

Coquetdale Lodge No.5122

Report of Zoom Meeting and a Monthly Newsletter

THURSDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2020

Venue:- via ZOOM

Time:- 19:00pm

Apologies:- W.Bro's W.T. Bathgate, N. Martin, P. Cassidy, and Bro's S. Young & A. Fergus

Attendees:- W.Bro's Colin Dodds, Allan Young, David Taylor, Dr John Smail, John Wood, Alan Thompson, Robin Murray, Terry Coupe, Ian Glendinning & Bro Tomasz Frontczak

This zoom meeting had once more been arranged on our last Regular Night of meeting via zoom to help keep the Lodge in the minds of our Brethren and to show we were still together and thinking of each other. As this would have been our December Lodge meeting, it had a Christmas theme running from the very start.

The WM started proceedings at 7.02pm and welcomed everyone who had joined us – all of whom were suitably attired in, or with Christmas regalia.....



*Image hand drawn by our WM
It is supposed to be a representation of your Secretary hard at work...*

He wished to start this evenings proceedings by wishing Happy Birthday to the Brethren who have Birthdays in December – It would have been W.Bro. David Browns 83rd Birthday and we would remember him at Absent Brethren. We sang Happy Birthday *(as well as we could)* for W.Bro. Colin Dodds who will be 80yrs young later this month and Bro Jim Renwick for his 88th year, again near the end of this month.

The first item on the circulated Agenda was a short story entitled 'An evening that changed the world forever, according to St Luke's Gospel' – this was given by our W.Bro. Allan Young our WM:-

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that so the world should be taxed.

And this readiness first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.

And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee out of the city of Nazareth into Judea, into the city of David, which is called Bethlehem (Because he was of the house and lineage of David)

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so when they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room at the inn.

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And there were in the same country shepherd's abiding in the fields keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the Angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone round them: and they were sore afraid.

And the Angel said unto them fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For into you is born this day in the city of David a saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke Chapter 2

Verses 1 -11.

We then opened the Lodge the Covid way (*tongue in cheek of course*), this item had originally been sent to the secretary by W.Bro. John Wood as part of his secretarial duties for the River Lodges Association. The WM did his parts, and the secretary took all the other parts..

WM: Bro. JW what is the situation of the outer guard or tyler?

JW: Without the entrance of the Lodge.

WM: What is his duty?

JW: Armed with a 2m sword to see off all coughers and sniffers.

WM: Bro. IG what is your situation in the Lodge?

SW: Within the entrance of the Lodge

WM: Bro IG what is your duty?

SW: To admit the uninfected on proof of normal temperature, receive the candidates duly masked and obey commands of the junior doctor.

WM: Bro JD what is your situation in the Lodge.

JD: 2m away from the SW.

WM: Bro JD what is your duty?

JD: To carry all soap of the WM from the SW to the JW, and see their hands are punctually cleaned.

WM: Bro SD what is your situation in the Lodge?

SD: 2m to the right of the WM.

WM: Bro SD what is your duty?

SD: To bear the soap of the WM to the SW and await the hand washing of the JD.

WM: Bro JW – what is your constant place in the Lodge?

JW: In the south.

WM: Why are you so placed?

JW: To mark the position of the soap. To call brethren from soap to sink, and sink to towel, that clean hands are the result

WM: Bro SW, what is your constant place in the Lodge.

SW: The west.

WM: Why are you so placed?

SW: To ensure that brethren are masked, tested, and regularly clean the lodge by the command of the WM, having seen that everyone remains exactly 2m apart from each other.

WM: Bro IPM, what is the situation of the WM?

IMP: The east.

WM: Why is he so placed?

IPM: As the virus sprung from the east, leading us to isolation, so the WM is placed there to make sure all vulnerable Masons are duly shielded, commanding them to remain at home, protect our temples and save lives, and offering instruction via Zoom.

WM: Brethren, the Isolation lodge being duly sanitized, let us, remain 2M apart, duly isolated and wait for a vaccine to arrive.

All: So mote it be.

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The next item was an item the secretary had found whilst researching items for this month's meeting. He explained it originates from Hamilton Masonic District 'C' in Hamilton, Ontario, which is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. The secretary had written to the appropriate person in District C for permission to use the article – W.Bro. Glen Notman – who'd replied saying *"Sharing the concepts and encouraging Masonic Education is what M.W. Bro. Daniels intended them for"*.

The title of this item is 'A Masonic Minute – A Christmas Carol' and is set out as a Masonic Parable which is based on Charles Dickens 'A Christmas carol'

*"Christmas time! That man must be a **misanthrope*** indeed, in whose breast something like a jovial feeling is not roused - in whose mind some pleasant associations are not awakened - by the recurrence of Christmas."* - Charles Dickens

*(***misanthrope** means someone who hates humankind and avoids human society)*

What was to become the best loved Christmas story in the English language was penned by Charles Dickens in 1843 and published in London on December 19th of that year. Although classified as a novella, it is in reality a powerful morality play. As such it has been staged and filmed countless times. The quintessential filmed version starred Alistair Sim as Ebenezer Scrooge (1951).



Sketches by Boz

At the outset, Scrooge is portrayed as a cold-hearted, self-centred shrewd and demanding moneylender that despises the frivolity of Christmas. "Bah, humbug!" He lives alone and is the surviving partner of the London firm of Marley and Scrooge. It is Christmas Eve. After grudgingly allowing his clerk, Tom Cratchit, the day off for Christmas, Scrooge returns home and retires to bed where he is visited by several 'spirits' – Jacob Marley, his long dead partner, and the three Ghosts of Christmas (Ghost of Christmas Past, Ghost of Christmas Present, and Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come.) When Scrooge awakes on Christmas morning, he immediately repents and becomes a model of generosity and kindness. A new man, he enters cheerfully into the spirit of the day. Henceforth, "... it was always said of him that he knew how to keep Christmas well if any man alive possessed the knowledge."

Dickens portrays a penetrating exercise in self-examination for Scrooge which results in a transformation of his character from a miser who cares only about himself and the accumulation of wealth to a man who genuinely cares about others.

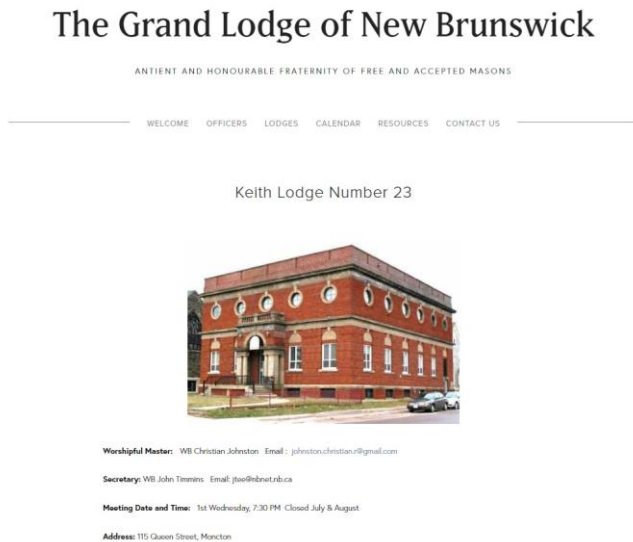
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Freemasonry enables us to see things in a new light, to see things from a new perspective through new eyes. As Freemasons trained to think in terms of allegories and symbols, A Christmas Carol resonates with Masonic correlations. Our three degrees in Craft Masonry, simplified as birth, life, and death, correspond to the three Ghosts of Christmas. As an initiatory Order, we also endeavour to transform ourselves by self-examination and 'a well-regulated course of self-discipline.' Like the transformed Scrooge, we endeavour to be happy ourselves and communicate that happiness to others.

Although Charles Dickens was not a Freemason, I suggest that A Christmas Carol may be interpreted as an instructive Masonic Parable. It is a vivid portrayal of the transforming effect of initiation.

An interesting coincidence arose when we learned that one of our own brethren W.Bro. Terry has a relation who emigrated to Canada and is a Mason in Keith Lodge No.23 under the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick. His picture is below along with an image of the Masonic Building his Lodge meets in. A small world eh!



The next item on the Agenda was entitled '*The Good Book*'. © UGLE 2018 "Solomon" – Fostering Curiosity, Developing Understanding 4. Which is an exploration focusing upon the introduction of the Bible into Craft Lodges and suggests where the Volume of the Sacred Law might be opened when the Lodge is working. This comes from a nugget in the Solomon education aid at UGLE.

The paper starts out by saying:- *A Brother recently asked the deceptively simple question: 'When Opening the Lodge, we are required to open our Volume of Sacred Law; but at which page?'*



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The immediate answer is also deceptively simple: 'In theory, any page will do.' The Book of Constitutions merely states: 'The Bible...is always open in the Lodges' and 'That all Initiates shall take their Obligation on or in full view of the open Volume of the Sacred Law...' (p. xiv)

Aiden the rest will be explained when you join....

This was thoroughly discussed, and W.Bro. Ian knows quite a bit about the history of the transcribing of the Bible and mentioned the first full transcript was actually at Jarrow and that the Venerable Bede was likely involved. The Codex Amiatinus is the earliest surviving complete manuscript of the Latin Vulgate version of the Christian Bible. It was produced around 700 in the north-east of England, at the Benedictine monastery of Monkwearmouth - Jarrow in the Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of Northumbria and taken to Italy as a gift for Pope Gregory II in 716.



Image shows the bulk of the Codex Amiatinus

It was thought this would be excellent to bring up this history, in Lodge, whenever a new candidate went through the various degrees.

Our next item was not on the original Agenda, though it was agreed W.Bro. John should give a brief account of a recent zoom meeting he had been on and he also mentioned he'd linked into the Organ Recital at UGLE. The zoom meeting was for the Vale of Itchem Lodge No.7816 and some of the brethren had also recently attended the virtual meeting for Alnwick 1167. It had been an interesting meeting and it would appear that this medium will help to keep us in the groove *(so to speak)* with our Lodges.

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W.Bro. John can thoroughly recommend the Organ Recital at Grand Lodge to anyone who loves Organ music, in fact he thought almost anyone would have enjoyed this marvellous occasion which had been excellently

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Virtual online call at 18:00Hrs on Saturday 5th December 2020

1. Welcome by Worshipful Master.
2. Apologies for non-attendance
3. To receive the Almoner's report.
4. To receive the Charity Steward's report.
5. To receive the paper "King Solomons Quarries"
6. Raffle
7. Charity Account
8. River Lodges Association
9. Next meeting virtual online / face to face?
10. A o B

attended (*virtually*)

Agenda from Vale of Itchen zoom meeting



Organ Concerts at Freemasons' Hall

Since 2017 Freemasons' Hall has been proud to host world-class organists at our biannual Organ Concerts.

These concerts are free and open to everyone. Past organists include Henry Fairs, Simon Gledhill, Richard Hills, John Kitchen MBE and Darius Battiwalla.

Please see below for more information on the upcoming organ concerts and how to book.

Virtual Organ Concert 9th December 2020

Organ Concert

Further Information :- <https://www.ugle.org.uk/news-events/organ-concerts-at-freemasons-hall>

The next item was for the secretary to read another paper from the UGLE Solomon education papers. This one was entitled '*Properly Prepared – Six Steps*'. © UGLE 2018 "Solomon" – Fostering Curiosity, Developing Understanding 4

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Summary:- An explanation of the origin and meaning behind the six steps necessary to ensure that the candidate 'comes properly prepared' for his initiation.

For most of us, the preparation of a candidate for entry into a Lodge is something that we have either completely forgotten, or have begun to so take for granted, and it requires a real effort of memory to recall just what was involved.

Whilst that may often not be a matter of great importance, because we have an efficient Tyler or a Past Master who admirably supervises the preparation, there is still one aspect of this important part of our practice that ought to matter to us: an understanding of why this preparation was done in the first place, and why it is done in this particular manner.

So, let us look at the six points that make up a true preparation of a candidate for Freemasonry on the occasion of his Initiation. They are:

Aiden these will also be explained when you join.....

The next item on the Agenda was the Christmas Quiz which the secretary had circulated a week ago and was really just for fun as it was Christmas. There were no prizes etc., just a bit of a laugh. This had come via correspondence to the secretary from a fellow Mason. The WM read out the Questions and after a suitable time period the secretary read out the answers. If you wish to know the answers please get in touch and the secretary will send them to you....the Questions are on a following page.

A toast to the absent brethren was then given by the WM to all our brethren no longer with us or who are ill, with a special mention of the recent news that Bro John Young had passed away. Sadly, we have only just found out, but he actually died on the 5th March 2020. He was 89 years old and had been married to his wife Eileen for 65 years. He had voluntarily travelled to Coquetdale for many years to play the organ for us. He was actually a member of Morpeth Lodge No.4176.

It was agreed to have another Zoom meeting on the Thursday 14th January at 7pm, and it was decided that we would invite visitors.... so please try to join us on zoom – if you are unable please let us know and we can possibly try to get you involved in some other way.

The meeting ended at 8.38pm with everyone wishing each other a Merry Christmas and hopefully a safe and better New Year. A thankyou was also given to the Secretary from W.Bro. Colin for all the work he'd done during the pandemic.

Signed:-

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Just for
FUN

Christmas special

Trivia
QUIZ

It's time to test your general knowledge
with our fun quiz. Answers are on page 81

PLACES

1 Which country is credited with creating the tradition of having a Christmas tree?

2 In which South American country do some people roller-skate to church for the festive mass?

3 In which Scandinavian country do some people hide all of the brooms in their house on Christmas Eve to stop witches and evil spirits from riding them?

4 Which country has a law stating that every child who writes a letter to Santa must receive a reply?

5 St Nicholas is believed to have been born in which modern-day Asian country in the third century?

NAME THE...

6 ...festive item still used around the Christmas dinner table that was invented by Tom Smith in 1847.

7 ...flamboyant rock star who performed a duet with Bing Crosby for the Christmas single *Peace on Earth/Little Drummer Boy* in 1982.

8 ...demonic companion of St Nick from Austrian folklore who punishes naughty children.

9 ...little boy in the animated version of *The Snowman*.

10 ...three of Santa's reindeer who have names that begin with 'D'.

TV AND FILM:

11 Who played Ebenezer Scrooge in *The Muppet Christmas Carol*?

12 What is the name of the human raised by elves, played by Will Ferrell, in the Christmas classic *Elf*?

13 Which soap killed off four regular characters and a dog in a shocking plane crash in December 1993?

14 In the 1947 film *Miracle on 34th Street*, bags full of hundreds of what are delivered to the courtroom to prove that Kris Kringle is Santa?

15 In the first *Home Alone* film, Kevin is left behind while his family jet off on their Christmas holiday to where?

PEOPLE

16 Who is usually credited with introducing Christmas trees to Britain during the reign of Queen Victoria?

17 Which *X-Factor* star scored a Christmas number one in 2006 with the hit single *A Moment Like This*?

18 Which Scottish poet wrote the words to the New Year's Eve anthem *Auld Lang Syne*?

19 Which historical figure is often blamed for banning Christmas in England between 1647 and 1660?

20 Name the legendary soul singer who died on Christmas Day in 2006 from pneumonia.

POT LUCK

21 What kind of animal is supposed to deliver Christmas presents to children in Syria?

22 What were the nine ladies doing in *The Twelve Days of Christmas*?

23 In Japan, some families treat themselves to a meal from which popular fast food chain during the Christmas season?

24 According to tradition, after kissing someone under the mistletoe, what should you then remove for good luck?

25 What do Dutch children use instead of Christmas stockings?



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This is a Christmas Card from the WM to all Brethren – Merry Christmas

Angel wot he drewed wif is own ands

