

Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch
MASEFIELD CHAPTER

No. 2034

Grand Patron of the Royal Masonic Hospital



A HISTORY
of
MASEFIELD ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER 2034
1897 - 1997

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The "Centenary Symbol" on the front of this booklet was designed by the Centenary Committee, approved by Supreme Grand Chapter and will appear on all future summonses.



William Masefield

to whose memory

Masefield Lodge

and

Masefield Royal Arch Chapter 2034

were founded

The "Masceffe" Chapter No. 2024 was commenced at the Bahall Heath A. M. Hall, Westley on the same day, 9 October 1899 at 8 o'clock p.m. when the following Companions were present, namely — A. J. Godson M.A. M.S. Grand Inspector of the Grand Independent, W. Waldron P.O. 252. 498. Rev. G.M. Alfred March P.O. 498. Rev. G.M. — J. M. Bladon P.O. 92 (M.A.) J. G. Swinden P.O. 250. 739. 2300 G.S. Rev. G.S.E. (M.A.) — W. E. Richardson P.O. 248. 2385. Rev. G.S.E. H. J. W. H. W. 2309. 2300 G.S.E. (M.A.) M.S. Page P.O. 250. Rev. G.S.M. E. G. 22. 498. Rev. G. M.A.S. Harry Clark P.O. 1979. 2300 G.S.M. (M.A.) G. B. Bentley Rev. G.S.E. W. Mason, J. M. Smith Rev. G.S.M. for Clerk P.O. 1979. John Ashley P.O. 252. W. Smith M.S. M. J. Bonn V. 252. J. Rodgett. 2498. G. J. Thompson. 250. Frank Hughes S.E. 482. S. J. Holliday S.E. 662. W. P. Stanfield S.M. 498. W. H. Hampton. 662. W. E. Leys. 662. F. S. Woodhead 662. Eric Walker, J. G. Mason, Sec. F. Kallum, A. M. Jones; W. Thomas, Arthur C. Killeth, Peter Meyer, C. B. Bishop, W. E. Gough and C. Cotton, Janitor.

The Most Excellent Companion A. J. Godson M.A. M.S. Grand Inspector of the same and Consecrating Officer was assisted by Ex. Comp. W. Waldron Rev. G.S.E. M.S. Ex. Comp. W. E. Richardson P.O.S.E. M.S. Ex. Comp. W. E. Page Rev. G.S.M. M.S. and Ex. Comp. G. B. Bentley Rev. G.S.E. M.S.

The Companions present were duly assembled in the room and the same was opened in due form, when the Consecrating Officer addressed the members on the nature of the meeting and called upon the members to state the names of the Companions and the proceedings they had taken in respect to the Charter and on receiving the replies of the P.O. and the Master and Chapter, having been read, proceeded to commence the Chapter in due and ancient form and at the conclusion the Patriarchal Benediction was given by the Officer.

The Consecrating Officer then installed Ex. Comp. Harry Clark into the first Principals' Chair.

Comp. Sam. G. Mason and Ex. Comp. Sec. F. Kallum were installed as third Principals, when Ex. Comp. W. E. Page withdrew from the Chapter while Ex. Comp. Sam. G. Mason was invested as Grand Principal, the ceremonies being conducted by Ex. Comp. W. Waldron Rev. G.S.E. in an able and impressive manner.

The M.P. then presented the Grand Superintendent with a feast as Consecrating Officer and appointed the assistant Consecrating Officer, having received the "Masceffe" Chapter.

The M.P. then invested his Officers in due form.

The Charter was signed by the following Comps. as founders, namely — Harry Clark, Sam. G. Mason, Sec. F. Kallum, William Thomas, A. Killeth Jones, Arthur C. Killeth, Peter Meyer, C. B. Bishop, W. E. Gough and Sam. Mason.

The musical portion of the Ceremony was conducted by Ex. Comp. W. M. Bladon, P.O. 1031, P.O. 92 (M.A.)

The Chapter was then closed in due form.

The Companions subsequently congregated together when the usual Masonic feast was duly served.

W. Waldron, Grand Inspector

**HISTORY OF
MASEFIELD ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER
2034**

**COPY PROVINCIAL RECORD OF THE CONSECRATION
MEETING**

held at the Balsall Heath Institute
Moseley on the 22nd October 1897

The "Masefield" Chapter No.2034 was consecrated at the Balsall Heath Institute, Moseley on the 22nd day of October 1897 at 4 o'clock p.m. when the following Companions were present, namely:-

A. F. Godson, M.A., M.P., P.G.A.S. Eng., Grand Superintendent,
W. Waldron, P.Z.252,498, Prov.G.H.,
Alfred Marsh, P.Z.498, P.Prov.G.J.,
J. W. Bladon, P.Z.1031, P.Prov.G.J.(War),
F. G. Swinden, P.Z.254, 739, P.Prov.G.J., Prov.G.S.E.(War)
W. H. Richardson, Z.408,2385,Prov.G.S.E.,
W. F. Tolladay, Z.739, P.Prov.G.S.E.(War),
W. T. Page, P.Z.280, Prov.C.S.N.,
E. Lowe, P.Z.498, Prov.G.Ist.A.S.,
Harry Clark, P.Z.1777, P.Prov.G.Swd.B.(Middx),
G. B. Buttery, Prov.G.D.C., S. Mason,
F. W. Knott, Prov.G.Janitor, George Clark, P.Z.1777,
John Deeley, P.Z.452, M. Smith, H.252,
W.J.Fown, J.252, T. Hodgetts, J.498,
G. F. Thompson, 252, Frank Hughes, S.E.482,
S. J. Holliday, S.E.662, J. W. Tanfield, S.N.498,
W. A. Hampton,662, W. H. Heys, 662,
P. H. Whitehead, 482, Thos. Walter,
S. G. Mason, Fred E. Hallam,
R. W. Haines, W. Thomas,
Arthur C. Kellett, Peter Fryer,
C. B. Bishop, W. E. Gough,
and C. Robbins, Janitor.

The Most Excellent Companion A. F. Godson, M.A., M.P., Grand Superintendent as Z. and Consecrating Officer was assisted by Ex. Comp. W. Waldron, Prov.G.H., as H., Ex. Comp. W. H. Richardson, P.G.S.E., as J., Ex. Comp. W. T. Page, Prov. G.S.N., as N. and Ex. Comp. G. B. Buttery, Prov. G.D.C. as D.C.

The Companions present were duly assembled in the Chapter and the same was opened in due form when the Consecrating Officer addressed the Comp. on the nature of the meeting and called upon the D.C. to state the wishes of the Companions and the proceedings they had taken with respect to the Chapter and on receiving the replies of the D.C. and the Petition and Charter having been read, proceeded to consecrate the Chapter in due and ancient form and at the conclusion the Patriarchal Benediction was given by the Acting J. The Consecrating Officer then inducted Comp. Harry Clark into the First Principal's Chair.

Comp. Sam G. Mason and Comp. Fred E. Hallam were installed as Third Principals when Comp. Fred E. Hallam retired from the Chapter while Comp. Sam. G. Mason was installed as Second Principal, the ceremonies being conducted by Ex. Comp. W. Waldron, Prov. G.H. in an able and impressive manner.

The M.E.Z. then presented the Grand Superintendent with a jewel as Consecrating Officer and appointed the Assistant Consecrating Officers honorary members of the "Masefield Chapter".

The M.E.Z. then invested his officers in due form.

The Petition was signed by the following Comps. as Founders, namely Harry Clark, Sam G. Mason, Fred E. Hallam, William Thomas, R. Wheeler Haines, Arthur C. Kellett, Peter Fryer, C.B. Bishop, W. E. Gough, and Sam Mason.

The musical portion of the Ceremony was conducted by Ex. Comp. J. W. Bladon P.Z.1031, P.Prov.G. J. (War).

The Chapter was then closed in due form.

The Companions subsequently banquetted together when the usual Masonic toasts were duly observed.

**THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS
MASEFIELD ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER
NO. 2034.**

The Masefield Chapter took its name from the Craft Lodge to which it was attached, which itself was founded as a memorial to William Masefield, an honoured name in the annals of Worcestershire masonry.

William Masefield was one of the most interesting personalities in the history of the Province. Born in 1801, he died in 1890 at the ripe age of 89 years.

He was initiated in the Harmonic Lodge, Dudley, in 1842 at the age of 41 and was twice Master, first in 1846 and again in 1862.

In 1847 he was appointed Provincial Senior Grand Warden for Worcestershire and later became Treasurer of the Province, a position he held for 21 years. He was appointed Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Worcestershire in 1873 by the then Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Albert Hudson Roys, which office he held for 8 years.

In Grand Lodge he held the office of Grand Standard Bearer to which he was appointed by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales (afterwards King Edward VII), the Grand Master at the time.

William Masefield was exalted in the Dudley Royal Arch Chapter and became First Principal in 1844. He subsequently served that Chapter as Scribe-E. for 25 years.

The Grand Superintendent, M. Ex. Comp. Sir A. H. Lechmere appointed him Prov. Second Grand Principal in 1880 in which office he continued for two years.

He was a distinguished member of many other Masonic Orders, and having such wide interests in Masonry and being well versed in all its ritual it is not surprising to find recorded that he performed no less than 60 installations in various degrees.

In early life, William Masefield was in business in Dudley as a draper and later as a tallow chandler. But whether in business or in his many other activities William Masefield was one who, by reason of his untiring service to his

fellowmen, was always greatly honoured and respected, and he died deeply regretted.

He is buried in the churchyard of St. John's Dudley. His tomb is simple and dignified and in an excellent state of preservation, thanks to the members of the Harmonic Lodge who undertake its maintenance.

The warrant for the formation of the Masefield Chapter is dated the 5th May 1897 and bears the signatures of E. Letchworth, G.S.E., and Thomas Fern, G.S.N.

The Chapter was consecrated on the 22nd October 1897 at the Moseley and Balsall Heath Institute by -

- M.E.Comp. Augustus Frederick Godson, M.A., M.P.,
Grand Superintendent for Worcestershire, assisted by
- E. Comp. William Waldron Prov. G.H.
- E. Comp. W. H. Richardson Prov. G.S.E.
- E. Comp. William Thomas Page Prov. G.S.N.
- E. Comp. G. B. Buttery, Prov. G.D.C.

The founders were -

- E. Comp. Harry Clark, P.Z., P.Prov. G.Swd B. (Middx.)
- E. Comp. William Thomas, P.Z.
Comp. Saml. Mason
Comp. F. E. Hallam
Comp. R. Wheeler Haines
Comp. A. C. Kellett
Comp. C. E. Bishop
Comp. W. E. Gough
Comp. P. Fryer
Comp. Samuel Mason
Comp. William Stevens
The Janitor was Charles Robbins.

Following the consecration, E. Comp. Harry Clark was inducted into the Chair of Z by M.E. Comp. A. F. Godson M.A. M.P., Grand Superintendent for Worcestershire, Comp. Sam. G. Mason was installed into the Chair of J and afterwards into the Chair of H by E. Comp. W. Waldron P.Z. Prov. G.H. and Comp. F.E. Hallam was installed into the Chair of J by E. Comp. W. Waldron.

The first officers were then appointed and invested as follows:-

Comp. R. Wheeler Haines	S.E.
Comp. C. B. Bishop	S.N.
Comp. A. C. Kellett	P.S.
Comp. W. E. Gough	First Asst. S.
Comp. Peter Fryer	Second Asst. S.
E. Comp. William Thomas,	Treasurer
Comp. Samuel Mason,	Steward.

The consecrating officers were elected as honorary members of the Chapter.

The next convocation of the Chapter after its consecration was held on the 6th December 1897, nine candidates being then exalted and one elected as a Joining member.

Apart from a few convocations during the war years 1939-1945 held on other dates, the meeting days provided for in the Warrant, namely, the first Mondays in February, April, October and December, have been strictly adhered to throughout the long history of the Chapter

From the date of its consecration until 1918 the Chapter met at the Moseley and Balsall Heath Institute, from 1918 to 1937 at the Masonic Hall, Institute Road, King's Heath, and at the new Masonic Temple in Alcester Road South, King Heath, since the dedication of that building in August 1937.

Starting with eleven founders, the Chapter, despite fluctuations in its membership through the years, may be said to have made steady progress and has now 45 members on its roll.

Amongst those exalted in the Chapter many have performed distinguished work for and attained high office in Masonry.

It may not be out of place to make particular mention of the following:-

- Ex. Comp. Ernest G. Apps, P.A.G.D.C. P.P.G.J.,
exalted 6th April 1903,
installed as First Principal 7th October, 1912.
- Ex. Comp. A.W. Watson, P.A.G.D.C., P.P.G.J.
exalted 4th December 1905,
Installed as First Principal 1st October 1912.
- Ex. Comp. Alfred Allen, P.A.G.S., P.P.G.J.,
exalted 4th February 1907,
installed as First Principal 7th October 1918.
- Ex. Comp. W. Harvey Gibbs, P.A.G.S., Prov. G.H.
exalted 5th February 1906,
installed as first Principal 6th October 1919.
- Ex. Comp. Thos. Mason F.G. St.P., P.P.G.J.
exalted 22nd November 1913,
installed as First Principal 2nd November 1922.

It is gratifying to observe that Ex. Comps. E.G. Apps and A.W. Watson are still subscribing members of the Chapter and continue to take a keen interest in its affairs and Ex. Comp. Alfred Allen is a greatly respected and esteemed honorary member.

Ex. Comps. W. Harvey Gibbs and Thomas Mason have passed to the Grand Chapter above, after lives devoted to the principles and causes of Masonry.

These notes would not be complete without a special reference to the devoted services continuously rendered to the Chapter over many years by E. Comp. E.G. Apps. His extensive knowledge of all things pertaining to masonry and the Royal Arch in particular and his wise counsel have been of incalculable benefit to the Companions and in no small measure have helped to maintain that spirit of fraternal union and happiness which prevails in the Chapter.

It should be recorded that during a period of difficulty and anxiety through which the Chapter at one time passed, the Grand Superintendent, M.Ex. Comp. Seth Somers and the Prov. G. Scribe E., Ex. Comp. H.V. Stanton, maintained close contact with the Chapter and were a never failing source of help and encouragement. The Companions, in grateful recognition of these invaluable services recently invited both these distinguished Companions to become honorary members, an invitation they were graciously pleased to accept.

The celebration of its Jubilee in October 1947 finds the Chapter happy and flourishing. Its progress has been commensurate with the expansion of Royal Arch Masonry in the Province. In 1897 the Province comprised 7 Chapters and in 1947 exactly three times that number. This, surely justifies to the appeal the Royal Arch degree makes to Masons generally, and to the realisation by them of its fundamentally spiritual nature.

The Companions of the Masfield Chapter are keenly aware of the sublimity of this supreme degree and of the exalted ideals which are its objects. They have a high appreciation of good working but, more a deep sense of the dignity and high importance of the degree. They are proud and happy that their Chapter, having survived 50 years of continuous exposition of the Royal Arch degree, is this year celebrating its Jubilee and remains a living memorial to the eminent Mason whose name it bears.

6th October 1947.

THE SECOND FIFTY YEARS
MASEFIELD ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER
2034

The record of the first fifty years of the Masefield Chapter and a detailed explanation of the distinguished life of William Masefield as a memorial to whose dedication to Worcestershire Freemasonry the Chapter was founded were presented to the Chapter in October 1947 when E. Comp. D.G. Price undertook the office of M.E.Z. for a second term. E. Comp. Price went on to serve Masefield Chapter for many years and was honoured by the Supreme Order with the Rank of Past Assistant Grand Sojourner and Past Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah.

The Chapter has continued to meet at the Masonic Temple in Alcester Road South, King's Heath since the dedication of that building in August 1937 and apart from a few Convocations held on alternative dates by dispensation from Provincial Grand Chapter on occasions when the Easter Bank Holiday has coincided with scheduled meeting dates, has continued strictly to conform with the meeting days stipulated in the Warrant, namely, the first Mondays in February, April, October and December, the Installation being in October each year.

It is of particular interest to find recorded in the Minute Book for the 280th Convocation of the Chapter on the 5th February 1968, that "A heavy snowstorm before the meeting with chaotic traffic conditions, prevented the attendance of many officers and companions. The time of opening was deferred until 7.00pm...." In the enforced absence of Scribe E. the minutes could not be read and since neither of the two Candidates for exaltation, both of whom had been elected at the previous meeting on the 4th December 1967, was able to attend, the Symbolical Lecture was presented by E. Comp. F.C. Shelley, "H" and the Chapter was closed at 7.25p.m. Thirty three members of the Chapter and seventeen Visiting Companions had signified their intention of being present but in the event only twelve members and five visitors were able to attend.

The Chapter has been most fortunate to have had a regular supply of Candidates for Exaltation over the past fifty years and it has only been on a relatively few occasions that an Exaltation has not taken place; indeed during the masonic seasons of 1953/4 a number of "double" ceremonies were held, exalting two candidates in an evening. On occasions when no candidate was to be exalted it has been the practice to deliver all three Lectures, the Historical, the Symbolical and the Mystical, whereas it is the normal practice of the Chapter to deliver only two of the Lectures, the Mystical in abbreviated form until recently, when

Supreme Grand Chapter directed that it should be presented in full to every Candidate, and one other.

Papers on a variety of subjects have been presented to the Chapter over the years by both members of the Chapter and by visiting Companions. At the Convocation of 2nd April 1984 a paper entitled "The Return from Babylon to Jerusalem" was presented by E. Comp. W.G. Hawkes, M.E.Z. and a further paper entitled "The Royal Arch Jewel" was presented by E. Comp. P.C. Band, "H". On the 2nd. February 1987 a paper entitled "The Place of the Order of the Holy Royal Arch within Craft Masonry" was presented to the Chapter by E. Comp. T.W. Grounsell, Past Grand Standard Bearer who afterwards welcomed and answered questions from the Companions.

A paper entitled "The Royal Arch Degree in Scotland" was presented on the 5th February 1990 by E. Comp. H. Banner Adkins, Past Grand Standard Bearer. On other occasions when no Candidates have been forthcoming a demonstration of the Ceremony of Exaltation has been given by the officers of the Chapter, the latest exaltee normally being invited to act as Candidate for the demonstration.

Milestones of the past fifty years include the 250th Convocation held on the 3rd October 1960, when E. Comp. C.H. Hills was installed into the Chair of Z., E. Comp. E.J. Toy was installed into the chair of H and Comp. F.H. Leach was installed into the J Chair. E. Comp. Hills, who later attained the rank of P.P.G.S.N., served the Chapter as Treasurer for a period of eleven years, relinquishing the office to E. Comp. P.C. Band on the 16th April 1980 and, in recognition of his services to the Chapter, was elected an Honorary Member in 1984. E. Comp. Toy who attained Supreme Grand Chapter rank as Past Assistant Grand Sojourner, was Past Provincial Grand. J., and was also elected an Honorary Member in 1986. At the 250th. Convocation, a Grand Chapter Certificate was presented to Comp.R.E. Whitlock.

At the Installation Convocation of the 7th October 1963, the Second Principal Elect, E.Comp.W.Wright not being able through illness to undertake the duties of that office, Comp. Fred Fowler was elected to the Chair of H and installed therein, following the reading of a dispensation from Provincial Grand Chapter, by Excellent Companion Frederick Hickton Griffiths, Order of St. John, the newly installed Provincial Grand Superintendent.

On the 4th February, 1980, E.Comp.G.E. Cooper was invited to open the Chapter by the then M.E.Z., E. Comp. J. McLeish and to present a Grand Chapter Certificate to Comp. B. Milnes. E. Comp. Cooper was exalted into

Masefield Chapter on the 3rd February, 1930, exactly fifty years earlier and was installed as M.E.Z. in 1937 and again in 1954. He had served as Organist on numerous occasions and had served as Provincial Grand Organist in the Province of Warwickshire and had been Past Provincial Grand Organist in the Province of Worcestershire. E. Comp. G.E. Cooper Past Provincial Grand J. was warmly welcomed by the Companions.

At the 300th. Convocation, held on the 5th February, 1973, the Chapter was opened by the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, E. Comp. F.H. Griffiths, O.St.John as First Principal, E. Comp. L.B. Heynes, M.M., Second Prov. Grand Principal as Second Principal and E. Comp. H.W. Day, Prov. Grand Director of Ceremonies as Third Principal. The M.E. Grand Superintendent congratulated the Chapter on this milestone and made reference to the wonderful traditions and standards of the Chapter before presenting a Grand Chapter Certificate to Comp. K.G. Currie.

The Installation of the three principals at the Convocation of the 2nd October 1989 was carried out, as was the opening of the Chapter by The Deputy Grand Superintendent, E. Comp. Dr. H.J. White, J.P. Past Asst. Grand Sojourner, under the revised ritual, following the adoption by Supreme Grand Chapter of the recommendations of the Working Party on Royal Arch Ritual contained in their report dated 12th October 1987. The Deputy Grand Superintendent then addressed the Companions and gave a detailed explanation of the revised ritual. At this meeting, E. Comp. R.E. Whitlock, Past Grand Standard Bearer, presented to the Chapter a Bible to be used in the Ceremonies and E. Comp P.C. Band, Past Prov. Grand Scribe Nehemiah, presented Goblets to be used by the three Principals and the Principal Sojourner at the Festive Board in memory of E.Comp. F.H.R. Peel. Past Prov. Grand Scribe Nehemiah.

The Companions of the Masefield Chapter have continued to be keenly aware of the exalted standards of morality of this Supreme Order and the dignity and high importance of the work to be carried out in our Ceremonies and have maintained the high standards for which Masefield Chapter has become well-respected in the Province. This dedication to the Order has been recognised and rewarded by the Rulers of and in the Province of Worcestershire and is reflected in the honours conferred on the Companions by way of Provincial rank, both in an acting capacity and by the levels of promotions received by members.

There are, and have been in Masefield Chapter over its long history many Companions whose interest in, and contributions to Royal Arch Masonry are particularly noteworthy. It is perhaps appropriate in this record of the second

fifty year period to refer to some of the most illustrious, without in any way detracting from the contributions made by the very many Companions who have "presented themselves with a view to improving in Freemasonry and directing that improvement to the Glory of God and the good of man."

Amongst those considered worthy of mention in the history of the first fifty years and who were active subscribing members at that date in 1947 was Excellent Companion Ernest G Apps who was exalted into the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch on the 6th April 1903, installed into the First Principal's chair on the 7th October 1912, attained the ranks of Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, Past Provincial Grand J. and in recognition of his services to Masefield Chapter was elected an Honorary Member on the 6th December 1954, a position he enjoyed until his death in 1956.

Excellent Companion A.W. Watson, also a subscribing member in 1947, was exalted on the 4th December 1905, installed as First Principal on the 1st October 1917, became Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, Past Provincial Grand J and was called to the Grand Chapter above in 1959.

Excellent Companion Alfred Allen, Past Assistant Grand Sojourner, Past Provincial Grand J. who was an Honorary member in 1947 was exalted on the 4th February 1907, installed as First Principal on the 7th October 1918.

Excellent Companion D.R. Counsell, affectionately known by all as "Jim" came to Masefield Lodge as a joining member from Beaufort Lodge No. 103 Bristol on the 10th January 1921, joined Masefield Chapter on the 4th April 1932 and served the Chapter well for many years. He was installed into the First Principal's Chair in 1943 and subsequently achieved the ranks of Past Assistant Grand Sojourner and Past Provincial Grand Registrar. His keen interest in all things Masonic was legendary and many present members of the Chapter have reason to be thankful for his guidance and advice. He attended his last meeting of the Chapter on the 1st October 1979 and passed away three days later.

Excellent Companion Fred Fowler was exalted into Masefield Chapter on the 2nd April 1951. At the Installation Convocation of the 7th October 1963 E.Comp. W. Wright, 'J' who had announced that he did not feel able to undertake the office of 'H' due to his deteriorating health stood down and Companion Fowler was installed in the 'H' Chair by dispensation and in the presence of Excellent Companion Frederick H. Griffiths O.St. John, P.A.G.Soj., the newly installed Provincial Grand Superintendent. One year later, on the 5th October 1964 the Grand Superintendent was again present to see E.Comp.

Fowler installed into the First Principal's Chair. At that meeting E.Comp. Fowler appointed Comp. Philip Hodgkinson as Principal Sojourner. E.Comp. Fowler was appointed to the rank of Past Provincial Grand Sojourner in 1966, promoted to Past Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah in 1978 and in 1987 became Third Provincial Grand Principal and received Grand Chapter honours as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, distinctions of which he and the Chapter are justly proud. E.Comp. Fred, in his quiet, unassuming way gives great support to the Chapter and can always be relied upon for help and advice by the junior Companions.

Excellent Companion Philip B. Hodgkinson was exalted into Masefield Chapter on the 3rd December 1956 and installed as First Principal on the 1st October 1970. He was appointed to the acting office of Provincial Grand Sojourner in 1972, promoted to the rank of Past Provincial Grand Registrar in 1981 and presently holds the rank of Past Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah, to which he was promoted in 1985. As the second longest serving member of the Chapter, Ex. Comp. Hodgkinson also provides a high level of support to the Chapter and to its members.

Excellent Companion Eric S. Price, Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, was exalted into Masefield Chapter on the 3rd February 1958 and installed as M.E.Z. on the 4th October 1971 in which capacity he exalted his son Richard B.W. Price who he had had the pleasure of initiating into Masefield Lodge on the 13th November 1961 and who he had passed and raised during his year in the Chair of the Lodge. A keen and dedicated mason, E.Comp. Eric Price passed away suddenly on the 25th September 1980.

Excellent Companion Robert E. Whitlock who was exalted into Masefield Chapter on the 4th April 1960 and installed into the First Principal's Chair on the 1st October 1973 has a most impressive and indeed well-deserved record not only in Craft Masonry where he is presently the Deputy Grand Master for the Province of Worcestershire and holds the rank of Past Grand Sword Bearer in the United Grand Lodge of England, but also in this Supreme Order. He was appointed Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1975, promoted to Past Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah in 1980, received the honour of Past Grand Standard Bearer in 1983 and Past Assistant Grand Sojourner in 1992. E.Comp. Bob Whitlock can always be relied upon to support and to guide the Principals and the Companions of the Chapter and is a constant source of information and knowledge of all things Masonic.

Excellent Companion Donald P. Alexander, P.Prov.G.S.N. was appointed to the acting rank of Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah in 1977 following his

serving as First Principal from the 6th October 1975, having been exalted into Masfield Chapter on the 4th February 1963. On the 1st December 1986 he was present to witness the exaltation of his son Bro. P. J. L.(John) Alexander into this Chapter by E.Comp. R.F. Denton. The M.E.Z. then invited E.Comp. Don Alexander to give an explanation of the signs and words to his son following the delivery of the Mystical Lecture. It is a matter of great regret that E.Comp. Donald did not survive to see his son John installed into the First Principal's Chair for the Centenary year, having been summoned to the Grand Chapter above on Christmas Day 1996.

Excellent Companion Richard B. W. Price was exalted into Masfield Chapter by his father, E. Comp. Eric Price on the 6th December 1971 and served as First Principal for two years from the 5th October 1981 to the 3rd October 1983. In 1983 he was appointed Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies and in 1988 became Past Provincial Grand Sojourner, being promoted to Past Provincial Grand Registrar in 1994. Richard is the present Almoner of the Chapter and at the Convocation of Grand Chapter on the 1st May 1997 his dedication to Royal Arch Masonry was rewarded by the Most Excellent First Grand Principal when he appointed him Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

E.Comp. Peter C. Band, exalted on the 6th December 1976, was installed as First Principal on 1st October 1984. In 1987 he was appointed to the acting rank of Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah. E.Comp. Peter has been Treasurer of the Chapter since 1st April 1980, apart from the period of time he was passing the three chairs, and on 10th February 1993 he was appointed to the rank of Past Grand Standard Bearer in the honours conferred to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Most Excellent First Grand Principal.

No list of eminent members of Masfield Chapter would be complete without reference to the Janitor of the Chapter for the years from his first appointment to that office on the 7th October 1968 until his retirement due to ill health in October 1994 at the age of 94. Excellent Companion W.J. Ashley, Past Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah, Past Provincial Grand Sojourner (Warwickshire) has stood on the threshold with so many of the present Companions of the Chapter, (indeed he has prepared a large proportion of them as initiates to Freemasonry as Tyler of the Masfield Lodge from 1967 until his retirement in 1994) he will always hold a very special place in the hearts of the Companions of Masfield Chapter. His cheerful countenance, his powerful voice, even in his latter days in office, and his inevitable greeting of "Happy Days" will live with us for a very long time. E.Comp. Ashley, now 96 years of age is still active in Masonic circles - Long may he be so!

1st December 1997.



Back row:

Comp. R.H.W. Keeling, Comp. D.G. Davies, Comp. H.G. Wilson, Comp. J.A. Carreras, Comp. A.W. Marshall, Comp. T.W. Gray,
Comp. P.G. Curran, Comp. J. Lewis, E.Comp. W.A.B. Sherlock, Comp. K. Barnfield.

Middle row.

E.Comp. G. Bird, Comp. P. Chavda, Comp. R.W. Hodgson, E.Comp. D.S. Carey, E.Comp. D.J. Roberts, E.Comp. H. Keepax, H.,
E.Comp. P.J.L. Alexander, Muz., E.Comp. J.G.R. Phillips, J., E.Comp. J. Cameron, IPZ., E.Comp. R.J. Wood, E.Comp. D.J. Silk, Comp. A.S. Roberts

Seated.

E.Comp. R.K. Briggs, E.Comp. P.B. Hodgkinson, E.Comp. R.B.W. Price, E.Comp. R.E. Whitlock, E.Comp. F. Fowler, E.Comp. P.C. Band,
E.Comp. B.B. Crowden, E.Comp. T.C. Godwin, E.Comp. A Harper.

MASEFIELD CHAPTER

No. 2034

List of officers 1997/8

I.P.Z.	E.Comp. J. Cameron
M.E.Z.	E.Comp. P.J.L. Alexander
H.	E.Comp. H Keepax
J	E.Comp. J.G.R. Phillips
S.E.	Comp. A.W. Marshall
S.N.	Comp. H.G. Wilson
Treasurer	E.Comp. P.C. Band
D.C.	E.Comp. T.C. Godwin
Almoner	E.Comp. R.B.W. Price
Charity Steward	E.Comp. I.M. Grainger
Prin. Soj.	Comp. J.A. Carreras
1st Asst. Soj.	Comp. T.W. Gray
2nd Asst. Soj.	Comp. P.U. Symes
Asst. S.E.	Comp. K. Barnfield
A.D.C.	E.Comp. A. Harper
Guest Organist	E.Comp. W.A.E. Sherlock
Stewards	Comps. J. Lewis A.S. Roberts D.H. Berry D. Hartshorne P. Chavda B.L. Bennett M.A. Keepax
Janitor	Comp. P.G. Curran

Companions not in Office

Comp. C.A.M. Sparrey
Comp. H.T. Mosedale
Comp. M.C. Douglas
Comp. M.K. Adams
Comp. D.G. Davies
Comp. R.A. Talliss
Comp. R.H.W. Keeling
E.Comp. D.A. Carey
Comp. R.W. Hodgson

Honorary Members

E.Comp. B.M. Cooper, JP, Grand Superintendent.
E.Comp. W.J. Ashley, P.Pr.G.S.N., P.Pr.G.Soj.(Warks)

PAST FIRST PRINCIPALS

- 1897 HARRY CLARK, P.G.St.B., P.Pr.G.J.,
 1898 SAM G. MASON, P.Pr.G.D.C.
 1899 F. E. HALLAM, P.Pr.A.G.D.C.
 1900 R. W. HAINES, P.Pr.A.G.Soj.
 1901 C. R. BISHOP, P.Pr.G.J.
 1902 A. C. KELLETT, P.Pr.G.Soj.
 1903 P. FRYER, P.Pr.G.St.B.
 1904 H. HANDS, P.Pr.A.G.Soj.
 1905 W. OWEN, P.Pr.G.Sw.B.
 1906 C. H. AVERILL, P.Pr.G.St.B.
 1907 BENJAMIN HUNN, P.A.G.D.C., P.Pr.G.Sw.B.
 1908 A. B. BOOTH
 1909 J. W. BINT, P.Pr.A.G.Soj.
 1910 A. D. FOULKES, P.Pr.A.G.Soj.
 1911 J. M. JAMES, P.Pr.G.Reg.
 1912 E. G. APPS, P.A.G.D.C., P.Pr.G.J.
 1913 J. C. NICOL, P.Pr.A.G.Soj.
 1914 A. R. WINN, P.Pr.G.St.B.
 1915 A. HARRISON, P.Pr.A.G.Soj.
 1916 S. HUGO, P.Pr.A.G.Soj.
 1917 A. W. WATSON, P.A.G.D.C., P.Pr.G.J.
 1918 ALFRED ALLEN, P.A.G.Soj., P.Pr.P.G.J.
 1919 W. HARVEY GIBBS, P.A.G.Soj., P.Pr.G.H.
 1920 N. C. HUDSON, P.Pr.G.D.C.
 1921 A. C. MASON, P.Pr.G.Reg.
 1922 THOMAS MASON, P.G.St.B., P.Pr.G.J.
 1923 I. W. MAUND, P.Pr.G.Reg.
 1924 W. COLEY, P.Pr.A.G.D.C.
 1925 T. H. DEAN, P.Pr.A.G.S.E.
 1926 H. C. LEWIS, P.Pr.G.S.N., P.Pr.G.Soj. (Wars)
 1927 F. E. BAKER, P.Pr.A.G.S.E.
 1928 E. I. MAUND, P.Pr.G.St.B.
 1929 H. C. I. HILLS, P.Pr.G.Reg.
 1930 T. W. DEAKIN, P.Pr.G.D.C.
 1931 J. F. E. BRAKE, P.Pr.A.G.S.E.
 1932 E. C. APPS, P.A.G.D.C., P.Pr.G.J.
 1933 F. LANE, P.Pr.G.St.B.
 1934 Lt. Col. J. W. PEARCE, P.Pr.G.Sw.B.
 1935 J. G. MCKNALL, P.Pr.G.Soj.
 1936 JOHN BUTCHER, P.Pr.G.St.B.
 1937 G. E. COOPER, P.Pr.G.J.
 1938 W. S. TOWERS, P.Pr.G.Reg.
 1939 A. E. COLEY, P.Pr.G.Reg.
 1940 A. E. COLEY, P.Pr.G.Reg.
 1941 E. BAKER, P.Pr.G.St.B.
 1942 F. WHITAKER, P.Pr.G.S.N.
 1943 D. R. COUNSELL, P.A.G.Soj., P.Pr.G.Reg.
 1944 W. J. ADAMS, P.Pr.G.Soj.
 1945 H. D. BLOORE, P.Pr.G.Soj.
 1946 D. G. PRICE, P.A.G.Soj., P.Pr.G.S.N.
 1947 D. G. PRICE, P.A.G.Soj., P.Pr.G.S.N.
 1948 A. W. SMALLWOOD, P.A.G.Soj., P.Pr.A.G.D.C.
 1949 J. C. COPELAND, P.Pr.G.Soj.
 1950 G. MAWSON, P.Pr.A.G.Soj.
 1951 G. A. MANASSEH, P.Pr.G.Soj.
 1952 H. WARD, P.Pr.A.G.D.C.
 1953 R. L. A. HARDWICK, P.Pr.G.Sw.B.
 1954 G. E. COOPER, P.Pr.G.J.
 1955 F. B. SOFFHAM, P.Pr.A.G.Soj.
 1956 F. T. WILLIAMS, P.Pr.A.G.Reg.
 1957 J. R. BROWN, P.Pr.G.S.N.
 1958 W. R. HARVEY, P.Pr.G.Soj.
 1959 J. A. GILLIES, P.Pr.D.G.D.C.
 1960 C. H. HILLS, P.Pr.G.S.N.
 1961 E. J. TOY, P.A.G.Soj., P.Pr.G.J.,
 W. WHITELAW, P.G.St.B., P.Pr.G.S.N. (Wars)
 1962 F. H. LEACH, P.Pr.G.S.N.
 1963 L. J. SMITH, P.Pr.A.G.S.E.
 1964 F. FOWLER, P.A.G.D.C., P.Pr.G.J.
 1965 W. F. ALLAN, P.Pr.A.G.D.C.
 1966 O. WUIST, P.Pr.A.G.Soj.
 1967 A. J. MUGHES, P.Pr.A.G.Soj.
 1968 F. C. SPURLEY, P.Pr.G.St.B.
 1969 A. H. HEIR, P.Pr.G.Reg.
 1970 P. B. HODGKINSON, P.Pr.G.S.N.
 1971 E. S. PRICE, P.Pr.A.G.D.C.
 1972 A. C. LEE, P.Pr.G.Reg.
 1973 F. E. WHITLOCK, P.A.G.Soj.
 1974 F. E. BUNCH, P.Pr.G.S.N., P.Pr.G.Reg. (Staffs.)
 1975 D. P. ALEXANDER, P.Pr.G.S.N.
 1976 F. H. R. PEEL, P.Pr.G.S.N.
 1977 G. E. MILLS, P.Pr.G.S.N.
 1978 H. L. WINDEATT, P.Pr.A.G.D.C.
 1979 J. McLEISH, P.Pr.G.St.B.
 1980 D. A. PICKERDEN, P.Pr.A.G.D.C.
 1981 R. B. W. PRICE, P.A.G.D.C.
 1982 R. B. W. PRICE, P.A.G.D.C.
 1983 W. G. HAWKES, P.Pr.G.Soj.
 1984 P. C. BAND, P.G.St.B.
 1985 B. B. CROWDEN, P.Pr.G.S.N.
 1986 R. F. DENTON, P.Pr.G.S.N.
 1987 T. C. GODWIN, P.Pr.G.S.N.
 1988 I. M. GRAINGER, P.Pr.G.Reg.
 1989 D. J. SILK, P.Pr.G.Soj.
 1990 R. K. BRIGGS, P.Pr.G.S.N.
 1991 R. D. WALTER, P.Pr.A.G.Soj.
 1992 D. I. ROBERTS, P.Pr.G.Soj.
 1993 A. HARPER, P.Pr.G.St.B.
 1994 G. BIRD, Prov.A.G.D.C.
 1995 R. J. WOOD
 1996 J. CAMERON