

# LODGE OF MERCY NO 6821

*Consecrated 23 May 1949*



## SIXTY YEARS ON

Volume 2 of the Lodge History

1999-2009



*Grand lodge, Great Queen Street,  
London*

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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.



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 RMBl. 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)

2000 D Fraser

2001 GS Browne LGR

2002 SR Burt

2003 ME Gillett

2004 KP Mallon

2005 GFM Hawkins  
PM 6787, PM9076,SLGR  
PPJGW(Surrey), PZ,  
PAGDC(RA), LGCR

2006 BV Wood

2007 BV Wood

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-

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'*

