

**PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE**

**OF**

**MARK MASTER MASONS**

**OF**

**DURHAM**

**PROCEEDINGS**

**OF THE 104<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

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

**WEDNESDAY, 26<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024**

**PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE**  
**OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF DURHAM**  
**ANNUAL MEETING 2024**

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, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 when 236 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, M. Davis Prov.G.D.C., K. Liddell Prov.G.Alm., G. Crossley Snr., J.M. Nye, and G. Clark P.G.J.O.; R.W. Rumley, Dep.G.Swd.B.; W.Bros. J. Bulmer, N.E. Heaviside, P.G.S.D.; W.Bros. A.Gurney Prov.G.Sec., M. Graham Snr., R.S. Hodgson, I.H. Morrison, F. Piggford, K.I. Anderson, G.J. Mitchinson Prov.G.Treas., A.J. Clark, J.T. Dodds, J.A. Easton, 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, I. Heaviside, R.M. Henderson, A. Cuthbertson, M. Maddison, Canon R.C. Black, R.J. Hargate, M.J. Gilpin, P.G. Wilkie, J.S. Denham, G. Martin, K.E.C. Howe, G.D. Taylor, G. Paylor, R.J. Donmall, B. Kennedy, M. Rankin, P. Harrison, L.A. Young, K.U. Robson, W.H. Carlyon, R.F. Knight, L. Baker, and G. Wharton Dep.Prov.G.Sec., P.A.G.D.C.; Revd. P.A. Carter, P.A.G.Swd.B.; J.M.B. Schoolkate Prov.G.Tyler, W.Bros. R. Hope, A. Wordingham, and F.A. Shaftoe, P.G.St.B.; D. Battensby, P.A.G.St.B. and J.D. Watts. P.G.Stwd. (61)

**Distinguished Guests paraded in before the Opening (38):**

**Cumberland & Westmorland**

P.G.M.	R.W. Bro.	Barry	Kirkbride
Asst.P.G.M.	W. Bro.	Phillip	Carruthers
P.P.G.M.	R.W. Bro.	Keith	Hodgson
Prov.G.Reg.	W. Bro.	Andrew Edward	Inglesfield
Prov.G.D.C.	W. Bro.	Richard John	Benn
Prov.G.Tyler	W. Bro.	Craig	Thomason
P.G.J.O.	V.W. Bro.	Eric	Holmes
P.P.G.Swd.B.	W. Bro.	Allan	Cooper

**West Yorkshire**

P.G.M.	R.W. Bro.	John Trevor	Bolton
Prov.G.D.C.	W. Bro.	Mark Neville	Holland
Prov.G.J.W.	W. Bro.	Kevin	Lloyd

**North & East Yorkshire**

P.Asst.P.G.M.	W. Bro.	Ian Walter	Murdoch
P.G.Chap.	W. Bro.	Maurice	Hatton
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.	Kevin Thomas	Chicken

**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>Colin Anthony</u>	<u>Lemin</u>

**Northumberland**

P.G.M.	R.W. Bro.	Raymond Arthur	Walton
Asst.P.G.M.	W. Bro.	Hugh Padruig McIntosh	McLeod
P.Asst.P.G.M.	W. Bro	Paul Oliver	Hilditch
Prov.G.Ch.Stwd.	W. Bro.	Jeffrey Robert	Ormston
P.P.G.M.	R.W. Bro.	Gordon	Craigs

**Nottinghamshire**

Prov.G.Sec.	W. Bro.	Simon James	Morris
P.Dep.P.G.M.	V.W. Bro.	Geoffrey Brian	Tindall

**Northampton, Hunts, & Bedford**

Prov.G.Reg.	W. Bro.	William Edward Desmond	Hinshelwood
Prov.G.Treas.	W. Bro.	Ian Douglas	Henderson

**Derbyshire**

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

Prov.G.S.W.	W. Bro.	Christopher	Oates
Prov.G.Mem.Off.	W. Bro.	Philip William	Spicksley

**Cheshire**

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

**Warwickshire**

Prov.G.J.W.	W. Bro.	Gordon	Ferguson
Prov.G.S.O.	W. Bro.	Paul Oliver	Hayward
Prov.G.Stwd.	W. Bro.	Peter	Barker
Prov.G.Stwd.	W. Bro.	Paul	Skinner

**Bristol**

Dep.P.G.M.	W. Bro.	Ashley Stuart	Hawkins
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In addition, 136 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, after which, the Provincial Grand Secretary read the Dispensation relating to the Annual Meeting.

**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 Spennymoor RAM Lodge No. 981, W.Bro. Robert Ashford Taylor, addressed the Provincial Grand Master, giving the Pledge of Allegiance. The Provincial Grand Master acknowledged their presence, and requested them to join him in this Provincial Grand Lodge.

The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies then conducted the usual Salutations.

**3.** The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies (swapping Collars, if not Hats) then requested permission to retire and conduct the Assistant Grand Master into Provincial Grand Lodge. Being on home ground again, the Assistant Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Prof. Denovan Keith Wilson, was duly escorted into Provincial Grand Lodge to rapturous applause, and warmly welcomed by the Provincial Grand Master.

Again, the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies conducted the usual Salutations.

#### **4. 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 20 Brethren who had passed to the Grand Lodge Above since the previous annual meeting in 2023, and then called upon the Provincial Grand Chaplain, W.Bro. Phillip Alan Carter P.A.G.D.C., to deliver an Obituary prayer.

#### **5. 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, during which he invited W.Bro. Michael Graham to accept a cheque for £2,000 from the Durham Mark Benevolent Fund for the RSM150 Appeal. The Brethren were then invited to show their acclamation in the usual manner.

#### **6. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Durham held on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 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. Steven Paul Swansbury, and seconded by the Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden, W.Bro. John Strachan Denham.

#### **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. J.L. Webster
W.Bro. R.T. Watson	W.Bro. Rev'd. P.A. Adamson	W.Bro. G.S. Savage
W.Bro. J.R. Deamer	W.Bro. J. Awdas	W.Bro. L.J. Ayers
V.W. Bro. S. Cairns	W. Bro. D. Bethell	W.Bro. R.W. Davison
W.Bro. K. Dodds	W.Bro. P. Dunn	W.Bro. M.J. Graham
W.Bro. L. Howarth	W.Bro. N.W. King	W.Bro. I. K. Mavin
W.Bro. C.L. Murphy	W.Bro. K. Pitchford	W.Bro. A. Prtest
W.Bro. D. Quickmire	W.Bro. K.L. Robson	W.Bro. W. Bentham
V.W. Bro. R.N. Neville	W.Bro. R.A. Bell	W.Bro. G. Dodds

#### **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 34 Mark Lodges in the Province were represented at the Meeting, and that 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).

In his Report, the Provincial Grand Treasurer, W.Bro. G.J. Mitchinson P.G.J.D. proposed, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Secretary, W.Bro. I. Heaviside P.A.G.D.C. seconded the proposition, that the Report and Statement of Accounts be received, adopted, and that the thanks of Provincial Grand Lodge be accorded to the Auditors for their services. This proposal was carried.

## **12. Report of Benevolent Committee**

The Minutes of the Benevolent Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024, and the 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 ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. 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.

## **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 £5-50 per member to £6-50 per member for Mark Lodges, and changed from £2-00 per member to £3-00 per member for RAM Lodges. This proposal was also carried, with one slight amendment that the Provincial Dues for the Mark be raised from £5-50 to £6-00 per member.

## **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 his new Provincial Officers, and promotions to and in Provincial Grand Lodge. (See accompanying list below).

Salutations to the newly appointed and promoted 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.

## **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.** At the end of the Collection, the Provincial Grand Master asked W.Bro. J.D. Watts, P.G.Stwd., Chairman of the Durham2029 Festival Committee, to read out the names of several Brethren to receive upgrades to their MBF Collarettes. These Brethren were duly presented with their new Collarettes, and acclaimed by the Brethren. Also, 2 Lodges were presented with the collars relevant to their fundraising.

## **21. 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 also confirmed that next year's meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge would be held on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

The Provincial Grand Master then acknowledged the service of W.Bro. Rev'd Philip Alan Carter, the retiring Provincial Grand Chaplain, and thanked him for his efforts over several years as a member of the Chaplaincy Team.

He then went on to explain that V.W. Bro Roy Norman Neville was unable to be with us for the meeting, although he was due to be released from hospital that morning. He described V.W. Bro. Neville's long service of 20 years as Treasurer of the Durham Mark Benevolent Fund, and also the last 6 years as Provincial Grand Charity Steward. The provincial Grand Secretary was then invited to read out the Certificate of Distinguished Service to Mark Masonry in Durham, which would be presented to V.W. Bro. Neville as soon as a convenient date could be found.

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 two verses 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.

## **PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE of MARK MASTER MASONS of DURHAM**

### **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 sixth 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, with a healthy number of advancees during the last 12 months. As usual, I can announce 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 (20).**

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; Darlington Steadfast 250; Dunelm 356; Auckland 596; Bede 605; Harte 740; Hackworth 761; Unity 827; St. Andrew's 854; Bernard Gilpin 860; Ernest Dixon 1015 (Return of Warrant; Penshaw 1055; Walton 1106; Elevation 1112; Cestria 1151; Ambrose Crowley 1269; Durham Lodge of Installed Mark Masters 1492; Ferryhill 1560 (Wardens Night); George Washington 1626; Ryton 1714.

### **Installations.**

Over the last 10 months, numerous Lodges have held their 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.

### **Visits to other Provinces.**

Since our last Annual Meeting, the Provincial Grand Master has attended, or has been represented by members of his Senior Team, at the Annual Meetings of other Provinces as listed below:

West Yorkshire (MBF Festival Dinner); Northumberland; North & East Yorkshire; Cheshire; Lincolnshire; Nottinghamshire; Derbyshire; West Yorkshire; West Lancashire; East Lancashire; Worcestershire; North Wales; Cumberland & Westmorland.

In addition, there have been 4 trips to Grand Lodge (London), all of which were attended by many members of the Province; the Provincial Secretary has represented the Province at both meetings of the Provincial Grand Secretaries' Lodge (Warwick & Wokingham); and there has been a large Durham presence at both meetings of the Grand Stewards' Lodge (London).

### **Mark Grand Lodge Honours.**

With effect from Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024, the Most Worshipful Grand Master has been pleased to make the following appointments to Brethren from this Province:

Deputy Grand Sword Bearer	Russell Wayne Rumley, Bede Lodge 605
Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Ronald Calderwood Black, Ambrose Crowley Lodge 1269
Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Robert John Donmall, Penshaw Lodge 1055
Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Ian Heaviside, Bernard Gilpin Lodge 860

With effect from Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024, the Most Worshipful Grand Master will be pleased to promote the following Brethren from this Province:

Past Grand Master Overseer	Roy Norman Neville, Bede Lodge 605
Past Grand Junior Deacon	Robin Francis Knight, Hackworth Lodge 761
Past Grand Junior Deacon	Michael James Wilkinson, Hackworth Lodge 761

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.**

Several presentations of 50 year Certificates were carried out during the year, and we congratulate the recipients on their long service to the Order.

In September, a good number of members of the Province visited Grand Lodge 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 we again finished with a tremendous turn-out of members at the First Appointments' meeting in June.

Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December saw the Grand Officers' Dinner (Mark & RAM) held at Ferryhill. It was very pleasing to see this event so well supported, and a thoroughly enjoyable and most convivial evening was had by all. March again saw the Annual Wardens' Dinner 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. Both of these events were excellent evenings organised by John Dodds and John Nye, to whom we are most grateful.

### **Membership (all figures are taken as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023).**

As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, the number of memberships has fallen from 929 to 915 during the calendar year. During 2023, we have lost a net total of 14 memberships as compared to 53 in the previous year. This represents a decrease of 1.51% over the last year. However, the loss of memberships is higher than the number of members lost, as many of the 36 resignations listed were from members withdrawing from multiple memberships due to age and financial constraints. Indeed, we do have signs for optimism – with 45 new advances having joined the Order since our last Annual Meeting.

Clearly, however, 'resignations' continue to be an 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.

### **Conclusion.**

Brethren, I present my report for your information and consideration. As is usual in these Reports, my grateful thanks go to all the 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.

Particular thanks go to my Deputy Provincial Secretary W.Bro. Graham Wharton, my Assistant Provincial Secretary, W.Bro. Ian Heaviside, and the Provincial Registrar, W.Bro. David Battensby. They have all executed their roles most efficiently, and I am indebted to them all. Sadly we bid farewell to W.Bro. Ian. We wish him well in his new role within the Province, and we look forward to welcoming W.Bro. Stephen Newell to the 'team'.

Brethren, our annual expedition to the Lancastrian Suite in June is fast approaching. I am sure it will again prove to be a great success, and I look forward to seeing a great number of you there. I am confident that everyone will have a most enjoyable day. 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.



## Summary of Annual Returns of Lodges Year Ended 31st December 2023

No.	Lodge	Installation 2022	Adv.	Join	Res.	Died	Exclud.	Hon Mem.	Total Members	
									Installation 2023	
M39	Eclectic	23	1	1	1	0	0	0	<b>24</b>	
M122	Percy	19	2	0	0	1	0	0	<b>20</b>	
M124	Union	24	2	0	2	0	0	0	<b>24</b>	
M250	Darlington Steadfast	30	3	3	3	2	0	0	<b>31</b>	
M293	Industry	20	1	0	0	0	0	0	<b>21</b>	
M356	Dunelm	37	1	0	3	0	0	1	<b>34</b>	
M362	Wouldhave T.D.	32	1	1	0	1	1	0	<b>32</b>	
M596	Auckland	17	0	0	1	0	0	0	<b>16</b>	
M605	Bede	21	4	1	0	0	0	0	<b>26</b>	
M701	Jarrow	26	1	0	6	0	0	0	<b>21</b>	
M718	Ravensworth	20	0	1	0	0	0	0	<b>21</b>	
M740	Harte	21	3	0	1	2	0	0	<b>21</b>	
M761	Hackworth	32	0	2	1	0	0	0	<b>33</b>	
M778	Barnard Castle	21	0	1	0	0	0	0	<b>22</b>	
M827	Unity	17	0	2	0	0	0	0	<b>19</b>	
M854	St Andrews	28	0	4	0	1	0	1	<b>30</b>	
M860	Bernard Gilpin	23	1	2	1	2	0	2	<b>21</b>	
M896	Clavering	24	0	1	4	1	0	0	<b>20</b>	
M925	Moseley	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>17</b>	
M929	William Todd	25	1	1	2	4	0	0	<b>21</b>	
M981	Spennymoor	21	0	0	0	1	0	1	<b>19</b>	
M1055	Penshaw	14	0	0	1	1	0	0	<b>12</b>	
M1093	St Lawrence	13	2	2	0	1	0	0	<b>16</b>	
M1106	Walton	24	0	1	1	0	0	0	<b>24</b>	
M1112	Elevation	16	0	2	0	0	0	0	<b>18</b>	
M1145	St Aidan	13	0	0	0	1	0	0	<b>12</b>	
M1151	Cestria	46	2	2	1	0	0	1	<b>48</b>	
M1269	Ambrose Crowley	31	1	0	2	2	0	0	<b>28</b>	
M1271	Sportsman's	39	2	0	0	0	0	1	<b>40</b>	
M1492	Durham Lodge IMM	38	0	2	1	1	0	0	<b>38</b>	
M1551	Stanhope	26	0	0	1	1	0	0	<b>24</b>	
M1560	Ferryhill	25	1	2	1	3	0	0	<b>24</b>	
M1626	George Washington	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>14</b>	
M1714	Ryton	29	0	0	0	3	0	1	<b>25</b>	
M1806	Chief of the Builders	68	1	3	2	1	0	2	<b>67</b>	
M1820	DLPGStewards	17	0	0	1	2	1	0	<b>13</b>	
M1936	Indaba	18	1	1	0	1	0	0	<b>19</b>	
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>915</b>	
			Adv.	Join	Res.	Died	Exclud.	Hon Mem.		

## **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. Ralph Lightfoot	P.P.G.J.W.	William Todd Lodge 929
W.Bro. John Iddon Smiles	P.A.G.St.B.	Castle Eden Lodge 930
W.Bro. Geoffrey Whiteman	P.G.J.D.	Bernard Gilpin Lodge 860
W.Bro. William Duck	P.P.G.M.O.	Darlington Steadfast Lodge 250
W.Bro. Alan Willis	P.P.G.J.W.	Clavering Lodge 896
W.Bro. Louis Maurice Keats	P.G.J.D.	Chief of the Builders Lodge 1806
W.Bro. John Barnett	P.P.G.M.O.	Moseley Lodge 925
W.Bro. Langton Woodhouse	P.A.G.D.C.	Bernard Gilpin Lodge 860
W.Bro. William Hall	P.P.G.Stwed. (Bucks)	Ravensworth Union Lodge 124
W.Bro. William Brass	P.P.G.I.G.	Unity Lodge 827
Bro. Thomas Iles	P.P.G.Swd.B.	Dunelm Lodge 356
Bro. Hugh Dorans		St. Andrew's Lodge 854
W.Bro. Ronald Beedle	P.P.G.S.W.	William Todd Lodge 929
W.Bro. Frederick Alan Peat Beales	P.G.J.D.	Wouldhave Tyne Dock Lodge 362
W.Bro. Ronald Leslie Bean	P.P.G.J.W.	Cestria Lodge 1151
W.Bro. John Phelps Hodgson		Spennymoor Lodge 981
W.Bro. John Reginald Bayles	P.G.J.D.	Barnard Castle Lodge 788
W.Bro. William Norwood	P.A.G.St.B.	George Washington Lodge 1626
W.Bro. Frederick John Francis Rooney	P.P.G.J.O.	Eclectic Lodge 39

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

**Allan Gurney P.G.J.D.,  
Provincial Grand Secretary, 1st June 2024**

**THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MARK LODGE OF DURHAM**  
**TREASURER'S REPORT 2023**

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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

The Income and Expenditure Account shows a deficit for the year of £909.

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 £30,124 at the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, with the Special Reserve Fund standing at £2,973. Brethren the 2029 MBF Festival Fund currently stands at £3,494. 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 2023 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 2023, 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

East Suite, Ground Floor,  
Avalon House, St Catherine's Court,  
Sunderland

ALISON HENSHAW FCCA  
For and on behalf of  
Torgersens  
Chartered Accountants

## *UNAUDITED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT*

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Lodge Dues	5,546.50	2,735.25
Fees of Honour	690.00	690.00
Bank Interest	213.75	21.67
2029 MBF Festival	-	-
Centenary Income	-	106.00
PGM Installations	-	3,850.00
Ties & Tokens	710.00	3,277.31
Annual Meeting dues	6,152.91	6,062.00
Other	-	325.20
	<u>13,313.16</u>	<u>17,067.43</u>

## **Expenditure**

Provincial Grand Lodge (Craft):		
Cost of Year Book	26.00	256.00
Ties & Tokens	52.69	2,346.12
2029 MBF Festival	737.99	7,575.54
PGM Installations	60.00	6,555.80
Administration Expenses:		
Printing & Stationery	516.99	1,138.13
Postage & Telephone	645.00	61.15
Sundries	266.54	230.14
Website	127.06	-

Accounts	1,584.00	3,139.59	1,218.00	2,647.42
Depreciation		179.60		-
Annual Meeting		9,909.46		8,222.55
		<u>14,105.33</u>		<u>27,603.43</u>
Deficit of Income over Expenditure		(792.17)		(10,536.00)
Transfer to Special Reserves		(500.00)		2,705.80
Transfer from Centenary Fund		-		11,346.86
Transfer to 2029 MBF Festival		382.99		(3,877.32)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		<u>(909.18)</u>		<u>(360.66)</u>

#### UNAUDITED BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Regalia	1	4.00	4.00
Equipment	1	1,612.00	0.00
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Stock		2,437.45	2,918.65
Debtors		500.00	1,768.00
Cash at Bank:			
Current Account		10,986.27	11,854.99
Deposit Account – Barclays		22,665.36	36,589.08
		<u>38,205.03</u>	<u>38,997.25</u>
<b>Creditors:-</b> amounts falling due within one year		(1,614.00)	(1,614.00)
<b>Total Net Assets</b>		<u>36,591.08</u>	<u>37,383.25</u>

#### Represented by:

##### Accumulated Fund

Balance at 1 January 2023	31,033.27	31,393.93
Deficit for the Year	(792.17)	(10,536.00)
Transfer (to)/from Income & Expenditure Account	(117.01)	10,175.34
Balance at 31 December 2023	<u>30,124.09</u>	<u>31,033.27</u>

## ***Special Reserve Account*** **2**

Balance at 1 January 2023	2,472.66	5,178.46
Transfer (to)/from Income & Expenditure Account	500.00	(2,705.80)
Balance at 31 December 2023	<u>2,972.66</u>	<u>2,472.66</u>

### **2020 Centenary Fund**

Balance at 1 January 2023	<b>3</b>	-	11,346.86
Transfer to Income & Expenditure Account		-	106.00
Transfer to 2029 MBF Festival		-	(11,452.86)

Balance at 31 December 2023	-	-
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### **2029 MBF Festival**

Balance at 1 January 2023	3,877.32	-
Transfer from 2020 Centenary Fund	<b>4</b>	11,452.86
Transfer to Income & Expenditure Account	(382.99)	(7,575.54)

Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	3,494.33	3,877.32
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36,591.08 37,383.25

## *NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS*

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

#### **1. Fixed Assets**

	<b>Regalia</b>	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 January 2023	783.84	-	783.84
Additions	-	1,791.60	1,791.60
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	<u>783.84</u>	<u>1,791.60</u>	<u>2,575.44</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 January 2023	779.84	-	779.84
Charge for year	-	179.60	179.60
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	<u>779.84</u>	<u>179.60</u>	<u>959.44</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>			
At 31 December 2023	<u>4.00</u>	<u>1,612.00</u>	<u>1,616.00</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>4.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4.00</u>

## **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. This fund was transferred to the Durham Mark Benevolent Fund in the previous financial year.

## **4. Related Party**

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

### THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE

### OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF DURHAM BENEVOLENT FUND

### REPORT OF THE BENEVOLENT COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Brethren, the Provincial Grand Master has assembled a first class team to administer our 2029 Festival and it is fair to say that they have already established an impressive momentum which we hope will produce a grand total of which we can all be proud. Inevitably, income which would normally accrue to our Benevolent Fund is being directed towards the Festival but even so, with careful management, the Fund is showing a surplus this year of £417. In this respect, it is important to note that there has been no reduction in our charitable activity in supporting local good causes and brethren in distress.

As we anticipated, practically all lodge donations are now being presented in aid of the Festival and we expect that situation to prevail until 2029. However, it is the investment income of £16,055, resulting from our holding of units in M&G Charifund Investment Trust, boosted this year by a transfer of £50,000 from the Virgin Easy Access Account, which has enabled us to operate as normal. The usual practice of the collections from Mark AGM and RAM Annual Assembly meetings being in support of the Benevolent Fund has switched of late to support for the Festival except that this year the Fund benefited from the RAM Annual Assembly collection amounting to £681. Also, I wish to acknowledge and thank the family of W Bro Ian Ormiston for the donation of £240 arising from his funeral collection. Brethren, lest we forget, the fact that our Benevolent Fund can operate normally, despite the absence of traditional forms of income, is due very largely to income from our investments arising from the substantial legacy of R W Bro J Harold Easton, who we remember with gratitude and affection.

Our main charitable giving this year has included: Province of Cheshire £6,000; Turkey Earthquake Appeal £2,000; St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital £2,000; and other smaller grants to worthy causes. The bulk of our investments continue to be held in an Investment Trust and now totals £291,756 after incurring a loss in market value this year of £4,267. Overall, our total funds have increased this year by £417 to £338,926 at 31st December 2023. It is proposed to make the following donations: Province of Oxfordshire £6,000; Royal and Select 150th Appeal £2,000.

Brethren, we have a wonderful network of Almoners, Benevolent Representatives, Liaison Officers and Caring Committee Members all working hard to ensure that no brother or dependent relative is left in distressed circumstances, as well as assisting in the community wherever possible. We thank them all and I commend this Report to you.

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

**The Durham Provincial Grand Mark Lodge  
Benevolent Fund**

**Charity Number: 501300**

**Report and Financial Statements**

**Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**Statement of Financial Activities**

**For the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Income</b>			
Donations and legacies	2		
Lodges		250.00	2,075.00
Voluntary Contributions		240.00	350.00
Centenary fund		-	-
Investment income	3	16,206.22	14,067.01
Other Income		681.08	3,512.60
Receipts in respect of 2029 Festival		-	2,690.65
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total income</b>		<u>17,377.30</u>	<u>22,695.26</u>
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities</b>	4		
Grants payable			
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		100.00	200.00
Provincial of Cheshire 2024 Festival		6,000.00	-
Emergency Relief – Turkey Earthquake		2,000.00	-
The Singing Elf		500.00	-
MBF – West Yorks Festival Jewels		500.00	-
St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital		2,000.00	-
Management and administration		1,592.00	1,702.40
Payments in respect of 2029 Festival		-	2,690.65
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>12,692.00</u>	<u>15,255.22</u>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources</b>		4,685.30	7,440.04
Other recognised gains and losses			
Unrealised (loss)/gain on investments		(4,267.46)	(14,511.70)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net movement in funds for the year</b>		417.84	(7,071.66)
Total funds at 1 January 2023		338,509.07	345,580.73
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2023		<u>338,926.91</u>	<u>338,509.07</u>



## **Provincial Officers 2024-25**

### **Active Officers**

<b>Deputy Provincial Grand Master</b> Ronald Trevor Lynn, P.G.J.D.	Walton	No. 1106
<b>Assistant Provincial Grand Master</b> Michael James Wilkinson, P.G.Stwd.	Hackworth	No. 761
<b>Provincial Grand Senior Warden</b> James Jordan, P.P.G.M.O.	Ryton	No. 1714
<b>Provincial Grand Junior Warden</b> Dennis Armstrong, P.P.G.Reg.	Unity	No. 827
<b>Provincial Grand Master Overseer</b> Ian Wardle	Ravensworth Uniosn	No. 124
<b>Provincial Grand Senior Overseer</b> Philip Heaviside	Bernard Gilpin	No. 860
<b>Provincial Grand Junior Overseer</b> William Gordon Pybourne	Stanhope	No. 1551
<b>Provincial Grand Chaplain</b> Canon Ronald Calderwood Black, P.A.G.D.C.	Ambrose Crowley	No. 1269
<b>Provincial Grand Treasurer</b> Graham John Mitchinson, P.G.J.D.	Percy	No. 122
<b>Provincial Grand Registrar</b> David Battensby, P.A.G.St.B.	Cestria	No. 1151
<b>Provincial Grand Secretary</b> Allan Gurney, P.G.J.D.	Unity	No. 827
<b>Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies</b> Michael Davis, P.G.J.O.	Bede	No. 605
<b>Provincial Grand Almoner</b> Keith Liddell, P.G.J.O.	Ambrose Crowley	No. 1269
<b>Provincial Grand Charity Steward</b> Ian Heaviside, P.A.G.D.C.	Bernard Gilpin	No. 860
<b>Provincial Grand Inspector of Works</b> Ian Wylam Turnbull	Wouldhave Tyne Dock	No. 362
<b>Provincial Grand Sword Bearer</b> Steven Graham Hicks	Castle Eden	No. 930
<b>Deputy Provincial Grand Chaplain</b> Paul O'Doherty, P.P.G.J.W.	Sportsman's	No. 1271
<b>Deputy Provincial Grand Secretary</b> Graham Wharton, P.A.G.D.C.	Darlington Steadfast	No. 846
<b>Deputy Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies</b> Garry Quinn, P.G.J.D.	Ravensworth	No. 718

**Provincial Grand Senior Deacon**

Michael John Buck, P.P.G.J.D.

Peter Nichols Stobbs

Hackworth

Ambrose Crowley

No. 761

No. 1269

**Provincial Grand Junior Deacon**

Geoffrey Dodds

Leon David Puchala

Darlington Steadfast

Dunelm

No. 250

No. 356

**Assistant Provincial Grand Chaplain**

Rev'd. Peter William Adamson, P.P.G.J.O.

Ferryhill

No. 1560

**Assistant Provincial Grand Secretary**

Stephen Arthur Newell, P.P.G.S.O.

Darlington Steadfast

No. 250

**Assistant Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies**

Sidney James Watson, P.A.G.D.C.

David John Anderson, P.P.G.S.O.

David Campbell, P.P.G.J.O.

Russell Wayne Rumley

Ryton

Cestria

Auckland

Bede

No. 1714

No. 1151

No. 596

No. 605

**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**

Philip Quinn

Eclectic

No. 39

**Provincial Grand Inner Guard**

Richard Davison

Sportsman's

No. 1271

**Provincial Grand Tyler**

Robert John Donmall, P.A.G.D.C.

Penshaw

No. 1055

**Provincial Officers****Promotions 2024****Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden**

William Bentham, P.P.G.J.W.

William Todd

No. 929

**Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden**

David Colin Williamson, P.P.G.M.O.

Ian Edward Ogden, P.P.G.J.O.

Frederick William Lynas, P.P.G.S.O.

Colin Raine, P.P.G.J.O.

Kevin Parker, P.P.G.M.O.

Percy

Darlington Steadfast

Harte

Hackworth

Ambrose Crowley

No. 122

No. 250

No. 740

No. 761

No. 1269

**Provincial Grand Master Overseer**

Stephen Arthur Newell, P.P.G.S.O.

Brian Smith, P.P.G.J.O.

Derek Dunn, P.P.G.Ins.Wks.

Darlington

Bernard Gilpin

George Washington

No. 250

No. 860

No. 1626

**Provincial Grand Senior Overseer**

Darren Bethell, P.P.G.Reg.

Derek Moffitt, P.P.G.Swd.B.

Robert William Grimley, P.P.G.Reg.

Ian Richardson, P.P.G.St.B.

Eclectic

Ambrose Crowley

Walton

Cestria

No. 39

No. 1269

No. 1106

No. 1151

**Past Provincial Grand Junior Overseer**

Craig Leonard Murphy, P.P.G.Reg.	Percy	No.	122
Michael Robertson, P.P.G.Reg.	Ravensworth Union	No.	124
Graeme Michael Stephenson, P.P.G.Reg.	Ravensworth Union	No.	124
Michael Jordan, P.P.G.Swd.B.	Dunelm`	No.	356
Peter David Willcock, P.P.G.Swd.B.	Dunelm	No.	356
Alvin Leigh Kipling, P.P.G.Swd.B.	Auckland	No.	596
Arthur Hopgood, P.P.G.Reg.	Ferryhill	No.	1560

**Past Provincial Grand Registrar**

Harry Frederick Smith, P.P.G.Swd.B.	Jarrow	No.	701
Stuart Neil Dixon, P.P.G.Swd.B.	Barnard Castle	No.	778
Geoffrey Dawson, P.P.G.Swd.B.	St. Andrew's	No.	854
Ian Williams, P.P.G.S.D.	Moseley	No.	925
Stewart Fishburn P.P.G.S.D.	Spennymoor	No.	981
Ronald Woods, P.P.G.S.D.	Ferryhill	No.	1560

**Provincial Grand Sword Bearer**

Mark William Grieves Smith, P.P.G.St.B.	Ravensworth Union	No.	124
Robert Michael Summerson, P.P.G.St.B.	Ravensworth Union	No.	124
Raymond William Plumb, P.P.G.S.D.	Hackworth	No.	761

**Provincial Officers****First Appointments Past Rank 2024****Past Provincial Grand Master Overseer**

Michael Allan Jacques	Barnard Castle	No.	778
Alan Dodd	Ambrose Crowley	No.	1269

**Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer**

Kenneth Charles Hiles	Industry	No.	293
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**Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer**

David Fuller	Wouldhave Tyne Dock	No.	362
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