

The Second Rising

Edition 8

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Resumption – the next steps

After the United Grand Lodge of England stated that the suspension of Masonry, imposed on 17th March 2020, would not be extended beyond 17th July 2020, it means Masonic meetings may start again.

The Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. William Dastur sent a message to all members of the Lodges in the Province on 22nd July stating this directive has generated numerous issues and questions, notably the 'end of suspension' and 'may meet again'.

RWBro. Dastur told Brethren: "The most important point is that the latest Government guidance must be followed and whilst some members may wish to start again, the overriding factor is whether our hall, rather than individual lodges and chapters feel that they can provide a safe environment for members of not only the Craft and Royal Arch, but for all side degrees which meet at each hall."

He continued: "Critically, each hall must undertake their own risk assessment regarding their ability to operate and whether they wish to open. However, everything is under constant review and each decision may need to be revised in the coming weeks and months as circumstances or regulations change.

"Temporary alterations have been made to the ritual and this information has been circulated to lodge secretaries. Due to these mandated amendments, lodges may feel the gravitas of a ceremony will be spoiled and, therefore, may prefer not to hold such ceremonies at all and this is understood. It is not possible to revert to the traditional ceremonies at this time and such a practice is strictly forbidden.

"Nobody, particularly our elderly and vulnerable members should feel coerced into meeting, irrespective of office. Conversely, lodges should not feel obliged to abandon meetings if senior members do not wish to meet. It must be an individual choice.

"If necessary, a lodge can open and operate with a quorate of just five members, plus a tyler and a candidate. If a quorum cannot meet, for instance the hall isn't open or a suitable meeting place cannot be found, then the meeting must be abandoned on the day and a note accordingly placed in the minutes stating why the meeting did not take place. Continuity of lodge minutes is imperative. An abandoned meeting cannot be rescheduled.

"Although festive boards are not currently allowed, the wearing of masks is and, as Government regulations and advice changes, may be required in future.

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Reopening of Freemasons Hall, Cambridge



Following the formal ending of the suspension of Masonic activity from 17th July, it is possible the majority of meetings in our Province will not begin again until September.

Indeed, Freemasons' Hall at Bateman Street, Cambridge, is currently closed until September.

"It is the intention of the directors of Cambridge Masonic Hall Ltd (CMH) to examine the implications affecting a reopening date to ensure that we are able to comply, not only with Government guidance but also to provide a safe and secure environment for those who wish to use the Hall," said VWBro. John Sherriff PGSwdB, chairman of CMH Ltd.

"It would seem sensible at this time, when the lockdown is easing, to observe the implications of this change generally and to act accordingly when considering a resumption of Masonic activity in the Hall. We cannot risk the health of any of those who wish to use the Hall and this will remain paramount in our consideration regarding reopening," he added.

Further information about the eventual reopening of Freemasons' Hall will be circulated in due course.

Centenary celebration for St Andrew Lodge



It is 100 years since the consecration of St Andrew Lodge No. 4087 at Whittlesey on 28th June 1920, but members had to postpone their celebration.

Extensive preparations were made to celebrate the important milestone, but these were curtailed due to the current Covid-19 restrictions. However, a Zoom video conference was made to members of the lodge on 28th June this year and it was joined by the ProvGM, RWBro. William Dastur.

St Andrew Lodge was consecrated on by RWBro, the Rev Canon JH Gray, the Provincial Grand Master, with Caldwell Lodge No. 3201 being the sponsors. The consecration was attended by 143 brethren.

The preparations started on New Year's Day 1920, when a WBro English, Past District Grand Treasurer of Bombay and a resident of Whittlesey, addressed a letter to 21 Masonic Brothers and inviting them to attend a meeting to be held at the Falcon Hotel to discuss a 'Proposed Masonic Lodge' in Whittlesey. Many local worthies attended including Bro. the Rev AET Newman, vicar of St Mary's Church, the local vet WBro JH Poles and, interestingly, WBro. the Rev Canon WW Covey-Crump, a well-known Freemason and author of many books on freemasonry particularly on Rose Croix. WBro. Poles was nominated as the first Master and WBro. English was elected Secretary. The Lodge was to meet nine times a year, later reduced to eight to allow for the harvest. A temporary Tyler from March received a fee of 10 shillings per meeting [£20 in 2020] plus his train fair.

This was the second Masonic Lodge in Whittlesey, as in 1809 and, under the Moderns Grand Lodge, a Lodge was constituted and called St Andrew's Lodge of Moral Reformation with a number 609. It was sponsored by St Peter's Lodge in Peterborough. The following year the title was changed to St Andrew Lodge. The Lodge went into abeyance in about 1825 with no surviving records.

Until 1934 the lodge met at St Andrew's Parish Rooms until the present building, a former Methodist Chapel, in Woolpack Lane was purchased for £100. The building was dedicated in full Masonic form on the 22nd February 1935 by the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. Sir Kynaston Studd assisted by his deputy VWBro (later Sir) Henry Thirkill. The Lodge building was further extended and re-dedicated in October 1995.



St. Andrew Lodge Centenary Plaque

Resumption - the next steps (continued)

"Most lodges appear to have used some form of video conferencing during the suspension. This is more for social use to keep members in touch with each other. It cannot be used as a substitute for a vote in open lodge."

Guidelines on all relevant regulations within the Book of Constitutions have been forwarded to all lodge secretaries and the Provincial Grand Secretary will keep them informed of up to date advice from UGLE.

There are no provisions for votes to be undertaken by post, email, text messaging or any other means.

The Provincial Executive will monitor the situation and update Brethren as developments occur and advice changes.

"Please enjoy the summer and I hope it will not be too long before we are able to meet again safely," said the ProvGM.

Health talks help for intensive care unit

Health talks organised by two members of St Wendred Lodge No. 8374, based at Newmarket, and support from Provincial charities helped provide a £1,000 donation to the John Farman Intensive Care Unit at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

The Lodge received a letter of thanks from Jane Olds, Matron Adult Critical Care at the unit, who said the donation will help purchase new equipment and continue to help make the unit a brighter environment from patients, relatives and staff.

The talks, organised by the Worshipful Master, WBro. Paul Pearson and WBro. Steven Young, were held in February.

The Lodge received contributions from the Province of Cambridgeshire Charity for Care & Relief and the City and University of Cambridge Masonic Charitable Trust.

"The John Farman Intensive Care Unit has been on the frontline saving lives during these dark times and so our timely gift was very well received and has presented Freemasonry in the best possible light," said WBro. Young.

Gild of St. Mary member in Africa

A member of Gild of St Mary Lodge No. 7288 in Cambridge has been putting his building skills to good use in helping youngsters in Africa develop their skills.

Bro. John Martin, who has been involved in various charitable works for many years and, having ran his own building company for decades, was invited by a friend to visit the Bantaba project in The Gambia, West Africa. There he helped to train youngsters in basic woodwork and building skills so that they could continue their work on the project. It is not a charity but is supported by the Rotary Club of Cambridge Sawston.

The Bantaba Project helps local communities in The Gambia to provide training facilities and basic accommodation for volunteer teachers and helpers. It will also become a centre point and a meeting place for community life and support.

Bro. Martin said: "I introduced them to spirit levels, screws and countersinking. The second time I visited, I helped them roof the building and fit the guttering. Everything has to be in hardwood because of termites and insects".

He continues to visit and will do so until it is complete and functioning. Having secured the land, the accommodation has been built, powered by solar energy, and a well dug. The next phase is digging for a borehole and pumping water to the centre. This will enable the kitchen, nursing room and toilet and shower facilities to be completed. The building of the workshops and the Community Hall will be completed when funds allow.



Your support really makes a difference



Personal protective equipment has been distributed to the Province's potentially vulnerable brethren and widows thanks to support from the Provincial Charity for Care and Relief.

It resulted in 179 PPE packs being distributed to brethren and widows. Each PPE pack contained a box of 100 gloves, four disposable masks, a washable reusable mask and a washable bag (used to hold masks when not being worn). The washable mask and wash bag were made by Connection Through Crafting, which has so far made over 2,500 sets of scrubs for Addenbrookes and other NHS bodies in Cambridgeshire (and which the Province, Descensus Aquarium and Isaac Newton Lodges have supported).

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VVBro. Pat Kilby, who is chairman of the Provincial Charity for Care and Relief, has been delighted by the extremely positive response to the donations.

Here are some examples.

"Just a line to let you know that my PPE was delivered early this afternoon and I would like you to thank you and the Province team for assisting in this matter. I have been in lock down since mid-March, except for driving around town, without getting out of the car, so I am looking forward to getting out shortly."

"Thank you for the masks and gloves. They have come just at the right time as I've got the dentist tomorrow and I have to wear a mask when I turn up."

"It is very kind of Provincial Grand Lodge of Cambridgeshire to think of those of us who are widows and living alone. I do appreciate the continued link we have with our husbands' old friends. The gloves will be very useful. I am lucky that I have shopping delivered and have not ventured far from home so far apart from a good walk each day."

"I thought I should let you know that a parcel of protective masks and gloves was delivered by Chris Harper earlier this week from

Your support really makes a difference (continued)

the Charity for Care and Relief. Thank you and the charity's trustees very much indeed. It's strange but very nice to be a recipient of the charity's benevolence for a change instead of a contributor."

"This is an excellent initiative and will be very greatly appreciated not only by my wife and me, of course, but by very many Cambridgeshire masons and their families."

"May I thank you all for the gift of masks and gloves. I was delighted to see what was in the bag. I shall find them very useful. Thank you and fellow officers for your kind gift, the face masks were great. Life is not going to get back to normal for a long time."

"I would like to thank you and all members of the Charity for Care and Relief for the most welcome package which you brought to me. My granddaughter has been staying with me since the lockdown started. Now I am starting to go out – twice so far. Therefore, the face masks are so opportune."

"These items were most gratefully received as they arrived as the point where our existing supplies were starting to run out. My wife was particularly pleased to receive the floral face mask. A special thank you to all those Freemasons in Cambridgeshire who have put in all those hours to ensure that the brethren are both well and receiving any help that they may require."

"Thank you for the gift I received this week of masks and gloves. They were most welcome as my own supply was somewhat limited. We can only hope that people follow the rules and help us all to move on."

WBro. David Cameron, secretary of the Charity, said: "This project clearly shows the strength and good freemasonry can achieve. Many brethren became quickly involved and we went from an idea to delivery in a very short time. Particular thanks go to VWBro. Pat Kilby, all the lodge almoners and especially the following brethren for delivering PPE packs to other almoners or directly to brethren and widows of other lodges – WBros. Tony Barrios, Paul Dunham, John Jones, Jim Haggarty, Iain Stocks and Brian Sutton."

Make a daily advancement in your Masonic knowledge



Calling all Royal Arch Masons in Cambridgeshire. The 20 questions set here by EComp. Harry Rooke are to further your knowledge of the Royal Arch.

Although intended as a fun way of learning, a prize of a bottle of champagne is being offered to the winner by the Grand Superintendent, EComp. William Dastur.

The winner will be selected at random from correct entries received by 15th September. Please send your entry to ProvGOrator@pglcambs.org.uk.

1. What is the shape of the Altar of Incense?
2. Which King was carried off into exile?
3. How many signs are there in the Holy Royal Arch?
4. How many Grand Originals do we commemorate?
5. When we drink to the pious memory of the Grand Originals, in which hand do we hold the glass and why?
6. To whom is the Janitor's toast given?
7. How many Scribes are there?
8. Name them and what are their equivalents in the Craft?
9. How many Sojourners are there?
10. How many elders form the Grand Council of the Sanhedrin?
11. When the Chapter closes, what act do we all unite in?
12. What are the working tools of a Royal Arch Mason?
13. What do the sword and trowel commemorate?
14. Why are the RA colours blue and crimson?
15. Why were the three Sojourners given the lowly task of ground preparation?
16. Name four of the twelve tribes of Israel.
17. Who destroyed the first temple of King Solomon at Jerusalem?
18. The Five Regular Platonic bodies (Tetrahedron, Octahedron, Cube, Icosahedron and Dodecahedron) are often seen on the floor of the Chapter. What do they represent?
19. What do we commemorate with the peculiar fire after each toast at the festive board?
20. In the Exaltation ceremony, with what working implement is the Principal Sojourner furnished?

'The Second Rising' is produced by WBro. Cliff Brown and WBro. Mike Richardson.
Please email your stories and pictures for the next edition to editorcambsmason@yahoo.co.uk