

# UNITED GRAND LODGE

OF

## Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England

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### Quarterly Communication

Holden at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London  
on Wednesday, the 8th day of March 2017

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Present:

MW Bro P.G. Lowndes ..... Pro Grand Master  
RW Bro J. Spence ..... Deputy Grand Master  
RW Bro Sir David Wootton ..... Assistant Grand Master  
RW Bro Sir Michael Snyder ..... Metropolitan Grand Master for London  
RW Bro T.S. Theodossiou ..... District Grand Master for Cyprus  
RW Bro R. Merritt ..... Provincial Grand Master for Dorset  
RW Bro G. Ives ..... Provincial Grand Master for Lincolnshire  
RW Bro N.E. Heaviside ..... Provincial Grand Master for Durham  
RW Bro N.J. Thompson, *DL* ..... Provincial Grand Master for Cumberland and Westmorland  
RW Bro K.M. Rondel ..... Provincial Grand Master for Jersey  
RW Bro D.V. Hagger ..... Provincial Grand Master for Leicestershire and Rutland  
RW Bro D.F. Macey ..... Provincial Grand Master for Warwickshire  
RW Bro M.J. Wilks ..... Provincial Grand Master for Hampshire and Isle of Wight  
RW Bro C.A.S. Hadler ..... Provincial Grand Master for Somerset  
RW Bro M.W. Bayes ..... Provincial Grand Master for Northampton and Huntingdonshire  
RW Bro G.G. Dearing ..... Provincial Grand Master for East Kent  
RW Bro P.A. Taylor ..... Provincial Grand Master for Shropshire  
RW Bro M.G. Peters ..... Provincial Grand Master for Berkshire  
RW Bro G. Robertson ..... Provincial Grand Master for Buckinghamshire  
RW Bro Sir David Trippier, *RD, DL* ..... Provincial Grand Master for East Lancashire  
RW Bro the Rev D.J. Bowen ..... Provincial Grand Master for Herefordshire  
RW Bro I. Kingsbury ..... Provincial Grand Master for Devonshire  
RW Bro I.J. Yeldham ..... Provincial Grand Master for Suffolk  
RW Bro R.C. Vaughan ..... Provincial Grand Master for Worcestershire  
RW Bro P.J. Gower ..... Provincial Grand Master for Hertfordshire  
RW Bro D.S. Pratt ..... Provincial Grand Master for Yorkshire, West Riding  
RW Bro J. Gillyon ..... Provincial Grand Master for Yorkshire North and East Ridings  
RW Bro S.D. Hookey ..... Provincial Grand Master for West Wales  
RW Bro A.G.D. Mason ..... Pro Provincial Grand Master for Middlesex

RW Bro J.A. Harrison .....	Provincial Grand Master for West Lancashire
RW Bro J.R.G. Hilditch .....	Provincial Grand Master for Oxfordshire
RW Bro P.S.A. Bullock .....	Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire
RW Bro S.C. Pearn .....	Provincial Grand Master for Cornwall
RW Bro A.S. Varley .....	Provincial Grand Master for Derbyshire
RW Bro S.M. Blank .....	Provincial Grand Master for Cheshire
RW Bro P.G. Marshall .....	Provincial Grand Master for Nottinghamshire
RW Bro M.D. Estaugh .....	Provincial Grand Master for West Kent
RW Bro R.L. Bass .....	Provincial Grand Master for Essex
RW Bro S.N. Allen .....	Provincial Grand Master for Norfolk
RW Bro W.C.M. Dastur .....	Provincial Grand Master for Cambridgeshire
RW Bro A.P. Henderson .....	Provincial Grand Master for Bedfordshire
RW Bro I.M. Chandler .....	Provincial Grand Master for Surrey
RW Bro C.L. Moore .....	Provincial Grand Master for Sussex
RW Bro J. Lockley .....	Provincial Grand Master for Staffordshire
RW Bro Sir Stuart Hampson, <i>CVO, DL</i> .....	Senior Grand Warden
RW Bro the Rev Dr J.R.H. Railton .....	Junior Grand Warden
VW Bro the Rev Canon M. Wilson .....	Grand Chaplain
RW Bro Brig W.E. Shackell, <i>CBE, PJGW</i> .....	Grand Secretary
RW Bro D.R. Dinsmore, <i>PJGW</i> .....	Grand Chancellor
VW Bro His Honour Judge R.M. Hone, <i>QC</i> .....	President, Masonic Charitable Foundation
RW Bro O.A.W. Lodge, <i>TD, PJGW</i> .....	Grand Director of Ceremonies
VW Bro C.P.T. Brown .....	Grand Sword Bearer
RW Bro Q.C.T. Humberstone, <i>PJGW</i> .....	Grand Treasurer
W Bro the Rev T.J.N. L'Estrange .....	Deputy Grand Chaplain
VW Bro J.M. Long, <i>TD, PGSwdB</i> .....	Deputy President, Board of General Purposes
VW Bro J.A.F. Thom, <i>QC</i> .....	Deputy Grand Registrar
VW Bro G.F. Redman, <i>PGSwdB</i> .....	Deputy Grand Secretary
VW Bro J.M. Hamill, <i>PGSwdB</i> .....	Deputy Grand Chancellor
W Bro M.J.P. Horlock .....	Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro M.A.J. Gurney .....	Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro Dr D.R. Staples .....	Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro R.W. Mitchell .....	Deputy Grand Sword Bearer
W Bro R.C. Bruce .....	Deputy Grand Superintendent of Works
W Bro D.A. Graeme .....	Senior Grand Deacon
W Bro V.J. Driver .....	Senior Grand Deacon
W Bro Capt S.S.S. Judah, <i>MBE</i> .....	Senior Grand Deacon
W Bro R.G.S. Wright .....	Senior Grand Deacon
W Bro J.C. Reid .....	Junior Grand Deacon
W Bro J. Boyington, <i>CBE</i> .....	Junior Grand Deacon
W Bro A.C. Howlett-Bolton, <i>OBE</i> .....	Junior Grand Deacon
W Bro C.E. Lord, <i>OBE</i> .....	Junior Grand Deacon
W Bro the Rev B.W. Jobber .....	Assistant Grand Chaplain
W Bro S.E. Medland, <i>QC</i> .....	Assistant Grand Registrar
W Bro J.A.L. Berry .....	Assistant Grand Registrar
W Bro A.G. Rayner .....	Assistant Grand Secretary

W Bro S.E.R. Christie .....	Assistant Grand Secretary
W Bro J.E. Ashford .....	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro J.C. Cooper .....	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro P.F. Crockett .....	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro O.W. Davison .....	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro G.W. Gonthier .....	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro B.L.T. McCormack .....	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro R.R. Montgomery .....	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro R.F.A. Pemberton .....	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro Cdr D. Hilton, <i>MBE, RN</i> .....	Assistant Grand Sword Bearer
W Bro N.J. Vaughan .....	Assistant Grand Superintendent of Works
W Bro C.J. Robinson .....	Assistant Grand Superintendent of Works
W Bro C.A. Jackson, <i>MVO</i> .....	Grand Organist
W Bro J.E. Burnapp .....	Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro D.N. Hanson .....	Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro C.W. Bradley .....	Assistant Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro S.N. Graham .....	Assistant Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro R.K. Jordan .....	Assistant Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro A.D.M. Warham .....	Deputy Grand Organist
W Bro Dr S.J. Borwick .....	Grand Pursuivant
W Bro A.R. Austin .....	Assistant Grand Pursuivant
W Bro K.J. Law .....	Assistant Grand Pursuivant
W Bro A.J. Ross .....	Assistant Grand Pursuivant
W Bro P.F. Wynter Bee .....	Grand Steward
W Bro P.D.E. Gibbs .....	Grand Steward
RW Bro J.G.R. Rudd, <i>DL, PProvGM, Derbyshire</i> .....	Grand Steward
W Bro C.M.D. Thomson .....	Grand Steward
W Bro F.J.C. Luard .....	Grand Steward
W Bro A.P.L. Fermor, <i>PAGDC</i> .....	Grand Steward
W Bro D. Nunn, <i>PSGD</i> .....	Grand Steward
VW Bro J.H. Newman, <i>OBE, DepPresMCF</i> .....	Grand Steward
W Bro S.V. Devalia .....	Grand Steward
W Bro J.W.P. Campbell, <i>PAGSuptWks</i> .....	Grand Steward
W Bro L. Lloyd .....	Grand Steward
VW Bro G.C. Higgs, <i>PGSwdB</i> .....	Grand Steward
W Bro E. Regan, <i>PGStB</i> .....	Grand Steward
W Bro N.O. Clavel .....	Grand Steward
W Bro M. Brooks, <i>PJGD</i> .....	Grand Tyler

#### ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

RW Bro D.K. Williamson .....	Past Assistant Grand Master
RW Bro G.P. Francis .....	Past Assistant Grand Master

A large number of Past Grand Officers, qualified Past Grand Stewards, and the Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens of many private Lodges.

## VISITORS

### GRAND LODGE OF AUSTRIA

MW Bro Georg Semler ..... Grand Master  
RW Bro Hans Hauf ..... Immediate Past Grand Secretary for Foreign Relations

### GRAND LODGE OF GREECE

MW Bro Constantinos Politis ..... Grand Master  
MW Bro George Vassilogeorgis ..... Past Grand Master

### SYMBOLIC GRAND LODGE OF HUNGARY

VW Bro Mark Walton ..... Past Grand Registrar

### NORWEGIAN ORDER OF FREEMASONS – GRAND LODGE OF NORWAY

RW Bro Fredrik Hilding ..... Grand Secretary for Foreign Relations

### NATIONAL GRAND LODGE OF FRANCE

RW Bro Jean-Pierre Rollet ..... Deputy Grand Master, Grand Chancellor

### GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF SÃO PAULO

MW Bro Geraldo de Souza Macedo ..... Honorary Grand Master  
RW Bro Aleksandar Jovanovic ..... Grand Secretary on Foreign Affairs

### UNITED GRAND LODGES OF GERMANY

MW Bro Christoph Bosbach ..... Grand Master

Grand Lodge was opened in ample form and with solemn prayer at 12.00 noon.

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## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Quarterly Communication of 14 December 2016 were taken as read and confirmed.

## ELECTION OF A GRAND MASTER

W Bro AUGUSTUS P.J. MACHADO, PAGDC: MW Pro Grand Master and Brethren, it is my great honour to propose this most important motion in this, our Tercentenary year.

Those who know about these things advised me to say something useful and interesting. This was something of a challenge for an Information Technologist; we are not known for our brevity or usefulness, or for being mildly interesting.

MW Bro His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent, *KG*, has been our Grand Master not only through my Masonic journey, but for almost as long as I have lived. Now in his fiftieth year as our Grand Master, he has led the Craft through major transformational changes for the better, making it more agile, more relevant and more open, in this fast moving data driven and interactive communications era.

Initiatives such as mentoring and effective and more dynamic communications, which are designed for the greater and wider enjoyment of our Masonic life, embrace a culture of openness that enables us not just to retain existing Brethren but to attract new members to our Fraternity to both their benefit and ours.

Brethren, under such strong leadership Freemasonry, with its very special traditions and values, which inspire members to acts of charity, fund raising and volunteering has been proud to reveal its hidden face as one of the most benevolent and arguably one of the most relevant societies of our time.

Brethren, I have the greatest pleasure in proposing that His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent, *KG*, be re-elected as Grand Master for the ensuing year.

W Bro DR BARRY HOFFBRAND: MW Pro Grand Master and Brethren, it was in 1967 that His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent, *KG*, was first elected as our Grand Master, which means that today marks the fifty-first occasion on which a motion for his election has been proposed and seconded.

Over the years, Brethren with far greater oratorical skills than mine, have in proposing and seconding such a motion, said almost everything that it is possible to say in the praise of His Royal Highness, and of his outstanding qualities. I cannot hope to emulate their efforts or to find something novel to urge in support of the re-election. What I can do is now to ask you Brethren to show your whole-hearted support for the motion which has been so ably proposed by Brother Machado.

MW Pro Grand Master and Brethren, I beg to second.

The Motion was accepted with loud acclaim.

The Brethren stood while the GRAND DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES (RW Bro O.A.W. LODGE, *TD*, *PJGW*) proclaimed MW Bro HRH The Duke of Kent, *KG*, *GCMG*, *GCVO*, *ADC*, as Grand Master by his several styles and titles.

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES

On the Motion of the DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES (VW Bro J.M. LONG, TD, PGSwdB), seconded by the GRAND TREASURER (RW Bro Q.C.T. HUMBERSTONE, PJGW), the following report of the Board of General Purposes was taken as read.

*To the United Grand Lodge of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England*

### GRAND LODGE REGISTER 2007-2016

1. The tables below show the number of Lodges on the Register and of Certificates issued during the past ten years.

#### *Lodges on the Grand Lodge Register*

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
London	1,489	1,458	1,433	1,397	1,374	1,351	1,339	1,303	1,292	1,274
Provincial	5,996	5,900	5,840	5,774	5,694	5,626	5,543	5,483	5,433	5,376
District and Abroad	768	736	731	722	724	719	710	718	717	718
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,253</b>	<b>8,094</b>	<b>8,004</b>	<b>7,893</b>	<b>7,792</b>	<b>7,696</b>	<b>7,592</b>	<b>7,504</b>	<b>7,442</b>	<b>7,368</b>

#### *Grand Lodge Certificates Issued*

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Issued at Freemasons' Hall	7,490	7,539	7,538	7,078	7,391	7,025	6,901	6,504	6,284	6,535
Issued by District Grand Masters	613	695	753	478	698	755	711	700	858	521
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,103</b>	<b>8,234</b>	<b>8,291</b>	<b>7,556</b>	<b>8,089</b>	<b>7,780</b>	<b>7,612</b>	<b>7,204</b>	<b>7,142</b>	<b>7,056</b>

### CHARGES FOR WARRANTS

2. In accordance with the provisions of Rule 270A, Book of Constitutions, the Board has considered the costs of preparing the actual documents specified in this Rule and recommends that for the year commencing 1 April 2017 the charges (exclusive of VAT) shall be as follows:

	£
(a) Warrant for a new Lodge.....	£390.00
(b) Warrant of Confirmation.....	£1,025.00
(c) Warrant for a Centenary Jewel.....	£600.00
(d) Warrant of Confirmation for a Centenary Jewel.....	£875.00
(e) Warrant for a Bi-Centenary Bar.....	£930.00

- (f) Warrant of Confirmation for a Bi-Centenary Bar.....£930.00  
 (g) Certificate of Amalgamation.....£100.00  
 (h) Enfacement (Alterations) Fee.....£140.00

#### AMALGAMATIONS

3. The Board has received reports that the following Lodges have resolved to surrender their Warrants:

- (a) Totteridge Lodge, No. 6130, in order to amalgamate with Old Elizabethans Lodge, No. 7987 (Hertfordshire); and  
 (b) Sherborne Conduit Lodge, No. 9484, in order to amalgamate with Lodge of Benevolence, No. 1168 (Dorset).

4. The Board accordingly recommends that the Lodges be removed from the register in order to effect the amalgamations. A Resolution to this effect appears at item 4 of the Paper of Business.

The Board of General Purposes regrets to record the death of the following Present and Past Grand Officers reported up to 7 February 2017:

- RW Bro N.J.F.C. Barrington, PProvGM, Cornwall  
 RW Bro T.R.R. Richards, PProvGM, Cheshire  
 RW Bro W.J. Bryen, PProvGM, West Kent  
 RW Bro Dr A.M. Davison, PProvGM, Durham  
 RW Bro E.F.R. Moss, PProvGM, Hampshire and Isle of Wight  
 RW Bro HRH Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia, PSGW  
 RW Bro Maj Gen R.G.E. Green, CD, OSM, PJGW  
 VW Bro M.E. Gardiner, PGSwdB  
 VW Bro P.J. Winton, PGSwdB  
 W Bro W.B. Moffatt, PSGD  
 W Bro the Rev Canon H. Callaghan, PSGD  
 W Bro D. Thick, PSGD  
 W Bro M.M. Leese, PSGD  
 W Bro T.C. Speirs, PJGD  
 W Bro D. Forster, CBE, PJGD  
 W Bro W.D. Aukland, PJGD  
 W Bro Dr A.J. Owen, PJGD  
 W Bro J.K. Hubert, PJGD  
 W Bro A.G. Sanders, PJGD  
 W Bro R.H.T. Burgess, PJGD

Death of Grand Officers (*continued*)

W Bro R.T. Swales, PJGD  
W Bro J.G. Northcott, PJGD  
W Bro J.W. Turner, PJGD  
W Bro M.B. Wollin, PJGD  
W Bro J.C. Allen, PJGD  
W Bro K. Boaz, PJGD  
W Bro A.D. Manzie, PJGD  
W Bro M. Bernstein, PJGD  
W Bro His Honour G.H. Rooke, PJGD  
W Bro I.A. Fisher, PAGReg  
W Bro A.R. Cornelius, PAGDC  
W Bro H.W. Thomas, PAGDC  
W Bro R. Birchall, PAGDC  
W Bro F.V. Herbert, PAGDC  
W Bro R.A. Jackson, PAGDC  
W Bro B.W. Lunn, PAGDC  
W Bro B.H. Schultz, PAGDC  
W Bro B. Tomlinson, PAGDC  
W Bro C.H. Ryan, PAGDC  
W Bro P.M. Poole, PAGDC  
W Bro T.H. Cook, PAGDC  
W Bro P. Saunders, *MBE*, PAGDC  
W Bro J. Flethcer, PAGDC  
W Bro M.A. Falkner, PAGDC  
W Bro J.H. Smith, PAGDC  
W Bro R. Hunt, PAGDC  
W Bro D.J. Maddy, PAGDC  
W Bro L. Heaviside, PAGSuptWks  
W Bro P.E. Norwood, PAGSuptWks  
W Bro T.F. Wauer, PGStB  
W Bro T.A.W. Day, PGStB  
W Bro W. Egdell, PGStB  
W Bro A. Fourie, PGStB  
W Bro R.C. Kenward, PGStB  
W Bro G.G. Major, PGStB  
W Bro J.W. Mazierski, PAGStB



## ERASURE OF LODGES

5. The Board has received a report that twenty-three Lodges have closed and have surrendered their Warrants. The Lodges are:

Hammersmith Lodge, No. 2090 (London)  
 Royal Hampton Court Lodge, No. 2183 (Middlesex)  
 Malden Lodge, No. 2875 (Surrey)  
 Morpeth Lodge, No. 4176 (Northumberland)  
 Plymouth Hoe Lodge, No. 4235 (Devon)  
 Ceredigion Lodge, No. 4550 (London)  
 Ashton Upon Mersey Lodge, No. 4654 (Cheshire)  
 Concordia Lodge, No. 4793 (Sussex)  
 Worcester Park Lodge, No. 5402 (Surrey)  
 Simplicitas Lodge, No. 5704 (Surrey)  
 Oaks Lodge, No. 5921 (Surrey)  
 Lodge of Integrity, No. 6328 (Cheshire)  
 Albany Park Lodge, No. 7432 (West Kent)  
 Bywell Castle Lodge, No. 7739 (Northumberland)  
 Lowther Lodge, No. 7809 (Cumberland and Westmorland)  
 Warlingham Lodge, No. 7977 (Surrey)  
 Owain Glyndwr Lodge, No. 8015 (South Wales)  
 Huntercombe Lodge, No. 8264 (Buckinghamshire)  
 Langdon Hills Lodge, No. 8477 (Essex)  
 Bramble Lodge, No. 8541 (South Africa, Eastern Division)  
 Prestbury Lodge, No. 8880 (Cheshire)  
 Abridge Lodge, No. 9637 (Essex)  
 Lodge of Scribes, No. 9671 (Durham)

6. Over recent years, the Lodges have found themselves no longer viable. The Board is satisfied that further efforts to save them would be to no avail and therefore has no alternative but to recommend that they be erased. A Resolution to this effect appears at item 5 of the Paper of Business.

## EXPULSIONS

7. As required by Rule 277 (a) (i) (B), Book of Constitutions, the Appendix shows Brethren recently expelled from the Craft.

FREEMASONS' HALL, LONDON  
 7 February 2017

(signed) A.C. WILSON  
 President

DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES: MW Pro Grand Master and Brethren, I do hope that you will agree that the Report of the Board of General Purposes is self-explanatory and I therefore move that it be adopted and entered in the Minutes.

The Motion was seconded by the GRAND TREASURER and was agreed to.

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: Brethren, the Board's Report lists the names of those Grand Officers whose deaths were reported up to 7 February. I now call on you to stand in memory of those departed Grand Officers and other members of Grand Lodge.

The Brethren stood in silence.

## RESOLUTION FOR THE GRAND LODGE

### AMALGAMATIONS

THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES moved the removal from the register of the Grand Lodge of the following Lodges:

Totteridge Lodge, No. 6130 (Hertfordshire) and Sherborne Conduit Lodge, No. 9484 (Dorset).

The Motion was seconded by the GRAND TREASURER and was agreed to.

## RESOLUTION FOR THE GRAND LODGE

### ERASURE OF LODGES

THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES moved the erasure from the register of the Grand Lodge of the following Lodges:

Hammersmith Lodge, No. 2090 (London); Royal Hampton Court Lodge, No. 2183 (Middlesex); Malden Lodge, No. 2875 (Surrey); Morpeth Lodge, No. 4176 (Northumberland); Plymouth Hoe Lodge, No. 4235 (Devon); Ceredigion Lodge, No. 4550 (London); Ashton Upon Mersey Lodge, No. 4654 (Cheshire); Concordia Lodge, No. 4793 (Sussex); Worcester Park Lodge, No. 5402 (Surrey); Simplicitas Lodge, No. 5704 (Surrey); Oaks Lodge, No. 5921 (Surrey); Lodge of Integrity, No. 6328 (Cheshire); Albany Park Lodge, No. 7432 (West Kent); Bywell Castle Lodge, No. 7739 (Northumberland); Lowther Lodge, No. 7809 (Cumberland and Westmorland); Warlingham Lodge, No. 7977 (Surrey); Owain Glyndwr Lodge, No. 8015 (South Wales); Huntercombe Lodge, No. 8264 (Buckinghamshire); Langdon Hills Lodge, No. 8477 (Essex); Bramble Lodge, No. 8541 (South Africa,

Eastern Division); Prestbury Lodge, No. 8880 (Cheshire); Abridge Lodge, No. 9637 (Essex); and Lodge of Scribes, No. 9671 (Durham).

The Motion was seconded by the GRAND TREASURER and was agreed to.

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GRAND LODGE WAS CALLED OFF

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## FOR VALOUR: *FREEMASONS AWARDED* *THE VICTORIA CROSS DURING THE GREAT WAR*

MRS DIANE CLEMENTS (DIRECTOR OF THE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM OF FREEMASONRY): Ninety-nine years ago today, Charles Graham Robertson, a railway clerk from Dorking in Surrey, was fighting with the Royal Fusiliers on the Western Front. He realised that his position was being cut off so he sent two men to get reinforcements while he stayed at his post with one other man and a Lewis gun. He managed to kill “large numbers of the enemy” but no reinforcements arrived and realising that he was now completely cut off he and his fellow soldier withdrew about ten yards. He stayed there for some considerable further time firing his gun but was again forced to withdraw. In this new position he climbed on top of a parapet with his comrade, mounted his gun in a shell hole and continued firing at the enemy who were pouring across the top of, and down, the adjacent trench. His comrade was killed, but Robertson severely wounded, managed to crawl back to the British line, bringing his gun with him. He could no longer fire it as he had exhausted all the ammunition. For his initiative and resource and magnificent fighting spirit which prevented the enemy making a more rapid advance, Robertson was awarded the Victoria Cross in April 1918. A few months later, after the end of the First World War, in February 1919, he was initiated in Deanery Lodge, No. 3071 in London. He is one of over one-hundred and seventy holders of the Victoria Cross who have been identified as Freemasons, representing more than 13% of the total recipients.

DEPUTY GRAND CHANCELLOR (VW Bro J.M. HAMILL, PGSwdB): The Victoria Cross was a product of the Crimean War. In many ways this was one of the first ‘modern wars’, reported from the battlefield by newspaper journalists. The media, then as now, liked stories of heroes and villains, and it would soon become apparent that there were many heroes but no award available to acknowledge the heroic actions of the ordinary British serviceman. Other European countries already had awards for their armed forces that did not discriminate according to class or rank. In 1856 with increasingly public support, Queen Victoria ordered the War Office to strike a new medal which was made open to all ranks. The Victoria Cross is awarded for valour “in the face of the enemy” to members of the British armed forces and

to members of the armed forces of some Commonwealth countries and previous British Empire territories.

Many have been inspired by the stories of those such as Charles Graham Robertson but holders of the Victoria Cross were often modest men who didn't make a fuss and many Masonic researchers have worked hard to track down their Masonic links, including the 2006 Prestonian lecturer, W Bro Granville Angell, PAGPurs. Diane and I would like to acknowledge the efforts of all those researchers today.

The Victoria Cross was awarded six-hundred and twenty-eight times for action in the First World War. Over one-hundred recipients have so far been identified as Freemasons of whom sixty-three were members of English Constitution Lodges.

As many of you will know, this building, now known as Freemasons' Hall, was formally opened in 1933 as the Masonic Peace Memorial and it was, and remains, a memorial to all those Freemasons who died in the First World War. Acknowledging this and as part of the Tercentenary celebrations, Grand Lodge is going to have a memorial pavement laid outside the Tower doors with details of all the English Freemasons awarded the Victoria Cross during the First World War. The date we have chosen for the ceremony is 25 April.

MRS DIANE CLEMENTS: On 25 April 1915 a battalion of over 1,000 men from the Lancashire Fusiliers landed on a beach at Gallipoli. During the landing, the men were met by very heavy and effective fire from the Ottoman Empire troops defending the beach and lost over half their number. The survivors, however, rushed up and cut the wire entanglements and managed to gain the cliffs above the beach. Amongst them were Major Cuthbert Bromley, Lance Corporal John Grimshaw, Private William Kenealy, Sergeant Alfred Richards, Sergeant Frank Stubbs and Captain Richard Willis. The courage of these six men was recognised by the award of the Victoria Cross to each of them and the event was hailed in the Press as '6 VCs before breakfast'. Three of these men were Freemasons.

Richard Willis had joined St John and St Paul Lodge, No. 349 in Malta in 1901. After the First World War he retired from the army and took on an education role within the new RAF before working as a teacher. Cuthbert Bromley, who had been a member of Invicta Lodge, No. 2440 since 1909, was wounded during the landing, he sustained further wounds during the next two months and was evacuated to Egypt to recover. In August 1915, whilst returning to the Gallipoli peninsula aboard a troopship, he was killed when the ship was torpedoed. After the war John Grimshaw became a recruiting officer for the army. He joined Llangatock Lodge, No. 2547 in 1928. Frank Stubbs died during the landing. William Kenealy was seriously wounded in a later battle on the Gallipoli peninsula and died in June 1915. As a result of a wound sustained in the action, Alfred Richards had to have his leg amputated and was discharged from the army as unfit for further service. Despite this he served in the Home Guard during the Second World War.

DEPUTY GRAND CHANCELLOR: Also as part of this year's Tercentenary celebrations a Masonic Memorial Garden at The National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire will be unveiled next month on 18 April. Since planting began in 1997, the National Memorial Arboretum has become a special place honouring those who have served, and continue to serve, our nation in many different ways. It is not a cemetery but covers one-hundred and fifty acres of trees and planting, a peaceful place of remembrance. There are more than three-hundred dedicated memorials on the site acknowledging the personal sacrifices made by the Armed Forces, the Police, and the Fire and Rescue and Ambulance services. The idea of a Masonic Memorial Garden was the millennium project of a group of Provinces led by Staffordshire. Realising the project was not without difficulties but, assisted by additional finance from Grand Lodge, has now been fully realised. The garden is entered between two pillars, topped with globes, leading to a squared pavement on which are two large ashlar. The Province of Staffordshire held a service in the garden on Armistice Day last year.

MRS DIANE CLEMENTS: I am sure that many of you here today are familiar with the name of Toye, Kenning and Spencer, one of the country's oldest companies and, of course, the manufacturer of Masonic regalia and the Tercentenary Jewel. The company also has a long tradition of making military decorations although not the Victoria Cross. It may not be so widely known that the grandfather of W Bro Bryan Toye, Alfred Toye, was awarded the Victoria Cross, at the age of twenty for his actions on the Western Front in March 1918 when he established a post that had been captured by the enemy, fought his way through the enemy with one other officer and six men, led a counterattack and was able to re-establish the line. Continuing his military career after the war, Brigadier Toye, as he became, joined Freemasonry in Grecia Lodge, No. 1105 in Egypt in 1930.

Following the Armistice on 11 November 1918 which ended the actual fighting, a series of peace treaties were negotiated between the two sides over the course of the next three years. The Treaty of Versailles with Germany was signed on 28 June 1919 and it was registered by the Secretariat of the newly formed League of Nations in October that year. The First World War led to the fall of several empires in central and eastern Europe, the first of which was the Russian Empire overthrown in an internal revolution by Lenin and the Bolsheviks in 1917 and which led to civil war. Britain and her allies got caught up in this and were forced to send a Relief Force to North Russia in June 1919. Three men were awarded the Victoria Cross during this action. One of them was Royal Navy Commander Claude Dobson who led a motor boat flotilla to the entrance of Kronstadt harbour. In his 55 foot boat he passed through heavy machine gun fire to torpedo a Russian battleship. In 1925 Dobson joined Navy Lodge, No. 2612, and as the action in which he was involved falls within the period of the First World War and its treaties, he will be included on the memorial.

DEPUTY GRAND CHANCELLOR: Armistice Day in November 1920 was a day of mellow sunshine. It was the second time that the Armistice had been marked but was to be especially significant as it was on that day that the King, George V, unveiled the cenotaph in Whitehall and also the day that the Unknown Warrior was interred in Westminster Abbey. The coffin carrying the Unknown Warrior was carried into the Abbey between two lines of men, who had been awarded the Victoria Cross during the war or otherwise distinguished themselves by special valour. They were known as the "Bodyguard of Heroes". Sixteen of this honour guard have been identified as Freemasons.

One of them was Captain Robert Gee who had been a member of Roll Call Lodge, No. 2523 in London since 1907. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions on 30 November 1917 in France when an attack by the enemy captured his brigade headquarters and ammunition dump. Gee, finding himself a prisoner, managed to escape and organised a party of the brigade staff with which he attacked the enemy, closely followed by two companies of infantry. He cleared the locality and established a defensive flank, then finding an enemy machine-gun still in action, with a revolver in each hand he went forward and captured the gun, killing eight of the crew. He was wounded, but would not have his wound dressed until the defence was organised.

One of the names to be marked on a paving stone outside is Eric Archibald McNair, who was initiated in Apollo University Lodge, No. 357 in 1913. He was awarded the Victoria Cross at the age of just twenty-one in 1916. On 14 February 1916 on the Western Front in Belgium, Lieutenant McNair and a number of men were flung into the air when the enemy exploded a mine, several of them were buried. Although much shaken, the Lieutenant at once organised a party with a machine-gun to man the near edge of the crater and opened rapid fire on the enemy who were advancing. They were driven back. Lieutenant McNair then ran back for reinforcements, but as the communication trench was blocked he went across open ground under heavy fire. His action undoubtedly saved a critical situation. Sadly Lieutenant McNair did not survive the war but died in August 1918. His name is amongst those included on the Roll of Honour which is displayed at the Shrine in the vestibule outside the Grand Temple.

It seems fitting that, in this Tercentenary year, the building is adding a further memorial to those that fought in the First World War. It would also be fitting, I believe, to stand for a moment in remembrance of those sixty-three men of valour whose names will now be a part of this building for so long as it shall stand.

The Brethren stood in silence.

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: Brethren, before we thank both John and Diane, I have promised not to embarrass Diane today but she is retiring this year. Apparently she has a birthday of some relevance. She started with us in 1999, and she became Director. It was a new title, but she is therefore the first and only Director of the Library and Museum thus far. She has done a fantastic job and any of you who know her for her enthusiasm and knowledge will appreciate how much the Library and Museum has benefitted from her time in charge there.

It is a magnificent display and those of you who have not been there jolly well should have done and I am sure will do in the future. Not only has it been there for a long time, it has got some fantastic things being displayed. But what is behind the scenes is quite remarkable, and I don't say that Diane knows every single thing she's got but she goes a long way towards it and indeed Berkshire have just opened a small display in the museum in Reading and they managed to dig out a rather remarkable document, which was Oscar Wilde's Mark Grand Lodge certificate, which they didn't know they had. That sort of thing crops up. Diane has also led the way in the new museum which was opened by the Grand Master in the back end of last year. Again if you have not been there it is really splendid and it is a fitting legacy for all the work Diane has put in over the years.

So, let us thank both John and particularly Diane for all the work that has been done.

*(Applause)*

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GRAND LODGE WAS CALLED ON

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## WELCOME

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: Brethren, I would like on your behalf to welcome some distinguished Brethren from overseas who are with us today.

From the Grand Lodge of Austria, we have, the Grand Master, MW Bro Georg Semler; he is accompanied by RW Bro Hans Hauf, Immediate Past Grand Secretary for Foreign Relations;

from the Grand Lodge of Greece, the Grand Master, MW Bro Constantinos Politis; he is accompanied by MW Bro George Vassilogeorgis, Past Grand Master;

from the Symbolic Grand Lodge of Hungary, VW Bro Mark Walton, Past Grand Registrar;

from The Norwegian Order of Freemasons – Grand Lodge of Norway; the Grand Secretary for Foreign Relations, RW Bro Fredrik Hilding;

from the National Grand Lodge of France, the Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro Jean-Pierre Rollet;

from the Grand Lodge of the State of São Paulo, MW Bro Geraldo de Souza Macedo, Honorary Grand Master; he is accompanied by the Grand Secretary on Foreign Affairs, RW Bro Aleksandar Jovanovic; and

from the United Grand Lodges of Germany, the Grand Master, MW Bro Christoph Bosbach.

From our own Constitution, we have, from Cyprus, the District Grand Master, RW Bro Theodosios S. Theodossiou; he is accompanied by W Bro Andrew Theocharous, PAGDC, Past Assistant District Grand Master;

from Hong Kong and the Far East, the Deputy District Grand Master, VW Bro Herman H.C. Tsoi, PGSwdB; he is accompanied by VW Bro Paul R. Whitmore, PGSwdB, Past Deputy District Grand Master, and W Bro Joseph C. Lee, PAGDC, Past District Junior Grand Warden;

from Sri Lanka, W Bro David S. Rose, PAGDC; and

from Trinidad and Tobago, W Bro Stephen B. Cobham, Past Deputy District Grand Director of Ceremonies; he is accompanied by W Bro Jerome Herrera, the Worshipful Master of Royal Philanthropic Lodge.

I have had no notice of any other distinguished visitors from overseas. However, I extend on your behalf a very warm welcome to all Brethren who have travelled a long distance to be with us today.

## PRO GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: Brethren, it seems that we have been anticipating 2017 for longer than I care to remember. Now we have arrived and I hope we have all been looking forward to our celebrations with great excitement and expectation. It is vital that these celebrations do not disappoint and, from what I have seen and heard so far and from what I know will be happening in the future, they most certainly will not disappoint.

From my point of view there was an early kick off in our District of East Africa who held a terrific celebration in Dar es Salaam last August. The District described the event as a Masonic Conference. That may well be the case, but to me it seemed like a three day party, superbly organised and attended by many of our Districts in Africa and elsewhere. I was able to see the extraordinary charitable work that our Brethren have carried out in that District, which I am sure is mirrored elsewhere. Since then, the Deputy Grand Master has been to Bombay. He can't, of course, compare this event to Dar es Salaam, but he reports extremely favourably on it.

Between myself and the Deputy and Assistant Grand Masters we will be visiting most of our Districts, or gatherings of Districts, during the year and I am quite certain that they will all make us proud that they are part of the United Grand



Lodge of England and that they will use every opportunity to advance the cause of Freemasonry in their parts of the world.

It is, of course, equally important that our Provinces take up the challenge in the same way and I am in absolutely no doubt that this will be the case. There are far too many events being organised around the country for me to start trying to highlight them. I hope it is true to say that all Provinces, who have asked for the Rulers to visit, are being visited either by the current Rulers or Past Rulers. I will no doubt be told later this is not the case, but we have tried very hard to ensure that we do get everywhere and I am most grateful to MW Bro Lord Northampton, PProGM, and RW Bros David Williamson and George Francis, PAGMs for giving so readily of their time to help us out. We will be attending Services in many of our great Cathedrals and this has started when the Grand Master visited Canterbury last month.

Our Provinces have been most original in their planning of events and I am sure they will all be a great success – they certainly deserve to be with the amount of time and effort that so many Brethren have put in to their organisation. At the same time individual Lodges and groups of Lodges are really entering in to the spirit of the occasion.

It is not just at home that this milestone is being recognised and many of our Sister Grand Lodges are celebrating with us. Indeed I was invited to the Grand Lodge of Denmark in January and they made our Tercentenary very much the central theme. During their meeting they announced that our Grand Master was to become an Honorary Member of The Danish Order of Freemasons, Grand Lodge of Denmark and I had the privilege of receiving this honour on behalf of the Grand Master.

How are we going to know whether the year has been a success? It will be very easy to sit back and bask in our reflected glory. This must not happen. The year is a tremendous opportunity to put all the great things that Freemasonry stands for in front of the public. We must not, and will not, waste this chance. The five programmes to be shown on Sky 1 at 8.00 pm on five consecutive Mondays commencing on April 17, will, I believe, go a long way to displaying to the public at large what we stand for and the tremendous amount of work we put into the community both by way of financial charitable giving and by physical help to those who need it. I fear not everyone will be able to receive Sky 1, but do tell all your friends about it – who knows they might ask you to come and watch it with them. Some will, no doubt, consider that we have taken a huge risk by opening ourselves up in this way, but I am in no doubt that, having been given the chance, we would have thrown away the biggest opportunity we have, perhaps, ever had, for getting our story across had we not proceeded.

In addition a further DVD has been prepared by the makers of the documentary for distribution – perhaps I should say for sale – to our members and to the general public. I strongly recommend that you try to gain access to all the above.

In a perfect world Brethren at the end of the year we will see our numbers soaring and the Press, printing story after story about how wonderful Freemasonry is. However, I am not quite naïve enough to believe that this will be the case immediately, but I shall be very disappointed if we don't see an increase in our membership, perhaps just small to start with, but improving gradually as time goes on. In addition it will be fascinating to see what the Press, as a whole, make of our opening our doors to such an extent.

These are exciting times Brethren, let us all make the most of them.

*(Applause)*

At the close of the proceedings, the first verse of the National Anthem was sung.

The Grand Lodge was closed in ample form and with solemn prayer.

The meeting closed at 12.52 p.m.

### RECORDED ATTENDANCE AT THE GRAND LODGE

Grand Officers (including Present Grand Stewards) .....	582
Masters, Wardens and Past Masters .....	624
Visitors .....	10
Total .....	<u>1216</u>

## APPENDIX

## EXPULSIONS FROM THE CRAFT

The following list shows Brethren expelled from the Craft with the Lodges (Chapters) of which once a member.

Name	Lodges (Chapters)
<b>19 November 2016</b>	
Michael Peter Corke	L158
Nigel Elliott Graham	L1891, L2580, L4911 (C2559), (C3092), (C3366), (C4234), (C5331)
Simon Paul Hett	L7223
Gifford Hugh Jones	L7789, L8172
Joseph O’Riordan	L5794
Spencer Petro Pasicznyk	L4306 (C4161)
Michael Ian Robinson	L3960, L7666, L8864 (C5344)
Wayne Smith	L4743
Jason Michael Swift	L3475
Thomas Richard Wardrop	L7754
Leonardo Wolfe	L1399, L2033 (C2033)
<b>19 December 2016</b>	
Archie Larry-Davis Johnson	L3523

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LIST OF NEW LODGES FOR WHICH WARRANTS HAVE BEEN GRANTED BY  
THE MW THE GRAND MASTER SHOWING THE DATES FROM WHICH  
THEIR WARRANTS BECAME EFFECTIVE

DATE OF WARRANT/ NO. AND NAME OF LODGE	LOCATION	AREA
<i>14 December 2016</i>		
9942 Dorset Sportsmen’s Lodge	Poole	Dorset
9943 Collegiate Lodge	Coventry	Warwickshire

