



Warwickshire Mark

December 2021—January 2022



The 12 Masonic Days of Christmas

On the first day – a Founder tutting at the back

On the second – two Temple pillars

On the third day – three Craft degrees

On the fourth day – four cardinal virtues

On the fifth day – five to hold a lodge

On the sixth day – six-pointed star

On the seventh day – seven arts and sciences

On the eighth day – eight celestial planets

On the ninth day – nine working tools

On the tenth day – ten raffle tickets

On the eleventh day – eleven true disciples

On the twelfth day – twelve tribes of Israel



Bedford Lodge of Mark Master Masons 150th Anniversary

What exactly is a sesquicentenary? Well it means a 150th anniversary and the Bedford Lodge of Mark Master Masons have just celebrated theirs, albeit a year late due to Covid.

The Assistant Grand Master R.W.Bro. Stephen Davison attended the celebratory Meeting of The Lodge on 15th December at Alderson House in Warwick and presided over most of the Meeting, having been passed the gavel by the Worshipful Master of the Lodge W.Bro. Martin Grahame-Dunn.

The occasion was the opportunity for a full Provincial Team visit and this was in addition to distinguished brethren from neighbouring provinces.

The evening included both the formal and the informal. The first included the reading of the original warrant of the Lodge by the Provincial Grand Secretary, W.Bro. Ian Belsham and the Celebratory warrant by the accompanying D.C. V.W.Bro John Vause. We also heard a very informative history of the events leading up to the founding of the Lodge, given by W.Bro Graham Masefield

Lighter moments came when the Alderson House cat decided to wander by and join in the proceedings, due to the doors being open for Covid reasons. Firstly when The Provincial Grand Secretary was reading the original Warrant and again when V.W.Bro Vause was reading the new one.

A number of new Honorary Members of the Lodge were proposed, including the Assistant Grand Master and his accompanying D.C, our own P.G.M and Prov.G.Sec. and all of these were included in the presentation of sesquicentenary jewels.

The ceremony also included a surprise item as W.Bro Graham Masefield was awarded a field promotion to P.G.S.D for his services to Mark Masonry over many years.

The festive board after the meeting was relaxed and enjoyable and closed the evening in an exemplary manner.

Talking to W.Bro Martin Grahame-Dunn after the meeting he was not only tremendously pleased it had gone as well as it had, but also glad everyone involved could relax for Christmas after all the hard work putting the event together.

More pictures of this event will hopefully be in the next edition of the newsletter.



Photos Please!

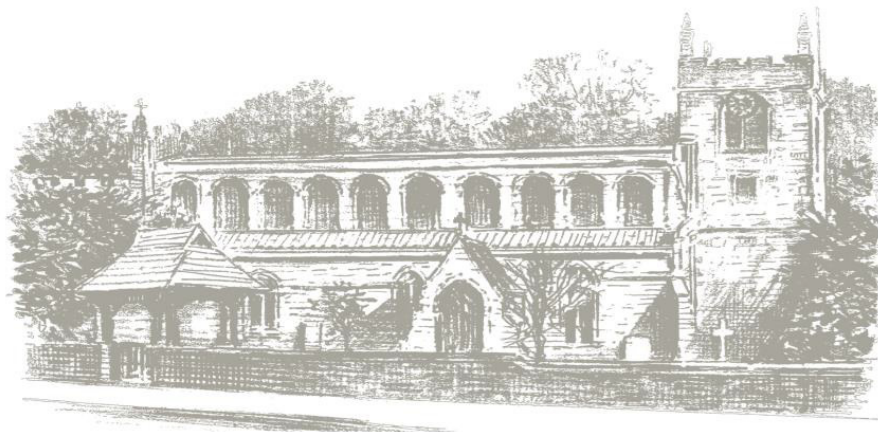
Remaining mindful of the restrictions on photography in the Lodge Room please could you send in pictures of Installations and other special events. In 100 year old minute books you can find pictures and I am certain we can do just as well today.

Send pictures to: comms@warksmarkpgl.co.uk

Provincial Carol Service

Edgbaston Old Church 12th December 2021

Many Warwickshire Mark Masons view the Annual Carol Service as the start of Christmas for themselves and their families, and today was especially so, perhaps, as last year, due to Covid it had to be held via Zoom.



Many thanks are due to the support given by the Mark social committee in organising the event and providing welcome refreshments and also to Rev. Dr. Nick Tucker, Vicar of St. Bartholomew's for his hospitality and to the choir and their director for some glorious music.

There were familiar carols to join in with, a Christmas Tree and presents for the children. Back to how it should be. Don't miss it next year.

Covid Precautions at Lodge Meetings

There have been a number of changes to the Covid precautions recommended by Mark Grand Lodge and by the various venues at which we meet and there will no doubt be more as we go forward into the New Year. The advice regarding numbers, face coverings, tests and hand sanitizer is not repeated here as it may well change, but please check and always follow the latest instructions.

Please respect your fellow Freemasons by supporting both those who do not feel able to join with others quite yet and also with those (who would if they were able to do so) who cannot wear face coverings for medical reasons.

W.Bro Ivor Emo

Belated congratulations to W.Bro Ivor Emo P.Prov.G.S.W of Matthew Clarke Lodges of MMM and RAM No 1012 who this summer received the Mayor's Medal for services to the Community.



The Freemasons Without Borders Lodge of MMM's No 2031

On the 30th October the Consecration took place of a new Mark Lodge under the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons The Freemasons Without Borders Lodge of MMM's No 2031.

There are 4 founders from Warwickshire Mark—W Bro Andrew Armbrister, W Bro Paul Rowlands, W Bro Roger Millwater and W Bro Michael Squires.

A fantastic day, and not one that takes place often (Although please remember that the Consecration of the Provincial Wardens Lodge is happening on Saturday 26th February at Rugby!).

The Consecration was carried out superbly by the MW Pro Grand Master, M.Wor.Bro.Raymond Smith. The Installation of the Primus Worshipful Master, R.W.Bro. Ryan Willams Grand Secretary was performed by the R.W.Asstisstant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Stephen Davison and the Address to the Worshipful Master was given by the R.W.Deputy Grand Master all under the careful guidance of the Grand D.C. R.W.Bro. Frank Spencer.

While there are several Lodges that meet at locations determined by the Worshipful Master this Lodge is slightly unusual (and probably unique) in that it must meet in the Province of the Worshipful Master and the Installation must be at Mark Masons Hall on the Saturday immediately preceding the June Investiture Meeting of Mark Grand Lodge. The Lodge's other two Meetings are on the 1st 5th Saturday of the month in the year and the 5th Saturday occurring in the three months September, October or November.

And to top it all over £3000 raised for the MBF.

This is not the Lodge with the highest number so far—Constantin Moroiu No. 2032 and Sanctuarum No 2033, both in the Inspectorate of Romania are higher but were Consecrated before this Lodge.

And looking at it the other way round there are these Lodges that have lower numbers but more recent Consecrations:-

- Southern Star Lodge No 2026 in the Province of Essex
 - West Yorkshire Mark Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge No 2018
 - Hippolyto Joseph da Costa Lodge No 2029 in the District of Brazil
 - Sierra Gaucha Lodge No. 2030 in the District of Brazil
- (Both these last two with Royal Ark Mariner Lodges attached)*

It would appear that we are not only the 'Friendly Degree' but that we are getting new friends as well!



RAM Grand Assembly December 7th 2021

20 plus Warwickshire RAM Masons converged on Birmingham International Station, not to board a train but instead to board a coach for the journey down to London in support of W.Cdrs Howard Smith and Trevor Sturt on the occasion of their being invested with RAM Grand Rank.

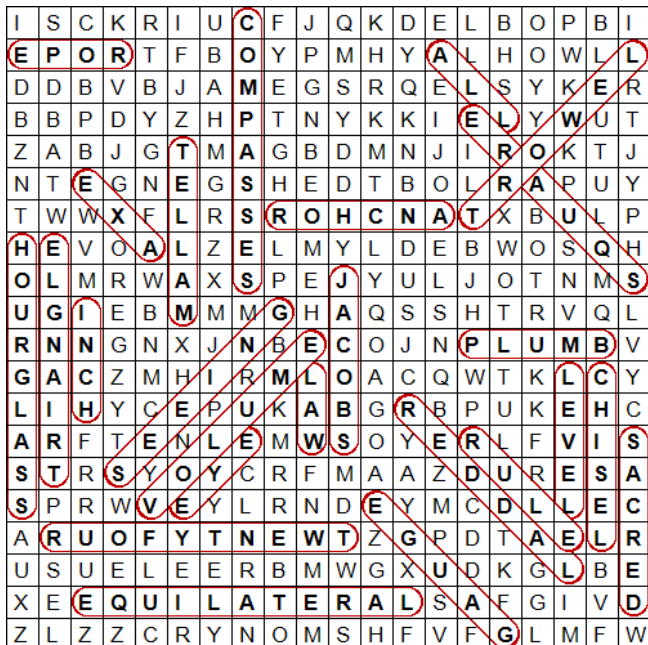
Cedric Stiles and his assistants kept us refreshed with pork pie and prosecco on the journey down and whilst the traffic in London slowed us down a little, the convenience of the coach which dropped us at Mark Mason's Hall for a superb lunch, including toasts to all the Provinces there represented and also to Provinces' of absent friends, was soon seen when we were not only able to travel in style to Great Queen Street where the Assembly was to take place, but we were also able to offer a lift to our friends from Leicestershire and Rutland!

After the Assembly presided over by the M.W.G.M. HRH Prince Michael of Kent the coach was there to pick us up and return us to our starting point. An excellent day out and congratulations to our two worthy brothers receiving Grand Rank.



Just for Fun!

Here is the solution to the wordsearch in the last issue. I hope you found them all, but did you read the lecture on the Mark Tracing Board to remind yourself of their significances?



Cryptic Carols:-

Imagine a cryptic crossword compiler had written some Christmas carols?

Can you work out which ones they would be?

- Scottish church rulers follow the London Team?
- Coward before Gallagher?
- Male version of Le Carre novel?
- The fans were singing 'You've all gone quiet over there' under the floodlights!
- December diocese in the middle of the arctic.
- US Steel manufacturer is larger than a village perhaps?
- Hula Hoop reverent in the dark perhaps?
- EW and Gillian colloquially doing midnight laundry.
- Buddy and bandleader Benson are now adults.
- Phillips's expletive drunkenly aloft.

Clues will cost a gift of alms at your next meeting!

Upcoming installations (subject any new regulations imposed because of Covid)

January 2022

- 7th Cyril Batham Lodge of MMM no 1844 Stratford
- 10th The Harry Wilson Lodge of MMM 1574 MARK Nuneaton
- 11th Shakespeare Lodge of MMM 40TI Warwick
- 18 Howe & Athol TI Lodge of MMM Wretham Road

February 2022

- 14th Thomas Arthur Wood Lodge of RAM No 1737 Guy's Cliffe
- 16th The Harry Wilson Lodge of RAM No 1574 Nuneaton
- 22th Vesey St Christophers Lodge of RAM No 757 Sutton Coldfield
- 24th Charity Lodge of MMM No 430 Severn Street

Editor's Final Note

Once again I have to say a great big thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of Warwickshire Mark. The next issue will hopefully be with you in the next month or so, but that does depend upon contributions and every member of Mark and RAM is welcome to contribute.

As Mark Masonry extends into the new year please let the editor know what you and your Lodges are doing, not just the date and time, but also what is happening—ceremonies, lectures or special events.

Please send your contributions (or any other news) to comms@warksmarkpgl.co.uk