

**LODGE OF MERCY
NO 6821**



SEVENTY FIVE YEARS ON

2009-2024

VOLUMES 1, 2 & 3

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LODGE OF MERCY

No. 6821



THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS

1949 - 1999

VOLUME 1

PREFACE

Because the members of the Lodge of Mercy are now spread over a wide area and are unable to get together as often as in former times there is less opportunity for reminiscence and for passing on to the newer brethren those episodes from the past which make up the history of the Lodge.

It is therefore hoped that this document will serve as a point of reference for the future, especially as the responsibility for maintaining the traditional characteristics of the Lodge and for defining its future falls more onto the shoulders of the newer members.

This history is in many ways a tribute to the late W.Bro. Ronnie Hepton (Secretary 1978-1986) who prepared a detailed analysis of Lodge membership, tackling by hand an exercise which nowadays would not be attempted without the aid of a computer. As it is considered that the fruits of his labour deserve a wider audience much of his work is included in this document.

The Lodge is also most grateful for the contribution made by W.Bro. Freddie Swain, a Founder of the Lodge and a member until 1975.

Prepared and produced by W.Bro. M J Blythe, LGR, and W.Bro. G F M Hawkins, SLGR, PPJGW(Surrey) and with the secretarial assistance of Irene Weston.

October 1999.



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Prepared and produced by W Bro M J Blythe SLGR

October 1999



THE FORMATION AND CONSECRATION OF THE LODGE

In the aftermath of the Second World War, the people of Britain heaved a collective sigh of relief and started to rebuild their lives and their society.

It was a period of economic hardship, exacerbated by the grip of the bitter winter of 1946-1947, during which there was often less food than during the war, and the country suffered under power and travel restrictions, unemployment and financial crisis.

The gloomy times were lightened by the marriage of Princess Elizabeth and Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, RN, on 20th November 1947, and by the birth of their son, Charles, a year later.

It was also a time of hope for the future of society, exemplified by legislation which created a universal education, health and social welfare system.

The mid to late forties were also a period of resurgence for Freemasonry.

Back in 1931, when Beneficentia Lodge had been consecrated, 20 London lodges came into being (from a total of 83 for the year).

In 1939, 60 lodges had been consecrated, 19 in London. However, during the period 1940-1943 only 13 London lodges came into existence.

From 1944 onward numbers climbed once more and over the period 1945-1948 an average of over 190 lodges per year were formed, over 30 per year in London.

It was against this background that members of the Beneficentia Lodge No.5308, from about April 1948, (building on the conception of W.Bro. Lloyd Dubery) set in motion a process culminating in the consecration of the Lodge of Mercy on Monday 23rd May 1949. The Lodge was to be one of 22 London lodges consecrated in that year, from an overall total of 143.

The petition to the Grand Master, the Duke of Devonshire, KG for the formation of the Lodge was signed by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Harold Reyes, and the Wardens of Beneficentia Lodge, on 13th November 1948.

Prior to this, a letter had been sent to the Grand Secretary setting out three reasons for seeking to found the Lodge, the first of which reflected the feeling of those times:

“That the genuine principles and tenets of the Craft may thereby be further promulgated as we believe that Freemasonry has a real and valuable contribution to make to the solution of mankind’s post-war troubles.

The considerable and rapid increase in the membership of the Beneficentia Lodge, No.5308, of which all but two of your petitioners are members. The membership is now 76 and there are several applicants awaiting Initiation.

We have many friends who have approached us with the desire of becoming Freemasons, but who, from the nature of their business or profession, are unable to attend a Saturday Lodge (as is the Beneficentia). In these circumstances it is felt that many good and suitable candidates may be lost to Freemasonry.”

It was proposed that should the petition be granted the Lodge would meet on Thursdays, at the Holborn Restaurant.

An interesting historical footnote is that the Petitioners originally proposed that the new Lodge be named ‘Lodge More Majorum’ (“Lodge after the manner of our ancestors”).

The Grand Secretary felt, however, that this name would not meet with approval and suggested that an alternative be considered. In 1961 a London Lodge ‘More Majorum’ was consecrated. At one point the name ‘The Lodge of the Four Freedoms’ was also considered.

The word ‘Beneficentia’ means ‘Beneficence’ or ‘Charity’, with which ‘Mercy’ is, of course, a closely associated precept in Freemasonry.

For an Initiate into this Lodge there is, therefore, some additional meaning to the words he hears about Charity, which “has the approbation of Heaven and earth, and like its sister, Mercy, blesses him who gives as well as him who receives.”

The report of the Consecration of the Lodge in the Freemasons' Chronicle of 24th September 1949 is prefaced by the following words:

“Held as a divine attribute and the highest conception of the true qualities of the human heart, the virtue of Mercy is so closely bound with the principles for which Freemasonry stands, of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, as to form indispensably one of its most integral parts.”

The successful Petitioners, who thus became the Founders of the Lodge of Mercy, were thirteen in number. Eleven were members of the Mother Lodge and four were Past Masters. Two had been Founders of Beneficentia Lodge.

Their details are shown on the following page:

Name	Year of Raising	Lodge Name/Office/ Occupation	Lodge Number
LV H Dubery	1932	Beneficentia/Past Master/ Civil Engineering Draughtsman	5308
R R Sidwell	1919	Hillingdon (Mddx)/Inner Guard/ Company Director	3174
W G Brown	1937	Beneficentia/Senior Deacon/ Civil Servant	5308
F E C Crumpton	1925	Sloane/Past Master/Butcher	4333
J Y Brown	1925	Sanitarian, Beneficentia/Founder and PastMaster/Cinematographer	3458 5308
F J Gemmell	1918	Albany (Surrey)/ Beneficentia/Founder and Past Master/Engineer	2652 5308
H Turner	1920	Royal and Loyal, Beneficentia/Junior Deacon/ Schoolmaster	2952 5308
H J Winfield	1935	Beneficentia/Senior Warden/ Works Manager	5308
E C Joselin	1937	Amicus, Beneficentia/Accountant	3772 5308
F E Turner	1938	Beneficentia/Organist/	5308
D W W Sealey	1940	Beneficentia/Steward/Engineer	5308
E F Cole	1943	Beneficentia/Steward/Engineer	5308
F W Swain	1944	Beneficentia/Chartered Secretary	5308

The Lodge was consecrated on Monday 23rd May 1949 at Freemasons' Hall by R.W.Bro. Sydney A White, MVO, PGW, Grand Secretary.

He was assisted by:

W.Bro. Brig. Arnold de L. Cazenove, CBE, DSO, MVO, PGD Senior Warden

W.Bro. George Dempster Hugh Jones, PAGReg Junior Warden

W.Bro. Gerald W Page, RN, PAGChaplain Chaplain

W.Bro. Cmdr Richard H Barrett, RN, DepGDC Director of Ceremonies

W.Bro. Major WE Grey, PAGSwdB Inner Guard

W.Bro. Major J E Peel, PGStB Grand Tyler

Ceremonial music was under the direction of W.Bro. G H H Townsend, PDepGOrganist, assisted by the Gothic Singers.

Also in attendance were the thirteen Founders, a Tyler and forty-eight guests making up a total of sixty-nine present.

Amongst the guests was R.W.Bro. RolfM Von Heidenstam, Grand Chancellor of the Grand Lodge of Sweden, a post corresponding to that of Pro Grand Master. Prior to the consecration an Oration was delivered by the Grand Chaplain. The oration is reproduced in an Appendix to this history.

Following the consecration of the Lodge, the Primus Master was Installed in the Chair of King Solomon and the Officers were appointed and invested.

The details, as they appear in the Summons, were as follows:

W.Bro. Lloyd V H Dubery	PM 5308		WM
W.Bro. F C Crumpton	PM 4333	(acting)	IPM
Bro. Roger Ryder Sidwell			SW
Bro. William George Brown			JW
W.Bro. H J Winfield	WM 5308		Chaplain
Bro. F Swain			Treasurer
W.Bro. J Y Brown	PM, PZ 5308		Secretary

W.Bro. F J Gemmell	PM, PZ 5308	DC
Bro. E C Joselin		SD
W.Bro. D W W Sealey		JD
W.Bro. Harold Turner		ADC
Bro. F E Turne		Organist
Bro. E F Cole		IG
W.Bro. R Newson, LGR		Tyler

The Freemasons' Chronicle records that the Primus Master's father, W.Bro. G Dubery, LGR, had been the Primus Master of Beneficentia, the sponsoring Lodge, and that during his year in Office he had Initiated his son into Freemasonry.

During the Second Rising proposal forms were read for the first four Initiates and for the first Joining Members.

The Brethren adjourned for dinner to the Connaught Rooms and the Lodge accounts record that the cost of the evening totalled the princely sum of £114.4s.6d (plus 11 guineas for cigars and cigarettes).

The Genealogy of the Lodge of Mercy

The consecration of the Lodge marked the birth of a new member into the family of Freemasonry and the Lodge can trace its family connections back to the earliest days of the Antients Grand Lodge founded in 1751.

Lodge of Mercy		No. 6821 (1949)
Sponsored by	Beneficentia Lodge	No. 5308 (1931)
Sponsored by	Anglo-Colonial Lodge	No. 3175 (1906)
	This Lodge sponsored nine Lodges in total, ranging from Kingswood School, No. 4197 (1920) to Seymour, No. 7624 (Middx) (1958) and including Standard, No. 6820 in 1949	
Sponsored by	St Martin's Lodge which sponsored four Lodges.	No. 2455 (1892)
Sponsored by	Strand Lodge which sponsored three Lodges	No. 1987 (1882)

Sponsored by Royal Savoy Lodge No. 1744 (1878)
which sponsored three Lodges

Sponsored by Domatic Lodge No. 177 (1786)
This Lodge was formerly on the roll of the Antients Grand
Lodge, and was recommended by Kent Lodge, No. 15
(1752), supported by Middlesex Lodge, No. 143 (1775),
both formerly of the Antients Grand Lodge.

The Domatic Lodge was sponsoring Lodge for a total of six Lodges, the earliest being Egyptian Lodge, No. 27 (1811) (Antients). The latest was Geomatic Lodge, No. 6214 (1945). This no doubt reflected the 1940's interest in Freemasonry; as the previous Lodge it had sponsored had been Viator Lodge, No. 2308 in 1889.

THE 1950's-
THE LODGE BECOMES FIRMLY ESTABLISHED

The first regular meeting of the Lodge was held at the Holborn Restaurant on 20th October 1949.

A ballot was held which resulted in the admission, as Joining Members, of the first members of the Lodge. They were Bros. Harry Triggle, J Cutmore, Cyril Scarfe and Percy Kemp, who were all members of Beneficentia Lodge.

The Lodge then admitted its first two Initiates: Bros. James Nall and Walter King.

At the Christmas meeting, 15th December 1949, Bros. Nall and King were Passed to the Second Degree and Bros. F B Treacher and F D Chapman were Initiated.

Thus the Lodge of Mercy entered the 1950's with a membership of twenty-one.

The Lodge quickly established itself and the 1950's represented a period of considerable expansion.

Between February 1950 and February 1960 forty-one Brethren were Initiated and there was one Joining Member; Bro. Leonard Carey of Elvetham Lodge, No. 4013 (Hants and I.O.W) who joined the Lodge in May 1950. Membership at the start of 1960 stood at fifty-two.

Those Initiated were:

February 1950	S L Fitzpatrick	February 1955	G Knight
	F J Townsend	October 1955	R Adams
October 1950	E E Viney	November 1955	S G Spracklan
	L E Harris	February 1956	B C Shorter
December 1950	G C Gibson	May 1956	E S a'Court
	A C Bullock	October 1956	J C Henderson
May 1951	W F Harrison	November 1956	R J Taylor
October 1951	D L Coombes	February 1957	R G Repton
December 1951	WT Brown		M V Dawes
February 1952	R W Pearson	October 1957	G A Riding
October 1952	F G Morrison		R F Gravett
November 1952	J A Buchanan	November 1957	E L Pardey

February 1953	T L Skinner	February 1958	H C Skam
	C S Lowe	October 1958	RE Hawke
October 1953	R K Matthews		H W Thompson
November 1953	A W Watkins	November 1958	R W Brace
February 1954	H W Morrison		G J Turner
May 1954	R E King	February 1959	W H Hill
October 1954	L Simpson	October 1959	J C Kinder
November 1954	J H Browne	November 1959	T A Baines
		February 1960	E L Dobson

Membership at the start of 1960 stood at fifty-two.

Of the Brethren entering the Lodge in those early years the following remain members to this day:

Bro. George Gibson, the ninth Initiate, is the earliest surviving member. He was made an Honorary Member on moving to Canada in 1955 and still keeps in touch on a regular basis. W.Bro. Don Coombes, PGStB, who lived in Majorca for many years, and returned to this country in 1997. Those worthy Brethren W.Bros. John Browne and Bertie Shorter, though nowadays Country Members, retain an active interest in the Lodge.

Given the large number of Initiates during the Fifties, double ceremonies and multiple Degrees were the rule rather than the exception.

A few examples are:

October 1951	An Initiation and a double Third.
February 1953	A double Initiation and a double Third on
October 1957	both occasions. The latter meeting had been preceded by an emergency meeting in September, at which a double Second and a double Third had been worked.
October 1958	A double Initiation and a double Second.

It was also not uncommon for a Degree to be worked on nights of Installation. This occurred on six out of ten occasions, with doubles being worked on three of them.

As might be expected, the contribution of the Founders was considerable during this period.

Founders occupied the Chair for the first six years and also in 1957.

The following Offices were also held by Founders during the 1950's:

W.Bro. L V H Dubery:	Almoner (He left the Lodge in 1957)	1951-1953
W.Bro. R R Sidwell:	Assistant Director of Ceremonies Assistant Secretary Secretary	1951-1954 1954-1957 1957-1960
W.Bro. W G Brown:	Assistant Secretary Chaplain	1952-1954 from 1958
W.Bro. FEC Crumpton:	Chaplain	1950-1955 1957-1958
W.Bro. J Y Brown:	Secretary He passed to the Grand Lodge Above whilst still in Office in April 1957. That the Lodge had come into being owed much to the efforts of this worthy Brother.	1949-1957
W.Bro. F J Gemmell:	Director of Ceremonies Chaplain	1949-1955 1955-1957
W.Bro. H Turner:	Assistant Director of Ceremonies He was the first member of the Lodge to pass to the Grand Lodge Above in May 1951. He was in the Chair of the Mother Lodge at the time.	1949-1951

W. Bro. H J Winfield:	Chaplain	1949-1950
	Almoner	1950-1951
	Assistant Secretary	1951-1952
	After this he emigrated to Canada.	
W.Bro. E C Joselin:	Treasurer	from 1953
W.Bro. F E Turner:	Organist	1949-1954
	(W M Beneficentia 1952-1953)	
	Assistant Director of Ceremonies	1954-1955
	Director of Ceremonies	1955-1960
	Secretary	from 1960
W.Bro. D W W Sealey:	Assistant Director of Ceremonies	1955-1960
	Director of Ceremonies	1960-1961
W.Bro. E F Cole:	Almoner	1958-1960
	Assistant Secretary	1960-1961
W.Bro. F W Swain:	Treasurer	1949-1952

The following matters of note relating to the first ten years of the Lodge's existence have been extracted from the Lodge records:

The Grand Master died in November 1950, and the Minutes of 21st December record that "The Brethren stood to order in memory of the late Grand Master M.W.Bro. The Duke of Devonshire, KG."

King George VI died in February 1952 and the Minutes of 21st February record that "The Lodge was Opened and the Brethren stood to order in silent reverence to the memory of his late Majesty King George VI, PGM."

It is an important and long standing tradition of the Lodge that every Candidate takes his three Obligations on a particular copy of the VSL, reserved for him alone; and on completion of his third Degree he is presented with this Bible to the accompaniment of suitable words from the Chaplain. This ceremony was introduced into the Lodge in October 1952.

On 16th October 1952, during the Mastership of W.Bro. E C Joselin, it is recorded that the following took place:

“The WM kindly vacated the Chair in favour of W.Bros. L Dubery, R Sidwell and W G Brown (the first three WMs) to enable them to present Masonic Bibles to Bros. King, Treacher, Viney, Harris, Bullock, Harrison and Coombes.” The last two Brethren had that day been Raised to the Degree of a Master Mason. Thus a tradition was born.

The Lodge met and dined at the Holborn Restaurant, WC1 from its first regular meeting on 20th October 1949 up until May 1954. Meetings were held on the third Thursday in May (Installation), October, December and February.

The location changed to the Shaftesbury Hotel, Monmouth Street, WC2 from 7th October 1954. This was the twenty-first meeting of the Lodge, and the first working meeting of the WM for that year, W.Bro. Ernie Cole.

Meetings were held on the first Thursday in May (Installation), October, November and February until 7th February 1957, at which meeting Bro. Ronnie Hepton was Initiated, to become the fiftieth member.

From May 1957 the Lodge met and dined at the Mostyn Hotel, Portman Street, W1. This arrangement continued until May 1964. The dates of the meetings remained unchanged.

Joining member Bro. L C Carey passed to the Grand Lodge Above in May 1956.

The meeting of 3rd October 1957, under the Mastership of W.Bro. F W Swain, was a very important occasion in the annals of the Lodge, for it is recorded that:

“The Banner of the Lodge was dedicated in a very impressive manner by the Rev. Prebendary and V.W.Bro. F W Ferraro, PGChaplain”.

Such was the level of the Lodge activity at that time, that this dedication took place between the Initiation of Bros. Robert Gravett and George Riding, and the Charge after Initiation. Then followed the Raising of Bros. R J Taylor and R G Repton by W.Bro. F E Turner.

In May 1958 the Lodge’s second Initiate became the first Initiate to be Installed into the Chair - Bro. W S King.

In January 1959 W.Bro. PC Kemp, one of the first Joining Members and WM in 1955, passed to the Grand Lodge Above.

In February 1959 a motion was carried that the WM of the Mother Lodge, No.5308, be invited as a guest of the Lodge during his year of Office. Thus commenced a tradition which continues to the present day.

In the first two years of the Lodge's existence membership fees were 90/- p.a. By 1960 this had crept up to £7. and visitors dining fees were£1.5.0. Initiation fees during this period were £21.

The history of the Lodge is in many respects encapsulated in the equipment and furniture which is utilised at every meeting.

An important tradition is that every Past Master's Collar Jewel has engraved on it the name and date of Mastership of the recipient.

Some Jewels now have three or four names, and several PM's proudly wear a Collar and Jewel presented originally to a Founder of the Lodge at the end of his year of Office.

The Past Master's Breast Jewels bear the illustration of St Martin sharing his cloak with the poor man. For some years each jewel bore the sequential number of the Master in Latin. In later years the jewels have been represented with the name of the recipient engraved on the reverse.

Many items used in the Lodge were presented in the early days by Brethren or their Ladies.

A sense of the history of the Lodge may be gained by considering the following items presented during the first three years:

October 1949	Two EA and two FC aprons	Mrs R R Sidwell
February 1950	Set of working tools	Bro. R R Sidwell
	Case for working tools	W.Bro. H J Winfield
October 1950	Three gavels (Hon. Member)	W.Bro. J Hayles
December 1950	Garter blue velvet cushion for WM pedestal.	Mrs W G Brown

May 1951	Bible for WM pedestal	Mrs E C Joselin
	Charity collection box	Mrs L E Harris
	Level and plumb rule for Wardens' pedestals	Bro. L C Carey
	EA and FC aprons	Bro. E E Viney
	Lodge storage box	W.Bro. H J Winfield
October 1951	Silver plated square and compasses for VSL	Bro. PC Kemp
	Oak and gilt metal columns	W.Bro. W G Brown & Bro. D W Sealey
February 1952	Ballot box	Bro. F J Townsend
	Poignard	Mrs PC Kemp

The most visible and impressive item is the Lodge Banner. This is described below, but is preceded by a short lecture, which, by tradition, was read out and presented to each Initiate into the Lodge.

OUR NAME AND OUR CREST

The name "MERCY" was chosen after a great deal of thought partly as a mark of appreciation to the Past Masters, Officers and Brethren of the "BENEFICENTIA LODGE, No. 5308" for their kindness in sponsoring our petition to Grand Lodge and partly because we think it an expressive name indicative of the very essence of our institution. It is the first time in the annals of the United Grand Lodge of England, so we are told, that this name has been applied for. So, to those who helped us in this choice we offer our thanks.

The crest is a representation of St. Martin of Tours, here depicted giving half of his cloak to a poor man he met outside the gates of AMIENS.

St Martin was born in AD 316 in Sabaria, now Szombathely in Hungary. His parents were heathens (not unusual in those days) and, his father being a

military tribune, he was forced, much against his wishes, to become a soldier at the very early age of sixteen. Escaping from the influence of his father he received his education from a Christian church and consequently his life as a soldier was marked with the rigour of a monk. Records say he served under Constantius (son of Constantine the Great) and also Julian (Flavius Claudius Julianus, Roman Emperor) and was serving with the latter when he conquered the Germans in Gaul, the final battle being at Argentoratum, now Strasburg. During this period he appeared to be the model of all virtue and the famous incident of sharing his cloak with a beggar occurred during this campaign.

Legend says that on the evening following the day of this act of mercy, Christ appeared to him covered with this half of the cloak and the vision was the cause of him being baptised in AD 337, at the age of 21.

He was then released from military service, spent many years in retirement, after which he returned to his birthplace, converted his mother and opposed with zeal the Arians. For the latter he was scourged the country but manifested the firmness of a martyr.

He then established a monastery in Milan but found himself again exposed to persecution and took refuge on the island of Gallinaria.

He next settled in Poitiers where he is said to have wrought many miracles and in AD 372 was appointed, against his will, to the Bishopric of Tours.

To withdraw from the world he built the famous abbey of Marmoutiers on the Loire, considered to be the oldest abbey in France.

Noted for his piety, he was always ready to endeavour to do good in the world in a quiet and modest way, without thought of personal reward.

St. Martin died about AD 397 and his festival takes place on the 11th November. This is still one of the legal terms in Scotland and is the date on which it was decided to end the most terrible and bloodiest of all wars -November 11th, 1918 - a deed of mercy for all concerned when we remember that in one day during that war there fell on the field of battle upward of 60,000 men.

The Lodge Banner bears at its head the name and number of the Lodge, to the left of which are the Square and Compasses, with the pentagram to the right. The main panel depicts St Martin sharing his cloak with the poor man, with the gates of the City of Amiens in the background.

This illustration is surmounted by a further square and compasses. It is enclosed by the two great pillars which are surmounted by the terrestrial and celestial globes, pointing out Masonry universal.

The pillars bear the names of the Founders of the Lodge.

The pillars and central panel rest on the black and white or chequered pavement of the Lodge, on which also are depicted the open volume of the sacred law, on either side of which are the rough and smooth ashlar with their associated plumb rule (left) and level (right). Also shown is the date of Consecration of the Lodge.

A possible interpretation of the layout is that the view depicted is from the Master's Chair in the East, through the pillars which are sometimes placed at the entrance to a Lodge, to the outside world where St. Martin is seen engaged in his act of mercy.

At the foot of the Banner is the following inscription "Presented in memory of W.Bro. J Y Brown, Founding Secretary" The Banner was dedicated in October 1957 and W.Bro. Brown had passed to the Grand Lodge Above in the April of that year, whilst still in Office.

Down each side of the Banner, and on additional side panels, are the names and dates of the first fifty Masters of the Lodge.

Additional Notes.

St Martin was the first to be sanctified without having suffered martyrdom. He was, in medieval times, regarded as the patron saint of drinking and jovial meetings. It is not known whether the Founders of the Lodge were aware of this.

The Arians were a heretical sect named after Arius of Alexandria (280 -336 AD).

**THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS. A PERIOD OF MATURITY
AND STRENGTH II (1960-1980)**

During this period the Lodge grew to its maximum membership and it gained the confidence which would enable it to meet with maturity and equanimity the more difficult times which were to come.

Some defining characteristics of the Lodge, which emerged during this period, are dealt with in the next chapter.

The Lodge membership stood at fifty-two in May 1960 and at fifty-six twenty years later. It reached a maximum membership of sixty-seven for both 1971 and 1974.

Over the period 1960-1980 the Lodge welcomed fifty Initiates and six Joining Members. The deaths of twenty-four members were recorded.

By 1980 a total of thirty-four members had unfortunately left the Lodge since its Consecration.

Those initiated were:

November	1960	H Jarvis	March	1968	G C Law
		G H Chapman	October	1968	E Lawford
October	1961	H C Simpson	January	1969	G F M Hawkins
		J P Squire	October	1969	J L Moloney
November	1961	R Brightman	January	1970	E H Warrell
		M L Mathams	March	1970	E W P Haworth
February	1962	D E Blank	March	1971	F T Vaisey
October	1962	A E Newman	October	1971	R S Phelps
November	1962	D G Turner	January	1972	A J Buchanan
		R T Trill	February	1972	W Bass
February	1963	W C Creamer	November	1972	A A Duggan
October	1963	E Waite	January	1973	F J Aldridge
November	1963	E E Walker	February	1973	R Edwards
February	1964	A J Bull	November	1973	M Halyburton
October	1964	G S Browne	February	1974	J F Warner
November	1964	C E Kemish	November	1974	A J Callister
January	1965	J W Dacey	February	1976	RWJ Davies

October	1965	D A Taylor	December	1976	L Townsend
January	1966	W H Andrews	April	1977	K R Mitchell
March	1966	L A Warrell	December	1977	TRB Matthew
October	1966	E J Rowe	February	1978	R L S Harris
January	1967	A J E Wilkins	April	1978	J F Dennard
March	1967	A A Anderson	October	1978	M J Blythe
October	1967	C E Bastin	December	1979	I Lanz
January	1968	RW Grn'wood	February	1980	M Moss

Joining Members were:

May	1961	Bro. J M Sayer of Guelph Lodge, No.1685
February	1973	W.Bro. G T H Morrison of Beneficentia Lodge, No. 5308
November	1973	Bro. L F Bowyer of Hornchurch Lodge, No. 5790 (Essex)
January	1974	Bro. J H Callister of Coupar O'Fife Lodge, No. 19 (SC)
November	1974	W.Bro. E W Petty of Earl Spencer Lodge, No. 1420
February	1978	Bro. REV Brown of Scotia Lodge, No. 1323 (SC)

During the period 1960-1980 the deaths of six of our Founders were recorded, as were those of the following Past Masters of and in the Lodge.

July	1965	W F Harrison
June	1971	J A Buchanan
January	1972	J C Henderson
April	1973	W S King, who had entered Freemasonry at the Lodge's first Initiation in October 1949 and had been the first Initiate to be Installed as Master.
January	1976	J C Scarfe
March	1978	W T Brown
September	1978	G T H Morrison
February	1979	E E Viney

The following Brethren also passed away:

March	1963	G Knight	June	1971	G A Riding
October	1966	F J Townsend	Oct	1971	R K Matthews
January	1967	G H Chapman	Dec	1971	E L Dobson
June	1967	F D Chapman	Aug	1974	A J Wilkins
December	1969	E Waite	June	1978	H W Thompson

The on-going contribution of the remaining Founders to the life and work of the Lodge is as follows:

- R R Sidwell He had been the second Master of the Lodge, and it's second Secretary. He died in December 1968.
- W G Brown ,He was Chaplain from May 1958 to May 1965 and died in January 1981. The Minutes of the February 1981 meeting record that "W.Bro. D L Coombes, LGR and W.Bro. L E Harris, PGStB paid tribute to W.Bro. Billy Brown, who was a Founder member of the Lodge and the first Junior Warden." Along with W.Bro. Charles Joselin he was the first member of the Lodge to be awarded LGR, in 1961.
- FEC Crumpton Died in May 1971
- F J Gemmell In February 1964 a proposition was carried that he "be made an Honorary Member of the Lodge in view of his sad incapacity and his outstanding work for this Lodge". He died in January 1965.
- H J Winfield Died in September 1972
- E C Joselin On vacating the Chair of the Lodge, he became Treasurer in 1953. He died in 1966 whilst still in Office. In a tribute it was noted that to him "The Lodge owes much of its tradition and dignity.". Along with W.Bro. Billy Brown he was the first member of the Lodge to be awarded LGR in 1961.
- F E Turner This most worthy and much loved Founder member of the Lodge continued to take Office as actively from 1960 as he had in the previous decade. He was Secretary from 1960-1969, Assistant Secretary from 1969-1972, Director of Ceremonies, for the second time, from 1975-1976, Organist from 1974-1975 and 1977-1979. He became first Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction when it was established in 1968, and held this office for three years. He last attended the Lodge on 20th May 1982 which was his eighty-fourth birthday and he witnessed W.Bro. John Warrell install his successor, W.Bro. Les Bowyer, into the Master's chair. He passed away on 19th June 1982.

He never held the Master's Chair of the Lodge of Mercy, but as multiple ceremonies were so common for a considerable period of the Lodge's history, he was on very many occasions offered the Master's chair to conduct a degree. He had been Master of Beneficentia Lodge 1952-1953 and was honoured with LGR in 1963.

D W W Sealey Director of Ceremonies 1960-1961 Died January 1965. It is recorded that at the Lodge meeting on the day of his death, W.Bro. Charles Joselin "spoke of the many services W.Bro. Sealey had rendered and revealed that the Banner of the Lodge had been presented by W.Bro. Sealey." It was later agreed that this fact should be inscribed onto the Lodge Banner. When the Banner was dedicated in October 1957 it had been presented anonymously.

E F Cole This highly revered and active Founder continued his many contributions to the Lodge's affairs throughout the 1960's and 1970's. He was Director of Ceremonies 1961-1962 and 1966-1969, Treasurer for a period in 1966, Secretary 1969-1976, Assistant Secretary 1976-1977 and Chaplain 1986-1987. He became the Lodge's first Grand Officer in 1971. At the Installation meeting in May 1984 it is recorded that W.Bro. D L Coombes, PGStB, presented W.Bro. E F Cole, PGStB, the sole surviving Founder of the Lodge with a Silver Salver subscribed to by Members of the Lodge, in recognition of his untiring efforts for the good of Freemasonry in general and of this Lodge in particular during the past thirty-five years."Although W.Bro. Ernie unfortunately resigned from the Lodge in December 1989, the members kept in regular touch with him until his sad death on 27th February 1994 at the age of eighty-two. His dedication to the Lodge of Mercy over forty years is not forgotten, neither is his guidance and advice, given kindly and generously to individual Brethren, and memorably and individualistically in Open Lodge.

F W Swain, Remained a member of the Lodge until April 1975. Contact has recently been regained with him through his son, W.Bro. Grahame.

The following items of interest relating to the 1960's and 1970's have been extracted from the Lodge records.

In 1961 the Lodge's first London Grand Rank honours were awarded to two of the Founders, W.Bros. Billy Brown and Charles Joselin. In November of that year, Bro. R Brightman became the Fiftieth Initiate.

In October 1963 a Tyler's sword was presented anonymously to the Lodge by a Brother. "In appreciation of the kindness and friendship which had been extended to him by its Members."

In June 1967 HRH the Duke of Kent was installed as Grand Master.

On 16th October 1969 the Brethren stood to order in token of respect to the memory of the late Rt. Hon. the Earl of Scarborough, Pro Grand Master (Grand Master 1951-1967).

In 1970 W.Bro. Len Harris became the first Initiate of the Lodge to be awarded London Grand Rank and in 1971 W.Bro. Ernie Cole became the first Grand Officer.

In November 1972 Bro. A A Duggan was Initiated to become the One Hundredth Member of the Lodge.

The Lodge celebrated its Twenty-fifth anniversary on 2nd May 1974. This was at a time when the membership (at sixty-seven) was at its highest. On that day forty-one members and thirty-one guests attended. This figure of seventy-two is the highest attendance achieved in the Lodge, and equalled that of the Installation meeting in May 1964.

At this meeting, Grand Lodge Certificates were presented to Bros. J H Callister, F J Aldridge and R Edwards by W.Bro. E F Cole, and W.Bro. C S Lowe Installed his successor, Bro. J C Kinder, into the Master's Chair.

It is noted that at this time the Lodge subscription was £10.50 per annum, the visitor's dining fee was £1.75 and the Initiation fee was £31.50.

The Lodge continued to meet and dine at the Mostyn Hotel until 1964. From October of that year the venue was changed to the Throgmorton Temple, Throgmorton Street, EC2. and the meeting dates became: 1st Thursday in May (Installation), 3rd Thursday in October, 1st Thursday in January and March.

This arrangement continued until October 1971, at which time the location changed to the Tower Room, Tower Place, Tower Hill, EC3. The meeting dates became 1st Thursday in May (Installation), 4th Tuesday in November, 2nd Thursday in January and 4th Thursday in February.

From the Installation meeting in May 1975 the Lodge met at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, WC2 where it has continued to meet ever since. The Lodge therefore celebrates at the Golden Jubilee Installation meeting twenty four years of meeting at the home of Freemasonry.

The meeting dates became 3rd Thursday in May (Installation) and 2nd Thursday in December, February and April. From October 1978 the meeting dates were changed once more to those which still apply today, i.e. 3rd Thursdays in May (Installation) and October, 2nd Thursdays in December and February.

On moving to Freemasons' Hall, the Lodge dined at the Connaught Rooms. However, the Minutes of 12th February 1976 record that "in view of a disastrous fire at the Connaught Rooms on 5th February 1976 the Brethren would dine at the Whitehall Hotel, Bloomsbury Square". The Lodge continued to dine there until October 1980. Dining then returned to the Connaught Rooms for a short period, until a new venue came into use in October 1981.

SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LODGE

Lodge of Instruction - 1968-1987

At the Lodge meeting on Thursday, 7th March 1968 the following propositions were carried unanimously.

W.Bro. F E Turner (Secretary) proposed and W.Bro. L E Harris (Treasurer) seconded that “This Lodge sponsors our own Lodge of Instruction to be held on Mondays at the Magpie and Stump”.

W.Bro. Harris proposed and W.Bro. D L Coombes seconded that “W.Bro. Turner be appointed the Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction”.

The Magpie and Stump, 18, Old Bailey, EC4 stood opposite the Central Criminal Court, which is overlooked from the upstairs room which became the home of the Lodge of Instruction. It is said that from the upstairs rooms of this Inn in its previous incarnation diners were able to enjoy a close-up view of the public hangings which took place in front of Newgate Prison until 1867. No doubt the members of the Lodge of Mercy, Lodge of Instruction were able to take some comfort from the fact that their experience at the hands of the Preceptor was a little less gruesome.

Unfortunately, this establishment no longer exists in the form known to the Brethren as the site was redeveloped some years ago. The first three meetings were in the form of a ‘Club of Instruction’, but it was possible to use the designation “Lodge of Instruction” from the fourth meeting on 11th March 1968.

The first meeting was held on Monday 19th February 1968 and was of an administrative nature. The attendance was as follows:

WM	W. Bro. J H Browne	SD	Bro. J C Henderson
SW	Bro. H G J Trigg	JD	Bro. G S Browne
JW	Bro. B C Shorter	IG	Bro. L A Warrell

Also present W.Bros. E F Cole, L E Harris and T L Skinner.

Amongst other points it was recorded that the room rental would be £1 per week and a weekly fee of 2/- would be charged per member.

The second, and first working meeting, was held on Monday, 26th February 1968. The attendance was as follows:

WM	W.Bro. J H Browne	JD	Bro. L A Warrell
SW	Bro. H G J Triggle	IG	Bro. G C Riding
JW	Bro. G S Browne	IPM	W.Bro. T L Skinner
SD	Bro. J C Henderson		
	Acting Treasurer		W.Bro. E F Cole
	Acting Secretary		W.Bro. L E Harris

Also present were W.Bro. W S King and two visiting Brethren from Beneficentia Lodge, Bros. S Skilton and G Morrison.

The ceremony for rehearsal was that of Raising, for which W.Bro. Len Harris occupied the Master's Chair.

From the outset it was policy for the Lodge of Instruction to meet on as many Mondays as possible throughout the year, with no summer break being taken.

The Lodge of Instruction met most successfully and happily at the Magpie and Stump for just over thirteen years, the last meeting at that location being on 6th April 1981. For a period of six weeks, December 1979 to February 1980 meetings were held at The George, Old Bailey.

A total of five hundred and ninety-three meetings were held, averaging nearly forty-six per year. Attendance was normally ten to thirteen, though about four times per year on average it reached fifteen or more members.

If the Lodge of Mercy has a strong belief in high quality ritual, supported by an active social programme and strong friendships amongst the Brethren and their families it stems particularly from the Magpie and Stump years.

The motto of the Lodge of Instruction at that time could have been "to work hard and to play hard."

For a few weeks the Lodge of Instruction then met at the Leysian Building, City Road, EC1 using office accommodation kindly provided by Bro. Keith Mitchell.

After five meetings it moved to a new home at The Ring, Blackfriars Road, SE1 where the five hundred and ninety-eighth meeting (minuted as the five hundred

and ninety-seventh) was held on 22nd June 1981.

This daring move South of the river proved successful and the Lodge of Instruction met there until December 1985, a period of four and a half years. A total of one hundred and eighty-three meetings were held at The Ring, an average of forty meetings per year.

The problems of the 1980's are described in the next chapter of this history. Needless to say there was an impact on the Lodge of Instruction. Concern was expressed on several occasions regarding falling attendance and it proved impossible for the Lodge of Instruction to remain financially viable without some support from the Lodge's General Fund.

From January to May 1986 the Lodge of Instruction found itself back at the Leysian Building, once again under the kind auspices of W.Bro. Keith Mitchell. After fifteen meetings it moved to a new, and what was to prove a final venue.

On 19th May 1986, the eighteenth Annual General Meeting of the Lodge of Instruction was held at the George and Vulture, Pitfield Street, EC1, with W.Bro. E W Petty in the Chair.

The Lodge of Instruction met on twenty-two occasions at this location over the next year, and the members were always made welcome by the Manager and his wife who had previously looked after them at the Ring, their good friends Frank and Anne Quinlivan.

At the final and eight hundred and eighteenth meeting on Monday, 18th May 1987 the following were present:

WM	W.Bro. Ted Petty	Preceptor	W.Bro. Bill Andrews
SW	Bro. Mike Blythe	JW	Bro. Eddie Farenden
SD	Bro. Charles Stewart	JD	W.Bro. Les Warrell
IG	W.Bro. Bob Baker		
	Act Treasurer		W.Bro. Les Warrell
	Secretary		W.Bro. Gordon Hawkins

(W.Bro. Bob Baker was a joining member of the Lodge of Instruction from Huguenot Lodge, No. 2140 and supported its activities enthusiastically for some ten years.)

At this time, after nineteen years, it finally came to be recognised that there were few lay Brethren for whom it was feasible to attend a Lodge of Instruction in London. Nevertheless, the “Club of Instruction” format was reverted to and this continued to meet under the dedicated leadership of the elected Preceptor, W.Bro. Bill Andrews, as often as was practicable over the next two years. The sheer logistical difficulties of continuing were recognised in mid-1989, but the value of those last two years was not lost on at least two Brethren, Bros. Mike Blythe and Eddie Farenden, who had gained the advantage of some expert personal tuition from W.Bro. Bill.

The Lodge of Instruction assembled a fine set of equipment for use in rehearsals, along with a splendid storage box. This was largely a result of the generosity of a number of Brethren.

These are some examples taken from the Lodge of Instruction records:

It was recorded in the Minutes of the first meeting that “Certain tools and furniture were donated for the purpose of the meetings of a Club or Lodge of Instruction by Bros. B C Shorter and G S Browne and these were thankfully received.”

In February 1969 a vote of thanks was recorded to “W.Bro. King for the gift of two aprons and the gift of Columns from Bro. Tim Browne.”

In January 1970 “W.Bro. E F Cole brought for the use of the Lodge of Instruction the PM Collar of the late W.Bro. Sealey. Delight in receiving this was expressed by W.Bro. Len Harris and agreed by all.”

The box of equipment is now stored at Guildford Masonic Centre and is in the safe keeping of the Lodge of Instruction of Worplesdon Lodge No. 9076 (Surrey), a number of members of which are members of the Lodge of Mercy.

The great success of the Lodge of Instruction was a result of the skill and dedication of its Preceptors, aided by those Brethren appointed to support them:

Preceptor

W.Bro. F E Turner	1968-1971
W.Bro. L E Harris	1971-1978
W.Bro. G S Browne	1978-1986

W.Bro. W H Andrews 1986-1989

Deputy Preceptor

W.Bro. L E Harris 1968-1971
W.Bro. E F Cole 1971-1973
W.Bro. F E Turner 1973-1976
W.Bro. G S Browne 1976-1978
W.Bro. W H Andrews 1978-1986
W.Bro. J F Warner 1986-1987

Secretary

W.Bro. E F Cole 1968-1969
W.Bro. D L Coombes 1969-1981
W.Bro. G F M Hawkins 1981-1987

Treasurer

W.Bro. E F Cole 1968-1969
W.Bro. D L Coombes 1969-1972
W.Bro. T Skinner 1972-1976
W.Bro. H G J Triggles 1976-1979
W.Bro. L A Warrell 1979-1984
W.Bro. L F Bowyer 1984-1987

The influence of the “Lodge of Instruction years” is felt in Lodge meetings even to this day, twelve years after the last formal meeting.

It may be summarised as a continual striving to achieve an accurate, and above all, sincere presentation of the Emulation ritual accompanied by a simple ceremonial in accordance with the rubric of that working. And to conduct the work with the consideration of the Candidate as paramount, in an overall spirit of enjoyment.

Social Activities

The Lodge of Instruction became the focal point for a number of social activities. The most enduring of these has been the annual Lodge of Instruction Supper.

The first record of such an event is in 1968, when on 18th November of that year, after a short formal meeting (at the Magpie & Stump), a meal was enjoyed by the twenty-two members and six visitors who attended.

This format continued for a further five years, but on 12th September 1974 a separate social evening was held (at the Tower Restaurant) to include Ladies and guests. Although there was little formality, a Brother was invited to be President for the evening.

The Supper has been held in the same format in September every year since that time. As well as being a major Lodge social event, the traditional raffle which forms part of the evening has ensured that the Supper has become an important source of fund raising for Masonic Charity. To be invited to be President for the evening is regarded as a signal honour.

The Lodge of Instruction Supper continued to be held at the Tower Restaurant until it ceased operation in 1989. The venue then moved to Parkers Restaurant in Holborn for a period seven years after which it moved to the more prestigious and indeed interesting surroundings of the Officers Mess of the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Regiment, where the Lodge of Mercy itself has dined since 1981.

Participants in Lodge of Instruction Supper

Year	President of Evening	Grace	Speech to L. of I.	Presentation to President's Lady
1974	H C Skam	E F Cole	L E Harris	J W Dacey
1975	H W Thompson	B C Shorter	E F Cole	LA Warrell
1976	FE Turner	B C Shorter	G S Browne	J F Warner
1977	E F Cole	B C Shorter	L E Harris	L Townsend
1978	B C Shorter	B C Shorter	W H Andrews	J F Warner
1979	H G J Triggles	B C Shorter	LA Warrell	J F Dennard
1980	E W Petty	E W Petty	W H Andrews	M J Blythe
1981	AA Duggan	B C Shorter	L Bowyer	M J Blythe
1982	J H Callister	B C Shorter	G S Browne	M J Blythe
1983	J H Browne	B C Shorter	E F Cole	L Townsend
1984	R G Baker	R G Baker	G F M Hawkins	K R Mitchell
1985	D A Taylor	E F Cole	L A Warrell	A J Callister
1986	G S Browne	E F Cole	W H Andrews	K R Mitchell
1987	E Lawford	J H Browne	G F M Hawkins	L A Warrell
1988	W Andrews	J H Browne	G S Browne	M J Blythe
1989	L A Warrell	E H Warrell	LA Warrell	A J Callister
1990	G F M Hawkins	G F M Hawkins		
1991	J F Warner	E W Petty		G F M Hawkins
1992	J H Browne	E W Petty		G F M Hawkins
1993	E W Petty	E W Petty		
1994	R W Davies	E W Petty		J F Warner
1995	T G Lawrence *			L A Warrell
1996	A J Callister	E W Petty		J F Warner
1997	K R Mitchell			
1998	M J Blythe	M J Blythe		G F M Hawkins
1999	L Townsend	L Townsend		W H Andrews

* W.Bro. Tom Lawrence is not a member of the Lodge of Mercy but of the Lodge of Air Unity, No. 7445, and is not only a frequent visitor at the regular meetings of the Lodge but, with his wife Dorothy, had attended every Lodge of Instruction Supper since 1974.

Another most enjoyable and rewarding event which came into being under the auspices of the Lodge of Instruction was the annual family outing to Hove. The purpose of this event was to have a pleasant family day out along with as many widows of the Lodge as was possible. The event was formalised under the

sponsorship of the Master for the year, supported by the Almoner and planned at the Lodge of Instruction.

The first outing was on 5th September 1976. Lunch was taken at the King Alfred Restaurant, Hove and later on the party was invited to tea with Bro. Bertie and Mrs Dot Skam. Five of the Lodge widows attended.

This outing became a regular September event and the Skam's hospitality was enjoyed and appreciated for several years. After some years of failing health the Skams moved to a retirement bungalow at Denham in 1986 and Bro. Bertie sadly passed away in September 1987.

The following extract from the Lodge Minutes for October 1983 provides some insight into this annual event:

“The Almoner, W.Bro. G S Browne, together with W.Bro. E F Cole, W.Bro. W H Andrews, W.Bro. L A Warrell, W.Bro. G F M Hawkins, W.Bro. L F Bowyer, Bro. M J Blythe and their Ladies entertained to lunch and tea in Brighton, the following widows of past members of the Lodge on Sunday 11th September 1983: Mrs Ceinwen Sealey, Mrs Irene Joselin, Mrs Eleanor Harrison, Mrs Chris Riding, Mrs Lily Buchanan, Mrs Gerda Wilkins and Mrs Florrie Saunders. It was a most enjoyable occasion and the Ladies send their greetings and thanks. The Brethren who provided transport and acted as hosts are also thanked.”

The family outing took place for twelve years. In the last two years, lunch was taken at the St Catherines Lodge Hotel in Hove.

The last outing was on 20th September 1987. Thereafter it unfortunately became logistically too difficult to continue, given the wide area over which the Brethren and the widows of the Lodge were by that time living.

Another important event which took place in June for the five years 1982-1986 was the “FE Turner Memorial Evening.”

A supper evening was held at The Ring Public House (the current Lodge of Instruction venue) on 28th June 1982 for members of the Lodge of Instruction and their Masonic guests. The purpose was to raise money to help finance the annual family outing for the widows.

That esteemed Brother, Freddie Turner, had passed away on 19th June. It was therefore decided to formalise the evening, under the title given above, in memory of this worthy Founder, First Preceptor and great supporter of the Lodge. The regular format became to conduct a short meeting of Masonic interest followed by a sausage and mash supper. At each meeting the Brethren would stand in silence in memory of W.Bro. Freddie. Considerable financial support was raised for the family outings. The last such meeting took place at the George and Vulture Public House on 26th June 1986.

The following tribute has been paid by W.Bro. Tim Browne; ‘Freddie’s light of sincerity and adherence to the finest Masonic principles was screened by his bushel of genuine modesty. He was always “meek, humble and resigned,” a living lesson for all who had eyes to penetrate the screen. It seemed that sausage and mash was the ideal food medium through which to project his memory; one of the basic things we all enjoy, the more so, as our palates become attuned to a more sophisticated diet and we enjoy a return to wholesome reality.’

The Wyvern Lodge, No. 8620, was consecrated in 1974 in the Province of Wiltshire. A Founder member of this Lodge was W.Bro. John Browne, blood brother of W.Bro. Tim Browne. During W.Bro. Tim’s time as Preceptor of the Lodge of Mercy Lodge of Instruction the idea was born for a competition between the two Lodges of Instruction. Accordingly, such an event took place at the Warminster Masonic Hall on 14th November 1980. Thus commenced a great bond of friendship between Wyvern and Mercy. The regular plan became for the Brethren to meet in friendly competition on the Friday before the Wyvern Ladies’ Festival, whilst the Ladies amused themselves elsewhere. Everyone would meet up on the Saturday evening and then continue to socialise on the following day.

The competition trophy was a ‘yard of ale’ and witnesses exist to confirm that this has been used in anger. It remains in the safe keeping of Wyvern Lodge and is to be found in a glass case in the dining room at the Masonic Temple in Warminster.

Even after the Lodge of Mercy Lodge of Instruction years the friendship between the members of these two Lodges and their families continued. In 1990 the Brethren of the Lodge of Mercy were pleased to present wine goblets to the Worshipful Master and Wardens of Wyvern Lodge in recognition of ten years of fellowship. Every year Brethren from Wyvern and Mercy attend each other’s Installation meetings and, with their Ladies, each other’s Ladies’ Festivals.

The Brethren of the Lodge of Mercy appreciate very deeply the hospitality, friendship and brotherhood they have experienced at Warminster over many years.

The 1980's proved to be a great decade for social events for the Lodge. Apart from what has been described above there were many family outings to such venues as Kenwood House and Kneller Hall for the open air concerts, Old Warden Aerodrome, Greenwich and the Players Theatre near Charing Cross. In addition, social and fund raising events took place at the homes of various Brethren.

Ladies Festivals

A function of great importance in the social calendar of every Lodge is the Worshipful Master's Ladies' Festival. Because Ladies' Festivals are not part of the ordinary business of the Lodge detailed information is less easy to find. It is known that early venues used by the Lodge of Mercy included The Gore Restaurant in Kensington, Peter Jones in Sloane Square and Bush House.

In November 1966, W.Bro. Tom Skinner held his Ladies' Festival in the Byron Suite at the John Lewis store in Oxford Street, as did W.Bro. John Browne a year later. In January 1969 W.Bro. Harry Triggles' Ladies' Festival was held at the Rembrandt Hotel and in February the following year W.Bro. Bertie Shorter presided in the Penthouse Suite at Barkers department store in Kensington.

In November 1970, 1971 and 1972 the Ladies' Festival took place at the Russell Hotel (W.Bros. John Henderson, Roy King and Ronnie Hepton). In November 1973 W.Bro. Cyril Lowe decided to move from the traditional Saturday night to Thursday night and the venue was the Park Lane Hotel in Piccadilly.

In 1975 W.Bro. John Kinder held his Ladies' Festival at the Connaught Rooms in February and the Ladies' Festival has continued to be held in February since that time. The fire at the Connaught Rooms in February 1976 necessitated a hurried move to the Intercontinental Hotel for W.Bro. Tim Browne's Ladies' Festival. In the following year W.Bro. Bill Andrews hosted the function at the Kensington Close Hotel and it was held there for eleven years until February 1987.

By that time, the event was becoming increasingly difficult to organise in

London, as escalating costs and increasing travel difficulties took their toll. The Master for the following year therefore decided to take advantage of the Masonic weekends in Bournemouth which were at that time becoming increasingly popular. However, the Brethren and their Ladies looked back with satisfaction on some excellent occasions in London, and traditions such as inviting the Widows of the Lodge and also nurses from the Royal Masonic Hospital are fondly remembered.

W.Bro. Lawrie Townsend held his Ladies' Festival at the Durlston Court Hotel in Bournemouth in February 1988 and it was held there for a further six years. In February 1996 W.Bro. Eddie Farenden presided at the Marsham Court Hotel in Bournemouth. In February 1999 the Ladies' Festival moved to the Hermitage Hotel, again in Bournemouth.

Ladies' Festivals take a very considerable amount of hard work to organise successfully, and achieving this is the role of the Festival Committee, invited by the Worshipful Master to manage the event on his behalf. In the earlier years Festival Secretaries included Bros. Billy Brown, Freddie Turner, Ernie Cole and Bertie Shorter. In the late 1960's and early 1970's the role was undertaken at various times by Bros. Len Harris, Gerry Law, Maurice Dawes and George Morrison.

The Ladies' Festival in February 1976 was organised by W.Bro. (at that time Bro.) Gordon Hawkins and Mrs Pat Hawkins. Their work in this capacity has been remarkable. In 1999 they organised their twenty-fourth Ladies Festival, having also taken responsibility for the Lodge of Instruction Supper since 1974.

Their contribution in ensuring the success of the social side of the Lodge's life cannot be underestimated, not least in providing a welcome continuity during the Lodge's difficult years from the mid 1980's.

Other brethren and their Ladies have teamed up with W.Bro. Gordon and Pat over the years including Bros Les Warrell, Ted Petty and Mike Blythe. For the past eleven years W.Bro. Lawrie Townsend and his wife Shirley have been able members of the Festival Committee.

Charity

From the outset the members of the Lodge dedicated themselves actively to supporting the Masonic Charities and over the years the Lodge gained a reputation for the level of contributions which it made relative to its size.

In the earlier years there are many references in the Minutes to charitable contributions, usually expressed in “guineas”.

A separate charity account appeared in the Lodge Accounts from 1954 and this was further formalised as the Lodge of Mercy Benevolent Fund in January 1968.

The Lodge became a Patron of the Royal Masonic Institute for Boys and the Royal Masonic Institute for Girls. These charities merged to become the Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys in 1982.

The Lodge became a Grand Patron and the Lodge of Instruction a Vice Patron of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

The Lodge gave considerable support to the Royal Masonic Hospital into the 1980's and both the Lodge and the Lodge of Instruction were Grand Patrons.

At the meeting on 2nd February 1976 mention was made of the new jewel and order of precedence for the new Office of Charity Steward and on 8th April 1976 the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. G S Browne, invested the first Charity Steward, Bro. L F Bowyer, with the collar and jewel of his Office. Up to this time, and for more than half the Lodge's existence, charity matters had been managed largely by the Almoner and with the assistance of the Treasurer. Now there was an opportunity for greater focus on Charity.

The Grand Charity was established in 1980 and in 1986 the Lodge of Mercy joined the Relief Chest Scheme which had been instituted in the latter part of the previous year. This very quickly became the focal point for the Lodge's charitable funds and has proved to be very successful. Because of this and because of changes in the Charities Act the Lodge Benevolent Fund was phased out in 1995.

An indication of the emphasis placed on charitable giving is found in the Lodge Minutes of 15th October 1987 where it is recorded that:

“The Charity Steward, W.Bro. L A Warrell, advised that the Lodge of Mercy had contributed £17000 during the past eight years to various Masonic Charities.”

During the 1990's the Masters List exceeded £3000 for the year on more than one occasion.

The New Masonic Samaritan Fund commenced in 1990 and by 1992 the Lodge had become a Grand Patron. The London Festival Appeal for the 'NMSF 1993-1997' was enthusiastically supported. The members of the Lodge were determined that in the Golden Jubilee year the Charity Steward's collar should bear the jewel of the Gold Award for contributions made to the appeal. By the efforts of the Lodge in contributing a total of £11504 to the appeal it was possible for the Lodge to be represented at a special meeting at Freemasons' Hall on 22nd January 1998 when the Charity Steward, W.Bro. Les Bowyer, was presented with the London Festival Appeal Gold Jewel by the MW The Grand Master. Thereby the Lodge of Mercy became one of only 336 London Lodges to receive such an honour.

The Members of the Lodge are well aware of the efforts of the Charity Stewards over a period of twenty-three years. It is noted particularly that W.Bro. Les Warrell served in this Office for a total of twelve years, or 50% of the time that the Office existed; that W.Bro. Les Ransome guided the Lodge through the period of the London Festival Appeal, and that the Lodge was again pleased to take advantage in 1997 of the experience of the first Charity Steward, W.Bro. Les Bowyer.

Another aspect of the Lodge's charitable efforts is exemplified by the work of the Almoner. During the first eighteen years of the Lodge's history, the Brethren and their families were served by six Almoners. This was, as has been pointed out, during the period before the Office of Charity Steward had been instigated, so that the Almoner would also have acted in that capacity.

W.Bro. Don Coombes became Almoner of the Lodge in 1967 and served for sixteen years. It is recorded that at the October 1983 meeting:

“W.Bro. D L Coombes was presented with a gift from the Lodge, by the Worshipful Master together with a card. in which was written:

To W.Bro. Donald,

In recognition of many years caring for those in need, and the establishment of the Almoner’s Office as one of the Lodge’s most important functions.

With deepest gratitude from all Brethren of the Lodge of Mercy, No.6821.

(signed) Jack F Warner, WM”

The work of subsequent Almoners has been determined by the standards set by W.Bro. Don, of which the presentation of a formally prepared report, now attached to the Minutes of the Lodge meetings, is a visible example.

The Ladies with whom the Almoner endeavours to maintain special contact are currently:

Mrs Win Baines	Mrs Nancy Hepton	Mrs Ivy Pardey
Mrs Joan Callister	Mrs Marion Law	Mrs Pat Ross
Mrs Freda Cole	Mrs Kit Lawford	Mrs Joan Rowe
Mrs Anne Dennard	Miss Sheila Turner (W.Bro. Freddie Turner’s daughter)	

Music

Masonic ritual states that music “teaches us the art of forming concords, so as to produce a delightful harmony” and the Brethren of the Lodge of Mercy have appreciated the opportunity which has enabled them to achieve a high standard of musical accompaniment to their proceedings.

Bro. Freddie Turner was invested as the first Organist of the Lodge at the Consecration meeting. He served in this capacity for a total of seven years over a thirty-year period.

In the early years, support was provided on many occasions by W.Bro. Cliff Jarvis as Acting Organist. It is recorded in the Minutes of the March 1969 meeting that W.Bro. Jarvis had presented to the Lodge an Organist's Collar and Jewel asking the Lodge "to accept the Collar as a token of his appreciation of the happy hours he had spent with us." In May 1972 it is recorded that "the Brethren stood to order in respect of the memory of W.Bro. Cliff Jarvis, Acting Organist for many years of the Lodge".

At a later period, the Brethren appreciated the music provided by W.Bro. Brian Matthew who was Organist from 1979-1983.

W.Bro. E H (John) Warrell had acted as Organist on several occasions and was Organist of the Lodge for a total of five years during the 1970's. He has been Organist again for sixteen years, since 1983 when he had completed his year as IPM, and has given the Lodge a fine reputation for music as one of its characteristics.

W.Bro. John spent his working life in music principally at Kings College, London University where amongst other activities he directed the Kings College Singers. He was Organist and Director of Music at Southwark Cathedral from 1968-1975. He was appointed an MBE in 1991. In 1994 he became Provincial Deputy Grand Organist (Surrey) and Provincial Grand Organist (Surrey) the following year. He still holds that Office today.

He has delighted the members of the Lodge of Mercy and their guests not only with his playing in the Lodge but with his contributions at Christmas Festive Boards along with some superb Choral Singers.

At a memorable meeting of the Lodge in December 1992 he presented "A Musical Christmas Interlude" in which he described the vicissitudes of the Office of Organist and gave "various examples of Masonic and festive music, to the delight of the assembled Brethren." On two further memorable occasions the Brethren with their families and guests were privileged to hear recitals given by W.Bro. John on the organ of the Grand Temple at Freemasons' Hall.

Honorary Members and Visitors

Two of the consecrating Officers took a particular interest in the development of the Lodge and gave considerable support and encouragement to the members.

W.Bro. Commander R H Barrett had been Director of Ceremonies at the Consecration, the first occasion on which he had acted in this capacity. He continued to take an active interest in the Lodge until his death in 1991.

W.Bro. Bill Grey had been Inner Guard at the Consecration. He attended the meetings of the Lodge on numerous occasions over many years. At the meeting on 15th May 1986 the Brethren were informed of his passing to the Grand Lodge Above on 14th April. He was described as a Brother who “had become affectionately known to many Lodge members over the years.”

At the meeting on 18th December 1975 the Lodge was honoured with the presence of R.W.Bro. Sir James Stubbs, then Grand Secretary. On his retirement from this Office in 1980, he was invited to become an Honorary Member of the Lodge of Mercy, which invitation he was graciously pleased to accept.

Bro. George Gibson was Initiated into the Lodge on the 21st December 1950. He became an Honorary Member in 1955 on emigrating to Canada. He has kept in regular touch with the Lodge for over forty years since that time. The members are always pleased to hear of him, and his Christmas letters have been particularly appreciated.

Throughout its history the Lodge has always enjoyed the company and the contribution of its visitors.

There has always been a fair number of visitors, and the members of the Lodge have appreciated their constancy, especially during the vagaries of the later years. Indeed, during the difficult years of 1985-1993 visitors were often kind enough to take an Office on the night and to contribute to the ritual. For example, In February 1993, a Member of the Mother Lodge was Raised to the Third Degree in the presence of eleven visitors from his Lodge. In December of the same year a visitor, Bro. David Poole of Worplesdon Lodge, No. 9076, delivered the Charge after Initiation.

The Lodge has met on two hundred and one occasions (excluding emergency meetings) On seventeen of these, twenty five or more visitors were welcomed. The highest number of visitors has been thirty-eight, on the 9th February 1989 when W.Bro. Roy Wells delivered a paper. This was during the “difficult years.” On twenty-one occasions there have been less than five visitors.

The following provides a further illustration of the interest visitors have taken in the proceedings of the Lodge.

	Average No. of Visitors at Installation Meetings	Average Lodge Membership
1950-1959	18	37
1960-1969	23	60
1970-1979	23	63
1980-1989	17	48
1990-1999	13	33

DIFFICULT TIMES. LEADING TO HOPE FOR THE FUTURE **(1980- 1999)**

The Lodge entered the 1980's in buoyant mood. The success of a new dining venue, described later, added to the sense of well-being.

That there was only one Candidate for Initiation in each of the four years May 1981 -May 1985 was perhaps a warning of forthcoming problems, as in only four years out of the previous thirty-two had this occurred. Concerns about the Lodge of Instruction attendance were also something of a warning sign.

In the period of seven years, May 1986 - May 1993, there were but two Initiates into the Lodge. At the same time membership fell as sadly a number of members passed away and others left the Lodge. Since 1980 thirty members have left the Lodge.

Much has been said about the problems of Freemasonry in London since the late 1980's. In December 1998 the Assistant Grand Master referred in an interview to the loss of 18000 London Freemasons in less than a decade. The Masonic Year Books indicate that during the last ten years, on average, only one new London Lodge per year has been Consecrated and that some fifty Lodges have been lost.

As it appeared to the members of the Lodge of Mercy the reasons for this decline were as follows:

Basically, the "London link" was being broken. There were vast changes in employment patterns in London. The financial sector was deregulated and revolutionised. Because of advances in technology, organisations both public and private saw no need to retain large staffs in London, and they redeployed to less expensive areas of the country.

At the same time working life was becoming far more demanding, and to take time off during the week became more difficult, particularly if this entailed significant travelling time. From 1989 the country was in recession, and the South was particularly affected.

Other factors were cost and inconvenience. Travel costs increased, as did Lodge costs, particularly for dining.

Travelling into and within London became even slower and more inconvenient. It was reported that road speeds in London were, once again, equal to those familiar to our forebears in the horse drawn era.

The twin problems of membership decline and rising costs may be illustrated by the following Lodge of Mercy membership statistics:

Period	Initiates	Joining	Losses	Membership at	
1949-1960	45	5	11	May 1960	52
1961-1970	31	1	18	May 1970	66
1971-1980	19	5	34	May 1980	56
1981-1990	10		32	May 1990	34
1991-1999	9	2	14	May 1999	31
Totals	114	13	109		

Full Membership Fee:

1950	£ 4.50	1985	£ 80.00
1960	£ 7.50	1990	£101.00
1970	£10.50	1995	£136.00
1980	£45.00	1999	£178.00

The Lodge soldiered on in these conditions. The opportunity was taken at some fourteen meetings to contribute to the Brethren's "advancement in Masonic knowledge" with demonstrations and lectures. The Brethren were privileged to witness lectures delivered by two renowned Masonic scholars. In February 1989 W.Bro. Roy Wells, PSGD, Past Prestonian Lecturer (1971), presented a paper entitled "An Introduction to the Structure of Freemasonry." In December 1991, W.Bro. John Webb, KStJ, PGStwd, of Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076, gave a talk entitled, "Mozart, the Last Year."

A Lodge Committee meeting was convened on 28th January 1993 to debate and to try to tackle the continuing problems of membership and cost.

The opportunity was taken, in the more relaxed surroundings resulting from

W.Bro. Ted Petty's hospitality, to talk through options for the future, and indeed to decide whether the Lodge had a future.

It was concluded that the Lodge had considerable strengths and that, given a hardnosed approach to controlling costs, it was possible to survive and to succeed on the basis of these. The strengths of the Lodge were believed to be:

The London connection, in that the Lodge met at the home of Freemasonry and dined in magnificent and historic surroundings.

The traditional ambience of Lodge meetings, combining the open hand of friendship and sociability with quality of work.

The Lodge's Charity record.

The "family" atmosphere both of Social events and of the Lodge's care for its members, their families and their widows.

It was believed that these elements would continue to attract visitors, a factor of great importance to the health of the Lodge, and also Initiates. The conventional "London link" had been broken, but a new link could be formed with those who might find what the Lodge had to offer attractive, without necessarily working or living in the immediate London area.

With renewed hope for the future, boosted by the receipt of two applications for Initiation, it was possible for the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Bill Andrews, at the meeting of February 1993 to express the hope "that his elected successor would now commence his year in Office on a positive and optimistic note".

The membership of the Lodge declined from fifty-six at May 1980 to thirty four at May 1990. It has stabilised around the thirty-two - thirty-four level since that time. However, in the six years since 1993 the Lodge has attracted nine Initiates.

The Initiates into the Lodge since May 1980 are as follows:

December	1980	A L Tadd
February	1981	A S F Wright

December	1981	G M Ross	
December	1982	D A Roseberry	
December	1983	C G Stewart	the one hundredth Initiate
December	1984	E G Farenden	
October	1985	N W Kaula	
December	1985	T A Smith	
October	1989	R F Millyard	
February	1990	D R Harbron	
October	1993	P D Meacher	
December	1993	D Fraser	
October	1994	S R Burt	
December	1994	DR Burt	
October	1996	S J Gillett	
February	1997	M E Gillett	
October	1997	K P Mallon	
December	1997	T J Warner	
October	1998	H B McElhinney	

Also since May 1980 the following have been Joining Members:

May	1991	W.Bro. H L Ransome, Past Master of Torch Lodge.
May	1992	Bro. P C Weston of Worplesdon Lodge, No. 9076 (Surrey).

In this period one of the saddest events in the history of the Lodge was the death of the Reigning Master W.Bro. J F Dennard on 27th July 1989. W.Bro. John had only been Installed into the Master's chair on 18th May 1989.

The Lodge Minutes for 19th October 1989 record that "W.Bro. John Browne spoke with great sorrow upon the death of W.Bro. John Dennard, so soon after he had attained the Mastership of the Lodge. W.Bro. John had fought, with great courage, an illness which would have taken lesser men from us considerably sooner. He was always a happy man, both at work and at play, and had been looking forward enthusiastically to his year as Master of the Lodge".

Since 1980 the deaths have been recorded of the following members, whose memory is revered.

Founders

January	1981	W G Brown
June	1982	F E Turner
February	1994	E F Cole

Past Masters of and in the Lodge

February	1984	T L Skinner	October 1989	R G Hepton	
March	1985	H G J Triggle	June	1990	E J Rowe
November	1988	E Lawford	July	1992	T A Baines
July	1989	J F Dennard			

Brethren

January	1985	J H Callister	September	1987	H C Skam
June	1985	M V Dawes	July	1988	G M Ross
April	1987	A A Duggan	November	1997	G C Law
May	1987	E L Pardey			

In 1997 a Visiting Grand Officers Scheme was introduced in order to help rebuild London Masonry. For this purpose London was divided into twenty two groups and the Lodge of Mercy became a member of the Desaguliers Group, so named after the Grand Master 1719 - 1720.

Dining

Lincoln's Inn, one of the four great Inns of Court, probably takes its name from Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, legal advisor to Edward I. Lawyers are known to have occupied the site from the end of the thirteenth century. Within Lincoln's Inn is the late eighteenth century Stone Buildings and here is to be found the Headquarters of the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry. The Inns of Court Regiment can trace its history back to Elizabethan times. Until the mid-nineteenth century the Inns of Court raised bodies of men for the defence of the realm at times of crisis. The Regiment was nicknamed "The Devil's Own" by King George III in 1803. Since 1859 its history has been continuous. It saw action in the South African war and in the First World War. In the second World War it served as an armoured car regiment. The City of London Yeomanry was raised in 1900 and took the name "Roughriders". During its sixty years of independent history it changed its role seven times, to include cavalry, artillery

and infantry. The two regiments amalgamated under their present title in 1961 and it is currently designated a Signals Squadron.

Bro. Mike Moss had military connections with the Regiment and recommended the Officers Mess to the Lodge of Mercy as a dining venue. The members and their guests dined here for the first time on the 15th October 1981, during the Mastership of W.Bro. John Warrell. The Lodge has completed eighteen years of happy association with the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry, having dined here for far longer than elsewhere. It is thought that this adds to the ambience of the Lodge's activities and is an attraction for both the members and their guests.

Royal Arch

Beneficentia Chapter, No. 5308 was consecrated on 13th September 1943 and celebrated its fiftieth anniversary on 4th September 1993.

Most appropriately, given its Ancients Grand Lodge ancestry, the Lodge of Mercy enthusiastically supports the Royal Arch, and it is natural that many members of the Lodge of Mercy have sought to complete their Third Degree by seeking Exaltation into the Chapter associated with the Mother Lodge. As at May 1999, twelve members of the Lodge of Mercy were members of Beneficentia Chapter.

The following members of the Lodge of Mercy are, or have been, Past First Principals of the Beneficentia Chapter.

1946-1947	F J Gemmell	1973-1974)
1947-1948	J Y Brown	1978-1979) B C Shorter
1952-1953	L V H Dubery	1985-1986)
1960-1961	E C Joselin	1974-1975	G T H Morrison
1962-1963	S J Dibble-	1975-1976	R G Repton
	(Tyler 1975-1978)	1979-1980) L A Warrell
1965-1966	L E Harris	1980-1981)
1967-1968	W T Brown	1982-1983)G F M Hawkins
1968-1969	E F Cole	1983-1984)
1969-1970	D L Coombes	1986-1987	E H Warrell
1970-1971	J A Buchanan	1987-1988	J H Browne
1971-1972	S J McCulloch -	1989-1990	J F Warner
	(Tyler 1972-1975)	1994-1995	M J Blythe
		1995-1996	A L Tadd

Administrative Offices

This history would not be complete without particular mention of the administrative Officers whose efforts have ensured a strong foundation for the progress of the Lodge. The Lodge has, during its history, elected and appointed seven Treasurers. However, in the thirty-three years since 1966 only three Brethren have held this Office.

The first to provide long term continuity to the Office was W.Bro. Len Harris who served for eleven years. On the announcement of his retirement from Office it was recorded that “W.Bro. Cole thanked W.Bro. Harris on behalf of the Lodge for his years of faithful service in that role,” a sentiment “which was heartily endorsed by the WM and all the Brethren present.”

In July 1975 inflation had peaked at 25% and to his successor, W.Bro. Ted Petty, fell the onerous task of putting the finances of the Lodge on a footing appropriate to this high cost, inflationary era. The crucial decisions made at that time provided a foundation which has been built on by W.Bro. Tony Callister who has held Office for thirteen years.

There have been seven Secretaries of the Lodge. Four Founders held the Office between 1949 and 1976, including the ubiquitous W.Bro. Freddie Turner who was in Office for nine years.

The work of the earlier Brethren was built on by W.Bro. Ronnie Hepton who held office for eight years and who was renowned for the quality of his administration and record keeping. On the sad news of his death after a long illness, it is recorded that in a fitting tribute “W.Bro. Hawkins spoke of W.Bro. Hepton’s distinguished Military and Masonic careers and his particularly immaculate and proper manner in all things.”

The current Secretary, W.Bro. Jack Warner, has for thirteen years perpetuated the high standard of his predecessors.

A total of eleven distinguished Brethren have held the Office of Director of Ceremonies, four of them for two periods and one for three. Two Brethren, W.Bros. Tim Browne and Bill Andrews, held Office as the Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction whilst undertaking the duties of Director of Ceremonies. The current Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro. Gordon Hawkins, has served the longest in this Office.

The current Treasurer and Secretary are also the longest serving in their

respective Offices, and the continuity in the administrative Offices in the latter years of the Lodge's history has undoubtedly contributed to its stability and continued success.

The Offices of Almoner and Charity Steward have been discussed in the previous Chapter.

The contribution made by the Tyler to the effectiveness of the Lodge of Mercy is worthy of comment. The Lodge has had seven Tylers, the longest serving of whom was W.Bro. A Wills who was in Office for fifteen years from 1953-1968. On his retirement due to ill health, it is recorded that:

“The Worshipful Master, W.Bro. H G J Trigg, summoned our Tyler, W.Bro. A Wills, LGR, and informed him of the deep regret which all our members felt that on his Doctor's orders, Bro. Wills had to relinquish the Office he had so ably filled for several years”.

In more recent years the Lodge has been served in this Office by two most able Brethren, W.Bro. John Close for twelve years and the current Tyler, W.Bro. Roy Swinscoe, for eight years.

INTO THE 21st CENTURY

The lifetime of the Lodge of Mercy has coincided with probably the greatest period of change in any fifty years in British history.

The Fifties saw the start of a period of ever accelerating technological and social change which shows no sign of slowing down.

Scheduled transatlantic flights with jet propelled aircraft did not commence until 1958. Today the launch of a space shuttle is scarcely newsworthy and millions travel regularly by air.

Petrol rationing ended in 1950. The first stretch of motorway opened in 1958. Today many households own at least two cars.

In the Fifties computers were found only in certain scientific and technical establishments and were of massive size. Today very many people have a powerful computer on their desk at work or at home.

In the Fifties the wonders of a modern consumer society could be glimpsed only in American movies. Today the majority of the population lives to a standard way beyond those early images. In parallel, medical science has brought about vast improvements in health and longevity.

In the Fifties life for Britain and its Empire continued to be influenced by the threat of war, both conventional and, increasingly, nuclear. With the end of the cold war, European communism has evaporated and the threat of major war has diminished as never before. Britain has turned from Empire to thoughts of an economic and political relationship with the countries of mainland Europe which until March 1999 had succeeded in keeping war off the agenda.

The Founders of the Lodge of Mercy were keen to rebuild a society shattered by the Second World War. They were seeking for a better way. That better way has been achieved, perhaps beyond their wildest dreams; over fifty years without a

European war, a standard of living which could scarcely have been imagined, and a vast freedom of choice brought about by technology. But this new life appears to have been achieved at the cost of many of the values which the Founders took for granted.

Somehow, throughout this dramatic period Freemasonry has managed to survive without losing sight of its traditional values. It is willing, particularly in more recent times, to adapt to genuine pressures for change (e.g. the nature of the obligation and the “open” approach to its activities).

Being a social phenomenon it is well placed to continue to succeed and perhaps become more valued in society at a time when many public figures have begun to call openly for a return to moral principles.

As the MW Pro Grand Master, the Rt. Hon. Lord Farnham said in this context in 1997 ‘This is the time for steadfastness and self-confidence. Be proud of your membership, be happy to be known as Freemasons.’”

The traditions and traditional strengths of the Lodge of Mercy are social and people - based. Thus the members of the Lodge may be confident that, despite periods of difficulty, the Lodge has the fundamental strength to survive and to succeed in a new century and a new millennium, particularly as the culture of the Lodge becomes understood and nurtured by the newer members.

In embarking on this new era, the members of the Lodge can perhaps do no better than be guided by the advice to the Founders given by RW Bro. Sydney White, Grand Secretary, at the Consecration of the Lodge. His words are as valid today as they were fifty years ago.

Amongst other things he pointed out that the Brethren should remember that “it was not alone for the immediate present that the Lodge was to provide, but as a permanent institution for all time.” As far as membership numbers were concerned the Lodge should “ not attempt to grow in numbers and let quality suffer, so that they (the members) may add thereby to the credit of the Craft to which they should take special pride to belong.”

The Lodge of Mercy embarked upon its second half century at the fiftieth Installation Meeting on 20th May 1999 when W.Bro. LA Warrell was installed into the Chair of King Solomon according to ancient custom by W.Bro. K R Mitchell. W.Bro. Les is to preside at the Golden Jubilee meeting on 21st October 1999.

APPENDICES

Oration Delivered at the Consecration of the Lodge

The Oration delivered at the Consecration of the Lodge of Mercy (as recorded in the Freemasons' Chronicle 24th September 1949).

In the Oration, delivered by the Chaplain, W.Bro. the Rev. Gerald W. Page, he rightly stressed how rich in meaning, as well as in splendour was the act of Consecration upon which all present were about to enter. They had met not to consecrate or inaugurate, a mere building, even a temple, nor a banner or material things but a new Lodge formed of thirteen true and trusty Brethren, but for whose presence and action in desiring to form the Lodge, the ceremony would not have been called for. When they met in the future, under the name they had chosen of Lodge of Mercy, No. 6821, alone would they be able to claim it as theirs, and to be so known among their fellow Masons, and they were to be congratulated on their new enterprise for the success of which all must join in forming the sincerest good wishes.

In what manner and to what end, was the Lodge to be consecrated? He would suggest that the manner itself of the consecration symbolised what was to be its real purpose. Upon the Lodge Board, after it had been unveiled at the direction of the Consecrating Officer, he would proceed to scatter corn, pour oil and wine, and to sprinkle salt, as reminder to the Founders and all present, not only of what corn and wine, oil and salt meant for the existence of man, but what the Lodge was expected to do for the souls of men.

Corn was scattered to produce wheat, oats, barley, for the sustenance of man and the maintenance of his life and of animal creation. Without it both would perish, but did not Holy Writ remind us, from the spiritual aspect, that "Man cannot live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Thus, he needed to feed his soul as well as his body. To such end, Freemasonry stood with its profound spiritual truths and sublime moral values. Remove from its teachings all references to God and things of God, and there would be singularly little left. Let them think for a moment on those things, for no man could be admitted into the Craft under our Constitution, unless he held belief in God. No Masonic Lodge was allowed to be opened, as might be another

gathering such as a club or an exhibition, but only after it had been solemnly consecrated and dedicated to God's service. Our Masonic ceremonies taught a man, never to mention His Name, but with that awe and reverence which is due from the creature to his Creator; to regard the Volume of the Sacred Law as the unerring standard of truth and justice, and to remember that wherever he was and whatever he did, God's all seeing eye observed him. Thus, the use of Corn was an emblematical reminder that as it was food for the body of man, Freemasonry was to offer sustenance for his soul.

In regard to the use of Wine, as recalled for us by the familiar words of the Scriptures "Wine maketh glad the heart of man." When a distinguished visitor or a friend came to one's house, or a dinner was held for guests, or the celebration of notable events in life took place, wine invariably appeared, for wine gave expression to pleasure. It was the symbol of friendship, fellowship, and comradeship.

A new Lodge was consecrated with wine as a reminder that Freemasonry stood pre-eminently for friendship and fellowship, and to be found there, in their fullest expression. Of all the many associations and fellowships in the World to-day, Freemasonry stood supremely alone and quite unmatched, for charity, fellowship and goodwill. It stood for brotherhood and had played no small part in creating unity, peace and concord among the nations of the world. The Lodge, thus, was consecrated with wine in order that its Founders may heed the summons and accept the charge: "Be happy and communicate happiness!"

As for Oil, it was used to soothe pain, and to hasten the process of healing. It was poured on troubled waters. It possessed curative properties and as such was administered to man and beast, and it was compounded with ointment from the most ancient times.

Freemasonry stood aloof of the rifts and divisions among men, brought through race, by creeds, or politics, or class, or by poverty or wealth. In its ranks, men of every race and colour, creed or class, met and had found a veritable haven of rest. Thus, the Lodge was consecrated with Oil to teach us that as it was beneficial to the physical needs of man, so Freemasonry could prove for those of his soul.

Salt had its own savour and held great cleansing properties. It was used to preserve man's food and render it palatable, and we read in the Old Testament that with

every sacrifice salt was to be scattered upon it. In the early Christian Church, salt was poured upon candidates for baptism as an emblem of purification. To our present day, it was said of one specially deserving of his fellowmen that he was “ the salt of the earth.” Salt was emblematical of moral goodness. There was a noble part in the make-up of every man, and in regard to it Freemasonry had much to say and much to teach. And so, the Lodge was consecrated with Salt to teach Masons that they should be as the salt of the earth.

Finally, the Ceremony dosed with the offering up of incense, such as it was the office of the High Priest to offer to the honour and glory of God, and in those ancient days, it was burnt night and day in that sacred purpose. In Eastern countries, it was the custom, when earthly potentates greeted one another to pay mutual honour of offering incense, and in the first instance, such honour was always paid by the junior to the senior. The new Lodge was consecrated with Incense as a reminder that Freemasonry was dedicated to the service of God, and that its work, first and foremost, was to be for the Glory of God.

Concluding, the Chaplain once again exhorted the Founders ever to keep before them the purpose they should have in view and which symbolised the Consecration Ceremony in which they had taken part, so that Freemasonry may fulfil its purpose for the souls of men, as emblematically represented in regard to their physical needs by the use of Corn, Wine, Oil and Salt.

Past Masters of the Lodge

1949	L V H Dubery, PZ	1977	L A Warrell, SLGR,
1950	R R Sidwell, PZ		PPSGW(Middx), PZ,
1951	W G Brown, LGR		PAGDC(RA), SLGCR,
1952	E C Joselin, LGR, PZ		3rdProvGPrin.(Middx)(RA)
1953	D WW Sealey	1978	E J Rowe
1954	E F Cole, PM 5308,	1979	E Lawford
	PGStB, PZ, SLGCR	1980	G F M Hawkins, PM 6787,
1955	PC Kemp		PM 9076, SLGR, PPJGW
1956	J C Scarfe, LGR		(Surrey), PZ, PAGDC(RA),
1957	Major F W Swain, TD		LGCR
1958	W S King	1981	E H Warrell M.B.E., PM 9045,
1959	F B Treacher		LGR, Prov.GOrg.(Surrey)
1960	E E Viney		LGCR
1961	L E Harris, PGStB, PZ	1982	L F Bowyer, PM 5790,
			PAGDC(RA), LGCR
			PM 7236, SLGR Dep.G Reg.
1962	W F Harrison		PZ, LGCR
1963	D L Coombes, PGStB, PZ,	1983	J F Warner, LGR, PZ,
	LGCR		LGCR, PPGSwdB(Essex)(RA)
1964	W T Brown, PZ	1984	A J Callister, LGR
1965	J A Buchanan	1985	K R Mitchell
1966	T L Skinner	1986	E W Petty, PM 1420, PM 9076,
1967	J H Browne, SLGR		LGR, PPJGD(Surrey)
	PPSGW(Wilts), PZ	1987	L Townsend
1968	H G J Triggles, LGR	1988	T R B Matthew, PM 8620,
1969	B C Shorter, LGR, PZ,		PPJGD(Wilts)
	LGCR, PPGSoj.(Middx)	1989	J F Dennard
	(RA)	1990	M J Blythe, LGR, PZ
1970	J C Henderson	1991	A L Tadd, LGR, PZ
1971	R E King	1992	W H Andrews, SLGR
1972	Major R G Hepton, LGR	1993	T A Smith, PM 9076
	PPJGD(Sussex), PZ, LGCR	1994	D A Taylor, PM 8072,
	PPDGReg.(Sussex)(RA)		PPGStB(Sussex)
1973	C S Lowe	1995	E G Farenden, PZ
1974	J C Kinder	1996	R F Millyard
1975	G S Browne, LGR	1997	HL Ransome, PM7236 LGR, PZ
1976	W H Andrews, SLGR	1998	K R Mitchell

Honours Conferred

Grand Rank

1971	E F Cole	PGStB
1977	L E Harris	PGStB
1982	D L Coombes	PGStB

London Grand Rank

Senior

1961	W G Brown	
	E C Joselin	
1963	F E Turner	
1966	E F Cole	
1968	J C Scarfe	
1970	L E Harris	
1973	D L Coombes	
1976	J H Browne	1985
1979	H G J Trigg	
1982	B C Shorter	
1984	R G Hepton	
1986	G S Browne	
1987	L A Warrell	1993
	E W Petty	
1988	G F M Hawkins	1994
1989	W H Andrews	1995
1991	J F Warner	
1992	L F Bowyer	1999
	H L Ransome	
1993	E H Warrell	
1994	A J Callister	
	R A Swinscoe (Tyler)	1997
1998	M J Blythe	
1999	A L Tadd	

Offices Held

Chaplain

W.Bro. H J Winfield	1949-1950
W.Bro. F E Crumpton	1950-1955
W.Bro. F J Gemmell	1955-1957
W.Bro. F E Crumpton	1957-1958
W.Bro. W G Brown	1958-1965
W.Bro. J C Scarfe	1965-1971
W.Bro. W S King	1971-1973
W.Bro. J C Scarfe	1973-1975
W.Bro. J H Browne	1975-1976
W.Bro. B C Shorter	1976-1980
W.Bro. J H Browne	1980-1981
W.Bro. B C Shorter	1981-1986
W.Bro. E F Cole	1986-1987
W.Bro. J H Browne	1987-1991
W.Bro. E W Petty	1991-

Treasurer

Bro. F W Swain	1949-1952
Bro. W S King	1952-1953
W.Bro. E C Joselin	1953-1966
W. Bro. E F Cole	1966
W.Bro. L E Harris	1966-1977
W.Bro. E W Petty	1977-1986
W.Bro. A J Callister	1986-

Secretary

W.Bro. J Y Brown	1949-1957
W.Bro. R R Sidwell	1957-1960
W.Bro. F E Turner	1960-1969
W.Bro. E F Cole	1969-1976
W.Bro. J C Kinder	1976-1978
W.Bro. R G Hepton	1978-1986
W.Bro. J F Warner	1986-

Director of Ceremonies

W.Bro. F J Gemmell	1949-1955
W.Bro. F E Turner	1955-1960
W.Bro. D W W Sealey	1960-1961
W.Bro. E F Cole	1961-1962
W.Bro. W S King	1962-1965
W.Bro. L E Harris	1965-1966
W.Bro. E F Cole	1966-1969
W.Bro. W S King	1969-1970
W.Bro. J H Browne	1970-1973
W.Bro. H G J Trigg	1973-1974
W.Bro. J H Browne	1974-1975
W.Bro. F E Turner	1975-1976
W.Bro. J H Browne	1976-1978
W.Bro. G S Browne	1978-1983
W.Bro. G F M Hawkins	1983-1986
W.Bro. W H Andrews	1986-1991
W.Bro. G FM Hawkins	1991-

Almoner

W.Bro. H J Winfield	1950-1951
W.Bro. L V H Dubery	1951-1953
W.Bro. E F Cole	1958-1960
Bro. B C Shorter	1960-1965
W.Bro. W S King	1965-1966
Bro. G A Riding	1966-1967
W.Bro. D L Coombes	1967-1983
W.Bro. G S Browne	1983-1986
W.Bro. G F M Hawkins	1986-1992
W.Bro. M J Blythe	1992-

Charity Steward

Bro. L F Bowyer	1976-1977
W.Bro. L E Harris	1977-1979
W.Bro. L A Warrell	1979-1988
W.Bro. K R Mitchell	1988-1990
W.Bro. L A Warrell	1990-1993
W.Bro. H L Ransome	1993-1997

W.Bro. L F Bowyer 1997-

Assistant Director of Ceremonies

Bro. H Turner 1949-1950
W.Bro. H Turner 1950-1951
W.Bro. R R Sidwell 1951-1954
W.Bro. F E Turner 1954-1955
W.Bro. D W W Sealey 1955-1960
W.Bro. J C Scarfe 1960-1961
W.Bro. W S King 1961-1962
W.Bro. E E Viney 1962-1966
W.Bro. W S King 1966-1969
W.Bro. J A Buchanan 1969-1971
W.Bro. H G J Triggle 1971-1973
W.Bro. B C Shorter 1973-1974
W.Bro. H G J Triggle 1974-1975
W.Bro. B C Shorter 1975-1976
W.Bro. R G Hepton 1976-1978
W.Bro. W H Andrews 1978-1986
W.Bro. L F Bowyer 1986-1997
W.Bro. D A Taylor 1997-

Organist

Bro. F E Turner 1949-1952
W.Bro. F E Turner 1953-1954
Bro. G Knight 1962-1963
Bro. E H Warrell 1971-1974
W.Bro. F E Turner 1974-1975
Bro. E H Warrell 1975-1977
W.Bro. F E Turner 1977-1979
Bro. T R B Matthew 1979-1983
W.Bro. E H Warrell 1983-

Assistant Secretary

W.Bro. H J Winfield 1951-1952
W.Bro. W G Brown 1952-1954
W.Bro. R R Sidwell 1954-1957
W.Bro. W T Brown 1957-1960

W.Bro. E F Cole	1960-1961
Bro. C S Lowe	1961-1962
Bro. J C Henderson	1962-1965
W.Bro. D L Coombes	1965-1967
Bro. R G Hepton	1967-1968
W.Bro. F E Turner	1969-1972
W.Bro. B C Shorter	1972-1973
W.Bro. R E King	1973-1974
W.Bro. G T H Morrison	1974-1975
W.Bro. T L Skinner	1975-1976
W.Bro. E F Cole	1976-1977
W.Bro. H G J Triggie	1977-1978
Bro. L F Bowyer	1979-1980
Bro. J H Callister	1979-1980
Bro. A M Halyburton	1980-1981
W.Bro. E J Rowe	1981-1982
W.Bro. G F M Hawkins	1982-1983
W.Bro. L F Bowyer	1984-1985
W.Bro. J F Warner	1985-1986
Bro. D A Taylor	1986-1991
W.Bro. D A Taylor	1996-1997
W.Bro. A L Tadd	1997-

Tyler

W.Bro. R Newson	1949-1953
W.Bro. A Wills	1953-1968
W.Bro. E S Bunn	1968-1972
W.Bro. S J McCulloch	1972-1975
W.Bro. S J Dibble	1975-1978
W.Bro. J H Close	1979-1991
W.Bro. R Swinscoe	1991-1992 (Acting)
W.Bro. R Swinscoe	1992-

Membership Statistics

Membership of the Lodge as at May each year

1950	23	1960	52	1970	66	1980	56	1990	34
1951	28	1961	54	1971	67	1981	54	1991	33
1952	30	1962	60	1972	63	1982	55	1992	33
1953	34	1963	61	1973	64	1983	54	1993	32
1954	36	1964	64	1974	67	1984	51	1994	32
1955	40	1965	63	1975	64	1985	46	1995	34
1956	43	1966	61	1976	64	1986	46	1996	33
1957	43	1967	61	1977	62	1987	40	1997	33
1958	46	1968	63	1978	62	1988	39	1998	32
1959	49	1969	64	1979	56	1989	37	1999	31

Members who have left the Lodge

1952	J R Nail	1979	C E Kemish
1954	J E Cutmore	1980	A J Buchanan
1955	S L Fitzpatrick	1980	C S Lowe
1957	A C Bullock	1981	R E King
1957	L V H Dubery	1981	A E Newman
1958	R W Pearson	1981	E E Walker
1959	A W Watkins	1982	R Edwards
1963	S G Spracklan	1983	J L Moloney
1963	F B Treacher	1984	F J Aldridge
1965	H W Morrison	1984	R L S Harris
1965	J P Squire	1984	C E Bastin
1966	R W Brace	1985	L E Harris
1966	H C Simpson	1985	F T Vaisey
1966	G J Turner	1985	A M Halyburton
1967	L Simpson	1985	W H Hill
1972	D G Turner	1987	R E V Brown
1973	R W Greenwood	1987	M Moss
1974	W C Creamer	1987	T Trill
1975	F Swain	1987	I Lanz
1975	R E Hawke	1989	E F Cole
1975	F G Morrison	1990	R Adams
1977	R Phelps	1991	N W Kaula
1977	J M Sayer	1991	D R Harbron
1977	R J Taylor	1993	J C Kinder
1977	D E Blank	1994	J W Dacey
1977	E W Haworth	1994	M L Matthams
1978	R Brightman	1995	C G Stewart
1978	E S a'Court	1996	P Meacher
1978	R F Gravett	1997	P C Weston
1978	H Jarvis	1998	S J Gillett
1979	W Bass	1998	A A Anderson
		1999	A J Bull
		1999	T R B Matthew

LODGE OF MERCY
NO 6821

Consecrated 23 May 1949



SIXTY YEARS ON

1999-2009

VOLUME 2



*Grand Lodge, Great Queen Street,
London*

VOLUME 2 - CONTENTS

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(Lodge History Vol 1 page 54)

Appendices

Past Masters of the Lodge
Honours Conferred
Offices Held
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Prepared and produced by W Bro M J Blythe SLGR
and Bro L Thomas

October 2009



INTRODUCTION

The first volume of the Lodge History indicated that the Lodge of Mercy has a past of which its members can be very proud; that it was experiencing difficult times in the 1990s; but that there was considerable confidence that a brighter future lay ahead.

'The traditions and traditional strengths of the Lodge of Mercy are social and people-based. Thus the members of the Lodge may be confident that, despite periods of difficulty, the Lodge has the fundamental strength to survive and succeed in a new century and a new millennium, particularly as the culture of the Lodge becomes understood and nurtured by the newer members.'

This brighter future is now being realised with a steady flow of Initiates and Joining Members being welcomed into the Lodge. It is evident that the baton is being passed with some success from a previous to a new generation. There is confidence that the traditions and standards of the Lodge will be in safe hands for the future.

It is clear that neither the Craft in general nor this Lodge in particular can expect to maintain membership numbers at historical levels. The key to the future will be a smaller membership, keen to be actively involved.

'We few, we happy few, we band of brothers.'
(Henry V Act IV Scene 3)

Our feeling of optimism is tinged with sadness at the passing, during the last decade, of a number of faithful servants of the Lodge of Mercy to the Grand Lodge Above.

'We revere their memory.'

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE

A Lodge History entitled 'The First First Fifty Years 1949-1999' was published for the 50th Anniversary of the Lodge. The final section of this booklet was entitled 'Into the 21st Century' and the last paragraph reads as follows:

'The Lodge of Mercy embarked upon its second half century at the fiftieth Installation Meeting on 20th May 1999 when W Bro LA Warrell was installed into the Chair of King Solomon according to ancient custom by W Bro KR Mitchell. W Bro Les is to preside at the Golden Jubilee meeting on 21st October 1999.'

At this Golden Jubilee meeting the Lodge was pleased to welcome as an honoured guest V W Bro Rex Thorne OBE, PGSwdB, Deputy Chairman, London Management, the Official Representative of Grand Lodge. The Lodge's Visiting Grand Officer, W Bro Guy Dennis PAGDC, was also in attendance.

The minutes of the meeting record the following:

'The Secretary read the Minutes of the Lodge Consecration Meeting held at Freemasons' Hall Great Queen Street London on Monday 23rd May 1949, precisely as the hand of their Author had recorded them, fifty years before. The Secretary ended with confirmation that the Minutes had been read, confirmed and signed by W Bro Lloyd Dubery WM on 20th October 1949.'

The assembled company were then witness to highlights of the Lodge History given in an interesting and well researched manner by W Bro GFM Hawkins and W Bro MJ Blythe.....

There followed a prayer of Dedication, and acknowledgement to the Founders given by the Lodge Chaplain, W Bro EW Petty. A Hymn was sung (Now Thank We All Our God) during which Alms were collected.'



*The bible, square, compasses and
WM gavel of the Lodge of Mercy*

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary charitable donations were announced, benefiting the Greater London Fund for the Blind and the National Asthma Research Campaign.

Furthermore, W Bro Tim Browne presented a hand crafted box for the Lodge Working Tools, and W Bro Les Warrell a Bible cushion Fall bearing the Lodge name and number.

'Both these gifts would beautify and adorn the Lodge for many years to come and were gratefully received.'

The meeting was attended by 26 members and 44 guests.
The Consecration meeting had been attended by 69 Brethren.

At the Festive Board every Bro present was given a copy of the Lodge History and a pair of Lodge cufflinks. Pewter goblets provided by W Bro Mike Blythe were brought into use by the Master and Wardens. The proceeds of the raffle were donated, at the request of the distinguished guest, VW Bro Rex Thorne, to the Trinity Hospice, Clapham.

INTO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

The Lodge History published in 1999 described the preceding two decades as ‘difficult times, leading to hope for the future.’

The Brethren felt that quite a low point had been reached by 1993, but that, given the strengths which they had identified, they could work towards a successful future.

‘It was believed that these elements (particularly the locations for meeting & dining; and the ambience of Lodge meetings) would continue to attract visitors, a factor of great importance to the health of the Lodge, and also Initiates. The conventional “London link” had been broken, but a new link could be formed with those who might find what the Lodge had to offer attractive, without necessarily working or living in the immediate London area.’

This is exactly what has happened, the majority of the new members being resident in North Oxfordshire or having an Oxfordshire connection.

The harbinger of the Lodge’s recovery can be seen in retrospect to be the Initiation in October 1997 of Bro Kieron Mallon who lives in Banbury.

Bro Barry Wood further strengthened the membership when he joined in 2001.

These Brethren were introduced to the Lodge by W Bro Keith Mitchell. W Bro Keith’s determined and unstinting efforts to instigate and promote the Lodge’s successful future have been of paramount importance.

These firm foundations for the future were fortified by Bro Kieron’s Mastership of the Lodge in 2004-05, and Bro Barry’s in 2006-07 & 2007- 2008.

With these Brethren forming a focal point, the Lodge has experienced a steady flow of Initiates & Joining Members.

Initiates:-

February	2003	Jeremy Franks
October	2004	Robert B McCall
December	2004	Nicholas P Turner
October	2005	John A Donaldson
December	2005	Richard A Blakeway
December	2006	Michael D Bishop
December	2007	Eamonn J Gilmore
December	2008	Arnaud P Unvois

The following Joining Members have likewise been welcomed:

February	2001	Barry V Wood
December	2004	Antony B Baldry MP PSGD
February	2005	David L Hughes
May	2007	Ian G Thomas
May	2007	Lee Thomas

The following material has been extracted from the Lodge minutes:-

1999

In February, it was reported that the Primus Master, W Bro LVH Dubery PZ, had passed to the Grand Lodge Above in 1991. He had resigned from the Lodge in 1957.

2000

RW Bro Sir James Stubbs KCVO OSM PSGW, Past Grand Secretary, passed to the Grand Lodge Above on 7 March. He had been an Honorary Member of the Lodge since 1980.

2001

In March MW Bro The Right Honourable Lord Farnham, Past Pro Grand Master, passed to the Grand Lodge Above.

In May W Bro Keith Mitchell was appointed Secretary, W Bro Jack Warner relinquishing the office after 15 years of dedicated service. W Bro Lawrie Townsend was appointed Almoner, succeeding W Bro Mike Blythe, who had served in this capacity for 9 years.

W Bro Roy Swinscoe was elected once more as Tyler, but ill health prevented him from continuing to serve. His place was taken by the current Tyler, W Bro Brian Cobb.

In October it was recorded that W Bro James Fretwell PGStB had taken over from W Bro Guy Dennis PAGDC as our Visiting Grand Officer. It was on this occasion that 12 Brethren demonstrated the first three sections of the Lecture on the First Degree.

The last remaining Founder of the Lodge, W Bro Major FW Swain TD, passed to the Grand Lodge Above on 26 November, aged 92. He served as WM in 1957 and resigned from the Lodge in 1975.

2002

The proposed constitution of a Metropolitan Grand Lodge was announced

2003

The Initiation of Bro Jeremy Franks in February was the first for over four years. In May the Lodge resolved to become a Founder member of the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London, which was consecrated 1st October at the Royal Albert Hall. W Bro Keith Mitchell was appointed to the Active Rank of Metropolitan Grand Deacon, which he held until 2005. W Bro Tony Callister relinquished the Office of Treasurer after 17 years of dedicated service.

2004

In October the Initiation of Bro Rob McCall marked the starting point of the Lodge's revitalisation. A Permanently Invited Guests list was introduced which has resulted in a significant increase in the number of guests visiting the Lodge.

In December it was noted that new gauntlets for the WM & Wardens had been presented by W Bro Gordon Hawkins and an Alms dish by a long-time guest of the Lodge, W Bro Ken Hutt.

2005

In October the Lodge was honoured by an Official Visit by the Chairman of the Albert Group, V W Bro Keith Hodgson OBE PGSuptWks.

V W Bro Keith was later elected as an Honorary Member of the Lodge. It was on this occasion that Bro Rob McCall, then a Fellowcraft, delivered the Charge to the Initiate, Bro John Donaldson, in an exemplary manner.

2006

In May it was noted that W Bro Tim Browne was standing down as Chaplain after 3 years in the Office. A warm tribute was paid to his contribution to the Lodge over many years.

Congratulations were extended to W Bro John Warrell on his being awarded a Lambeth MA degree by the Archbishop of Canterbury*.

In November our Mother Lodge, Beneficentia No 5308, celebrated its 75th Anniversary.

In December it was recorded that V W Bro K Hodgson was stepping down as Chairman of the Albert Group.

2007

In May W Bro Barry Wood presided for a second year as WM, after which there were high hopes of many years when the newer members would provide a steady progression through the Offices.

The Lodge suffered a tragic shock when Bro Rob McCall, SW, Passed to the Grand Lodge Above in August, after a short illness. Bro Rob had, in the short time he had been a member of the Craft, shown himself to be in all respects a great asset both to Freemasonry in general and the Lodge of Mercy in particular. He will be sadly missed and fondly remembered.

'The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.' Psalm 118 v22

It was felt that the best tribute which the Brethren could pay to Bro Rob would be to attempt to conduct 'his' year as effectively and happily as he would have done. W Bro Tony Callister offered his services, and was elected WM for 2008-2009.

Following changes to the Group system and to the Visiting Officer arrangements in February 2007, W Bro Peter Cook SLGR replaced W Bro Jim Fretwell as the Lodge's Visiting Officer.

At the Lodge meeting held on 7 October it was announced that W Bro Keith Mitchell, Lodge Secretary, had that day been invested as Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire by HM The Queen.

2008

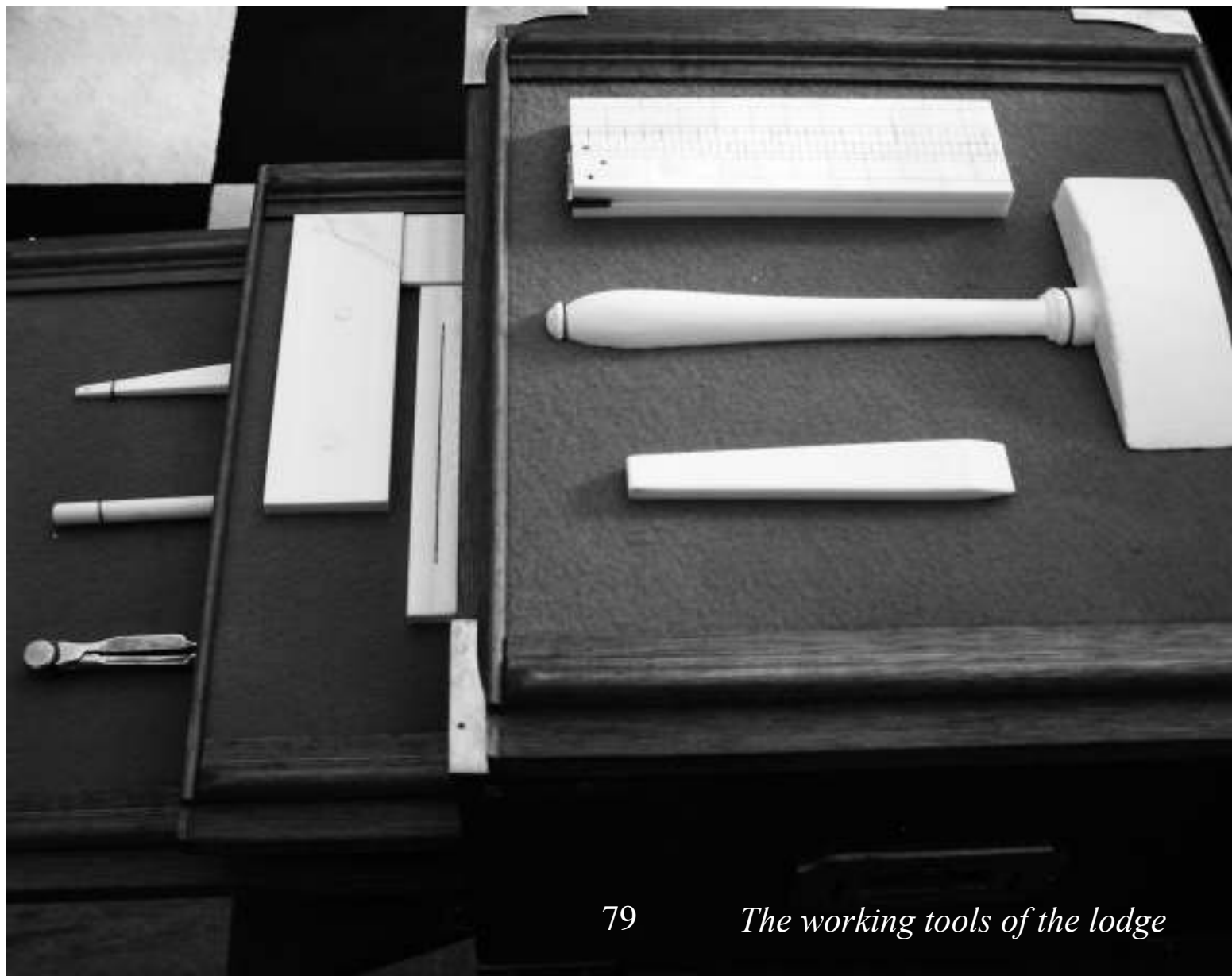
At a meeting of the Sindlesham Lodge No 8293 (Province of Berkshire) on 21 November, the WM and Officers of the Lodge of Mercy were invited to take office and conduct the ceremony of Passing for Bro Eamonn Gilmore. This event reminded many Brethren of the relationship which the Lodge had enjoyed with Wyvern Lodge No 8260 (Province of Wiltshire) some 20 years previously.

2009

In May Bro Ian Thomas was Installed in the Chair of King Solomon. In October he is to preside over the formal commemoration of the Lodge's 60th anniversary. W Bro Peter Cook was appointed PAGDC.

The following Brethren have ceased their membership of the Lodge.
Their valuable contribution is recognised.

2003	H L Ransome	J	16.05.91	WM 1997 (Passed to the Grand Lodge Above 15 Jan 09)
2005	D Fraser	I	09.12.93	WM 2000
	D R Burt	I	08.12.94	
	T J Warner	I	11.12.97	
2007	M E Gillett	I	13.02.97	WM 2003
	S R Burt	I	20.10.94	WM 2002
2008	J Franks	I	13.02.03	



SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LODGE

Our Culture

'I therefore trust that we shall have one aim in view, to please each other and unite in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness.'

The members believe that Mercy has a special ambience. This special feel was evident during the time of the London Lodge of Instruction (1968 -1987) and particularly during the first thirteen of those years when the LofI met at the 'Magpie and Stump,' Old Bailey. It has now been successfully passed on to a newer generation of Brethren.

It has to do with maintaining a friendly and sociable atmosphere at all times; striving for quality of work within a happy environment; and maintaining a 'family' atmosphere – including family and friends in the life of the Lodge.

New members are welcomed with a copy of the previous volume of the Lodge history and a pair of cufflinks. Their attention is drawn to the Lodge banner as our rallying point.

On being Raised to the Sublime Degree of a MM, every Bro is presented with the VSL on which he took his Obligations. This tradition dates back to 1952.

The Lodge continues to dine at the magnificent and historic surroundings of the Officers Mess of the Inns of Court & City Yeomanry, Lincolns Inn – the dining venue since October 1981.

One noticeable cultural change in the last few years has been the move to a widespread use of computers in freemasonry. Communication between Lodge members has been greatly enhanced by the use of email and email attachments. If the members wish for symbols to remind them of 'the Mercy ambience,' they might select the inn sign of the Magpie & Stump and the crest on the Lodge banner.



Officers Mess of the Inns of Court & City Yeomanry

Lodge of Instruction

The London Lodge of Instruction had continued to meet formally until 1987 and then informally until mid-1989. The annual Lodge of Instruction Supper continued as a popular and successful event until 2000. On 4th October of that year the final supper was held at the Brooklands Museum, during the Mastership of W Bro Don Fraser. W Bro Bill Andrews presided.

On 19 October 2000, W Bro Keith Mitchell, then Director of Ceremonies, announced the creation of 'a virtual Lodge of Instruction.' At this early stage it was to consist of a rehearsal one hour before each meeting plus individual tuition from the DC as required. This was to prove to be the start of a very successful venture.

In December 2000 it was reported that informal L of Is had been held at the Oxford Masonic Centre and at the Berkshire Masonic Centre at Sindlesham. W Bros Kieron Mallon and Mike Blythe were now involved. These meetings were reported to be 'firmly established' in February the following year.

W Bro Keith became Lodge Secretary in May 2001, and an on-going pattern of meetings was developed for Oxford, Sindlesham and Bro Secretary's home. These continued very successfully for a number of years.

In 2007, W Bro Kieron Mallon established an L of I at Freemasons Hall, Banbury, and this became the main focal point. At the beginning of 2009 a further move was made to Drayton Leisure, Drayton Lodge Farm. It is intended to use this location as a focal point for a number of social events sponsored by the Lodge of Instruction.

W Bro Mike Blythe continues to support this venture with meetings at Sindlesham for Brethren in the Berkshire area.



S AND BELLS ON HER TOES SHE SHALL HAVE

'The Cross', a landmark of Banbury

Social Activities

Ladies Festivals

The highly successful Bournemouth weekends have continued to take place every February. In 1999 the weekend was held at the Hermitage Hotel for the first time. The 2009 Ladies Festival was the 11th to be held at this excellent location.

The Festival Committee of W Bros Gordon Hawkins and Lawrie Townsend stepped down after many years of dedicated service; W Bro Gordon since 1976, and W Bro Lawrie since 1989. W Bro Tony Callister, ably assisted by Anne, took up the reins for the Feb 2004 Festival.

Annual Luncheon

In 2003 W Bro Tony, as Festival Secretary, introduced the idea of an informal Sunday luncheon for Brethren, families and friends. This takes place every September at the Mill House Restaurant, Swallowfield, Berkshire, and has become a very popular event.

Barbecue

On 13 June 2008, the Banbury Lodge of Instruction sponsored a barbecue hosted by Nicholas & Lesley Turner at Drayton Leisure. This event took place again in July 2009.

Lodge of Instruction Supper

The first formal L of I Supper since 2000 was held at Drayton Leisure on 20 March 2009.

*Lodge of Instruction supper at
Drayton Leisure*



Charity

W Bro Les Bowyer was Charity Steward at the time of the 50th Anniversary. After serving for six years, in 2003 he stepped down in favour of W Bro Tony Callister. The Lodge has continued to support the four main masonic charities as well as a number of non-masonic charities. In November 2006 the Lodge received a Bronze Award in recognition of the support given to the London Appeal for the RMBI. Bro Nicholas Turner was appointed Charity Steward from May 2008.

An aspect of the Lodge's charitable effort is of course exemplified by the work of the Almoner. The Almoner at the time of the 50th Anniversary was W Bro Mike Blythe. After serving for nine years, in 2001 he stepped down in favour of W Bro Lawrie Townsend, who continued to maintain the high standards and traditions of service which were defined by the late W Bro Don Coombes between 1967 & 1983. W Bro Tony Callister was appointed Almoner in May 2009.

The Almoner continues to maintain a special contact with the following ladies, whose husbands were called to the Grand Lodge Above on the following dates:-

Mrs Win Baines	8 June 1992
Mrs Anne Dennard	27 July 1989
Mrs Kit Lawford	18 Nov 1988
Mrs Ivy Pardey	30 May 1987
Mrs Pat Ross	16 July 1988
Mrs Joan Rowe	3 Jun 1990
Miss Sheila Turner	14 Jun 1982 (W Bro Freddie's daughter)

Bro Almoner also now extends the special hand of friendship to the widows and partners of those Brethren who have Passed to The Grand Lodge Above during the last ten years.

Music

Masonic ritual states that music ‘teaches us the art of forming concords, so as to produce a delightful harmony.’

W Bro John Warrell has continued to delight members and visitors alike with his music. In May 2009 he completed 26 years continuous service as Organist of the Lodge (31 years in total).

The musical interlude that Bro John arranges for the Christmas Festive Board is renowned.

His abilities have been further recognised by appointment as Organist to the Metropolitan Grand Chapter; and by the award, in 2006, of a Lambeth MA degree by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Honorary Members and Visitors

Bro George Gibson was Initiated in 1950 and became an Honorary Member on his emigration to Canada in 1955. He continues to keep in touch with the Lodge every Christmas.

On 18 October 2007 the following were elected Honorary members by ballot:-

W Bro JE Fretwell PGStB PAGDC, who had been Visiting Grand Officer since 2001.

V W Bro K Hodgson OBE PGSuptWks PGSwdB(RA), previously Chairman of the Albert Group.

Throughout its history the Lodge has always enjoyed the company and the contribution of its visitors.

Towards the end of 2004 the Secretary, W Bro Keith Mitchell, introduced the idea of a Permanently Invited Guests list.

Brethren interested in the Lodge could add their names to a mailing list and then book themselves in for any meetings that they wished to attend.

This has had a significant impact on attendance.

Royal Arch

In 2004 various changes were made within Royal Arch masonry in order to make it more accessible.

In 2007 The Marquess of Northampton was quoted as saying:-

‘We should all seek to describe the Royal Arch as the next step in Freemasonry after the Craft degrees and the final step in ancient masonry. It is, of course, both an integral part of Craft masonry as well as being its completion.’

The Lodge of Mercy enthusiastically supports the Royal Arch, in particular the Chapter associated with the Mother Lodge, Beneficentia No 5308.

The following Mercy Brethren are members of Beneficentia Chapter.

	1st Principal:-
L A Warrell	1979-80;1980-81
E H Warrell	1986-87
K R Mitchell	2001-02
J F Warner	1989-90;2005-06
A J Callister	2009-10
M J Blythe	1994-95
E G Farenden	2002-03
H B McElhinney	
K P Mallon	

BRETHREN WHOSE MEMORY WE REVERE

Whatever the success of the Lodge, its members remain conscious of the sorrows as well as the joys of our chequered existence on this earth. The following Brethren are remembered with great affection. Their contribution continues to make its influence felt.

'..man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets.'
Ecclesiastes Ch 12 v5

W Bro JH Browne SLGR,PPSGW(Wilts) 22 November 2000

In December 2000 the death was announced of this stalwart of the Lodge who was initiated 4 November 1954 and served as WM 1967. In the Lodge minutes of 14 December 2000, W Bro Gordon Hawkins described Bro John as

'a good man, a good friend, and a great Freemason.'

It is recorded that

'the Brethren stood to order for a few moments in silent and personal reflection on the life of a wonderful man with that well known fiery spirit.'

W Bro BC Shorter LGR,LGCR,PPGSoj(Middx)(RA) 1 January 2001

In February 2001 it was announced that another longstanding member who had a great influence on the Lodge, W Bro Bertie Shorter, had passed to the Grand Lodge Above. He was Initiated 2 February 1956, and served as WM 1969.

A eulogy was given by W Bro G S Browne who spoke with sadness at the passing of so fine a man and a Freemason. The minutes record that:

'W Bro Bertie was a man of outstanding character. He was always an early and eager attendee in all Masonic matters, particularly Lodge of Instruction, where had an overall belief in 'getting the ritual right.' As a premier French Polisher he was a skilled Craftsman, and was honest and thorough throughout his life. The Lodge & the Craft had truly lost a loyal colleague and an upright Mason.'

W Bro DL Coombes PGStB, LGCR

May 2001

Yet another worthy Bro of the previous generation passed to the Grand Lodge Above. W Bro Don was Initiated 18 October 1951 and served as WM in 1963. He attained Grand Rank in 1982. He passed away just at the time that the Lodge had Proposed him as an Honorary Member because his health prevented him from further attendance.

W Bro EW Petty PM 1420;9076 LGR, PPJGD(Surrey) 1 February 2002

W Bro Ted joined the Lodge 26 November 1974 and served as WM 1986. He was yet another member of that well-loved group who supported the Lodge loyally over many years. It is recorded that on 14 Feb 2002 W Bro Les Warrell paid a moving tribute to W Bro Ted.

W Bro TA Smith PM 9076, PPJGD(Surrey)

14 July 2002

W Bro Tom's passing was reported 17 October 2002, and it is recorded that a moving tribute 'was paid by W Bro Don Fraser touching upon his life and many interests both within and outside Masonry.' Bro Tom had been Initiated 12 December 1985 and served as WM 1993. Sadly he died just before he could be told of his appointment to LGR.

Bro ASF Wright

5 August 2002

Bro Albert was remembered 17 October 2002 when W Bro Mike Blythe paid a tribute to him. His health had been poor for a considerable time.

W Bro DA Taylor PM 8072 PPGStdB(Sussex) 15 January 2005

On 10 February 2005 W Bro Jack Warner rose and spoke in tribute to W Bro David. He had been a loyal member of the Lodge for very many years, being Initiated 21 October 1965. He suffered a number of vicissitudes and setbacks in his life but always came up smiling. In later years he moved to Sussex where he first attained the Chair of King Solomon. He served as WM of Mercy 1994.

W Bro AL Tadd LGR

29 May 2007

W Bro Arthur was Initiated December 1980. He served as WM in 1991. He served the Lodge faithfully over many years, but never recovered from the loss of his beloved wife Florrie in January 1999. His move to rural Lincolnshire made contact difficult and his attendance at Lodge eventually impossible.

Bro RB McCall

15 August 2007

Bro Rob was Initiated into the Lodge October 2004. From the outset his contribution was exceptional. He was appointed Senior Warden May 2007, and both Rob and all the members looked forward with anticipation to his Installation into the Chair of King Solomon a year later. Tragically, Bro Rob was struck down with a sudden and terminal illness. He passed to the Grand Lodge Above before he could commence his duties for the current year. Whilst sadly missed, he will be an inspiration to the Lodge for many years to come.

W Bro GS (Tim) Browne LGR

30 November 2007

W Bro Tim was Initiated 5 October 1964. He served as WM in 1975 and again in 2001. He was Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction 1978- 1986; DC 1978-83, and Almoner 1983-86. His influence will continue to be felt for very many years, both in the details of the way ceremonies are conducted in Lodge; and also in our social activities. Bro Tim was at the heart of every aspect of the activities which stemmed from the 'Magpie & Stump' years. He was Father of the Lodge from 2001. His final Office was that of Chaplain 2003-2006.

W Bro GFM Hawkins PM 6787 9076 SLGR PPJGW(Surrey)

PAGDC(RA) LGCR

16 November 2008

W Bro Gordon was Initiated 2 January 1969. He served as WM in 1980 and again in 2005. He served as Director of Ceremonies 1983-86 & 1991-2000; as ADC 2001-2004. He served as Almoner 1986-92. He was Secretary of the Lodge of Instruction 1981-1987. Like many remembered in this section Bro Gordon was one of those Brethren who inspired and guided so many during and beyond the 'Magpie & Stump' days. He had a great personality and a towering intellect. His

knowledge of Freemasonry and his ability as a ritualist were second to none. Throughout his Masonic career he joined enthusiastically in all the Lodge's activities, both Masonic and social. He has been described as 'a masonic giant, much loved by all.'

He passed to the GLA suddenly & unexpectedly. A eulogy was given at his funeral by W Bro Mike Blythe, and at the Lodge meeting on 11 December 2008 by W Bro Les Warrell.

Words quoted in relation to Bro Gordon apply equally to all the Brethren remembered herein:-

'All these...are skilful in their own work....They are not sought out for the council of the people, nor do they obtain eminence in the public assembly. But they maintain the fabric of the world, and their prayer is in the exercise of their trade.'

From Ecclesiasticus Ch 38

'Functus Officio'



OUR NAME AND OUR CREST

(A short lecture traditionally presented to every new member of the Lodge)

The name “MERCY” was chosen after a great deal of thought partly as a mark of appreciation to the Past Masters, Officers and Brethren of the “BENEFICENTIA LODGE No. 5308” for their kindness in sponsoring our petition to Grand Lodge and partly because we think it an expressive name indicative of the very essence of our institution. It is the first time in the annals of the United Grand Lodge of England, so we are told, that this name has been applied for. So, to those who helped us in this choice we offer our thanks.



The crest is a representation of St Martin of Tours, here depicted giving half of his cloak to a poor man he met outside the gates of AMIENS.

St Martin was born in AD 316 in Sabaria, now Szombathely in Hungary. His parents were heathens (not unusual in those days) and, his father being a military tribune, he was forced, much against his wishes, to become a soldier at the very early age of sixteen. Escaping from the influence of his father he received his education from a Christian church and consequently his life as a soldier was marked with the rigour of a monk. Records say he served under Constantius (son of Constantine the Great) and also Julian (Flavius Claudius Julianus, Roman Emperor) and was serving with the latter when he conquered the Germans in Gaul, the final battle being at Argentoratum, now Strasburg. During this period he appeared to be the model of all virtue and the famous incident of sharing his cloak with a beggar occurred during this campaign.

Legend says that on the evening following the day of this act of mercy, Christ appeared to him covered with this half of the cloak and the vision was the cause of him being baptised in AD 337, at the age of 21.

He was then released from military service, spent many years in retirement, after which he returned to his birthplace, converted his mother and opposed with zeal the Arians. For the latter he was scourged the country but manifested the firmness of a martyr.

He then established a monastery in Milan but found himself again exposed to persecution and took refuge on the island of Gallinaria.

He next settled in Poitiers where he is said to have wrought many miracles and in AD 372 was appointed, against his will, to the Bishopric of Tours. To withdraw from the world he built the famous abbey of Marmoutiers on the Loire, considered to be the oldest abbey in France.

Noted for his piety, he was always ready to endeavour to do good in the world in a quiet and modest way, without thought of personal reward.

St Martin died about AD 397 and his festival takes place on the 11th November. This is still one of the legal terms in Scotland and is the date on which it was decided to end the most terrible and bloodiest of all wars – November 11th, 1918 – a deed of mercy for all concerned when we remember that in one day during that war there fell on the field of battle upward of 60,000 men.



ORATION DELIVERED AT THE CONSECRATION OF THE LODGE

(As recorded in the Freemasons' Chronicle 24th September 1949)

In the Oration, delivered by the Chaplain, W Bro the Rev Gerald W Page, he rightly stressed how rich in meaning, as well as in splendour was the act of Consecration upon which all present were about to enter. They had met not to consecrate or inaugurate, a mere building, even a temple, nor a banner or material things but a new Lodge formed of thirteen true and trusty Brethren, but for whose presence and action in desiring to form the Lodge, the ceremony would not have been called for. When they met in the future, under the name they had chosen of Lodge of Mercy, No 6821, alone would they be able to claim it as theirs, and to be so known among their fellow Masons, and they were to be congratulated on their new enterprise for the success of which all must join in forming the most sincere good wishes.

In what manner and to what end, was the Lodge to be consecrated? He would suggest that the manner itself of the consecration symbolised what was to be its real purpose. Upon the Lodge Board, after it had been unveiled at the direction of the Consecrating Officer, he would proceed to scatter corn, pour oil and wine, and to sprinkle salt, as reminder to the Founders and all present, not only of what corn and wine, oil and salt meant for the existence of man, but what the Lodge was expected to do for the souls of men.

Corn was scattered to produce wheat, oats, barley, for the sustenance of man and the maintenance of his life and of animal creation. Without it both would perish, but did not Holy Writ remind us, from the spiritual aspect, that "Man cannot live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Thus, he needed to feed his soul as well as his body. To such end, Freemasonry stood with its profound spiritual truths and sublime moral values. Remove from its teachings all references to God and things of God, and there would be singularly little left. Let them think for a moment on those things,

for no man could be admitted into the Craft under our Constitution, unless he held belief in God. No Masonic Lodge was allowed to be opened, as might be another gathering such as a club or an exhibition, but only after it had been solemnly consecrated and dedicated to God's service. Our Masonic ceremonies taught a man, never to mention His Name, but with that awe and reverence which is due from the creature to his Creator; to regard the Volume of the Sacred Law as the unerring standard of truth and justice, and to remember that wherever he was and whatever he did, God's all seeing eye observed him. Thus, the use of Corn was an emblematical reminder that as it was food for the body of man, Freemasonry was able to offer sustenance for his soul.

In regard to the use of Wine, as recalled for us by the familiar words of the Scriptures "Wine maketh glad the heart of man." When a distinguished visitor or a friend came to one's house, or a dinner was held for guests, or the celebration of notable events in life took place, wine invariably appeared, for wine gave expression to pleasure. It was the symbol of friendship, fellowship, and comradeship.

A new Lodge was consecrated with wine as a reminder that Freemasonry stood pre-eminently for friendship and fellowship, and to be found there, in their fullest expression. Of all the many associations and fellowships in the World today, Freemasonry stood supremely alone and quite unmatched, for charity, fellowship and goodwill. It stood for brotherhood and had played no small part in creating unity, peace and concord among the nations of the world. The Lodge, thus, was consecrated with wine in order that its Founders may heed the summons and accept the charge: "Be happy and communicate happiness!"

As for Oil, it was used to soothe pain, and to hasten the process of healing. It was poured on troubled waters. It possessed curative properties and as such was administered to man and beast, and it was compounded with ointment from the most ancient times.

Freemasonry stood aloof of the rifts and divisions among men, brought through race, by creeds, or politics, or class, or by poverty or wealth. In its ranks, men of every race and colour, creed or class, met and had found a veritable haven of rest. Thus, the Lodge was consecrated with Oil to teach us that as it was beneficial to the physical needs of man, so Freemasonry could prove for those of his soul.

Salt had its own savour and held great cleansing properties. It was used to preserve man's food and render it palatable, and we read in the Old Testament that with every sacrifice salt was to be scattered upon it. In the early Christian Church, salt was poured upon candidates for baptism as an emblem of purification. To our present day, it was said of one specially deserving of his fellowmen that he was "the salt of the earth." Salt was emblematical of moral goodness. There was a noble part in the make-up of every man, and in regard to it Freemasonry had much to say and much to teach. And so, the Lodge was consecrated with Salt to teach Masons that they should be as the salt of the earth.

Finally the Ceremony closed with the offering up of incense, such as it was the office of the High Priest to offer to the honour and glory of God, and in those ancient days, it was burnt night and day in that sacred purpose. In Eastern countries, it was the custom, when earthly potentates greeted one another to pay mutual honour of offering incense, and in the first instance, such honour was always paid by the junior to the senior. The new Lodge was consecrated with Incense as a reminder that Freemasonry was dedicated to the service of God, and that its work, first and foremost, was to be for the Glory of God.

Concluding, the Chaplain once again exhorted the Founders ever to keep before them the purpose they should have in view and which symbolised the Consecration Ceremony in which they had taken part, so that Freemasonry may fulfil its purpose for the souls of men, as emblematically represented in regard to their physical needs by the use of Corn, Wine, Oil and Salt.

APPENDICES

Past Masters of the Lodge 1999-2009

1999	LA Warrell, PM7445, SLGR, PPSGW(Middx), PZ, PAGSoj(RA), SLGCR, P3PGJ(Middx)(RA)	2004	KP Mallon
		2005	GFM Hawkins PM 6787, PM9076,SLGR PPJGW(Surrey), PZ, PAGDC(RA), LGCR
2000	D Fraser		
2001	GS Browne LGR	2006	BV Wood
2002	SR Burt	2007	BV Wood
2003	ME Gillett	2008	AJ Callister LGR

Honours Conferred

Grand Rank

2000 J F Warner PGStB

Senior London Grand Rank

2008 M J Blythe

2009 KR Mitchell

London Grand Rank

2001 KR Mitchell

2004 L Townsend

2007 EG Farenden

Offices Held 1999-2009

Chaplain

W Bro EW Petty	1991-2001
W Bro MJ Blythe	2001-2003
W Bro GS Browne	2003-2006
W Bro JF Warner	2006-

Treasurer

W Bro AJ Callister	1986-2003
W Bro D Fraser	2003-2005
W Bro LF Bowyer	2005-2009
W Bro BV Wood	2009-

Secretary

W Bro JF Warner	1986-2001
W Bro KR Mitchell	2001-

Director of Ceremonies

W Bro GFM Hawkins	1991-2000
W Bro KR Mitchell	2000-2001
W Bro JF Warner	2001-2004
W Bro MJ Blythe	2004-

Almoner

W Bro MJ Blythe	1992-2001
W Bro L Townsend	2001-2009
W Bro AJ Callister	2009-

Charity Steward

W Bro LF Bowyer	1997-2003
W Bro AJ Callister	2003-2008
Bro NP Turner	2008-

Assistant Director of Ceremonies

W Bro DA Taylor	1997-2001
W Bro GFM Hawkins	2001-2004
W Bro AJ Callister	2004-2006
W Bro KP Mallon	2006-

Organist

W Bro EH Warrell	1983-
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Assistant Secretary

W Bro AL Tadd	1997-2001
W Bro DA Taylor	2001-2005
Bro HB McElhinney	2005-

Tyler

W Bro R Swinscoe	1992- 2001
W Bro B Cobb	2001-

HOLY BIBLE

THE LODGE OF MERCY

Nº 6821



Membership Statistics

Membership of the Lodge at May each year:

1950	23	1960	52	1970	66	1980	56	1990	34	2000	31
1951	28	1961	54	1971	67	1981	54	1991	33	2001	28
1952	30	1962	60	1972	63	1982	55	1992	33	2002	25
1953	34	1963	61	1973	64	1983	54	1993	32	2003	25
1954	36	1964	64	1974	67	1984	51	1994	32	2004	25
1955	40	1965	63	1975	64	1985	46	1995	34	2005	25
1956	43	1966	61	1976	64	1986	46	1996	33	2006	27
1957	43	1967	61	1977	62	1987	40	1997	33	2007	26
1958	46	1968	63	1978	62	1988	39	1998	32	2008	25
1959	49	1969	64	1979	56	1989	37	1999	31	2009	25

Membership detail by decade:

Period	Initiates	Joining	Losses	Membership at:
1949-1960	45	5	11	May 1960 52
1961-1970	31	1	18	May 1970 66
1971-1980	19	5	34	May 1980 56
1981-1990	10		32	May 1990 34
1991-2000	9	2	14	May 2000 31
2000-2009	8	5	19	May 2009 25
Totals	122	18	128	

Full Membership Fee:

1950	£ 4.50	1990	£101.00
1960	£ 7.50	2000	£178.00
1970	£10.50	2009	£260.00
1980	£45.00		



'On the way to the Festive Board'

**LODGE OF MERCY
NO 6821**



SEVENTY FIVE YEARS ON

2009-2024

VOLUME 3

PREFACE

A Lodge History entitled 'The First Fifty Years 1949-1999' was published for the 50th Anniversary of the Lodge. The final section of this booklet was entitled 'Into the 21st Century'. This was followed 10 years later by a second edition entitled 'Sixty Years On' to celebrate our Golden Jubilee and looked forward to the Lodge moving 'Into a Brighter Future.'

The past 15 years have seen many changes in society, world dynamics and freemasonry in general. Like the Temple pavement the past fifteen years have been a chequered journey for the Lodge. These we now celebrate and reflect on as we review what has taken place and look forward to the Lodge celebrating continual working for a century.

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1. Introduction
2. 2009 - 2024
3. One of the brightest characters in the annals of the Lodge
4. Coronovirus Pandemic and how Freemasons stood firm
5. A New Home for the Lodge
6. Promotions for Lodge Members
7. Those in Distressed Circumstances
8. 2022 - Green shoots for the lodge

Appendices

Prepared and produced by W Bro Ron Barnett PAGStB
and W Bro L Thomas LGR





2 Distinguished members of the Lodge, W Bro Bill Andrews and W Bro Les Warrell, receiving their certificate for 50 years in Masonry



2009 - 2024

Though membership started to slide the Lodge has experienced a steady flow of Initiates and Joining Members.

Initiates:-

February	2011	James M. Clark
October	2011	William C. Service
December	2012	Neil A. Mephram
February	2013	Arash A. Fatemian
December	2023	Roger M. Hawlor
December	2014	Christos Sotiropoulos
February	2015	Daniel P. Hallett
December	2015	Fraser M. Reid
December	2015	James A. Ellison
February	2017	Roger F. Woodbrudge
December	2018	Robert J. Gibbs
December	2018	Nicolas Kleovoulou
December	2019	Zacchary T.P. Couldrick
December	2021	Andrew Abbotsford-Smith
December	2021	Cristian Jijie
February	2022	Adam E.O. Nell
December	2023	Christopher I. Prothero
December	2023	David Van De Velde

The following Joining Members have likewise been welcomed:

February	2011	Terry B.G. Cox
December	2012	Clifford L. Potter
February	2013	Ron J. Barnett
October	2015	Peter J Hynes
May	2023	Andrew J. McHugh

Christmas 2019 - Traditional Carol singing at the Festive Board



Christmas 2019 - An Official Visit from our Metropolitan Grand Inspector

2009 - 2024

The following material has been extracted from the Lodge minutes:-

2009

Bro Arnaud P. Unvois was then Passed to the Degree of a Fellow Craft Freemason and Bro Eamonn J. Gilmore was Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason

2010

Bro Arnaud P. Unvois was Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason.

The Lodge approve the creation of a Web Site for the Lodge of Mercy No 6821 and appoint W Bro Keith R. Mitchell and Bro Lee G. Thomas as Webmasters

A revised toast list, including a shortened toast to Metropolitan Grand Lodge, was published.

W Bro Mike J. Blythe gave a eulogy to W Bro E.H. (John) Warrell who had passed to the Grand Lodge Above. John was an accomplished organist and a true musician.

W Bro Keith R. Mitchell gave an eulogy to the late Bro George Gibson an Honorary Member of the Lodge since moving to Canada.

2011

W Bro Keith R. Mitchell appointed a Metropolitan Grand Inspector W Bro Kieron P. Mallon, introduced and explained the nature of Mentoring in Masonry and how it works in the Lodge of Mercy. He described its role to generate the Craft's future leaders.

The WM advised the Brethren of the Passing to the Grand Lodge Above of W Bro G Dennis PJGD and W Bro John F Warner spoke in tribute to departed merit.

Bro Ron Davies elected as an Honorary Member of the Lodge.

W Bro Michael Singleton PSGD Met GInsp visited the Lodge.

2012

The Secretary, W Bro Keith R. Mitchell, advised the Brethren that W Bro Tony Baldry MP had been knighted in HM The Queen's Birthday Honours and he had written to congratulate him.

W Bro Peter Cook PAGDC, the Lodge's recent Senior Visiting Officer elected an Honorary Member.

2013

The Secretary congratulated W Bro Kieron P. Mallon on being appointed as a Visiting Officer.

2014

W Bro Ray Ride PSGD Metropolitan Grand Inspector visited the Lodge.

The Worshipful Master advised the Brethren of the Passing to the Grand Lodge Above of W Bro Les Ransome. W Bro J. F. Warner spoke in tribute to departed merit.

The Secretary welcomed W Bro PJ Sage as the new Senior Visiting Officer.

2015

The Worshipful Master advised the Brethren of the Passing to the Grand Lodge Above of Bro Ron Davies. W Bro JF Warner spoke in tribute to departed merit.

The Secretary reported that Grand Lodge are now circulating the minutes and notices of the Quarterly Communications to Lodge Secretaries via e-mail. Master Masons are now permitted and actively encouraged to attend the Quarterly Communication.

The Secretary was able to announce that he had traced and purchased on the Lodge's behalf a missing Lodge of Mercy Breast Jewel. It has special significance because it is a Founder's Jewel belonging to Bro Sealey, the first Junior Deacon of the Lodge.

2016

The Secretary informed the Lodge that the Second Rising from Metropolitan Grand Lodge via the Porchway had been circulated to

those brethren on e-mail.

W Bro Ray Ride PSGD Metropolitan Grand Inspector visited the Lodge and presented W Bro Bill Andrews and W Bro Les Warrell with Certificates marking their 50-year membership of Freemasonry.

In recognition of his services to the Lodge W Bro Les Bowyer be made an Honorary Member of the Lodge.

W.Bro Keith Mitchell presented W.Bros John Donaldson and Ron Barnett with Metropolitan Mentoring Certificates.

2017

The Worshipful Master advised the Brethren of the Passing to the Grand Lodge Above of Bro Derek Burt, a former member of the Lodge, and spoke in tribute to departed merit.

W Bro Mike Blythe reminded the Lodge that earlier in the week Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her Sapphire Jubilee, sixty-five years upon the British Throne. This being the first time in British history that a monarch has reached this milestone. The Lodge requested that the Secretary send its congratulations to Her Majesty.

The Worshipful Master congratulated Rt W Rt Hon Sir Tony Baldry PC DL JGW on his appointment to Junior Grand Warden in the United Grand Lodge of England.

In recognition of his services to the Lodge W Bro Peter Sage be made an Honorary Member of the Lodge.

2018

In recognition of their services to Freemasonry and the Country's Armed Forces the following Brethren be made Honorary Country Members of the Lodge:

W Bro Raymond Joseph Pearson

W Bro David Bailie Lyall

W Bro Michael Shanahan

Bro Derek Cantellow

The Secretary informed the Lodge that he had received notification from the Metropolitan Grand Charity Steward that the Lodge has obtained the Metropolitan Grand Master's award for outstanding achievement for the MMC London Fire Brigade Appeal in which he

thanked the members of the Lodge for their help in this very important appeal.

W Bro John Smith introduced himself to the Brethren and said how much he was looking forward to being the Lodge's Senior Visiting Officer.

2019

The Worshipful Master advised the Brethren of the Passing to the Grand Lodge Above of W Bro Steve Burt, a former member and Past Master of the Lodge. W Bro Keith Mitchell spoke in tribute to departed merit. RtW Bro Sir Tony Baldry proposed that the Lodge purchase a race horse and name it Valentine, however the Worshipful Master ruled this out of order as a previous Notice of Motion had not been given, much to the delight of the Treasurer.

That in consideration for his services to the Lodge of Mercy in particular and Freemasonry in general W Bro Les Warrell be made an Honorary Member of the Lodge.

W Bro Jonathan Hillman PSGD, MetGIInsp visited the Lodge.

2020

As a result of the suspension, owing to the Coronavirus pandemic, by the MW The Grand Master of all meetings from 17 March 2020 to 17 July 2020 the Lodge was unable to meet.

In accordance with current Government Covid pandemic regulations whereby only six brethren were permitted to attend the meeting, there were no Visitors, and all brethren prevented from attending had offered their apologies.

W Bro Kieron Mallon presented a Eulogy for departed W.Bro Keith Mitchell.

That in consideration for his services to the Lodge of Mercy in particular and Freemasonry in general W Bro Bill Andrews be made an Honorary Member of the Lodge.

The Almoner reported W Bro Les Warrell has passed to the Grand Lodge Above at the age of 99 after a long illness.

The December meeting having been summoned, no Brethren turned up resulting in the meeting being abandoned.

2021

The February meeting having been summoned, no Brethren turned up resulting in the meeting being abandoned.

The Lodge congratulated W Bro Kieron Mallon on his recent promotion to Past Junior Grand Deacon in the United Grand Lodge of England, and Past Grand Standard Bearer in the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England.

The Lodge congratulated W Bro Kieron Mallon on his be appointed a Metropolitan Grand Inspector, and W Bro Arash Fatemian on being appointed a Metropolitan Grand Steward.

W Bro Kieron Mallon gave a eulogy and reading of Ecclesiastes, following which the Brethren stood in prayer for all those lost during the Covid Pandemic.

W Bro Kieron Mallon gave a eulogy for departed merit W Bro Peter Sage.

2022

W Bro Kieron Mallon gave a eulogy for departed merit W Bro Bill Andrews.

Metropolitan Grand Inspector W Bro Paul Brown visited the Lodge. The Lodge then stood in silent respect for Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The Pro Grand Master launched the new UGLE Strategy '2022 and Beyond'.

2023

W Bro Mike James and Bro Jim Ellison made Honorary Members.

W Bro Kieron Mallon was promoted to Past Senior Grand Deacon and W Bro Ron Barnett received his first promotion to Past Assistant Grand Standard Bearer.

For the first time since before the second World War that any such meeting has been held outside of London, the Wednesday 13th September 2023 Quarterly Communication meeting will be held at the International Convention Centre in Caerleon, near Newport, Wales.

The Secretary, on behalf of the Lodge, welcomed W Bro John Smith for what is his last visit to the Lodge as our Senior Visiting Officer.



Honour Guard formed in respect of departed merit W Bro Keith Mitchell PSGD PGSoj

One of the brightest characters in the annals of the Lodge

W Bro Keith Mitchell CBE 9th July 1946 - 26th August 2020

Keith was Initiated into the Lodge of Mercy on 14th April 1977.

Keith was promoted to London Grand Chapter Rank in 2008 and Senior London Grand Rank in the craft in 2008. He was by this time the secretary of the Lodge of Mercy and his administrative skills were noticed by the Visiting Officers and reported on. In 2011 Keith went to what he thought was a drinks party only to realise he was being interviewed. Much to his surprise he was offered a position as one of the Metropolitan Grand Inspectors. Keith said at the time “it was a real privilege to be one of the twenty Rulers in London Masonry”. Keith had the stewardship of over ninety London lodges. With this role came active promotion to Junior Grand Deacon in 2011 and in 2012 PSGD and Past Grand Soj in the RA.

Keith also became interested and active within the province of Oxfordshire, having been one of the founders of Rathcreedan Chapter 8690 in Banbury he was First Principal in 2012. In 2013 he was First Principal of Oxfordshire Installed First Principals and WM of Oxfordshire Lodge of Installed Masters in 2014. He served two terms as Metropolitan Grand Inspector.

Keith also received honours in the Mark degree having been appointed PProvJGW in Middlesex. He was also a Past Master of Terra Sancta Council No. 151 of the Royal and Select Masters in Banbury.

Keith's work outside of Freemasonry was recognised by being appointed CBE for his services to Politics and Community.

The big church funeral could not take place due to Covid but a scaled down service and at the crematorium a Masonic Guard of Honour representing UGLE, Met and the Province of Oxfordshire formed up as a guard of honour. His Grand Rank regalia was on his coffin.

London Masonry lost a true and formidable Leader. Mercy lost a guiding light. Many Masons lost a good and loyal friend.



October 2020 Meeting conducted in accordance with Grand Lodge Guidance

Coronavirus Pandemic and how Freemasonry stood firm

2020 saw the world engulfed in a pandemic as the Covid-19 virus spread rapidly around the globe. To try and stem the spread of the virus and protect the population the Government ordered a complete shutdown confining everyone to their home and prohibited the meeting of outsiders face to face. On 17 March the Grand Master issued the following:

In view of the latest Government advice on the coronavirus pandemic, all Lodge and Chapter meetings within England and Wales are suspended for a period of four months with immediate effect.

Brethrens communication was restricted to social gatherings remotely online via Zoom.

As the pandemic continues Grand Lodge issued guidelines regarding the keeping of records of abandoned meetings, until Government restrictions were eased enabling up to six unrelated individuals to meet indoors wearing appropriate personal protective equipment and maintaining social distancing. Brethren, along with many of the population remained wary of meeting and travel by train and other public transport was extremely restricted.

Mercy Lodge held its Installation Meeting in October 2020 with only five members present at the Banbury Masonic Centre, to save brethren travelling into London. However as the pandemic restrictions had prevented the holding of the Installation Meeting in May, the Master and Officers remained in place for a second year. In accordance with Grand Lodge guidance the Lodge was called from Labour to Refreshment to allow five other members of the lodge and our SVO to join remotely via Zoom to undertake the normal non-masonic business of the Lodge.

Sadly, a second wave of the pandemic resulted in another complete shutdown with the Grand Master issuing the following instruction:



June 2021 Installation Meeting - Glad to be able to spend time together

Coronavirus Pandemic and how Freemasonry stood firm

In view of the latest Government restrictions announced on 31 October 2020, the MW The Grand Master, His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent, KG, has directed that all Lodge meetings in England will be suspended with effect from 12.01 a.m. on Thursday 5 November until such time as those restrictions are lifted.

The ME The Grand Principals have given a similar direction in respect of Chapter meetings in England.

As the restrictions eased and meetings of six brethren could be held, our 2021 Installation meeting was held by dispensation, under temporary emergency procedures put in place on 10 June, in Freemasons Hall Banbury, at which the Master, W Bro Peter Hynes, was both proposed and installed. Following the meeting a very small gathering of brethren enjoyed a drink together in a somewhat deserted local hostelry.

The rapid development and distribution of effective vaccines enabled a return to a full meeting at Great Queen Street for our 21 October 2021 regular meeting, although some members remained reluctant to travel to London and attend large gatherings for some years.



Fraternal times at the Club for Acts and Actors

A New Home for the Lodge

The early 2010s were boom years for the Lodge with up to 29 visitors enjoying our Festive Boards at the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Officers' Mess in Lincoln's Inn. However, the economic climate began to discourage visitors in general due to the increased costs of travel and dining.

In 2011 the Festive Board was moved to the Grand Connaught Rooms in Great Queen Street. In 2012 to the Kingsway Hall Hotel, Great Queen Street, and then Thiwanya, 10 Gate Street, behind Holborn Station.

In 2013 we moved to the Imperial Hotel, Southampton Row, and in 2014 we moved to holding our May and December Festive Boards at the Inns of Court & City Yeomanry Officers' Mess, Lincoln's Inn, and the October and February festive boards at Thiwanya, 10 Gate street.

However, significant increases in price led us in 2017 to move back to Kingsway Hall Hotel, Great Queen Street, and in 2018 to the Imperial Hotel, 61-66 Russell Square, Bloomsbury.

The pandemic shutdown had a devastating effect on the hospitality industry making Festive Board venues hard to find.

The Lodge therefore set about finding a new permanent dining venue, and once again W Bro Kieron Mallon demonstrated his unswerving commitment to the Lodge by spending many days visiting local venues serving food and drink in the area around Freemasons' Hall.

His efforts were not in vain and we were lucky enough to be accepted by the Club for Acts and Actors, 20 Bedford St, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9HP where we have been extremely well looked after and enjoy many happy and convivial Festive Boards. The 2021 Christmas Festive Board saw the welcome return of our professional chorister to entertain us.

*Bro Charles Avornyotse and Bro Adam Nell
on being passed to the Second Degree*



Our Lodge of Instruction has also undergone changes in venue over the years.

In 2009 Lodge of Instruction meetings were held weekly at Bro Nicholas Turner's Golf and Leisure Centre in Banbury and, monthly, at the Sindlesham Masonic Centre, and later moved to only weekly at the Golf and Leisure Centre.

Sadly the Golf and Leisure Club closed in 2014 following which Lodge of Instructions led a peripatetic life for a while at a public house in Tadmarton until we found a home for a while at the RAFA Club in Broad Street Banbury.

With London based members becoming more involved in taking Office it became necessary to hold occasional Lodge of Instructions at Freemasons' Hall , Great Queen Street.

With the RAFA Club closing for refurbishment they moved to Longford Park Community Centre in Banbury with occasional meetings continuing to be held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street.



Promotions for Lodge Members

Since the inception of Metropolitan Grand Lodge in 2003, Mercy has been very fortunate to have provided five Active Metropolitan Grand Officers in the person of :

W Bro. Keith Mitchell Metropolitan Junior Grand Deacon in 2003.

W Bro Kieron Mallon Metropolitan Grand Steward in 2010.

W Bro Nicholas Turner Metropolitan Assist Grand Standard Bearer in 2018.

W Bro Lee Thomas Met' Grand steward in 2019 and

W Bro Arash Fatemian Met' Grand Steward in 2021.

This is an exceptional number of Actives from one lodge.

Visiting Officers from the Lodge

Metropolitan Visiting Officers are the vital link between a Lodge and Met'. These officers give freely of their time to assist Lodges and mentor them to not only survive but hopefully thrive.

Visiting Officers provided by Mercy Lodge to Metropolitan Grand Lodge

Metropolitan Grand Inspectors:

W Bro. Keith R Mitchell PSGD (PGSoj RA)

W Bro Kieron Mallon PSGD (PAGSoj RA)

Senior Visiting Officers:

W Bro John Warner PAGDC (PAGDC RA)

W Bro Kieron Mallon PSGD (PAGSoj RA)

Visiting officers:

W Bro John Warner PAGDC (PAGSoj RA)

W Bro Kieron Mallon PSGD (PAGSoj RA)

W Bro Arash Fatemian LGR

Grand Officers since 2009

W Bro Kieron Mallon PAGDC (AGSoj RA)

W Bro Ron Barnett PAGStB



January Emergency Meeting



One of the great pillars in Freemasonry being practiced

Those in Distressed Circumstances

The Lodge throughout this period has maintained the distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart - Charity.

The following donations have been made in the past 15 years:

Lifelites	£11,000
Teddies for Loving Care	£10,000
Cyber Knife Appeal	£5,000
MMC London Air Ambulance Appeal	£5,000
Metropolitan Grand Charity	£2,000
Royal Masonic Trust for Girls & Boys	£1,000
Masonic Charitable Foundation	£750
Masonic Samaritans Fund.	£375
Banbury branch of St John's Ambulance	£250
Banbury Food Bank	£250
Wokingham District Cancer Care Trust	£250
Huntington's Disease Association	£250
Didcot Volunteer Centre	£250
Inspired4life	£250
National Autistic Society	£250
The Food Chain	£250
1st Bicester Intrepid Scout Group	£250
Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution	£125

'blesses him who gives as well as him who receives'



Freemasonry getting back on track

2022- Green shoots for the Lodge

The past two years has seen a steady return to all normal masonic activities. Increased membership generally has been, strangely, greatly helped by the pandemic. The publicity attracted by the numerous examples of good works being carried out by Freemasons across the country to assist and ease difficulties during the pandemic had generated renewed and positive interest in freemasonry.

Added to this, the rapid increase in the use of social media by Grand Lodge in particular and the public in general, facilitated greater information and knowledge of freemasonry being spread more widely with interest in joining being made direct via the internet. Grand Lodge's use of targeted social media campaigns stimulated interest even further.

The Lodge was lucky enough to benefit from this newly generated interest with four Initiates being referred to it for unsponsored applicants approaching Metropolitan Grand Lodge.

With the newer members we are growing our London based membership which is returning the Lodge to its rightful place with Metropolitan Grand Lodge and London.

We have a chain of Light Blue progressive Officers and others waiting on the Stewards' bench. The future is bright with several senior experience brethren supporting and encouraging our newer brethren we can look forward to a continuing successful Lodge of Mercy heading for its centenary in 2049.

APPENDICES

Past Masters of the Lodge 2009-2024

2009	IG Thomas	2017	WC Service
2010	LG Thomas LGR	2018	A Fatemian LGR
2011	NP Turner SLGR	2019	NA Mephram
2012	JA Donaldson LGR	2020	NA Mephram
2013	MD Bishop LGR	2021	PJ Hynes
2014	EJ Gilmore	2022	DP Hallett
2015	MJ Blythe SLGR, SLGCR PPrGSN (Berks)	2023	MD Bishop LGR
2016	KP Mallon PSGD, PAGSoj, MetGI	2024	JF Warner PAGDC, PAGDC(RA)

Offices Held 2009-2024

Chaplain

W Bro JF Warner	2006-2013
W Bro TBG Cox	2013-2016
W Bro BV Wood	2016-2021
W Bro NA Mephram	2021-2023
W Bro WC Service	2023-

Treasurer

W Bro BV Wood	2009-2015
W Bro AF Partyka	2015-2021
W Bro NP Turner	2021-

Secretary

W Bro KR Mitchell	2001-2014
W Bro IG Thomas	2014-2016
W Bro Ron Barnett	2016-

Director of Ceremonies

W Bro MJ Blythe	2004-2009
W Bro KP Mallon	2010-2016

W Bro LG Thomas 2016-2021
W Bro A Fatemian 2021-

Almoner

W Bro AJ Callister 2009-2016
W Bro NP Turner 2016-2021
W Bro PJ Hynes 2021-

Charity Steward

Bro NP Turner 2008-2011
W Bro IG Thomas 2011-2014
Bro Bill Service 2014-2016
W Bro BV Wood 2016-2018
W Bro JA Donaldson 2018-2021
W Bro MD Bishop 2021-2023
W Bro WC Service 2023-

Assistant Director of Ceremonies

W Bro KP Mallon 2006-2009
W Bro MJ Blythe 2010-2011
W Bro TBG Cox 2011-2013
W Bro LG Thomas 2013-2016
W Bro MD Bishop 2016-2019
W Bro A Fatemian 2019-2021
W Bro LG Thomas 2021-2022

Assistant Secretary

Bro HB McElhinney 2005-2009
W Bro AF Partyka 2014-2015
W Bro Ron Barnett 2015-2016
W Bro WC Service 2019-2023

Tyler

W Bro B Cobb 2001-2017
W Bro M James 2017-2023
W Bro Kevin Howard 2023-

OFFICERS 2024/2025

W Bro John Warner PAGDC PAGDC	WM
Bro Robert Gibbs	SW
Bro Andrew McHugh	JW
W Bro Bill Service	Chaplain
W Bro Nicholas Turner SLGR	Treasurer
W Bro Ron Barnett PAGStB, PrGReg (Oxon) PrGReg (RA Oxon)	Secretary
W Bro Arash Fatemian LGR	DC
W Bro Peter Hynes	Almoner
W Bro Bill Service	Charity Steward
W Bro Kieron Mallon PSGD PAGSoj	Membership Officer
W Bro Kieron Mallon PSGD PAGSoj	Mentor
Bro Cristian Jijie	SD
Bro Adam Nell	JD
Bro Charles Avornyotse	IG
RtW Bro Sir Tony Baldry PC DL PJGW	Senior Steward
Bro Charles Avornyotse	Steward
Bro Chris Prothero	Steward
Bro David Van De Velde	Steward
W Bro Kevin Howard PGPur, (LGCR, MetAGSE)	Tyler
W Bro Mike Bishop LGR	IPM

Happy have we met
Happy have we been
Happy may we part and
Happy meet again.

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