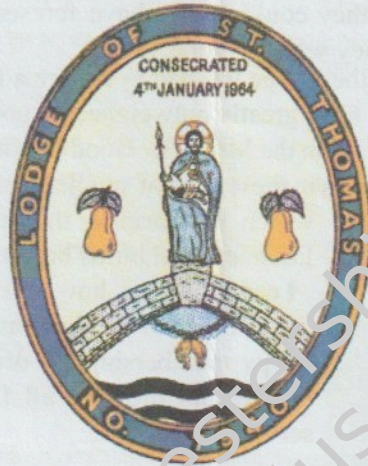


Lodge of St Thomas

Consecrated 4th January 1964



Commemorating the

Lodge Golden Jubilee

13th January 2014

1964 - 2014

The Masonic Rooms, The Talbot Hotel, Stourbridge,

When The Lodge of St. Thomas was formed in 1964, Freemasonry was still riding high on it's unprecedented post-war surge, most Lodges had long waiting lists, and progress to the Chair was painfully slow.

The Founders of St. Thomas were as keen as anyone to progress, hence the new Lodge, but they could hardly have foreseen how things would continue long after they were all gone.

During it's lifetime the Lodge has had to endure a few trying events, but thankfully these have been greatly outweighed by good times, all of which make fascinating reading in the Minutes. Good or not so good, it's pleasing to be able to say that even in these days of smaller Lodges and the problems which that brings, the spirit instilled by our Founders still burns bright.



John Stephens
Secretary

I can only think how lucky I am to have known many of our Founders, and to have enjoyed a happy membership for much of the life of the Lodge, but most of all I'm proud to still be serving the Lodge.

The Future



As the incoming Master of the Lodge, I am looking forward to the new year especially with a candidate in waiting.

Although attendance in general is down I feel sure that the traditions and high standards of the Lodge will see us through to a bright future .

Bruce Baker
Master Elect

Lodge of St Thomas
Founders of the Lodge
4th January 1964

IPM W. Bro. H.W. Griffiths. P.P.G.W
W.M. W. Bro. J.P.G. Willetts. P.P.A.G.Std.B.
S.W. W. Bro. W.H. Kimberlee. P.P.G.Treas.
J.W. Bro. J.A. Thompson.
Chap. W. Bro. Hurley. P.P.G.Chap.
Treas W. Bro. F.W. Potter.
Sec.Bro. G.R. Gallimore.
DC. Bro. A.G. Hipkins.
S.D.Bro. E.R. Newton
J.D. Bro. E.W. Penn.
A.D.C. W. Bro. C. Marsh
Alm. W. Bro. S.J. Cooke
A.Sec. Bro. N. Mocre
I.G. Bro. B.F. Akerman.
Stwd. Bro. C.H. Parsons
Bro. H.W. DeSaillies
Bro. H.J. Perry.
W. Bro. E. Duckhouse. P.P.G.D.
W. Bro. C.F.L. Vann.
Tyler. W. Bro. A.W. Clunas. P.P.G.Tyler.

Members of Lodge attending. 18

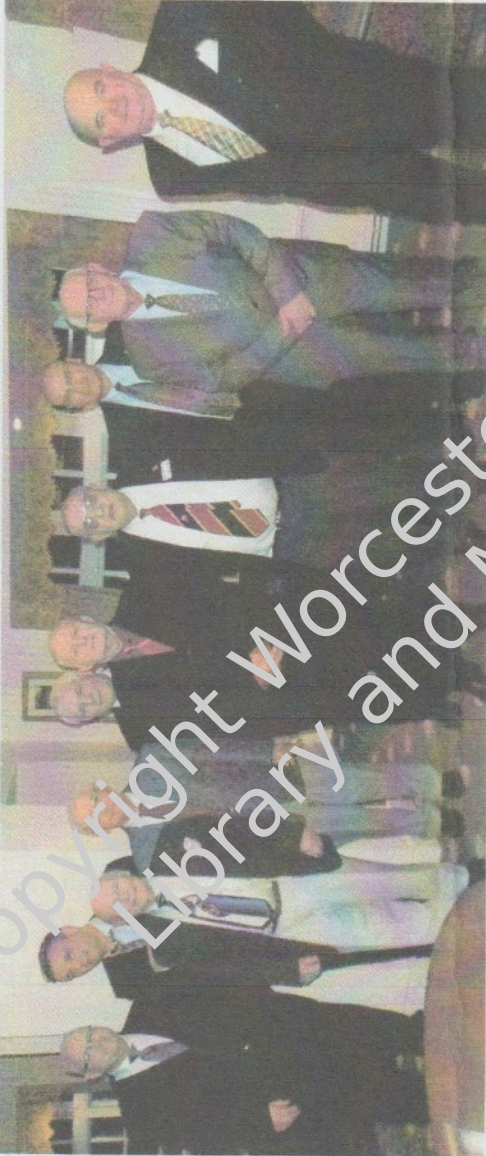
Visitors 83

Tyler 1

Lodge of St Thomas
Past Masters

Year		Init	Surname	Known as:	Notes
1964	W.Bro.	J.P.G.	Willetts	Joe	
1965	W.Bro.	W.	Kimberlee	Bill	
1966	W.Bro.	J.A.	Thompson	Joe	
1967	W.Bro.	N.	Moore	Norman	
1968	W.Bro.	G.R.	Gallimore	Reg	
1969	W.Bro.	B.F.	Akerman	Bernard	
1970	W.Bro.	G.	Milner	Gerald	
1971	W.Bro.	L.A.	Simmonds	Lou	
1972	W.Bro.	T.H.	Bradley	Terry	
1973	W.Bro.	J.A.	Ball	Jim	
1974	W.Bro.	C.H.	Wade	Cliff	
1975	W.Bro.	R.	Blair	Bob	
1976	W.Bro.	J.T.	Dancer	Jack	
1977	W.Bro.	E.	Just	Ernie	
1978	W.Bro.	T.G.	Downs	Tom	
1979	W.Bro.	F.	Tranter	Fred	
1980	W.Bro.	D.J.	Adey	Doug	current member
1981	W.Bro.	M.L.	Crump	Mike	
1982	W.Bro.	J.S.	Whitehouse	John	
1983	W.Bro.	R.V.	Taylor	Bob	
1984	W.Bro.	F.L.	Hill	Fred	current member
1985	W.Bro.	J.	Just	John	
1986	W.Bro.	G.G.	Smith	Geoff	
1987	W.Bro.	J.	Stephens	John	current member
1988	W.Bro.	M.I.	Broome	Michael or Mike	
1989, 2006 & 2007	W.Bro.	D.	Milner	John	current member
1990	W.Bro.	G.T.	Baylis	George	
1991	W.Bro.	B.	Baker	Bruce	current member
1992	W.Bro.	A.	Adams	Angus	
1993	W.Bro.	C.H.	Houlston	Chris	current member
1994	W.Bro.	R.H.	Harrold	Roger or H	
1995	W.Bro.	R.G.	Webster	Reg	
1996	W.Bro.	D.F.A.	Blagg	Dave	
1997	W.Bro.	B.E.	Dunn	Brian	current member
1998, 2003, & 2013	W.Bro.	G.A.	Ketley	George	current member
1999	W.Bro.	J.	Waters	Jack	
2000	W.Bro.	T.K.	Hughes	Tracie	
2001 & 2005	W.Bro.	G.	Sykes	Gary	current member
2002	W.Bro.	H.A.	Wilmshurst	Haydn	
2004	W.Bro.	R.E.	Grainger	Bob	current member
2008	W.Bro.	M.	Bevan	Malcolm or Bev	
2009	W.Bro.	S.R.	White	Steve	
2010	W.Bro.	P.A.G.	Hollins	Phil	
2011	W.Bro.	S.E.	Goodridge	Steve	
2012	W.Bro.	S.W.	Stanford	Stuart	
2013	W.Bro.	G.A.	Ketley	George	
2014	W. Bro.	B.	Baker	Bruce	

Lodge of St Thomas
Brethren of the Lodge
Enjoying the Christmas Party
Enville Golf Club December 2013



Left to right they are:

Bro. Andy Jones, Bro Paul Jones,
W.Bro. Gary Sykes, W. Bro. Doug
Adey, W. Bro. John Milner, W. Bro.
George Ketley, W. Bro. John
Stephens, Bro. Steve Cope, W. Bro.
Bob Grainger, & W. Bro. Bruce
Baker



W. Bro. Phil Hollins



W. Bro. Brian Hughes



Some of the Friday Nighters
celebrating W. Bro. Fred Hill's
Award of the Certificate of Merit

Right from the outset the founders of the Lodge of St. Thomas decided that the very highest standards would be expected of the members, particularly in the matter of Ritual, and to reinforce this it soon formed its own Lodge of Instruction. In reality, this was a matter of formalising an already existing class which had been started many years previously by a certain W. Bro. George Scott.

In keeping with the existing tradition the L.O.I., (which meets almost every

Friday Night, and is thus universally known as 'The Friday Nighters',) happily accepts Brethren from other Lodges, and besides forming many friendships, has been of great value to countless other Brethren and their Lodges. In a happy continuance of the Stourbridge Masonic family, the Lodge of St. Thomas itself sponsored a 'daughter lodge' when Crystal Lodge, No. 8881 was consecrated in 1979.



The most dedicated Mason ever?

W. Bro. Gerald Milner, a member of Swinford Lodge, recalled that he had been invited to be a Founder of St. Thomas, but Province disallowed this on the grounds that he had been a M.M. for slightly less than the then required three years (in fact he was about three weeks short)

Despite this disappointment, he was proposed as a Joining Member at the Consecration Meeting and

was duly elected at the 1st Regular Meeting the following month.

The then Bro. Milner was present at the Consecration Meeting as a Visitor, and was ever present, until in April 1991, he was confined to bed (much to his disgust!) with flu', by which time he had notched up no less than 192 consecutive attendances over a period in excess of 27 years. What an achievement!!!

2019/13. 406.6

Lodge of St Thomas

Historical Background

For nearly ninety years, from its founding in 1849, the Lodge of Stability, now No. 564, was the only lodge in Stourbridge.

During this time, Freemasonry in general was expanding steadily and, although there were a handful of rather conservative members who had reservations about 'creating competition', it was eventually decided that the Lodge of Stability should sponsor a 'daughter lodge'. Thus, in 1932, Swinford Lodge, No. 5729, became the second Lodge in Stourbridge.

Immediately after this came World War II and Freemasonry, along with many other spare time pursuits, had to take second place to such things as military service, the Home Guard, the A.R.P. and other vital activities.

With the end of World War II, Freemasonry reached undreamed of heights of popularity. St. Kenelm Lodge, No. 6082, and the Old Edwardian Lodge of Stourbridge, No. 6141 were quickly added to the two lodges already residing at the Talbot Hotel, but despite there now being four Lodges, there were long waiting lists to join and, once in, the members faced a lengthy wait before they could expect to attain Office.

In due time, a number of Brethren, predominantly from Swinford Lodge, came to the conclusion that Stourbridge could sustain a fifth Lodge, and so in 1964, the Lodge of St. Thomas, No. 7940, the 'daughter lodge' of Swinford Lodge, was consecrated.

The first Worshipful Master W.Bro. Willetts once recalled that he had had a particularly interesting start to his Masonic Career. Having been initiated into Swinford Lodge in Stourbridge, he then went off abroad on active service with the Royal Navy, carrying with him a letter of introduction from Swinford. At the request of Swinford, as contained in the letter, he was 'Passed to the Second Degree' by a Lodge in South Africa, and, having miraculously survived the sinking of H.M.S. Prince of Wales, he was 'Raised to the Third Degree' by a Lodge in Australia.

It had been expected that the Lodge of St. Thomas would be the 100th in Worcestershire, but it was just 'pipped at the post' by Ben Marsh Lodge, No. 7938 of Dudley, a matter which still occasionally gives rise to 'friendly discussion' among the older members.

The new Lodge took its name not directly from the Saint himself, but rather from the local parish of St. Thomas, the Church being in Market Street, just around the corner from the Talbot Hotel. It is a very nice coincidence that on occasions the church bells have provided a pleasant background to our meetings.

Along with many other Lodges, and indeed many other organizations, the Lodge of St. Thomas found that, for a variety of reasons, recent times have been somewhat testing, and there has been a fall in numbers. In a paradoxical sort of way though, this has brought forth a determination to cope with any difficulties, and perhaps an echo of the 'we few' spirit, so that the Lodge remains in good heart. Add to this that the 'junior' Brethren show every sign of being just as capable as their predecessors, and the Lodge looks set to continue its labour for a long time to come.

It has certainly fulfilled the hopes of its Founders.

StThomasGolden.ppp

Wednesday, December 4, 2013