the Order, and Heads of Other Orders within the Province of Durham.

6. Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Durham held on Wednesday, 22nd June 2022, which had been circulated via Lodge Secretaries, and published on the Provincial Website, were taken as read, confirmed, and signed on the motion of the Provincial Grand Senior Warden, W.Bro. Russell Wayne Rumley, and seconded by the Provincial Grand Junior Warden, W.Bro. Gil Crossley Jnr.

7. Letters of Apology

The Provincial Grand Secretary announced receipt of 13 letters of apology from Provincial Grand Masters, their Deputy Provincial Grand Masters, Assistant Provincial Grand Masters and Provincial Grand Secretaries.

Apologies were also received from the following Brethren of the Province of Durham:

V.W. Bro. Rev'd D.A. Wright	V.W. Bro. J.W. Warren	W.Bro. K.E.C. Howe
W.Bro. J.L. Webster	W.Bro. R.T. Watson	W.Bro. D. Youngson
W.Bro. M.Graham Snr.	W.Bro. J Arthur	W.Bro. Rev'd. P.A. Adamson
W. Bro. G. Walker	W.Bro. R. Shaw	W.Bro. Canon R.C. Black
W.Bro. P. Lightfoot	W.Bro. G. Morl	

8. Roll of Provincial Grand Officers

The Provincial Grand Secretary announced that all of the Current Acting Provincial Grand Officers were present, with the exception of 5, who had all tendered apologies for good reasons.

9. Roll of Mark Lodges

The Provincial Grand Secretary announced that all of the 37 Mark Lodges in the Province were represented at the Meeting, and that satisfactory reports had been received from each of them.

10. Provincial Grand Secretary's Report

The Provincial Grand Secretary's Report had been circulated via Lodge Secretaries, and had been published on the Provincial Website. (Copy of the Report printed below).

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. R.T. Lynn P.G.J.D. proposed, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. M.J. Wilkinson P.G.Stwd. seconded the proposition, that the Provincial Grand Secretary's Report be taken as read and accepted. This proposal was carried.

11. Provincial Grand Treasurer's Report

The Provincial Grand Treasurer's Report had been circulated via Lodge Secretaries, and had been published on the Provincial Website. (Copy of the Report, and the accompanying financial statements printed below).

The Deputy Provincial Grand Secretary, W.Bro. G. Wharton P.A.G.D.C. proposed, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Secretary, W.Bro. I. Heaviside P.P.G.J.O. seconded the proposition, that the Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts

be received, adopted, and that the thanks of Provincial Grand Lodge be accorded to the Treasurer and to the Auditors for their services. This proposal was carried.

12. Report of Benevolent Committee

The Minutes of the Benevolent Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 18th April 2023, and accompanying Accounts, had been circulated via Lodge Secretaries, and had been published on the Provincial Website. Therefore, W.Bro. R.T. Lynn P.G.J.D., Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Chairman of the Benevolent Committee, read out his Report of the year 2022. He commended it to the Brethren for adoption, which was duly done. (See accompanying Report and Accounts below). The recommendations which had been made by the Benevolent Committee, and which were contained within the Report, were thus accepted by the assembled Brethren.

Donations:

The Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. David Nigel Hanson, then presented a cheque for £6,000 to R.W. Bro. G. Horstman, (P.G.M. for Cheshire) towards the 2024 M.B.F. Festival. R.W. Bro. Horstman thanked the Provincial Grand Master, and the Mark Master Masons of Durham, for their generosity.

The Provincial Grand Master also presented a cheque for £2,000 to W.Bro. Richard Scott (Provincial Prior, Knights Templar of Durham) to go towards their fundraising for the Eye Hospital in Jerusalem.

13. Election of Treasurer

There being only one nomination received for the office of Provincial Grand Treasurer, the Provincial Grand Master declared W.Bro. Graham John Mitchinson P.G.J.D., Past Master of Percy Lodge No. 122, duly elected.

After being declared Treasurer, following the Notice of Motion given at last year's annual meeting, the Provincial Grand Treasurer proposed that Provincial Dues be increased from £5-00 per member to £5-50 per member for Mark Lodges, and changed from £10 per RAM Lodge to £2-00 per member for all RAM Lodges. This proposal was also carried.

14. Election of Independent Examiners

The Deputy Provincial Grand Secretary, W.Bro. G. Wharton P.A.G.D.C. proposed, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Secretary, W.Bro. I. Heaviside seconded the proposition, that Torgersens Chartered Accountants, of Somerford Buildings, Norfolk Street, Sunderland be elected Independent Examiners for the ensuing year. This proposal was carried.

15. Reappointment of Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

The Provincial Grand Master reappointed W. Bro. Ronald Trevor Lynn P.G.J.D. as Deputy Provincial Grand Master for the ensuing year.

16. Reappointment of Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

The Provincial Grand Master reappointed W.Bro. Michael James Wilkinson P.G.Stwd. as Assistant Provincial Grand Master for the ensuing year.

17. Appointment of Officers

The Provincial Grand Master then proceeded with the Investiture of Provincial Officers. (See accompanying list below). Salutations to the newly appointed officers were conducted by W.Bro. G. Quinn, Deputy Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

18. Provincial Grand Master's Address

The Provincial Grand Master then addressed the Meeting.

At the end of his Address, the Provincial Grand Master asked W.Bro. J.D. Watts, Chairman of the Festival 2029 Committee, to read out the names of 5 Brethren to receive upgrades to their MBF Collarettes. These 5 Brethren were duly presented with their new Collarettes, and acclaimed by the Brethren.

19. Collection

A collection was taken for the Durham 2029 Festival on behalf of the MBF, which raised a total amount of £1,482-57 before the addition of Gift Aid Tax Relief.

20. Any other business

The Provincial Grand Master confirmed that his co-opted member onto the Finance and General Purposes Committee was R.W. Bro. Frank Alexander Rankin P.G.J.W. He then confirmed that next year's meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge would be held on Wednesday, 26th June 2024.

The P.G.M. then asked the Provincial G.D.C. to present W.Bro. Brian Smith to him. The P.G.M. then explained W.Bro. Smith's enthusiasm for the Mark Degree, and his commitment to Provincial Visits over the past 5 years, and presented him with his own personal apron acknowledging his role as 'THE' Provincial Grand Steward.

The Provincial Grand Master then thanked the members of the Secretariat, the members of the G.D.C's Team, and all the volunteers who had turned up early to help, for their hard work and commitment to making the day a success.

21. Closing of Provincial Grand Lodge

Provincial Grand Lodge was then closed in due form and with solemn prayer at 3-51pm.

22. After the Closing Ode, the Brethren joined in singing the first verse of the National Anthem.

The exit procession was formed by V.W. Bro. Mike Davis, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Allan Gurney,

P.G.J.D., Provincial Grand Secretary.

**R.W.Bro. David Nigel Hanson
Provincial Grand
Master**

**Report of the Provincial Grand Secretary
to the Provincial Grand Lodge of
Mark Master Masons of Durham**

Brethren, I present my fifth Report to the Mark Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham. As you will see from the items listed below, the return to Masonic Meetings after the lockdowns due to Covid has continued. Although some people are still not returning to Masonic Lodges, the vast majority are doing so, and we have had a good number of Advancees during the last 12 months. I can say that the general administration of the Province has continued to the normal set deadlines, and I rely on the various Lodge Secretaries to assist me in those matters, and I thank them all for their support over the last year.

Lodge Visits (17).

The Provincial Grand Master very much appreciates the support from his Team of Active Provincial Officers which has enabled him to accept invitations to make Provincial Team Visits to the following Mark Lodges:

Eclectic 39 (50 Year Certificate); Darlington Steadfast 250 (Amalgamation Ceremony & Installation); Dunelm 356; Wouldhave Tyne Dock 362 (50 Year Certificate); Bede 605 (50 Year Certificate); Jarrow 701 (50 Year Certificate); Ravensworth 718 (50 Year Certificate); Hackworth 761 (Centenary); Barnard Castle 778 (Centenary); Clavering 896 (60 Year Certificate); Moseley 925 (50 Year Certificate); William Todd 929 (50 Year Certificate); Spennymoor 981; Spennymoor 981 (50 Year Certificate); St. Lawrence 1093 (75th Anniversary); Cestria 1151; Durham Lodge of Installed Mark Masters 1492; Stanhope 1551.

Installations.

Since September, many Lodges have held their normal Installation Meeting, at which the Provincial Grand Master has been represented by a cohort of willing volunteers from amongst the Provincial Wardens and the Grand Lodge Officers. I am indebted to them all for completing their Report Forms conscientiously, speedily, and to a high standard. Let us remember, Brethren, that these Brethren act as Representatives of the Provincial Grand Master voluntarily – they receive no expenses for their time and petrol. So, let us treat them with civility, and gratitude for the role they fulfill.

Visits to other Provinces.

Since our last Annual Meeting, the Provincial Grand Master and members of his Senior Team have attended the Annual Meetings of other Provinces as listed below:

Cumberland & Westmorland (Installation of new P.G.M.); Northumberland; North & East Yorkshire; Cheshire; Lincolnshire; Nottinghamshire; West Yorkshire; West Lancashire; Derbyshire; East Lancashire; North Wales; Cumberland & Westmorland.

Mark Grand Lodge Honours.

With effect from Tuesday, 13th June 2023, the Most Worshipful Grand Master has been pleased to make the following appointments to Brethren from this Province:

Grand Steward	John David Watts, Ernest Dixon Lodge 1015
Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	John Strachan Denham, Auckland Lodge 596
Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Mark Julian Gilpin, Cestria Lodge 1151
Past Grand Standard Bearer	William Elliott Hobson, Stanhope Lodge 1551
Past Assistant Grand Standard Bearer	David Battensby, Cestria Lodge 1151

With effect from Tuesday, 12th September 2023, the Most Worshipful Grand Master will be pleased to make the following appointments to Brethren from this Province:

Past Grand Junior Overseer	John Maurice Nye, Ferryhill Lodge 1560
Past Grand Junior Deacon	Robert Taylor Watson, Hackworth Lodge 761
Past Grand Junior Deacon	Martin Rankin, Ambrose Crowley Lodge 1269

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.

Other Events.

As well 2 Lodge Centenaries, and many presentations of 50 year Certificates listed above, a good number of members of the Province visited Grand Lodge in September for the Promotions meeting, and it was very pleasing to see such support for the recipients. Again, we were well represented at the Grand Lodge business meeting in March, and finished with a tremendous showing at the First Appointments meeting in June.

On 3rd November Ferryhill was packed to the rafters for the 'Dinner for Denny', at which we honoured our Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master, the current Assistant Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Prof. Denovan Keith Wilson. This was a superb night, and our thanks go to John Dodds and John Nye in particular, but also to the other members of Ferryhill Lodge who assisted them in any way at all.

November 28th saw the Installation of our new Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. David Nigel Hanson. The Pro Grand Master, M.W. Bro. John Herbert Prizeman and his team of Grand Officers duly arrived from London, and we were treated to an excellent ceremony of Installation. The P.G.M. then proceeded to appoint and invest his Deputy P.G.M. and his Assistant P.G.M. After all this ceremonial, just over 200 Mark Men then proceeded to enjoy an excellent Installation Banquet at the Lancastrian Suite.

Also held at the Lancastrian Suite was the launch of the 2029 Durham Festival in aid of the Mark Benevolent Fund. It is many years since the Mark province of Durham hosted a Festival, and the Festival Team appointed by the P.G.M. did not want to let the launch go by without a flourish – despite the problems with the heating system on the night! We all enjoyed an excellent meal, followed by superb entertainment. In between the meal and the entertainment, there were speeches from the P.G.M., a representative of the M.B.F. in London, and finally from John Watts, who introduced his Team individually, and then encouraged us all to donate.

March saw the Annual Wardens' Dinner again held at Ferryhill Masonic Chambers. A good number of Past Wardens of the Province were in attendance, showing that this continues to be a very popular event. Once again, this was an excellent evening organised by John Dodds and John Nye, to whom we are most grateful.

Obituary.

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. Ian Christopher Mason	P.P.G.J.O.	Ravensworth Lodge 718
W.Bro. Thomas Knott	P.P.G.J.W.	St. Thomas Lodge 1511
W.Bro. Peter Smailes	P.A.G.D.C.	Steadfast Lodge 846
W.Bro. John Victor Thompson		Ferryhill 1560
W.Bro. Robert Henry Jones	P.P.G.J.W.	Darlington Lodge 250
W.Bro. John Wilson Best	P.P.A.G.D.C.	Bede Lodge 605
W.Bro. Terence Henry Lewis		Eclectic Lodge 39
V.W. Bro. Keith Dinning	P.G.J.O.	Spennymoor Lodge 981
W.Bro. Norman John William Moffitt		Ryton Lodge 1714
W.Bro. Raymond Stephenson	P.P.G.J.W.	Percy Lodge 122
W.Bro. Raymond Gregory Snaith	P.A.G.D.C.	Indaba Lodge 1936
Bro. Frederick David Graham-Thomas		Wouldhave Tyne Dock Lodge 362
W.Bro. Malcolm Spark		St. Aidan Lodge 1145
W.Bro. Anthony David Briggs	P.G.J.D.	Ryton Lodge 1714
W.Bro. Leonard Redmayne		Bernard Gilpin Lodge 860
W.Bro. Samuel James Neil	P.G.J.D.	St. Lawrence Lodge 1093
W.Bro. Peter Beedle	P.G.J.D.	William Todd Lodge 929
W.Bro. William Burt Holden	P.P.G.M.O.	Stanhope Lodge 1551
W.Bro. Leonard Henry Stewart	P.A.G.D.C.	St. Andrew's Lodge 845
W.Bro. Ian Ormiston	P.P.G.J.W.	Ferryhill Lodge 1560
W.Bro. Raymond Davis	P.P.G.J.O.	William Todd Lodge 929
W.Bro. Thomas Hutler McKitten	P.P.G.J.W.	Shipleigh Lodge 1271
W.Bro. Peter John holland	P.P.G.J.W.	Ambrose Crowley Lodge 1269
W.Bro. Clive Pogue	P.P.G.J.W.	St. Aidan Lodge 1145
Bro. Alan Townsend		William Todd Lodge 929

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

Membership (all figures are taken as at 31st December 2022)

The number of Memberships at the end of 2017 was 1,218. As of 31st December 2022, it had fallen to 946. During 2022, we have lost a net total of 53 memberships. This decrease represents a further decrease of 5.31% over the last year; and a total decrease of 22.34% over the last 5 years. Please bear in mind, however, that over the 5 year period we had Covid to deal with, and the closure of 5 Lodges where not all members joined a new Lodge. Please also remember that the loss of memberships is higher than the number of members lost - as many members are in 2 or more Lodges.

Clearly, however, 'resignations' are still a major issue. All resignations are supposed to be followed up by contact from either the Deputy or the Assistant P.G.M., and it is imperative

that details of all intended resignations are sent to Province as soon as Lodge Secretaries are informed of them – a follow-up phone call is useless several weeks later. The one real shaft of light at the end of the tunnel is that, due to Covid, we had very few new members advanced into the Order. During the last 12 months since our last Annual meeting, 30 new Advancees have become Mark Master Masons. It is up to you, Brethren, to ensure that it continues.

**Summary of Annual Returns of Lodges Year Ended 31st December
2022**

No.	Lodge	Total Members Installation 2021	Adv.	Join	Res.	Died	Exclud.	Hon Mem.	Total Members Installation 2022
M39	Eclectic	24	0	0	0	1	0	0	23
M122	Percy	21	0	0	1	1	0	0	19
M124	Union	20	0	4	0	0	0	0	24
M250	Darlington Steadfas	12	0	19	0	1	0	0	30
M293	Industry	26	0	0	1	3	0	2	20
M356	Dunelm	40	0	0	2	0	1	0	37
M362	Wouldhave T.D.	34	0	1	2	0	0	1	32
M596	Auckland	20	0	0	0	1	2	0	17
M605	Bede	25	0	0	1	1	0	2	21
M701	Jarrow	28	0	0	1	0	0	1	26
M718	Ravensworth	20	0	2	1	0	1	0	20
M740	Harte	22	1	0	1	1	0	0	21
M761	Hackworth	35	0	1	2	2	0	0	32
M778	Barnard Castle	22	0	0	0	1	0	0	21
M827	Unity	19	0	0	1	1	0	0	17
M846	Steadfast (Amalgtec	20	0	0	19	1	0	0	0
M854	St Andrews	27	2	1	0	2	0	0	28
M860	Bernard Gilpin	22	1	0	0	0	0	0	23
M896	Clavering	24	0	1	1	0	0	0	24
M925	Moseley	20	0	0	3	0	0	0	17
M929	William Todd	25	2	2	4	0	0	0	25
M930	Castle Eden	20	0	0	1	0	0	0	19
M981	Spennymoor	22	0	1	0	2	0	0	21
M1015	Ernest Dixon	16	0	1	0	0	0	0	17
M1055	Penshaw	18	0	0	4	0	0	0	14
M1093	St Lawrence	12	0	3	0	2	0	0	13
M1106	Walton	24	0	1	1	0	0	0	24
M1112	Elevation	16	0	2	2	0	0	0	16
M1145	St Aidan	17	0	0	1	1	0	2	13
M1151	Cestria	50	0	0	3	1	0	0	46
M1269	Ambrose Crowley	32	2	0	2	0	0	1	31
M1271	Sportsman's	40	0	0	0	1	0	0	39
M1492	Durham Lodge IMM	38	0	4	3	1	0	0	38
M1551	Stanhope	27	0	0	0	0	0	1	26
M1560	Ferryhill	25	0	1	0	1	0	0	25
M1626	George Washingto	13	1	0	0	0	0	0	14
M1714	Ryton	29	1	1	1	1	0	0	29
M1806	Chief of the Builde	71	0	5	6	2	0	0	68
M1820	DLPGStewards	22	0	0	3	1	1	0	17
M1936	Indaba	20	0	1	0	2	0	1	18
	Totals	1018	10	51	67	31	5	11	965
			Adv.	Join	Res.	Died	Exclud.	Hon Mem.	

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

On a personal level, as many of you know by now, I was told in February that my cancer has returned, and then my wife passed away in April. The last few weeks have been a difficult and trying time for me and my 2 sons. However, the support I have received from many, many Brethren throughout the Province has been invaluable, and has helped me greatly. A good many of you have also supported my wish to raise money for Cancer Research UK, which has become an important part of my life at the present time. May I take this opportunity to thank you all for all your donations, which are much appreciated.

Brethren, let us renew our annual pilgrimage to the Lancastrian Suite in June. I am sure it will again prove to be a great success, and that everyone will have a most enjoyable day. It is my hope and belief that we are at last beginning to return to something like normal in terms of our meetings and other activities. So for now, Brethren, I wish you all well, and may the Great Overseer of the Universe look kindly upon you all, and grant you good health throughout the coming year.

Allan Gurney P.G.J.D.,

Provincial Grand Secretary, 1st June 2023.

THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MARK LODGE OF DURHAM **TREASURER'S REPORT 2022**

R W Provincial Grand Master and Brethren.

I am pleased to present and submit for adoption the Independent Examiner's Report of the Accounts of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Durham for the Year Ended 31st December 2022.

The Income and Expenditure Account shows a deficit for the year of £361.

As always, the principle items of income continue to be Lodge Dues and Fees of Honour.

Expenditure continues to be monitored regularly.

As mentioned in previous Reports to you, increases in expenditure are planned over the next few years as we continue to replace or refurbish Provincial Grand Mark Lodge Regalia and Furniture as required.

So far as the Balance Sheet is concerned, the Accumulated Fund shows a balance of £31,033 at the 31st December 2022, with the Special Reserve Fund standing at £2,473. Brethren the 2020 Centenary Fund which was established in 2015 shows an opening balance of £11,347, this balance was transferred to the 2029 MBF Festival Fund, and following the £7,575 'Set-Up' costs the 2029 Festival Fund now stands at £3,877. All surplus funds continue to be invested in an Investment Account with our Bankers.

Brethren, once again we are indebted to the Provincial Grand Master and his Provincial Grand Officers who, in carrying out their duties continue to finance their attendance on official deputations to Lodges both within and beyond the Province during the year. The cost to Provincial Grand Mark Lodge, would be considerable if that were not the case, and we are grateful to those Brethren for their continued support and generosity.

I give 'Notice of Motion' that at the next Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, I will propose that the level of Provincial Dues be reviewed.

In conclusion R W Provincial Grand Master and Brethren, I would like to record my thanks to the Lodges who continue to forward dues so promptly, the Provincial Grand Secretary, his Deputy, and Assistant, for their most valuable assistance and cooperation during the year.

R W Provincial Grand Master and Brethren I submit this Report and the Statement of Accounts for adoption.

W Bro Graham J Mitchinson

Graham Mitchinson

PGJD, PPrGSwdB, ProvGTreasurer

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF DURHAM**

We have reviewed the financial statements of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Durham for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the revenue account, balance sheet and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

This report is made solely to the entity's members, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 23 March 2023. Our review has been undertaken so that we may state to the entity's members, as a body, those matters we have agreed with them in our engagement letter and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the entity and the entity's members, as a body, for our work, for this report or the conclusions we have formed.

Members responsibility for the financial statements

The members are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Accountants responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion based on our review of the financial statements. We conducted our review in accordance with International Standard on Review Engagements (ISRE) 2400 (Revised), Engagements to Review Historical Financial Statements, and ICAEW Technical Release TECH 09/13AAF. ISRE 2400 also requires us to comply with the ICAEW Code of Ethics.

Scope of assurance review

A review of financial statements in accordance with ISRE 2400 (Revised) is a limited assurance engagement. We have performed additional procedures to those required under a compilation engagement. These primarily consist of making enquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, applying analytical procedures and evaluating the evidence obtained. The procedures performed in a review are substantially less than those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe the financial statements have not been prepared:

- so as to give a true and fair view of the state of the entity's affairs as at 31 December 2022, and of its result for the year then ended;
- in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland; and
- in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

**East Suite, Ground Floor,
Avalon House, St Catherine's Court,
Sunderland, SR5 3XJ**

**ALISON HENSHAW FCCA
For and on behalf of
Torgersens
Chartered Accountants**

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF DURHAM

UNAUDITED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

		2022		2021
		£		£
Income				
Lodge Dues		2,735.25		2,310.50
Fees of Honour		690.00		300.00
Bank Interest		21.67		2.24
Centenary Income		106.00		500.00
PGM Installations		3,850.00		-
Ties & Tokens		3,277.31		842.39
Annual Meeting dues		6,062.00		-
Other		325.20		-
		<u>17,067.43</u>		<u>3,955.13</u>
 Expenditure				
Provincial Grand Lodge (Craft):				
Cost of Year Book		256.00		246.00
Centenary Expenses		-		4,000.00
Ties & Tokens		2,346.12		-
2029 MBF Festival		7,575.54		-
PGM Installations		6,555.80		-
Administration Expenses:				
Printing & Stationery	1,138.13		265.00	
Postage & Telephone	61.15		50.00	
Sundries	230.14		293.99	
Audit	-		2,400.00	
Accounts	1,218.00	2647.42	-	3,008.99
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	
Annual Meeting		8,222.55		-
		<u>27,603.43</u>		<u>7,254.99</u>
Deficit of Income over Expenditure		(10,536.00)		(3,299.86)
Transfer from Special Reserves		2,705.80		3,500.00
Transfer from Centenary Fund		11,346.86		-
Transfer to 2029 MBF Festival		(3,877.32)		-
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		<u>(360.66)</u>		<u>200.14</u>

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF DURHAM

UNAUDITED BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	2022		2021
		£		£
Fixed Assets				
Regalia	1	4.00		4.00
 Current Assets				
Stock		2,918.65	1,114.34	
Debtors		1,768.00	867.00	

Cash at Bank:				
Current Account	11,854.99		25,441.97	
Deposit Account – Barclays	22,451.61	38,993.25	22,429.94	49,853.25
		<u>38,997.25</u>		<u>49,857.25</u>
Creditors:- amounts falling due within one year		(1,614.00)		(1,938.00)
				<u>49,857.25</u>
Total Net Assets		<u>37,383.25</u>		<u>47,919.25</u>
Represented by:				
Accumulated Fund				
Balance at 1 January 2022	31,393.93		31,193.79	
Deficit for the Year	(10,536.00)		(3,299.86)	
Transfer (to)/from Income & Expenditure Account	10,175.34		3,500.00	
Balance at 31 December 2022		31,033.27		31,393.93
Special Reserve Account	2			
Balance at 1 January 2022	5,178.46		5,178.46	
Transfer (to)/from Income & Expenditure Account	(2,705.80)		-	
Balance at 31 December 2022		2,472.66		5,178.46
2020 Centenary Fund				
Balance at 1 January 2022	3 11,346.86		14,846.86	
Transfer to Income & Expenditure Account	106.00		(3,500.00)	
Transfer to 2029 MBF Festival	(11,452.86)		-	
Balance at 31 December 2022		-		11,346.86
2029 MBF Festival				
Transfer from 202 Centenary Fund	4 11,452.86		-	
Transfer to Income & Expenditure Account	(7,575.54)		-	
Balance at 31 st December 2022		3,877.32		
		<u>37,383.25</u>		<u>47,919.25</u>

The notes on page 4 form part of these financial statements

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF DURHAM

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. Fixed Assets				
		Regalia	Computer	Total
		£	Equipment	£
			£	
Cost				
At 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2022		783.84	-	783.84
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2022		779.84	-	779.84

Net Book Value

At 31 December 2021 and 31 December 2022

4.00

-

4.00

2. Special Reserve Account

The special reserve account is a provision towards the cost of any future installation of a Provincial Grand Master.

3. 2020 Centenary Fund

The Centenary fund is a reserve created to celebrate the Centenary in 2020. During the year, this fund was transferred to the 2029 MBF Festival Reserve.

4. 2029 MBF Festival

The 2029 MBF Festival is a reserve created to fund the 2029 Festival.

5. Related Party

There are no related parties or related party transactions during the year.

6. Other Matters

Covid-19

In the prior year Covid-19 had an impact on the income and expenditure account as Centenary events and the annual AGM were cancelled due to lockdown restrictions. The AGM was held via Zoom to discuss the financial statements for the prior year.

THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF DURHAM
BENEVOLENT FUND.

REPORT OF THE BENEVOLENT COMMITTEE
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2022

Brethren, our 2029 Festival is launched; an enthusiastic team is in place driving it forward and the focus of the Province is understandably concentrated on producing an outstanding result in 6 years time. Meanwhile, the charitable work of the Durham Mark Benevolent Fund continues to support local good causes and brethren in distress. Our finances reflect a more normal year of activity with income exceeding expenditure but offset by a dip in the value of our investments leading to an overall deficit of £7,071 for the year.

Donations by Lodges were at a new low of £2,075 which was entirely as expected once our Festival account was opened pre-launch. We anticipate little change in this position over the next few years as Lodges aim to reach their target levels and we are well prepared to cope with the reduced income from this source. The highlight of Other Income is the remarkable figure of £1,100 donated by Jim Stubbins from his regalia sales and special mention must go to Graham Wharton for donating £200 from jam sales, now a regular feature of every visit by a deputation to a Lodge, and to Eddie Emms for donating £150 raised from the sale of his Centenary Raffle prize. In addition, now that we can meet again at our AGM's, we are able to resume gift aid collections and thanks to the wonderful generosity of our members £2,400 has been contributed this year.

Our investment income has become our primary source of funding for our regular activities with receipts this year of £14,067 representing a return of over 5%. It is as well here to remind ourselves that as well as continuing to operate throughout a pandemic and to be able to look to the future with confidence, is very largely due to the legacy of the late R W Bro J Harold Easton who we all remember with gratitude and affection.

Our main charitable giving this year has included:

Province of West Yorkshire	£6,000
Ukraine Appeal	£2,000

And many smaller grants to worthy causes.

The bulk of our investments continues to be held in an Investment Trust designed especially for the charity sector and has provided income this year of £14,067 but a loss in market value of £14,511.

Overall, our total funds have decreased this year by £7,071 to £338,509 at 31st December, 2022.

It is proposed to make the following donations:

Province of Cheshire	£6,000
Turkey Earthquake Appeal	£2,000

Our network of Almoners, Benevolent Representatives, Liaison Officers and Caring Committee members all play a part in ensuring that the Durham Mark Benevolent Fund continues to support the local community and to relieve distress both at home and abroad. We thank them all for their guidance and assistance in our work.

Brethren, I commend this Report to you.

W Bro R T Lynn, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Chairman

Statement of Financial Activities

For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income			
Donations and legacies	2		
Lodges		2,075.00	2,536.62
Voluntary Contributions		350.00	1,540.00
Centenary fund		-	4,000.00
Investment income	3	14,067.01	12,492.41
Other Income		3,512.60	-
Receipts in respect of 2029 Festival		2,690.65	
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income		<u>22,695.26</u>	<u>20,569.03</u>

Expenditure on charitable activities 4

Grants payable		
Five Lamps Charity	-	500.00
Gateshead Hospice At Home	-	1,000.00
Deptford and Millfield Community Centre	-	1,000.00
St. Matthew and St. Luke's Parish Church	-	500.00
Salvation Army	-	750.00
Provincial of Surrey Festival	-	6,000.00
Caring Comm Gifts	162.17	-
Easington Stroke Club	500.00	-
Kathleen Davis Stage School	500.00	-
Ukraine Appeal	2,000.00	-
Provincial West York 2023 Festival	6,000.00	-
Neve Anderson Scout Camp	750.00	-
Barnes Park Bowling Club	750.00	-
St Johns Ambulance	200.00	-
Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham 2021 Festival	-	2,500.00
Centenary grants	5	-
		10,000.00
Management and administration	1,702.40	1,609.66
Payments in respect of 2029 Festival	2,690.65	
Total expenditure	<u>15,255.22</u>	<u>23,859.66</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	7,440.04	(3,290.63)
Other recognised gains and losses		
Unrealised (loss)/gain on investments	(14,511.70)	30,742.84
Net movement in funds for the year	<u>(7,071.66)</u>	<u>27,452.21</u>
Total funds at 1 January 2022	345,580.73	318,128.52
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2022	<u>338,509.07</u>	<u>345,580.73</u>

Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets			
Investments	7	246,023.57	260,535.27
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	-	-
Bank Balances and Cash		93,616.96	86,176.92
		<u>93,616.96</u>	<u>86,176.92</u>
Current Liabilities	9	(1,131.46)	(1,131.46)
Net Current Assets		<u>92,485.50</u>	<u>85,045.46</u>
Net Assets		<u>338,509.07</u>	<u>345,580.73</u>
Funds			
Unrestricted Funds	11	338,509.07	345,580.73
		<u>338,509.07</u>	<u>345,580.73</u>

Provincial Officers 2023-2024

Active Officers

Deputy Provincial Grand Master Ronald Trevor Lynn, P.G.J.D.	Walton	No. 1106
Assistant Provincial Grand Master Michael James Wilkinson, P.G.Stwd.	Hackworth	No. 761
Provincial Grand Senior Warden Steven Paul Swansbury, P.P.G.S.O.	Ernest Dixon	No. 1015
Provincial Grand Junior Warden William Bentham, P.P.G.M.O.	William Todd	No. 929
Provincial Grand Master Overseer Stuart Tinnion	St. Andrew's	No. 854
Provincial Grand Senior Overseer Ian Kevin Mavin	William Todd	No. 929
Provincial Grand Junior Overseer Stephen Ronald Coffey	Jarrow	No. 701
Provincial Grand Chaplain Rev'd Philip Alan Carter, P.A.G.Swd.B.	St. Andrew's	No. 854
Provincial Grand Treasurer Graham John Mitchinson, P.G.J.D.	Percy	No. 122
Provincial Grand Registrar David Battensby, P.A.G.St.B.	Cestria	No. 1151

Provincial Grand Secretary Allan Gurney, P.G.J.D.	Unity	No. 827
Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies Michael Davis, P.G.J.O.	Bede	No. 605
Provincial Grand Almoner Keith Liddell, P.G.J.O.	Ambrose Crowley	No. 1269
Provincial Grand Charity Steward Roy Norman Neville, P.G.J.O.	Ernest Dixon	No. 1015
Provincial Grand Inspector of Works Ian Wylam Turnbull	Wouldhave Tyne Dock	No. 362
Provincial Grand Sword Bearer Derek Moffitt	Ambrose Crowley	No. 1269
Deputy Provincial Grand Chaplain Canon Ronald Calderwood Black, P.P.G.J.W.	Ambrose Crowley	No. 1269
Deputy Provincial Grand Secretary Graham Wharton, P.A.G.D.C.	Darlington Steadfast	No. 846
Deputy Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies Garry Quinn, P.G.J.D.	Ravensworth	No. 718
Provincial Grand Senior Deacon Ronald James Amar, P.P.G.J.D. Robert Allan Bell Peter Nichols Stobbs	Industry Steadfast Ambrose CRowley	No. 293 No. 846 No. 1269
Provincial Grand Junior Deacon Michael John Buck Richard Edward Kettlewell	Hackworth Barnard Castle	No. 761 No. 778
Assistant Provincial Grand Chaplain Rev'd. Peter William Adamson, P.P.G.J.O.	Ferryhill	No. 1560
Assistant Provincial Grand Secretary Ian Heaviside, P.P.G.J.O.	Bernard Gilpin	No. 860
Assistant Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies Sidney James Watson, P.A.G.D.C. Kenneth Urquhart Robson, P.A.G.D.C. David John Anderson, P.P.G.S.O. David Campbell, P.P.G.J.O.	Ryton Wouldhave Tyne Dock Cestria Auckland	No. 1714 No. 362 No. 1151 No. 596
Provincial Grand Steward Brian Smith, P.P.G.J.O.	Bernard Gilpin	No. 860
Provincial Grand Organist Michael McLaren, P.P.G.St.B.	Walton	No. 1106
Provincial Grand Standard Bearer Ian Richardson	Cestria	No. 1151
Provincial Grand Inner Guard Richard Davison	Ernest Dixon	No. 1015
Provincial Grand Tyler John Bernard Martin Schoolkate, P.A.G.Swd.B.	Ravensworth	No. 718

Provincial Officers
Promotions 2023

Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden Gilbert Crossley Jnr., P.P.G.J.W.	Ernest Dixon	No. 1055
Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden William Harry Finkle, P.P.G.J.O. Mark Duncan Lloyd, P.P.G.J.O. Peter Layton, P.P.G.J.O. Malcolm MacDonald Heslop, P.P.G.J.O. Donald Patrickson, P.P.G.J.O. George William Morl, P.P.G.M.O. Douglas Arthur Rowell, P.P.G.M.O.	Union Hackworth Moseley Walton Cestria Ambrose Crowley Ferryhill	No. 124 No. 761 No. 925 No. 1106 No. 1151 No. 1269 No. 1560
Provincial Grand Master Overseer Gordon William Foster, P.P.G.J.O.	William Todd	No. 929
Provincial Grand Senior Overseer Peter Maughan, P.P.G.Swd.B.	Wouldhave Tyne Dock	No. 362
Past Provincial Grand Junior Overseer Martin George Nicholson, P.P.G.Reg. Geoffrey Oliver, P.P.G.Reg. Rodney Kerr, P.P.G.Swd.B.	Bede Stanhope Stanhope	No. 605 No. 1551 No. 1551
Past Provincial Grand Registrar William Vincent Florentine, P.P.G.I.G. Stan Hunter, P.P.G.Stwd. Stephen James Blain, P.P.G.Stwd. Peter John Snowball, P.P.G.J.D. David Wilson, P.P.A.G.D.C.	Harte Hackworth Spennymoor Spennymoor Ferryhill	No. 740 No. 761 No. 981 No. 981 No. 1560
Provincial Grand Sword Bearer Mark Stuart Whitaker, P.P.G.I.G. Thomas Iles, P.P.G.St.B. Norman Edward Tinkler, P.P.Asst.G.St.B. David Kennet Wilson, P.P.A.G.D.C.	Percy Dunelm Barnard Castle Barnard Castle No.	No. 122 No. 356 No. 778 No. 778

Provincial Officers
First Appointments Past Rank 2022

Past Provincial Grand Senior Overseer David John Anderson	Cestria	No. 1151
Past Provincial Grand Registrar Andrew David Watson Ronald Haswell Robert Davison	Darlington Steadfast Bernard Gilpin Ferryhill	No. 846 No. 860 No. 1560
Past Provincial Grand Senior Deacon Peter Ronan	Clavering	No. 896
Past Provincial Grand Junior Deacon Leslie Brian Annis	Union	No. 122
Past Provincial Grand St.B. Michael McLaren	Walton	No. 1106