

A History of
Benevolence Lodge: Number 4035.



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BENEVOLENCE LODGE: NO. 4035.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE

FIRST HUNDRED YEARS.

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Pre-Consecration Act

It is assumed that towards the end of 1918 and beginning of 1919, a group of brethren from St. Alphege Lodge No 1431 discussed the possibility of forming another lodge, the exact reasons for doing this are sadly unknown, but the outcome resulted in 'Founders Meetings' that were held in June 1919, January 1920 and April 1920. The resolutions passed at the said meetings, paved the way for the creation of the new lodge.

Bro. J.W. Rains proposed that the name of the new lodge would be 'The Lodge of Benevolence' and Bro. Haddon proposed that the meeting place would be The Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham. (*Masonic Lodges no longer meet at this venue but in 1981 a room still existed there which contained Masonic symbols, which were wall decorations,*

It was also resolved that:

- The Lodge would meet on the 4th Thursday in the month,
- The annual subscription was 4 Guineas,
- The initiation fee was 12 Guineas,
- A 4 feet by 3 feet banner was to be purchased and a sub-committee were empowered to design it. (*This original banner was replaced at the Golden Jubilee meeting on 21st May 1970*)
- The Lodge Tyler would be Bro. G. Blackmore.

On Wednesday 16th April 1919 at the 484th meeting of St. Alphege Lodge, A Secretary wrote under the heading 'Any other Business' that "W.Bro. John Wild gave notice of motion that at the next regular meeting he would propose... (*and the space is blank*)

At the next regular meeting of St. Alphege Lodge on Thursday 22nd May 1919, the Minute Book records two items of interest. Firstly, that the meeting was held one day late. This allowed members to go into Birmingham the previous day to applaud King George V when he visited the City. Secondly, Pursuant to Notice of Motion, W.Bro. John Wild, P.Prov. J.G.D. moved the approval of St. Alphege Lodge to be given a warrant of constitution for a new Lodge to be formed under the name 'The Lodge of Benevolence'. This was seconded by W.Bro. W.J. Davis, Prov.G.Stwd. The proposal was carried Nem.Con. (*Nemine Contradicente, Literally, 'Unanimously'*).

The Founders

The decision to create a new lodge always entails a lot of work and fund raising. Firstly, at least seven Master Masons are required to sign a Petition to the Grand Lodge of England, and funds are needed to pay for the Warrant of Constitution. Secondly, funds are needed to pay for many items such as, collars, jewels, and wands for the office holders, Lodge accoutrements, viz, the VSL, square and compass, working tools, rough and perfect ashlar, tracing boards, wardens' columns, gavels, minute book, the Tyler's book, and the Treasurers Record Book. Including other work involved with their acquirement. Other procedures are also needed, and these are detailed under Rules 94 and 96 of the Book of Constitutions.

The signatories of the Petition and others probably bore the cost of the above and carried out the organisation. These worthy Masons would become 'The Founders' (no wonder we revere them!).

The Consecration

For the new lodge, there were 21 Founders, seven were Past Masters and the other 14 were Master Masons, their names are listed below:

W.Bro. J. Wild	Bro. W.T. Graham
W.Bro. W. Sansome-Davies	Bro. W. Withington
W.Bro. W.E. Edwards	Bro. A.W. Haddon
W.Bro. W.H. Whitehouse	Bro. E.J. Smith
W.Bro. R.H. Bridgewater	Bro. J.H. Davis
W.Bro. S.W.B. Stevens	Bro. S.W. Cliff
Bro. R.E. Bull	Bro. F.H. Maris
Bro. B.E. Mace	Bro. T.W. Haddon
Bro. J.W. Rains	Bro. J.J. Hackett
Bro. W.F. Sabin	Bro. W.H. Bull

The Ceremony of Consecration took place on the 4th May 1920, at the Masonic Hall, Severn Street, Birmingham. It was conducted by Worshipful Brother F.G. Swindon, a P.A.G.D.C., The then Provincial Grand Secretary of Warwickshire and ably assisted by other Acting Provincial Officers.

At this time in Birmingham there was a lot of unemployment and on the same day as the Consecration, the first brick houses to be laid by ex-servicemen were laid in Mere Road, Erdington. Later, in the same month, 90 children from the local district slum area emigrated to Canada, assisted by a charity run by 'Children's Emigration House' in St. Luke's Road. No Parents' were included.

Development and Growth

During 1920-1930 growth in new members was extremely rapid and double Ceremonies for candidates were common. For example, the First Regular Meeting on 20th October 1920, two candidates were initiated, whilst at the third Regular Meeting on the 23rd December 1920, the work included two passing ceremonies, one raising ceremony and the admission of four joining members. Work at this rate soon necessitated an increase in the number of Regular Meetings from seven to eight per season. When W.Bro. J.W. Rains was Master between 1924-1925, there were nine regular and 2 emergency meetings to cope with the number of candidates awaiting entry.

Precise membership figures are not available for the early years, but at the first Regular Meeting, held at the Masonic Temple, Broad Street, Birmingham. An attendance of 70 lodge members, and 31 visitors were recorded in the Tyler's Attendance Book.

Membership figures fluctuate each year but in 1967 there were at least 50 members recorded on the Secretary's list. This meant that all Regular offices were keenly contested. There were 12 Stewards appointed and invested to service the Festival Board. New candidates could expect to wait between four and six years to be considered for the Office of Steward. In those days there was a strict advancement through the various offices, which were, Viz. Steward, Inner Guard, Junior Deacon, Senior Deacon, Assistant Secretary, Secretary, Junior Warden, Senior Warden, Master, Immediate Past Master, Assistant Director of Ceremonies, Director of Ceremonies and finally Chaplain. The Treasurer, Almoner and Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction, were chosen for their suitability from the remaining Past Masters. The Secretary also acted as Archivist and prior to an Installation Meeting a car boot full of material would be transferred to the home of the incoming Secretary.

In 1987 the membership numbers had fallen to the low thirties and ten years later they continued to fall below twenty. In 2005 the membership was in the low teens and the remaining numbers are doing their utmost to reverse the falling trend. During the life of the Lodge up to 2005 in addition to the original 21 Founding Members, there have been just over 250 Initiates and a little over 30 Joining Members. Three Members resigned and re-joined the Lodge again later.

Meeting Venues

The first 59 Regular Meetings were held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham. On the 6th October 1927, the venue was moved to the newly built Peace Memorial Temple, Broad Street, Birmingham, it was a venue which had been constructed by masonic subscription in memory of all the freemasons who had given their lives during the 1914-1918 Great War. With the move it became necessary to change the regular meeting day to the first Thursday in the month.

On the 7th December 1939, the meeting venue was changed again and the 158th Regular Meeting was held at the Edgbaston Assembly Rooms, Francis Road, Birmingham. This was due to the Broad Street venue being requisitioned for war time use.

The lodge continued to meet at this venue until the 7th October 1971, when the 393rd Regular Meeting was held at the purpose-built Warwickshire Masonic Peace Memorial Temple, Clarendon Road, Birmingham. In April 1989, the address of this venue was changed to 2, Stirling Road. Due to Birmingham Council blocking off vehicular access to Clarendon Road from the A456, Hagley Road.

On the 17th October 2003, the 596th Regular Meeting was held at a new venue; The Solihull Masonic Temple, 1621, Warwick Road, Knowle, Solihull. This venue had been chosen because of the increasing difficulty most of the members had experienced in attending on time at Stirling Road, due to the heavy traffic near the centre of Birmingham.

The Daughter Lodge

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge, on the 1st November 1934, the Secretary reported that at the previous Past Master and Officer's meeting a deputation, headed by W.Bro. John Wild, had been given permission to request the members of a Regular Meeting to approve an application for a Warrant of Constitution. This would permit them to form a new Lodge under the title 'The Lodge of Equity', with Benevolence Lodge being the sponsoring Lodge. The members present approved their request and an application was sent via Provincial Grand Lodge, to Grand Lodge. Subsequently, on the 7th February 1935, at the 120th Regular Meeting of the Lodge, The Master and his two wardens signed the petition for the formation of 'The Lodge of Equity'.

Six members of Benevolence Lodge were largely responsible for the formation of the new Lodge and were inducted into its senior offices at the Consecration Meeting. It is interesting to note that W.Bro. John Wild was the first Master of both Benevolence and Equity Lodges.

Early records show that it was customary for the Master and Wardens of both St. Alphege and Benevolence Lodges to visit each other once every year. During this visit the visiting officers would 'Close' the other's Lodge. This custom was extended by Benevolence to their Daughter Lodge, Equity. But at around 1950 these cross visits seem to lapse. A chance conversation between two business colleagues, W.Bros. E.P. Tomblin and S.J. Dodd, resulted in the revival of the custom between Benevolence and Equity during the 1968-1969 season, and which has largely continued uninterrupted up to the current time.

Charities

Benevolence Lodge has always tried to live up to its name in respect of its charitable donations and the front of the summons bears witness to its support of all the main Grand Lodge Charities. Provincial Masonic Festivals have been well supported over the years and as far as can be ascertained, The Lodge always reached or surpassed the 'Target Figure per Lodge' set by Provincial Grand Lodge. Early records show charity collections at Regular Meetings to be 30 Shillings to 3 Pounds, but rather than dwell on the equivalent value in today's money, perhaps we should reflect on the tragic note implied by the Minutes of the 16th Regular Meeting, held on the 23rd November 1922, which recorded; *'It was agreed that the Charity*

collection of £3-10-0 be made up to £5-5-0 from Lodge funds and handed to the Lord Majors fund for the relief of the unemployed'.

Fortunately, there have been comparatively few cases where Lodge Brethren, or their dependents have needed financial support but, when necessary, appropriate, and speedy relief has always been provided by our Almoners. The Lodge particularly fortunate with its Almoners. The devoted and unobtrusive work of these Brethren is always greatly appreciated. W.Bro. J.W. Rains contributed his time and efforts for an un-interrupted 23 years. Until 1980 the Lodge Almoner collected and distributed the Lodge Charity monies, but this was changed during the year after Grand Lodge had approved the creation of a Charity Steward's Office in the list of Lodge Officers.

The following Worshipful Brethren have served as Almoners:

W.E. Edwards	May 1920 – September 1928
J.W. Rains	September 1928 – May 1951
A.E. Morgan	May 1951 – October 1962
A.W. Middleton	October 1962 – October 1964
F.M. Hickin	October 1964 – October 1971
A.R. Powell	October 1971 – October 1974
A.D. French	October 1974 – March 1980
R. Cox	March 1980 – October 1981
B. Parry	October 1981 – October 1986
S.L. Mould	October 1986 – October 1988
D.O. Holt	October 1988 – October 2000
L.C. Bowden	October 2000 – October 2003
N.A. Ford	October 2003 – Present.

Lodge Finances

Very dedicated Past Masters have always managed the finances of the Lodge and kept it on a sound financial footing. In 1942 however, the financial position of the Lodge received a severe setback when a bomb destroyed the business premises of the then Treasurer during a war time air raid. This resulted in the loss of the Lodge's financial records and a considerable sum of money. W.Bro. John Foley-Eggerton's untiring efforts from 1942 onwards, eventually restored the Lodge's financial stability to a firm footing. For the first three and a quarter years he had assisted W.Bro. Colonel W.T. Graham, before taking on the work single handed.

The following Worshipful Brethren have been the Lodge Treasurers:

R.H. Bridgewater	May 1920 – October 1928
W.T. Graham	October 1928 – October 1932
G.W. Ross	October 1932 – October 1939
A.E. Bagge	October 1939 – March 1942
W.T. Graham	March 1942 – October 1946
J. Foley-Eggerton	October 1946 – October 1962
F.G. Davies	October 1962 – October 1976
W. Bridgewater	October 1976 – October 1994
R.S. Magson	October 1994 – to October 2008
N.J / A J Hawkins	October 2008 – to present

During the Second World War period, many efforts were made to conserve financial resources and to avoid an indulgence in un-necessary luxuries. The following resolutions made at Past Masters and Officers meetings have an almost 'New Year's Resolution' about them.

- February 1942: Agreed to no longer provide free wines, spirits, cigars, and cigarettes at the Festive Board.
- March 1943: Agreed that only three bottles of Sherry be placed at the entrance to the Banqueting Room.
- September 1943: Agreed that the Whisky will not be opened until the Senior Steward received the Worshipful Masters permission to do so.

So much for Austerity!

Lodge of Instruction

Early records have no reference to a regular Lodge of Instruction but it is evident that the first recorded Preceptor W.Bro. W.L. Smith, was contemplating a Lodge of Instruction Festival as early as 1934. During the early part of the Second World War, Lodge of Instruction meetings were suspended until 1944 when they were resumed. In 1944 it was agreed that the meetings would be held on the 4th Thursday of every month. This arrangement has been modified to only meeting in the months prior to a Regular Meeting. The methods used by the Preceptors of the Lodge have varied from authoritarian to advisory but have never become dictatorial! Thus, there has always been a distinctly friendly atmosphere, and it is true to say many Junior Brethren have formed friendships there, that have extended beyond freemasonry and lasted throughout their lives.

W.Bro. E.P. Tomblin was the longest serving Preceptor so far at 15 years and on his retirement from those duties, all the Brethren of the Lodge contributed to purchase a top-quality leather Regalia Case, which he proudly used until his demise.

All the Preceptors have been deeply appreciative of the support they have been given by each successive Worshipful Master and the Past Masters of the Lodge.

The following Worshipful Brethren have been Lodge Preceptors:

W.L. Smith	1934 – October 1939
“ “	October 1944 – October 1947
C. Young	October 1947 – October 1949
J.A. Jarratt	October 1949 – October 1955
A.E. Morgan	October 1955 – October 1957
E.P. Tomblin	October 1957 – October 1972
J. Foster	October 1972 – October 1976
F.W. James	October 1976 – October 1984
B. Parry	October 1984 – October 1994
D.O. Holt	October 1994 – October 1997
L.C. Bowden	October 1997 – October 2003
A.A. Gall	October 2003 – October 2015
B Parry	October 2015 – to present.

Organists

Most Brethren feel that our ceremonies would be incomplete without appropriate music, but little attention was given to this aspect from the founding of the Lodge until 1928, when W.Bro. P.C. Crane took up those duties. W.Bro. Crane continued as the organist for an unbroken spell of 24 years. W.Bro. H. Turley, his successor, carried on with his fine example and completed a further 13 years. Both these fine musicians added much to the proceedings both in the lodge room, and at the Festive Board. Their expertise obviously set an example that has been emulated by all their successors. Of late we have been lucky enough to have two very distinguished and long serving senior masons as our lodge organists being W Bro A.E.H. Macmillan P Prov SGW (Worcs.) and W Bro R.G.Griffiths P Prov SGW.

Tylers

For the first 54 years, the Lodge was served by just four Tylers, two of whom were also Provincial Tyler's. Bro. G. Collins served for 24 years, Bro. M. Bridges for 13 years and both Bros. G. Blakemore and Bro. L.C. Worrall served for 8 years. Since that time, The Lodge has been well served by various other dedicated Masons. Having all the necessary Lodge accoutrements to hand has always shown the keenness, and the ability of these brethren. We are all very grateful for the valuable work these masons do behind the scenes. The Lodge also has the distinction of supplying the Province with three of the recent Provincial Tyler's in the persons of W.Bro. F.W. James, W.Bro. G.F. Edwards and W.Bro. L.C. Bowden. W Bro Peter D Clarke, our current Tyler, is now in his 18th year of continuous and unstinting service to this lodge!

Ladies' Evenings

The first formal Ladies' Evening was held on the 22nd April 1921. It was described as "a successful, well attended function" and for the record, the Charity Collection amounted to £7-1-0. Apart from over the War years this happy event has continued almost uninterrupted up to and including the current time.

The first Informal Evening was held on the 5th January 1928. The following extract from the circular issued on that occasion may be open to misinterpretation:

"The invitations must be restricted to the brethren of Masonic Lodges, and their Lady friends, and no Brother must invite more than two guests, owing to limited accommodation".

This Informal Ladies Evening is traditionally held following either the December or January Regular Meetings, when Christmas Carols are sung and presents are distributed to the Ladies present.

Organisers may like to note that when this function was resumed after the War in 1946, the cost for a visitor was 18/6 (85p) and the Brethren of the Lodge were not charged for their attendance.

The Centenary Ladies Night was held in the sumptuous surroundings of Hagley Hall on 15th February 2020 (just before the Covid pandemic broke cover!). 62 brethren and their ladies enjoyed a most excellent evening of celebration and fine dining to mark 100 years of very enjoyable activities being held by the Lodge.

Legacies

On his death Bro. Collier, left a legacy of £1,000,000.00 to freemasonry in general and some of his regalia was returned to this lodge in particular. One of the items was an unusual Regalia Case which is for the use of the most Senior Past Master and should be 'passed on' after his death to the next past master in line. Sadly, no lodge treasurer has ever been able to track down the rest of the legacy!

On a lighter note,

Whilst the Brethren were enjoying the 500th Meeting Celebrations, in October 1987, a police officer at Shard End Police Station, had to barricade himself into a corridor and dial 999 for some Police assistance, as a man wielding a knife, had charged into the station shouting "I'll kill you, I'll kill you" over and over whilst waving the knife. The subsequent Police response managed to overpower the man and release the terrified Police Officer.

Sporting Associations

For many years, Benevolence Lodge was associated with Midland sport and in particular Football. Bro. Lewis (Lew) Stoker, a Birmingham City halfback, was Initiated in February 1937 and continued as a member for many years. In March 1942, saw the Initiation of Bro. R. Daniel (Dan) Tremelling, who was a Birmingham City, and England Goalkeeper. In April 1962, Gilbert H. (Gill) Merrick was Initiated and gained similar honours. Bro. Victor (Vic) H. Crowe was Initiated in November 1965 and he was the Manager of Aston Villa.

W.Bro. Stainton, was Initiated in 1950, he had been a player with Birmingham City and was instrumental in arranging 'Sportsmen evenings' during the 1950's. The Lodge received many visitors from Sphere Lodge, who also had many sporting connections. The 300th Regular Meeting of The Lodge saw W.Bro Stainton in the Chair during 'Masters Night' and the Lodge were hosts to many representatives from all branches of sport. On that evening, Bro. F.G (Fred) England, who was an ardent fan of Aston Villa, was initiated by the R.W. Prov. Grand Master, The Rev. Michael Clarke, M.A. The Lodge still has close contact with Bro. Fred's Widow Whin, who is still very much interested in professional football, at the grand age of 87.

Bro. Gill. Merrick was born in Sparkhill, Birmingham and died aged 88 in 2010. He made more than 700 appearances for Birmingham City between 1939 and 1960 and managed the club for four years to League and Cup Glory in 1963. Merrick won 23 Caps playing for England and played in the 1951 World Cup. On the 14th March 2010, a Memorial Service for him, was held in the Gill Merrick Stand at St. Andrews, The Birmingham City Football Ground. Also, on the night of the 200th meeting, West Bromwich Albion met Manchester United for the third time in eight days. On a different 'sporting' note on the same day during the 300th Regular Meeting, at the Stratford Upon Avon Court, a man was convicted of Bigamy for the fourth time! It was also third time lucky for a demolition team just outside Brownhills. They had failed at two previous attempts to demolish a 230ft tall chimney. In true sporting spirit they kept trying until they were successful.

Current sporting prowess of the Benevolence Lodge is restricted to regularly being beaten at skittles by the brethren of the Lodge of Equity! Equity have been holders of the Rose Bowl for so many years that its location is now unknown by the brethren of L4035.

Grand Lodge Honours

W.Bro. Alfred Flavell, M.A., J.P., and P.Prov.G.D., Was the first member of The Lodge to gain Grand Rank, when in April 1933 he was appointed to the rank of Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. He was a Past Master of both Benevolence and St. Alphege Lodges and the pleasure felt by the Brethren of both Lodges for his preferment, is indicated in the Benevolence Lodge resolution, dated 3rd April 1933. *"In appreciation of the services rendered by W.Bro. Alfred Flavell, it is agreed that the cost of his Grand Lodge Regalia be jointly met by the Benevolence Lodge and St. Alphege Lodge"*.

On the 4th May 1933, he was presented with his Regalia in the presence of several members of St. Alphege Lodge. It is sad to relate that this act was marred, when the Worshipful Master had to announce that it was with extreme regret that he had to report the death of Mrs Flavell on Saturday 29th April. He asked the Brethren to rise and stand in silent prayer to give strength and fortitude to W.Bro. Flavell, during this sad bereavement. Other members of the lodge to receive Grand Lodge Honours are W.Bro. Frank Davies P.Prov.J.G.W. His rank was also Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies and was conferred in April 1972, for recognition of his hard work for the Province. In 1968, Davies had been the Provincial Junior Grand Warden and the Lodge Treasurer for 10 years. On 27th April this year W Bro Nigel J Hawkins APGM is to be promoted within Grand Lodge to Past Senior Grand Deacon.

Provincial Grand Lodge Honours

Most Past Masters of this lodge have gained the preferment of Warwickshire Provincial Grand Lodge Honours, in fact only 13 have not gained that distinction. That must be offset by the 15 Past Masters who have received active rank (s). These are:

1 APGM	1 Prov S.G.W.
1 Prov.J.G.W.	1 Prov G Supt.Wks
2 A.G.D.Cs.	1 Prov G Reg.
1 A.G.Std.B	4 Prov. J G Ds
3 Prov. G.Stwds.	1 Prov.A.G.Reg.
5 Prov.G. Tylers.	

More would have received active rank, but for their work and family commitments. It is also unknown what active ranks were received by our brethren via other provinces.

Long Serving Members

The Lodge has been honoured by having numerous brethren who have served this Lodge for far more than 40 years:-

W.Bro. J.W. Rains	A Founder	49 Years of Service to The Lodge.
W.Bro. J.W. Mulford	Initiated 1922	52 Years of Service to The Lodge.
W.Bro. J.E. Giles	Initiated 1935	60 Years of Service to The Lodge.
W.Bro. W. Bridgewater	Initiated 1949	51 Years of Service to The Lodge.
W.Bro. P.G. Davis	Initiated 1944	70 Years of Service to The Lodge in 2015
W. Bro. B Parry	Initiated elsewhere	Now in his 55 th year of Service to the Lodge
W Bro R.S Magson	Initiated 1973	Now in his 49 th Year of Service to The Lodge

Family Connections

During the life of The Lodge there have been eleven Father and Son connections (Two of which involved a Grandfather and one Uncle and Nephew)

Father and Son details below:

P.H. Tomblin Initiated his Son E.P. Tomblin in 1943.

H.V. Davis Initiated his Son P.G. Davis in 1944.

R.H. Bridgewater's Son, W. Bridgewater was Initiated in 1949.

A.E. Ransley's Son, E.C. Ransley was Initiated in 1951.

S.A. Hickin's Son, G.A. Hickin was Initiated in 1961.(Also a close relative to W Bro R S Magson)

F.R. Tubbs' Son, F.S. Tubbs was Initiated in 1962.

W.S. Needham's Son, E.S. Needham was Initiated in 1964.

F.S. Tubbs' Son, R.D. Tubbs was Initiated in 1978.

W. Bridgewater Initiated his Son, A. Bridgewater in 1987.

P.J. Oakley's Son, A.R. Oakley was Initiated in 1992.

A.J Hawkins's and his two sons who were all joining members from the Lodge of Charity No 1551

Whilst in 1945, W.Bro. W.T. Graham, proposed his Nephew, Colonel W.D. Graham as a candidate for Initiation. At that time Colonel Graham was a serving Officer in the American Army.

Honorary Membership

Honorary Membership during the life of The Lodge has always been restricted to those Brethren who, having given outstanding service. Only twelve brethren have fallen into this category, they are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Election</u>
W.Bro. John Wild	March 1939
W.Bro. W. Leonard-Smith	November 1949
W.Bro. W.T. Graham	November 1954
W.Bro. George W. Ross	April 1956
W.Bro. Alfred E. Morgan	March 1967
W.Bro. Frank G. Davies	October 1977
Bro. Claud Tilstone	April 1994
W.Bro. Frank W. James	February 1997
W.Bro. Phil G. Davis	March 2009
W.Bro. Eddie V.L. Hughes	December 2018
W Bro.R.G. Griffiths	October 2018
V W Bro C.J. Rogers	December 2021

A few other brethren have been offered the honour, but have preferred to remain subscribing members of the lodge – being no less honourable in consequence of that decision.

Special Relationships

It would be remiss not to mention other masonic lodges and organisations this lodge has had close and ongoing connections with over many years. The foremost amongst these was Tudor Royal Arch Chapter No 1792, which many members of this lodge chose to join to complete their journey in pure ancient masonry in line with the Preliminary Declaration of United Grand Lodge of England. Since the sad demise of that Chapter, many brethren now are members of the Chapter of Charity No 1551, and indeed St Alphege Chapter No 1431, and Apollo Chapter No 201.

Part of W Bro A A Gall's lasting legacy to this lodge are the close ties this lodge has with his own mother lodge being Lodge St Margaret No 548 (Scottish Constitution). In a similar manner, via W Bro B Parry this lodge now regularly cross visits with his mother lodge, the Memory Lodge No 4264 meeting in the Province of North Wales.

Via joining members from the Lodge and Chapter of Charity No 1551 this lodge often takes part in the annual Family of Charity Lodges meeting and is closely associated with the lodge of Charity in Belfast No 688 (Irish Constitution).

The Lodge's Future Looks Rosy!

Having been in the doldrums for sometime in terms of its number of actual subscribing members, this Lodge of late seems to have turned a significant corner and to be hitting a purple (and indeed Sky Blue) patch. With the Lodge of Charity No 1551 and Vellum Lodge No 5845. both recently sadly deciding to hand in their own warrants, there has been quite an influx of joining members of all ages, which gives this lodge a far more positive vibrant and exciting future than might have once been the case.

Finale

This has been a review of our history, which was all started because of bold steps, soon after a World War and a pandemic, taken by our enthusiastic Founders. Much has clearly changed in the last hundred years, but as this lodge commences its second century we again find ourselves afflicted by a Worldwide pandemic and a monstrous invasion of an independent western democracy by an aggressive dictatorial neighbour. Sadly, not so much has perhaps changed as our founders may have hoped and wished for!

Remembering Our Founders

W.Bro. J.Wild	W.Bro. Sampson Davies
W.Bro. A. Flavell	W.Bro. W.E. Edwards
W.Bro. W.H. Whitehouse	W.Bro. R.H. Bridge water
W.Bro. S.W.B. Stevens	Bro. R.E Bull
Bro. B.E. Mace	Bro. J.W. Rains
Bro. W.T. Graham	Bro. W.F. Sabin
Bro. W. Withington	Bro. A.W. Haddon
Bro. E.J. Smith	Bro. J.H. Davis
Bro. S.W. Clin	Bro. F.H. Harris
Bro. T.W. Haddon	Bro. J.J. Hackett
Bro. W.H. Bull	

"Long may their legacy survive, thrive, and be a force for good in the World. as well as continuing to make good men, hopefully, better!"