

**STECHFORD LODGE OF  
MARK MASTER MASONS No. 747**

**CENTENARY**

**1921-2021**



**SATURDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022**

## FOUNDERS OF THE LODGE

Worshipful Master

W. Bro. J. Lucking

W.M. Howe T.I., P.M. 667, Prov G.S.O.

Immediate Past Master

W. Bro. P.A. Whitehead

P.M. 629, P.P.G.O.

Senior Warden

W. Bro. J. C. Gilbett, W.M. 629

Prov.G.Stwd.

Junior Warden

Bro. J. W. Bryant

Master Overseer

Bro. E. E. H. West

Senior Overseer

Bro. J. A. Webb

Junior Overseer

Bro. A. C. Huckstep

Chaplain

W. Bro. T. Mason PPGSW, War.

Treasurer

Bro. R. Reas Freeman

Registrar of Marks

Bro. W. H. Stanley P.G.Swd.B., War

Secretary

Bro. T. Roberts

Director of Ceremonies

W. Bro. R. J. Taylor W.M. 318

Charity Steward

W. Bro. T. Mason PPGSW War.

Senior Deacon

W. Bro. G. H. Foston

P.M. 318, Prov G.I.G.

Junior Deacon

Assistant Secretary

Bro. J. A. Crabtree

Organist

Bro. H. Caddy

Inner Guard

Bro. W. W. Mills

Senior Steward

Bro. H. A. Smith

Junior Steward

Bro. R. C. Lee

Bro. A. Holmes

Bro. E. Matthews

Bro. W. G. Harpur

Bro. J. H. Dickens

Tyler

Bro. C Treadwell

# **A HISTORY OF THE STECHFORD LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS NO. 747**

**(Compiled and researched by Bro Clive F. Howe)**

The Lodge records from 1921 until 1958 have unfortunately been lost, however, the Register of Marks and Register of Members are safe.

In compiling this short history of the Lodge, other sources of information, have proved invaluable including the online and library records of the Worcester Masonic Museum.

## **Lodge Formation**

An Emergency Meeting of the Moseley Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 667 was called on Wednesday, 28th September 1921, at the Masonic Hall, 25 Institute Road, Kings Heath.

A deputation of several Brethren, who were desirous of forming a Mark Masons Lodge at Stechford, presented a petition to be supported by the Lodge which, by a unanimous decision, was signed by the Worshipful Master and both his Senior and Junior Wardens.

The name Stechford is apparently a reference to the Stich or Stitch, a local tributary of the River Cole, but the name Stechford was unknown until the construction of Stechford Station in 1844 by the North Western Railway and it has been conjectured that it was simply a railway misspelling.

Stechford is in the North of the Province of Worcestershire being a suburb of East Birmingham, four miles from the city centre. Historically this lay within the county of Worcestershire.

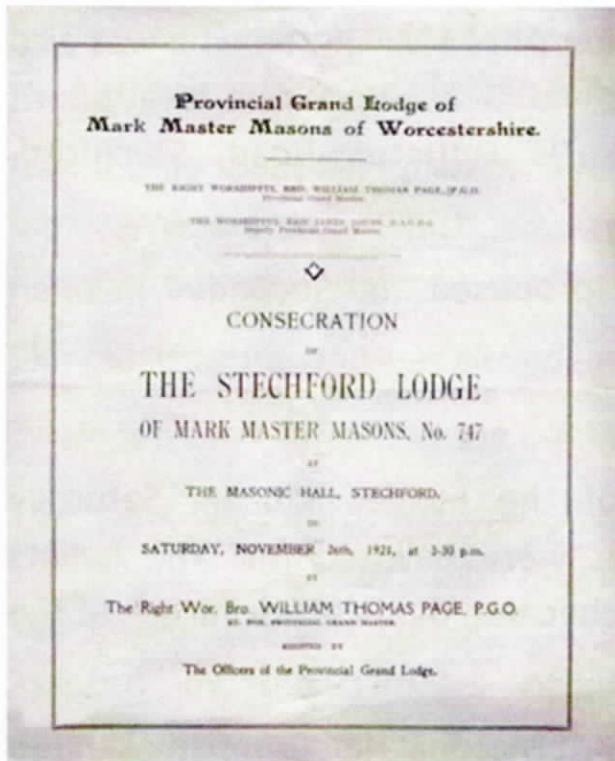
## Consecration

The Stechford Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 747 was consecrated at the Masonic Hall, Stechford on Saturday, 26th November 1921 at 3.30 p.m. by The Right Worshipful Brother William Thomas Page P.G.O., Provincial Grand Master assisted by Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge.



**Stechford Masonic Hall, Station Road, Stechford**

The Brethren assembled in the Lodge Room and the Provincial Grand Master entered in procession and opened a Lodge of Mark Master Masons. The petitioners for the New Lodge were arranged in order and the Warrant was read by the Provincial Grand Secretary. The Consecrating Officer then dedicated the Lodge.



Being duly consecrated, Lodge business was next on the programme.

W. Bro. J. Lucking was installed as the first Worshipful Master of the Lodge, the Treasurer and Tyler were elected, the other officers were appointed and invested and the Bye-Laws of the Lodge were considered and adopted.

The sixth and penultimate item of labour was Propositions.

Brother Secretary reported that there were three Propositions.

The first, as a Joining Member, was for Brother William James Hunter, a member of Temperance Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 629 which met at the Masonic Hall, Athol Buildings, 60 Severn Street, Birmingham in the neighbouring Province of Warwickshire. He was a commercial traveller, residing at 11 Botteville Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham. This Proposition was proposed and seconded in open Lodge. A ballot proved in favour of the candidate.

He became the first Joining Member of the newly constituted Lodge, Worshipful Master in 1929 and resigned in 1935.

Propositions two and three were for candidates to be Advanced.

The second proposition was for Brother Bert Charles Roff, a member of the Stechford Lodge No. 3185. He was also a commercial traveller, residing at 81 Douglas Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham.

The third proposition was for Brother Alfred Millington who was also a member of the Stechford Lodge No. 3185. He was a local goods agent residing at "Wyresdale", 109 Lyttleton Road, Stechford, Birmingham.

Propositions two and three were proposed and seconded in open Lodge.

### **The early years**

At the next Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 1922, the candidates were balloted for. The ballots proved in favour of both, and they became the first Advancements of the Lodge.

On 15<sup>th</sup> February 1922, the Stechford Masonic Hall Company Limited was formed and purchased the Masonic Hall in Station Road from the owner.

In 1922 the Lodge had four joining Members and six Advancements.

Fourteen years after its consecration, the Lodge qualified as a Keystone Lodge and a Grand Patron Lodge of the Mark Benevolent Fund in 1935.

During these inter-war years, the Lodge continued to grow and prosper.

### **War years**

With the outbreak of the Second World War and the many physical hardships presented by a country at war such as blackout difficulties and the call of duty, it was only by the devotion of the Brethren that Stechford Lodge was able to survive.

### **Post war years**

The Lodge celebrated its Silver Jubilee in 1946.

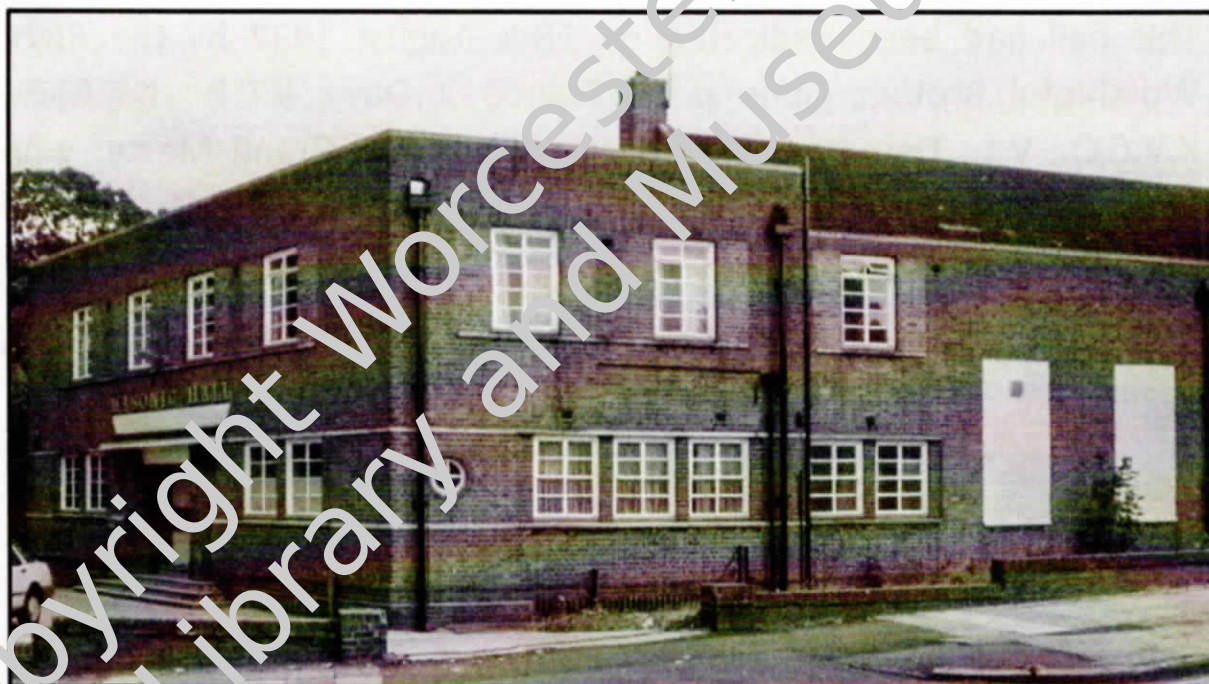
By the late 1960s, the Station Road Masonic Hall had become not fit for purpose, so a search began for a suitable alternative venue.

Half a mile away and also in Stechford, a suitable building with car parking was found which was the old YWCA at the junction of Richmond Road and Bordesley Green East.

The old Masonic Hall was closed in 1972.

There is no evidence that the old Masonic Hall had been dedicated.

The new Stechford Masonic Hall was consecrated on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August 1972 by the Provincial Grand Master, The Right Worshipful Brother Lt. Col. O. W. Dudley Smith J.P., D.L., P.G.D. assisted by the Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire.



**Stechford Masonic Hall, Bordesley Green East**

1972 saw the Golden Jubilee of the Lodge. This was celebrated by a special festival at which two presentations were delivered. The first was entitled The Origin and Formation of The Mark Degree and the second, The Mark Lecture.

Throughout the next three decades the Lodge was busy "Advancing Candidates"!!

### Recent years

From the early part of the new millennium, the Lodge suffered from a lack of candidates and was beginning to struggle.

Furthermore, The Bordesley Green East Stechford Masonic Hall closed in 2011 which meant that all units meeting there had to find a new home.

Prior to the closure, the Directors of the Stechford Masonic Hall Company Limited commenced preliminary talks with the Moseley Masonic Hall Company Limited to determine the feasibility of a move to Kings Heath Masonic Hall.

This hall had been dedicated on 28th August 1937 by the Right Worshipful Brother General Sir Francis I. Davis K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.V.C.O., V.L., **Deputy Grand Master**, Provincial Grand Master who was assisted by Worshipful Brother Alfred Alan, **P.G.D.**, Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

A room on the first floor there, then being used as an office, was available.



**Kings Heath Masonic Hall, Kings Heath, Birmingham**



The Masonic Hall at Stechford had been decorated with Lodge furniture belonging to The Stechford Lodge No. 3185. Chairs used by Senior Officers had the name of the Past Masters carved on them and oak wall panelling and Honour Boards were fitted to the walls of the Temple.

Negotiations complete, the strip out started at Stechford. The Very Worshipful Brother Edward Charles Kettleborough, a member of the Lodge who was also a Master Cabinet Maker, embarked on the project to carefully remove the oak wall panelling, Honour Boards and masonic furniture.

The second part of the project was to ensure that all these items would fit in the new Number Three Lodge Room. In both projects, he was ably assisted by his son Mark.

The joinery skills to ensure a bespoke fit were exercised fully. The skill and hard work of Ted and his son Mark are still there for all to see.

Entering Lodge Room Number Three for the first time, you would think it has always been a Lodge room! When you learn it has only been one since 2011, the skill and craftsmanship of a Master Cabinet Maker can be truly appreciated!

During the general suspension of Masonry during the covid pandemic, the Lodge held three virtual Business Meetings and two virtual Past Masters' and Officers' Meetings using the Zoom online platform. Also using Zoom, regular Friday night social gatherings were likewise held during pandemic lockdowns hosted by W. Bro. Alan Breward or M. Bro. Martin J. Creighan.

With the resumption of normal Masonry, a Dual Installation Meeting was held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021. At the Past Masters' and Officers' Meeting held immediately after the Dual Installation, it was agreed to hold the Centenary Celebration on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at the Kings Heath Masonic Hall.

A photograph of the Warrant and the duly completed application form to obtain a Centenary Warrant were passed to the Provincial Grand Secretary for onward transmission to Mark Masons Hall.

Mark Masons Hall found they did not have an Installation Return for 1940 so logical thinking came into play to contact the Worcester Masonic Museum which very kindly provided photographs of the 1940 and 1941 Provincial Yearbooks.

As the Principal Officers are progressive, looking at the Register of Members, the Lodge Secretary was able to provide the facts required by Mark Masons Hall.

On 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021, a communication from the Right Worshipful Brother Ryan Williams, the Grand Secretary, was received notifying the Lodge that a Centenary Warrant had been granted.

A communication was received from the Provincial Grand Secretary, Worshipful Brother Adrian C. Hutt on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022 reporting that the Centenary Warrant had now been sent from Mark Masons Hall into his safe keeping.

## OFFICERS OF THE LODGE 2021

<b>Worshipful Master</b>	<b>W. Bro. B. Stuart Rothero</b>
<b>Immediate Past Master</b>	<b>W. Bro. William J. Liggins PProvGJO</b>
<b>Senior Warden</b>	<b>Bro. Brian R. Harper</b>
<b>Junior Warden</b>	<b>W. Bro. Alan M. Breward</b> PProvGStwd (MON)
<b>Master Overseer</b>	<b>W. Bro. Leo W. Brown ProvGAsstDC</b>
<b>Senior Overseer</b>	<b>W. Bro. Stan E. Parnell</b> PProvGAssChap
<b>Junior Overseer</b>	<b>W. Bro. Raymond Woodall</b> PProvAsstGStdB
<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>V. W. Bro. Ted Kettleborough</b> PGJO CM
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>W. Bro. Martin J Creighan PProvGJD</b>
<b>Register of Marks</b>	<b>V. W. Bro. Ted Kettleborough</b> PGJO CM
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>bro. Clive F. Howe</b>
<b>Director of Ceremonies</b>	<b>W. Bro. Mervyn C. Cummings</b> ProvGJO
<b>Almoner</b>	<b>W. Bro. William J. Liggins PProvGJO</b>
<b>Charity Steward</b>	<b>W. Bro. Leo W. Brown ProvGAsstDC</b>
<b>Senior Deacon</b>	<b>Bro. Tony M. Fryer</b>
<b>Junior Deacon</b>	<b>Bro. John B. Higgins</b>
<b>Inner Guard</b>	<b>W. Bro. William J. Liggins PProvGJO</b>

### **Past Masters and Brethren not in Office**

Bro. Henry P. Ives

### **Honorary Members**

**R. W. Bro D. J. F. Rawlins Past PGM (Warks)**

**W. Bro. Paul Feetum PGJD**

### **Provincial Representative**

**W. Bro. G. M. Watkins PProvGJD**

# STECHFORD LODGE OF MMM NO. 747

## Masonic Jewels



Consecrating Officers Jewel  
1921



Past Master's Jewel



Centenary Jewel 2021



## PAST MASTERS

- 1922 V. W. Bro. J Lucking **PGO**  
 1923 W. Bro. F C Gilbert **PGStdB**  
 1924 W. Bro. J W Bryan  
 1925 W. Bro. Egerton West PProvGW  
 1926 W. Bro. R R Fleeman PProvGW  
 1927 W. Bro. T Roberts PProvGD  
 1928 W. Bro. H D Smith  
 1929 W. Bro. W J H Hunter  
 1930 W. Bro. R C Lee **PAGDC**  
 1931 W. Bro. Amos Holmes PProvGO  
 1932 W. Bro. W G Harpur PProvGStdB  
 1933 W. Bro. L Waterfield PProvGO  
 1934 W. Bro. H J Hands  
 1935 W. Bro. E W White PProvGD  
 1936 W. Bro. S D Toon **PAGDC**  
 1937 W. Bro. C W Perry  
 1938 W. Bro. V L Dales PProvGReg  
 1939 W. Bro. H B Barrand PProvGO  
 1940 W. Bro. A E Inwood PProvGReg  
 1941 W. Bro. W N Harpur **PAGDC**  
 1942 W. Bro. S A Jones  
 1943 W. Bro. G Barton  
 1944 W. Bro. F J Palmer  
 1945 W. Bro. F H W Barker PProvGW  
 1946 W. Bro. C W Green PProvGO  
 1947 W. Bro. J Dennis PProvGIWks  
 1948 W. Bro. A J Harpur PProvGO  
 1949 W. Bro. S Morris **PAGDC**  
 1950 W. Bro. W J Austin PProvGW  
 1951 W. Bro. W W Hartland  
 1952 W. Bro. P B Colver PProvGIG  
 1953 W. Bro. E E Hopkins PProvAGSec  
 1954 W. Bro. H Lawson PProvGStdB  
 1955 W. Bro. A J Baker PProvGD  
 1956 W. Bro. E J Walter **PAGDC**  
 1957 W. Bro. A J Waver PProvGStwd  
 1958 W. Bro. J Frisby  
 1959 W. Bro. W L G Atkins PProvGIG  
 1960 W. Bro. H F Chance PProvGW  
 1961 W. Bro. A F Nicklin **PAGDC**  
 1962 W. Bro. C A Crossley PProvGSwdB  
 1963 W. Bro. R G St. George PProvGW  
 1964 W. Bro. A E Darlington PProvAGDC  
 1965 W. Bro. H E Lewis  
 1966 W. Bro. J G Bedworth  
 1967 W. Bro. F C Shakespeare PProvGO  
 1968 W. Bro. A E Dainty PProvGO  
 1969 W. Bro. A D Haley  
 1970 W. Bro. J Breakwell  
 1971 W. Bro. B Berlin PProvAGSec  
 1972 W. Bro. G A Dangerfield **PAGStdB**  
 1973 W. Bro. G A Dangerfield **PAGStdB**  
 1974 W. Bro. B J Dennis PProvGStwd  
 1975 W. Bro. H Fleetwood PProvGO  
 1976 W. Bro. H Breckles PProvGO  
 1977 W. Bro. J W Carter PProvGO  
 1978 W. Bro. J G Carter PProvGReg  
 1979 W. Bro. G A Brierley PProvGIWks  
 1980 W. Bro. N W Howell PProvGIWks  
 1981 W. Bro. M A Hunt  
 1982 W. Bro. W H Moss **PAGStdB**  
 1983 W. Bro. R Hatcliffe PProvGSO  
 1984 W. Bro. J Breakwell PProvGW  
 1985 W. Bro. R Fair's PProvGSO  
 1986 W. Bro. R Fair's PProvGSO  
 1987 W. Bro. W H Moss **PAGStdB**  
 1988 W. Bro. R Woodhall PProvAGStdB  
 1989 V. W. Bro. E C Kettleborough **PGJO, CM**  
 1990 V. W. Bro. E C Kettleborough **PGJO, CM**  
 1991 W. Bro. D J Wood PProvGJD  
 1992 W. Bro. T Ellis Jones PProvGSW  
 1993 W. Bro. G J Gough PProvGIG  
 1994 W. Bro. I Whyte PProvGSD  
 1995 W. Bro. M J Stocker PProvGIG  
 1996 W. Bro. J C Preen PProvGIWks  
 1997 W. Bro. R Rooke **PGJD**  
 1998 W. Bro. R J Mace **PGStdB**  
 1999 W. Bro. D A Whyte PProvGJD  
 2000 W. Bro. E Izon TD PProvGSD  
 2001 W. Bro. T T Sleigh **PAGDC**  
 2002 W. Bro. N J R Burden PProvGJO  
 2003 W. Bro. G E Bradley PProvGSO  
 2004 W. Bro. W J Liggins PProvGStdB  
 2005 W. Bro. A T Ball PProvGJD  
 2006 W. Bro J H Ball  
 2007 W. Bro. G R Crumm  
 2008 W. Bro. G R Crumm  
 2009 W. Bro. M C Cummings PProvGSD  
 2010 W. Bro. A T Ball PProvGJD  
 2011 W. Bro. K H Shaikh PProvGStdB  
 2012 W. Bro. W J Liggins PProvGJO  
 2013 W. Bro. A E George PProvGSD(Essex)  
 2014 W. Bro. A E George PProvGSD(Essex)  
 2015 W. Bro. S E Parnell PProvGACHap  
 2016 W. Bro. L W Brown PProvGStwd  
 2017 W. Bro. M J Creighan PProvGJD  
 2018 W. Bro. M C Cummings PProvGDepChap  
 2019 W. Bro. W J Liggins PProvGJO  
 2020 W. Bro. B. S. Rothero  
 2021 W. Bro. B. S. Rothero