

# Freemasonry@86 News 01 May 2026

#FridayFeeling



## *Welcome*

Here you will find your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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# Companion Orders Diary

Below are some upcoming dates of events for our Grand teams in their respective Orders. You can find the calendar of the regular annual meetings of our Orders further down this newsletter.

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**Thursday, 7 May 2026 - M.M.M. Installation of Anthony Raymond Guthrie as the Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Somerset**

**Saturday, 9 May 2026 - R.C.C. Installation of Simon Langton as the Intendant-General for Sussex**

**Saturday, 30 May 2026 - M.M.M. Installation of Ashley Stuart Hawkins as the Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Bristol**

**Saturday, 6 June 2026 - R.C.C. Installation of Paul David Gausden as the Intendant-General for the Division of Thames**

**Saturday, 6 June 2026 - R.S.M. Installation of Geoffrey Mankin as the District Grand Master for the District of North and East Yorkshire**

**Saturday, 6 June 2026 - O.S.M. Installation of William Henry Carlyon as the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for the Province of The North-East**

**Saturday, 27 June 2026 - R.S.M. Installation of Mark John Winfield as the District Grand Master for the District of Wyvern**

**Tuesday, 30 June 2026 - K.T. Installation of Adam William Lancashire as the Provincial Prior for the Province of Derbyshire**

**Wednesday, 01 July 2026 - O.S.M. Installation of John Wickes as the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler of the Province of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire**

**Monday, 6 July 2026 - K.T. - Installation of Terence Michael O'Neill as the Provincial Prior for the Province of Middlesex**

**Saturday, 11 July 2026 - R.C.C. Installation of Perry R Balls as the Intendant-General for the Division of East Anglia**

**Saturday, 29 August 2026 - R.S.M. Installation of Peter Dack as the District Grand Master for the District of Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight**

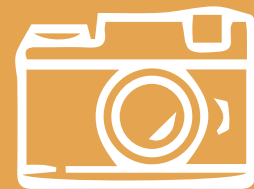


**R.C.C. Family Church Service 2026**

**[Click here to download the full video to use on your own](#)**



**[Divisional website or at Masonic meetings.](#)**



# The Annual Meeting of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Mark



The 2026 Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Hampshire and Isle of Wight took place on Saturday, 18 April at The Guildhall, Portsmouth. We received a very warm welcome on our arrival from R.W.Bro. George Deacon, the Provincial Grand Master, and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight team.

The morning started with refreshments and a chance to catch up with everyone from the other Provinces, and other Orders in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. We were then called downstairs to the main hall where the meeting was being held. Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form by the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. George Deacon. A delegation of Provincial Royal Ark Mariners was then received, led by the Worshipful Masters of the Province. The next item was to honour the names of those brethren who have passed to the Grand Lodge Above since the previous Annual Meeting, with special memories of M.W.Bro. John H Prizeman, Pro Grand Master, Past Provincial Grand Master of this Province. The Distinguished Guests were then welcomed by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master. After the regular business of Provincial Grand Lodge had been concluded the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master had much pleasure in re-appointing W.Bro. Ian James Small, P.G.J.D., as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and V.W.Bro. John Burrell, P.G.J.O., and V.W.Bro. Adrian Cleightonhills, P.G.J.O, as Assistant Provincial Grand Masters. The Provincial Grand Officers of the year were then appointed and invested.

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master addressed Provincial Grand Lodge where he thanked everyone for attending to support the Province. He had much pleasure in presenting a Certificate to V.W.Bro. Andrew John Spencer for 60 years outstanding service and commitment to the Order.

R.W.Bro. George received several donations from other Provinces, and other Orders in Hampshire and Isle of Wight towards his 2026 M.B.F. Festival. He then had much pleasure in presenting a donation of £5,000 towards the Somerset M.B.F. Festival.

Provincial Grand Lodge was closed in due form, and we retired for refreshments before going down to dine. It was good to see the dining room so full. A special cake was again baked by V.W.Bro. Jerry Gangadeen, Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of London, to raise funds for the 2026 M.B.F. Festival. R.W.Bro. David Ashbolt, Past Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of London, organised a game of Heads and Tails, with V.W.Bro. Chris Eley of Surrey flipping the coin. Afterwards a special cake was presented to R.W.Bro. George as a gift from V.W.Bro. Jerry. In the reply to his Toast R.W.Bro. George again thanked everyone for attending to make it another special day for the Mark Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight.









# A Landmark Celebration for a Distinguished Provincial Grand Master



Last Sunday, Batch House in Lymsham provided the perfect setting for a truly memorable and heartfelt occasion, as the Province of Somerset gathered in significant numbers to celebrate the retirement of Phil Voisey as the 16th Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Master Masons and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees in Somerset.

With well over 100 brethren, companions, family members, and distinguished guests in attendance, the luncheon was a fitting tribute to a leader whose twelve years of dedicated service have left an indelible mark upon the Province. The atmosphere throughout the day was one of warmth, gratitude, and reflection, as friends old and new came together not only to honour Phil's remarkable tenure, but also to celebrate the lasting legacy he leaves behind. The event served as both a formal farewell and a joyous celebration of Phil's many achievements during his time in office. Over the course of twelve years, Phil's leadership has helped shape and strengthen the Province, guiding it with steadfast commitment, humour, and a clear sense of purpose. His contribution to Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Masonry in Somerset has been considerable, and Sunday's gathering reflected the immense respect and affection in which he and Jill are held.

A particular highlight of the afternoon came when the Provincial Grand Master Designate delivered what could only be described as a living eulogy, recounting Phil's journey through office with warmth, wit, and deep appreciation. His address captured not only the scale of Phil's accomplishments, but also the personal qualities that have defined his leadership: integrity, generosity, and an unwavering dedication to Somerset Masonry.

In recognition of Jill's enduring support throughout Phil's distinguished service, she was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers, a gesture warmly received and richly deserved. Behind every significant Masonic journey stands family support, and this moment acknowledged Jill's invaluable role over the years.

Phil himself was then presented with an engraved wallet, a lasting token of esteem and gratitude, alongside a generous cheque for £1,000. The gift is intended to assist Phil and Jill as they embark upon an exciting new chapter, renovating their recently acquired property, Le Dardon, in France. The presentation reflected not only appreciation for past service, but also sincere good wishes for the adventures and opportunities that lie ahead.

Responding to the heartfelt tributes, Phil spoke with genuine humility and gratitude, expressing how deeply moved he was by the exceptional turnout. Clearly touched by the presence of so many friends and supporters, he thanked all those who had contributed to making the day so special. He also offered his sincere support and best wishes to the new Provincial Grand Master Designate, expressing his confidence in the future strength and prosperity of the Province.

In true Phil Voisey fashion, however, the afternoon did not conclude on a solemn note alone. Bringing laughter and affection from all present, Phil ended his remarks with the immortal words of Arnold Schwarzenegger: "I'll be back."

While his formal term as Provincial Grand Master may have concluded, those words served as a perfect reminder that Phil's presence, friendship, and influence within Somerset Masonry remain as strong as ever.

Sunday's luncheon was far more than a retirement gathering. It was a celebration of leadership, friendship, family, and service. It marked the close of one highly successful chapter, while also looking ahead with optimism and enthusiasm.

On behalf of all who attended, and indeed the wider Province, we extend our deepest thanks to Phil and Jill for their years of service, commitment, and friendship, and wish them every happiness in this exciting next stage.

A remarkable occasion for a remarkable Provincial Grand Master.







# Cumberland & Westmorland Annual Investiture



The Province of Cumberland and Westmorland held it's 15th Annual Investiture for the Order of Royal Ark Mariners, at Maryport on Friday, 17 April 2026. Over 100 attended with 103 dining, the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Barry Kirkbride. Formally opened the evening by reminding all present about the History of the Order through to the present day, and recalling the wonderful lessons that this Beautiful and interesting degree teaches, and how they are just as relevant to-date as when Norah built the Ark. After Promoting 9 of the 10 recipients they were saluted, W.Bro. William James Little thanked those present for their salutations. R.W.Bro. Barry Kirkbride then invited W.Bro. Thomas Hodgson R.A.M.G.R. to give an explanation of the Royal Ark Mariner Tracing Board. This was delivered in a manner that befit the occasion. All then retired to the festive board where Loyal Toasts were given. Just over £1, 000 was raised for the Benevolent Fund.







## Province of Monmouth and South Wales Knights Templar Church Service was held in a full Margam Abbey



On Sunday, 26 April 2026, the Annual Church Service of the Province of Monmouth and South Wales of the United Religious Military and Masonic Order of the Temple (Knights Templar) was held at Margam Abbey.

Right Eminent Knight Revd Malcolm C.G. Lane, who is both the Great Prelate of the United Orders and the Provincial Prelate of the Province of Monmouth and South Wales, presided over the Service in the Margam Abbey Church which was filled with Members of the Order in full Regalia, their relatives and friends.

The Service was held in the presence of Right Eminent Knight Dr Paul Calderwood, the Provincial Prior of the Province of Monmouth and South Wales, E.Kt. Rev. Anthony H. Stevens (the Provincial Sub-Prior) with Right Eminent Kt. Dr Vivian Thomas K.C.T. (Most Eminent and Reverend Grand Master of the Order of Knights Beneficent of the Holy City of the Rectified Scottish Rite of England and Wales).

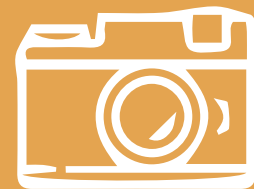
Under the supervision of Very Eminent Knight Carl Davies, Past Great Registrar, and the two Deputy Marshals - E.Kt. Stephen Roberts and E.Kt. Paul Evans - the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard provided an Arch of Steel as the Banners of the Preceptories within the Province were paraded into the Church by their Preceptory Banner Bearers accompanied by their Eminent Preceptors and followed by the Provincial Party, Grand Officers and Distinguished Guests.

The Banners were blessed by the Provincial Prelate before being located in their order at the rear of the church during the Ceremony.

The Provincial Prior welcomed everyone to the Service and expressed his thanks to all for their presence and support. The Provincial Prelate conducted the Ceremony and gave a very thoughtful and encouraging Eulogy before closing the Service.

The Banners, followed by the Provincial Party, then paraded out of the Church through the Arch of Steel of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard before forming an Arch of Steel for all the Relatives and Guests as they were leaving the Church.





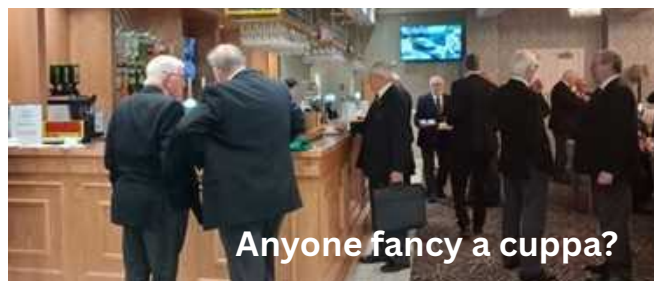
[Download photos](#)

# West Lancs A.M.D. District Meeting



Westhoughton MH in the sunshine

What would members of the West Lancs District want to do on a warm, sunny Saturday morning? Go to the seaside, the local park or just basking in the back garden? Well, for many Allied Masons there was only one place to be on Saturday, 25 April 2026, Westhoughton Masonic Hall for the West Lancashire District AGM.



Anyone fancy a cuppa?



Well appointed ballroom ready for the festivities

The usual cuppa and a bacon roll welcomed early starters in the wonderful surroundings of Westhoughton Masonic Hall function room, make mine crispy please.



Practice makes perfect



Upstairs in the Lodge Room the District DC's and Officers were already hard at work honing the ceremonial. I sneaked into the inner sanctum to take a few pictures of rehearsals, and to satisfy myself that standards were being maintained! No problem, everything was ship shape and Bristol fashion. Unfortunately, the Immediate Past DGP, Paul Snape had decided to give the meeting a miss, respecting the tradition of 'purdah', which essentially excluded Paul from attending the meeting. It is the first West Lancs District meeting he has missed in around 30years – some record!



A galaxy of DGP's and other R.W. Brethren

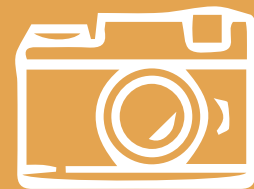
Back to the proceedings, our D.G.P. Mark Barton was kept busy with rehearsals and the necessary meet and greet of the many D.G.P's from England and Wales who were attending the meeting in support of Mark. Proof is in the pudding as it were, and the D.G.P's and R.W. Brethren lined up for a photo shoot.



Mark looked pretty relaxed, and made time during the day to welcome all the Brethren. Even finding time to enjoy a spot of sunbathing on the patio. But, time and tide wait for no man as the saying goes, and very quickly the Lodge Room started to fill and the waiting processions packed the surrounding corridors. The first to enter were the R.W. Brethren who were escorted into a packed arena by two very smart Deacons. Next up was the procession of District Officers led by the Deputy and Assistant District DC's, and finally the District DC announced the D.G.P. for West Lancashire, R.W. Brother Mark Andrew Barton, who entered with his Sword and Standard Bearers to loud acclaim.



The District Meeting was opened in ample form, Brethren were welcomed and the usual salutations and subsequent business was conducted efficiently to the usual West Lancashire high standards. Of course, a very important part of the business was the appointment and promotion of District Officers for the coming season. We offer congratulations to all those Brethren who were appointed or received promotions. I was pleased to note that our Deputy D.G.P., Ian Douglas Nairn was re-appointed to continue in Office for the coming year. On conclusion of the meeting, the D.G.P. and his Officers processed from the room to acclaim, and received the congratulations of many Brethren as they retired. And so to the Festive Board. As the business meeting had been concluded with time to spare, there was time to have a chin wag with friends before the meal was served in the ballroom. The quality of the cuisine was excellent, and the buzz around the room was a good indication of Brethren enjoying themselves. Wine takings and toasts followed and brought us quickly to the conclusion of proceedings. I have a theory about the passing of time, which essentially says that time passes more quickly as we get older. This last year has gone so rapidly for me, and I suspect that within the blink of an eye we'll be meeting at the same venue in 2027, So, here's to our next merry Allied meeting!



# Kent O.S.M. Targets A Double Century



The Province of Kent O.S.M. took another stride to breaking the 200 memberships barrier following the recent meeting of Eric Norman Le Fre Conclave. The Conclave was honoured by a visit from their Grand Visitor, V.Wy.Bro. Stephen Fenton who was given plenty to write about. The Brethren put on a spectacular show admitting 5 candidates bringing the Provincial total for the year to 19 well on the way to the Provincial target of 50 before December. These latest candidates have brought the Provincial total to 198 with the magic 200 well in sight. Conducting a 'ninja visit', R.Wy.Bro. Scott Dunn (PGSR), was pleased to present Wy.Bro. Bob Unthank with the PGSR's Service Award for his 20 years service as the unit recorder and Bro. Benjamin Fe' with the PGSR's Award of Merit for his recruitment achievements. Following the meeting the Brethren enjoyed a fabulous festive board.

# O.S.M. Province of Channel Islands


[Download photos](#)


On Saturday, 25 April, 2026, the Brethren of the Province welcomed a new Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler - Wy.Bro. David Simon Cartwright.

Wy.Bro. Gareth Callan, retired as Deputy as he had relocated to Nepal to be with his new family. Wy.Bro. David Cartwright is also from the lovely island of Jersey and will continue the enthusiasm within that island and to take this forward.

Right Worthy Brother Mike Le Conte, installed and welcomed the new Deputy in the very inspirational designed Masonic Centre in Guernsey. The meeting was well attended by the Provincial Brethren from Guernsey, Jersey and the UK as well as visitors and guests.

Many of the visitors and guests brought their partners and made it a special Provincial visit, staying for a few days and joining in other Lodge meetings and social events arranged. Special pricing was also provided by a selected hotel.

The Masonic Centre provided their excellent display in the dining room of Secret Monitor and the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord. This was an excellent setting whilst Brethren were entertained to a lovely Festive Board consisting of six courses.

A very impressive Provincial Arch of Steel under the command of Wy.Bro. Martyn Guille provided an excellent display with 12 Arch of Steel Brethren performing.

Finally, it was the last meeting being organised by Very Worthy Chris Base. Chris is retiring and his role is being taken up by Bro. Sailesh Navsaria who will be organising the next Annual meeting to be held on Saturday, 24 April 2027, in Jersey. Very Worthy Chris Base was promoted to Past Provincial Grand Chancellor and was presented with a special engraved silver Guernsey can for his excellent 10 years of service.



# Cyril Brindle – A Life of Service, Skill and Dedication



Born on 11 January 1934, Cyril started his vocational career as an electrical engineer, upon completion of his apprenticeship he joined the Merchant Navy as 6<sup>th</sup> Junior Engineering Officer, he travelled the world for 10 years and left as 3<sup>rd</sup> Engineer lieutenant. Cyril refers to the Merchant Navy as the "Real Navy". He Joined BAE as an Electronics Test Engineer working on guided missiles, Fire Streak, bullpup and the likes. He was highly regarded in his field, he would often complete test firing reports and such was the respect that the Chief Engineer had for him, that they were passed on with just a cursory glance. His Father in Law was the Superintendent Engineer at the same factory, he was asked to design and manufacture all manner of things, what is now perceived as everyday items, a battery for example, he would question how many volts, what is the anticipated load etc, he was pointed in the direction of the engineering manager for answers and he would disappear into the workshop and emerge with said battery! Some things never leave you, he still has a workshop, with a metal screw lathe, a 10inch circular saw bench, a mortice, 12 speed pillar drill and so the list goes on. Cyril's parents ran a Post Office and with his father's ill health he was asked to run the business until his father recovered. You won't be surprised to learn that the Chief Engineer offered him a six month sabbatical, with his job held for him. His father having run the post office for some 15 years, never fully recovered, he and Cyril swapped houses and Cyril along with his wife ran the business for another 42 years, escaped the Horizon IT scandal, many branches were being closed down but Cyril was assured his was safe as they issued "Motor Vehicle Licences". Shortly after that assurance a big envelope arrived informing them that the Post Office were closing them down. All lost apart from the bricks and mortar. Cyril's only child, a daughter, went off to university to study in the world of dentistry, studying at Manchester Metropolitan, Oxford and Birmingham, a registered dental Hygienist. The Love of horse took her into breeding Sports ponies. Now you can get sports horses quite readily, but sport ponies generally were breed in Germany. At one time they had 12 ponies in their stables.

Cyril Joined the Red Cross of Constantine on 13 March 1976 joining St George's Conclave No. 42. They would meet in the Tower Buildings in Wigan and regularly meet with Leonard Healey Conclave No. 241. It was a local tradition that having joined one or the other, the following meeting you would become a joining member of the other! Tower Buildings was sold and they moved to Orwell, on the Wigan Pier, then with the demise of Wigan Pier over to Pemberton and finally into Chorley. I think Cyril must hold some sort of record he tells me he was Marshall for over 30 years. Quite a feat in itself.

Sadly, Cyril's health has suffered of late, he struggles with long term covid effects and has also suffered from Bladder Cancer, although in remission he still struggles with his health and hasn't managed to return to Masonry in any form since. His most recent visit to the Consultant showed positive results with the surgery having healed well and no further signs of trouble. However, He struggles with infections on a regular basis that are quite debilitating, the antibiotics not only kill off the infection but also affect his immune system. A vicious circle. On, 24 March 2026, as the Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign was doing a recce for the Church Service, we organised a visit to Cyril's house to present him with his 50<sup>th</sup> Jewel and certificate. The MIGS, Graham Flight, was accompanied by the Grand Marshall, Paul Norman, the Grand Recorder, Dan Heath and the Intendant General, Graham Walliams, along with a couple of Red Cross Colleagues, long standing friends of Cyril. It was a most enjoyable afternoon expanding upon the information I gleaned from Cyril. Mrs Brindle had put on a lovely spread of sandwiches, treats and copious cups of tea. A very pleasant afternoon was enjoyed by all.

Bless Cyril, on the lead up to the visit he had asked me was the dress standard was and we had all agreed smart casual, poor chap felt somewhat under dressed when they all turned up in suits and the MIGS adorned his regalia. Cyril offered to get changed but they wouldn't hear of it, they just wanted him to relax and enjoy the occasion, which he tells me he did and will treasure the memories for years to come. Now, the MIGS should have been a poker player, he has an art for keeping his cards close to his chest, in true form, he had once again produced his ace and gave a field promotion to Cyril, promoting him to Past Grand Junior General. What a wonderful occasion, full of merriment and the icing on the cake to end with.





# Stonebow Conclave No. 301 Celebrates 50 Years of Distinguished Service for Dr. Michael Dufton P.G.G.



At the meeting of Stonebow Conclave No. 301 on 25 April held at Castlegate House, York we held 2 Princes Degrees and followed the Ceremony with a celebration of 50 years membership of the Order of the Secret Monitor for Rt.Wy.Bro. Dr. Michael Dufton P.G.G. Whilst the Grand Supreme Ruler will be presenting Michael with his 50 year certificate in November at the Annual meeting of Grand Conclave the members of Stonebow Conclave and the members of the Province of North & East Yorkshire wanted to share the special occasion with Michael. We were joined by the President of the Executive Committee Rt.Wy.Bro. Stewart Carley P.P.G.S.R. for West Yorkshire plus 2 of Michael's friends who are members of Chantry Conclave. Rt.Wy.Bro. Dr. Michael Dufton P.G.G. was inducted into Chantry Conclave No. 94 on 18 March 1976 and Michael was a founder of Stonebow Conclave on 14 September 1979. Michael is currently Supreme Ruler of the Roseberry Conclave No. 442 and is an active member of 6 Conclaves in total as well as active membership of the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord.

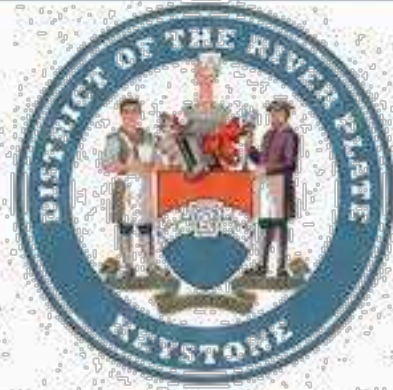
The Supreme Ruler of Stonebow Conclave Wing Commander Graham Bingham addressed the brethren and gave an excellent CV of Michael's life as a GP and his membership of the O.S.M.. After suitable applause Wing Commander Graham Bingham then asked the P.G.S.R. of North & East Yorkshire Rt.Wy.Bro. Phillip Ellenor to make a formal presentation on behalf of the members of the Province of North & East Yorkshire. Phillip had discussed with Wy.Bro, David Kirwan the Provincial Grand Almoner ideas for the presentation and David made a presentation plaque which was suitably inscribed to be presented to Michael. Phillip first produced a printout of Michael's details from Keystone online which showed 50 years membership of Chantry Conclave on 18 March 2026 and then asked Wy.Bro. David Kiwan to present the presentation plaque to Michael. The meeting was followed by a very special lunch and the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies Wy.Bro. Jack Sharpe had made a cake which had an edible picture placed on the cake with suitable wording to celebrate Michael's 50 years membership. A really friendly and exceptional meeting and a special lunch made it one of the best and memorable days to be a member of the O.S.M.

# DISTRICT OF THE RIVER PLATE

MARK MASTER MASONS

## A Historic Milestone for the District

*Consecration of Saint Sebastian Lodge No. 2071 in Mar del Plata*



*Brethren and District officers following the consecration ceremony in Mar del Plata.*

The consecration of Saint Sebastian Lodge No. 2071 marked a major milestone for the District of The River Plate. The establishment of a new Mark Lodge in Mar del Plata, approximately 400 kilometres from Buenos Aires—where the central Freemasons' Hall of the District is located—represents an important step in the District's regional growth and outreach.

The ceremony was presided over by R. W. Bro. Ernesto A. Marcer, District Grand Master, accompanied by his delegation. This memorable occasion highlighted the continuing development of Mark Master Masonry beyond the capital and opened a new chapter for the District on the Atlantic coast of Buenos Aires Province.

### EVENT DETAILS



**Lodge:**  
Saint Sebastian Lodge No. 2071



**Date:**  
25 April 2026



**Place:**  
Mar del Plata



**District:**  
District of The River Plate

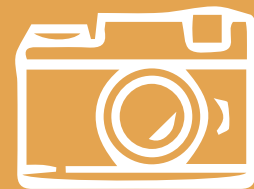


**Presiding Officer:**  
R. W. Bro. Ernesto A. Marcer



**Office:**  
District Grand Master

*"A memorable day for the District and a landmark moment in its expansion beyond Buenos Aires."*



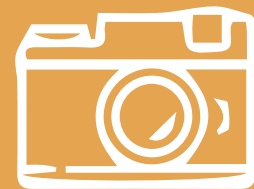
# The ELMBF Saying Yes to Another Donation



The East Lancashire Mark Benevolent Fund (ELMBF) is proud to support another outstanding local initiative helping people who may be struggling with their mental health and wellbeing. Recently, the ELMBF presented a £1,000 donation to The Centre of YES, a vibrant non-profit group based at Higher Blackley Community Centre in Manchester. The Centre provides holistic therapies and activities designed to improve both emotional and physical wellbeing within the community. W.Bro. Stewart Mills, Provincial Grand Charity Steward and W.Bro. Mark Rowe, visited the Centre to present the donation on behalf of the ELMBF. This was part of a Provincial wide initiative and The Centre of Yes was nominated to receive this donation by Mossley Mark Lodge No. 1381. During the visit, Stewart highlighted how deserving the group is of support, recognising the important role it plays in delivering regular holistic therapies to individuals and groups who benefit greatly from its work. Thanks to this support, Claudine and the team will now be able to hold a summer event and continue their progress towards registering as a full charity; helping the organisation grow from strength to strength.

The weekly yoga sessions are particularly well attended, and it was a pleasure to meet participants who spoke warmly about the friendship, encouragement, and sense of community they experience each week. Stewart also met with Shirley, the yoga teacher, and thanked her for her dedication, along with Claudine for her continued commitment to supporting such a diverse group of people.

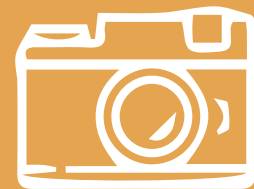
The ELMBF is delighted to play a small part in helping this wonderful community initiative continue its valuable work. By W.Bro. Hiten Patel.



## Mark Benevolent Fund Donation Supports New Ultrasound Scanner at Royal Orthopaedic Hospital Birmingham



On Monday, 27 April, R.W.Bro. Andrew Armibrister the Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire accompanied by the R.W.Bro. Eric Rymer Past Provincial Grand Master of Worcestershire together with V.W.Bro. Nigel Clemson visited The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital Birmingham to make a cheque presentation on behalf of The Mark Benevolent Fund. The Hospital is one of only three specialist Orthopaedic hospitals in the country. They take referrals for all complicated orthopaedic cases from all parts of the country as well as being the National referral hospital for all cases of bone cancer. They sought the help of The Mark Benevolent Fund to purchase a new ultrasound scanner. Both provinces supported the application as the hospital lies on their joint Provincial boundary. The Mark Benevolent Fund made the hospital a grant of £35,828 which enabled them to purchase a state-of-the-art GEC Logitech ultrasound scanner. Dr Hassamm Uldin a consultant Radiologist explained to the group the advantages of the new equipment which is replacing a unit over 10 years old. It is half the size of its predecessor and therefore takes up less room in the usual scanner room but also makes it far more manoeuvrable enabling consultants to have the ability to move it to wherever it is needed be it in a theatre or ward or outpatient area. The quality of scans it produces are greatly improved especially in soft tissue sarcomas (Cancers). At present after being in place for one month about 20 patients a week are able to benefit from the machine but this number is increasing. A plaque recording the donation is being placed at the entrance to the X Ray department One of the pictures shows the comparison size of the machine to the R.W.Bro. Eric Rymer The initial presentation of the cheque was made to Dr Uldin in the department followed by a formal presentation to the Trust executive Left to right Mrs Rachel Lloyd Head of Strategy, Mrs Ruth Hughes Charity Manager, R.W.Bro. Andrew Armbrister Mr Mathew Hartland the CEO of the Trust, R.W.Bro. Eric Rymer, Mrs Michel Hubbard the interim Chief Operating Officer, V.W.Bro. Nigel Clemson.



# Kent Neuro Therapy Centre M.B.F. Cheque Presentation – Monday 20 April



On Monday, 20 April, Martyn Summers, Provincial Grand Master, John Shervington, representing the Mark Benevolent Fund (as well as Kent Mark), Paul Christopher, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, and Ivor Spencer (Kent Mark) were delighted to attend the reopening of the therapy pool at the Kent Neuro Therapy Centre, located just outside Canterbury.

Shortly after Christmas, the Centre discovered serious water damage to the tiles in the hydrotherapy pool, necessitating urgent repairs. The total cost of the work was £22,000, prompting an immediate fundraising effort by the Centre to secure the required funds.

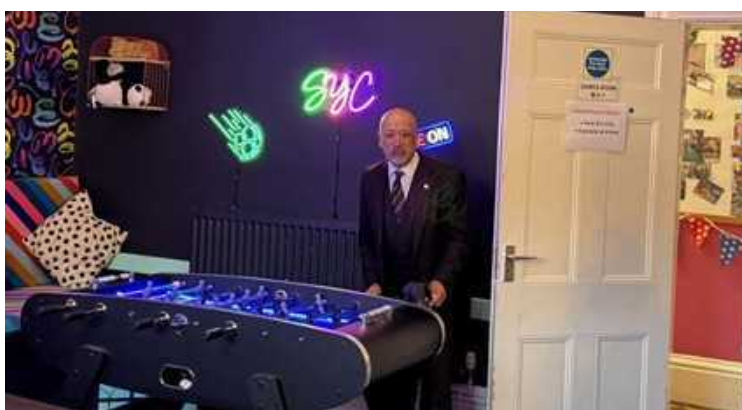
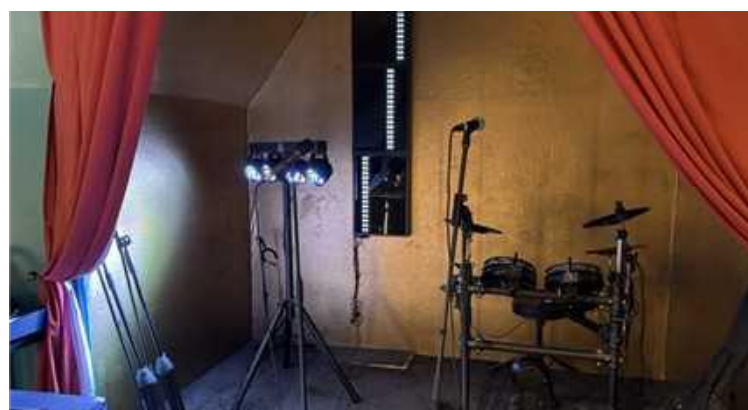
When Kent Mark became aware of the Centre's situation, a petition was swiftly submitted to the M.B.F. Recognising the critical importance of the therapy pool to the wellbeing and rehabilitation of its members, the M.B.F. approved the outstanding funding just nine days later.

Following two months of repair work, at the reopening, it was humbling to meet the Centre's staff and members and to hear first-hand how essential the therapy pool is to their ongoing treatment and quality of life.

For more information about the Kent Neuro Therapy Centre and its invaluable work, please visit:  
<https://kentneuro.org/>



# Empowering Young Carers - West Bromwich Conclave Hits the Right Note



WEST BROMWICH – A local charity in Sandwell that supports some of the borough's most selfless young residents has received a significant boost to its creative facilities. Sandwell Young Carers welcomed representatives from the West Bromwich Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor (O.S.M.) for the presentation of a £1,000 donation. This gift, boosted by match-funding from the Order's central Benevolent Fund in London, will transform the charity's music and performance arts room at their West Bromwich headquarters.

The funding will provide a dedicated computer workstation and industrystandard music authoring software, allowing young carers to compose, record, and edit their own music. For many of the service users—young people aged 5 to 18 who care for siblings or parents with disabilities or chronic illnesses—this room represents a rare space for self-expression and relief from the pressures of home life. The cheque was presented to the charity by Right Worthy Brother Ian Bennett and Worthy Brother Ravi Sian.

"We are delighted to support such a vital local cause," remarked Wy.Bro. Sian. "Seeing the work Sandwell Young Carers does to ensure these children can still 'be children' is incredibly moving. We hope this technology helps them find their voice and perhaps even a lifelong passion for music." The essential work of Sandwell Young Carers extends to comprehensive advocacy, ensuring these young people have a voice in the health and social care decisions affecting their families. They also provide practical life-skills workshops and organised trips away, offering much-needed social interaction with peers who share similar life experiences.



# The ELMBF Trafford Domestic Abuse Services Donation



The East Lancashire Mark Benevolent Fund (ELMBF) have invited each of the 72 Lodges which meet within the Province of East Lancashire to nominate a charity which they feel would especially benefit from a donation of £1000 towards the services they provide for the public at large. This would be an important opportunity for the Mark degree to support a wider public audience and to try and make a difference to the lives of a number of people who are not Freemasons. Quite recently, V.W.Bro. David Thompson and W.Bro. Steven Bolton, on behalf of The Lodge of Good Report of Royal Ark Mariners No. 1309, were invited to view a refuge where abused women and children could just arrive at a moment's notice and be offered food, personal hygiene products, clothing and shelter along with a real opportunity to escape the torment which they have been suffering from an abusive partner for a period of time. Housing up to 37 women and children at any one time, they would have their own bedroom and bathroom with joint cooking and laundry facilities with other residents. This is one of a number of shelters established throughout the country to provide that safe haven for those abused women who feel threatened and are situated within the Trafford area. Similar shelters exist for abused men as well, as 1 in 6 men are victims of abuse by their male or female partner. Trafford Domestic Abuse Services (TDAS) work in partnership with other voluntary organisations to support families across Greater Manchester to assist with short or long term care. They were welcomed by both Samantha Fisher who is the CEO of TDAS and Vikki Bassek who is the Head of External Engagement and Income Generation. They both thanked the ELMBF for their kind donation and felt it would go some way towards helping the needs of the abused. Trafford Domestic Abuse Services have a core value of being 'Inclusive' means they support all victims of domestic abuse with their female and male accommodation and group work services delivered separately. They provide safe women only and safe male only spaces in both their accommodation and group work programmes. You can find out more about the TDAS by visiting - <https://www.tdas.org.uk/>



# Kent O.S.M. Supports Past P.G.S.R. In Wheelchair Appeal



Earlier this week R.Wy.Bro. Scott Dunn attended Queen Elizabeth Hospital Woolwich with R.Wy. Bro. Peter Wise to donate £10,000 for the purchase of 20 Porters wheelchairs. In October, Peter contracted a mystery infection in his foot requiring 7 weeks of hospitalisation and multiple surgeries in Queen Elizabeth Hospital and St Thomas's London, (and is still undergoing outpatient treatment).

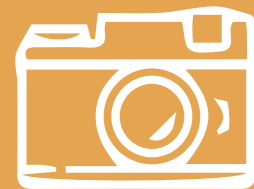
During this time, Peter realised that a great many of the delays in getting treatment result from a shortage of Portering Chairs, not the Porters themselves!

In February, he started an appeal funded with sales of second-hand regalia, to raise money to buy some of these chairs. He contacted many of his friends in Kent, and from their generosity, raised £10,000 in just 8 weeks funding 20 chairs.

Kent OSM Province was pleased to support our Past PGSR in his quest by committing £2000 from the Kent OSM Benevolent Fund. Also being in the Chairs of units in Kent Mark and Knights Templar, Scott was able, (with a little persuasion), to top up the funding to cover 7 of the chairs.

The photograph shows Scott & Peter with Margarita Vidiella, Head of Charity and Volunteers, and Nathan Ahwieh, Fundraising & Engagement Coordinator.

Peter is continuing his efforts to supply at least one more hospital in Kent with new chairs.



## Garreg Wen Mark Lodge Installation Celebrates Welsh Language and Strong Future Growth



The installation meeting of the Garreg Wen Mark Master Masons, held in Bangor on 24 April, was a resounding success. In a notable start to the evening, the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. John Stanley Evans, took the chair to oversee a ceremony conducted entirely in the Welsh language. Among the 24 members in attendance were several learners, all drawn to the beauty of this historic tongue. W.Bro. Ben Williams has now been installed as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. While the evening was a triumph, the absence of W.Bro. Noel Roberts—who was unable to attend as Immediate Past Master and Installing Master due to illness—was deeply felt by all. The lodge continues to go from strength to strength, with five new members set to join or be advanced in the coming months. This growth highlights a clear desire among Masons to honour their native language and ensure its preservation for future generations. Together with Cynnan, the Welsh-speaking Craft Lodge, Garreg Wen remains at the forefront of promoting the language within the North Wales Province, supported by the invaluable expertise of "O G," a former teacher and the lodge's "in-house" translator. With W. Bro. Timothy Charles Pritchard as Senior Warden and Bro. Owen Glyn Roberts as Junior Warden, the year ahead looks incredibly bright. The feedback following the meeting has been exceptional, with members praising both the quality of the ceremony and the warm, vibrant atmosphere of the festive board.

Roedd cyfarfod sefydlu Seiri Rhyddion Y Marc Y Garreg Wen Marc, a gynhaliwyd ym Mangor ar 24 Ebrill, yn llwyddiant ysgubol. Mewn dechrau nodedig i'r noson, cymerodd Prif Feistr Y Dalaith, y Gwir Hybarch Frawd John Stanley Evans, y gadair i oruchwylio'r ddefod a gynhaliwyd yn gyfan gwbl yn yr iaith Gymraeg. Ymhlith y 24 aelod a oedd yn bresennol roedd sawl dysgwr, pob un wedi'i ddenu at harddwch yr iaith hanesyddol hon.

Mae'r Hybarch Frawd W. Ben Williams bellach wedi'i sefydlu'n Hybarch Feistr am y flwyddyn nesaf. Er bod y noson yn llwyddiant ysgubol, teimlwyd y golled o absenoldeb Hybarch Frawd Noel Roberts oherwydd salwch ac felly iddo fethu a sefydlu ei ragflaenydd.

Mae'r gyfrinfa yn parhau i fynd o nerth i nerth, gyda phum aelod newydd i ymuno neu gael eu dyrchafu yn y misoedd nesaf. Mae'r twf hwn yn tynnu sylw at awydd clir ymhlith Seiri Rhyddion i anrhydeddu eu hiaith frodorol a sicrhau ei bod yn cael ei chadw ar gyfer cenedlaethau'r dyfodol. Ynghyd â Cynan, Cyfrinfa'r Grefft yn y Gymraeg, mae Garreg Wen yn parhau i fod ar flaen y gad o ran hyrwyddo'r iaith o fewn Talaith Gogledd Cymru, gyda chefnogaeth arbenigedd amhrisiadwy "O G," cyn-athro a chyfieithydd "mewnol" y Gyfrinfa.

Gyda'r Brawd Timothy Charles Pritchard fel Uwch-Warden a'r Brawd Owen Glyn Roberts fel Is-Warden, mae'r flwyddyn i ddod yn edrych yn hynod ddisglair. Mae'r adborth yn dilyn y cyfarfod wedi bod yn eithriadol, gyda'r aelodau'n canmol ansawdd y ddefod ac awyrgylch cynnes, bywiog y Wledd.



# Charities round up



St John of Jerusalem  
Eye Hospital Group



M.B.F. Festival lapel pins are now available for purchase at just £10! To get your hands on an 2026 Hampshire & IOW Festival Lapel Pin, simply reach out to our Charities Team via email at [charitiesfinance@mmh.org.uk](mailto:charitiesfinance@mmh.org.uk).



Click [here](#) or the icon here to read the M.B.F. to read the M.B.F 2025 Q3 review.



Click [here](#) or the icon to read the latest GSCFCF Annual Review 2025



## Knights Templar Swift Pins



### Knights Templar Swift Pins

**£20 each**

Gift aid can be applied to the donations.

Provinces can order in bulk, or individuals can purchase single pins, by contacting our charities team at [charitiesfinance@mmh.org.uk](mailto:charitiesfinance@mmh.org.uk)

funds raised will go to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group.

# M.B.F. Festival 2026

The new-look M.B.F. Stewardship Jewels have now been designed for the following Festivals



**2026**  
**Hampshire & IOW**



**2027**  
**Warwickshire**



**2028**  
**Somerset**



**2029**  
**Durham**



**2030**  
**Essex**



**2031**  
**Northumberland**



**2032**  
**Wiltshire**



**2033**  
**North & East**  
**Yorkshire**

Please click on the festival or the images above to access the Form. We have added the bank account name to all the forms so please use the latest form and details as found in the links above.

We reported recently that the new style M.B.F. Festival Stewardship is aimed principally, but not, exclusively, at members of each host Festival Province. In return for a qualifying donation of £100, each Steward will be entitled to:

- A distinctive Stewards' breast jewel, year bar and pocket jewel holder.
- Inclusion of their name in the Festival Stewards' Roll of Honour in the Festival booklet.
- And for individuals making their first donation under the scheme, qualification as a Life Governor.
- Of the Mark Benevolent Fund – the first step on the ladder of honorifics.
- Monies raised by the take-up of Festival Stewardships will, of course, be included in each respective Festival total.

# Grand Master's Keystone Fund

Our Grand Master's Keystone Fund Bursary Scheme is to commemorate over 40 years of service to Mark Masonry by our Grand Master, M.W.Bro. HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO.



Mark

R.A.M.

K.T.

R.C.C.

R.S.M.



O.S.M.

A.M.D.

S.C.

K.B.H.C.



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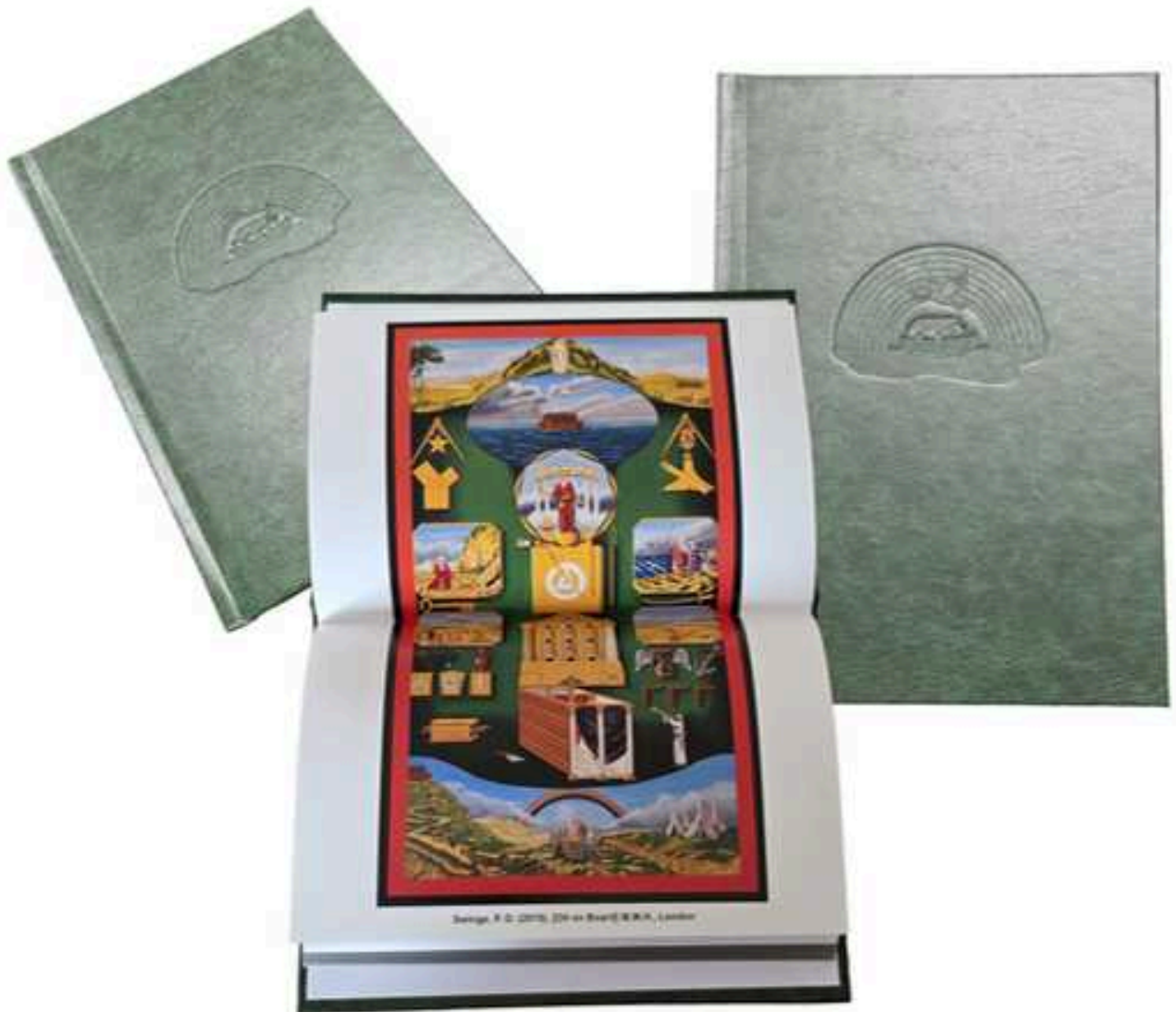


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These icons are perfect for digital content, printed materials, and presentations. Feel free to download and share them with your fellow Brethren.

If you didn't find the icon you were looking for, we'd love to hear your suggestions. Please email us at [communications@mmh.org.uk](mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk) to recommend new icons for the repository.



# Calendar of Annual Meetings

## Grand Meetings Calendar 2026 - All Orders

Please note *all* timings are approximate. Refer to the Summons for confirmation.

Order	Meeting	Date	To be held at	Rehearsal Time	Meeting Starts	Meeting Finishes	Dining Start	Approx. Finish
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 10 March 2026	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council	Tuesday, 21 April 2026	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:15 PM	5:00 PM
SC	Grand Senatus	Thursday, 7 May 2026	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:00 PM
KT	Great Priory	Wednesday, 20 May 2026	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Active & 1st	Tuesday, 9 June 2026	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	1:00 PM	3:15 PM	4:15 PM	5:45 PM
RCC	Grand Imperial Conclave	Tuesday, 7 July 2026	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Promotions	Tuesday, 8 September 2026	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
KBHC	Grand Priory	Thursday, 10 September 2026	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
AMD	Grand Council	Tuesday, 27 October 2026	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:15 PM	3:00 PM	4:30 PM
KT - Malta	Great Priory of Malta	Monday, 9 November 2026	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
OSM	Grand Conclave	Thursday, 12 November 2026	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:45 PM	4:15 PM
RAM	Annual Assembly	Monday, 7 December 2026	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:00 PM

Please be seated 15 minutes before published start time

02/07/2025

[Click Here to download a PDF copy of the Calendar](#)



## Admin Departments @86

All departments and teams at Mark Masons' Hall are available via email and telephone to help and support members and visitors. Most communication for Masonic Administration should go via the Provincial Secretary, or equivalent, and they will know who to contact here at M.M.H. if they are unable to answer the query themselves. Published by the Communications Team at Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1PL

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