

Province of Essex



# St Philip Lodge

No. 4221

of ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

Consecrated April 21<sup>st</sup>. 1921



Hallstone Lodge 1926

<b>Patron:</b>	<b>Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution</b>
<b>Patron:</b>	<b>Royal Masonic Institution for Boys</b>
<b>Patron:</b>	<b>Royal Masonic Institution for Girls</b>
<b>Grand Patron:</b>	<b>Royal Masonic Hospital</b>
<b>Founding Lodge:</b>	<b>1956 Royal Masonic Hospital</b>
<b>Founding Lodge:</b>	<b>Southend-on-Sea Masonic Temple</b>
<b>Double Grand Patron:</b>	<b>Essex Provincial Charity Fund</b>
<b>Essex Festival 2000:</b>	<b>Gold Award</b>
<b>Founding Patron:</b>	<b>Saxon Hall Building Fund</b>
<b>Essex Festival 2022:</b>	<b>Vice Patron</b>

## Centenary History

1921 ~ 2021



# GENESIS



**W. Bro. James Berry, PAGStB, PPGD.  
Primus Master**

Southend-on-Sea grew from a small town to a County Borough through the period of the late 1800's to the early part of the 1900's. Freemasonry seems to have mirrored that growth during the same period.

Although long preceded by the Lodge of True Friendship No.160 at Rochford, which was founded during 1766, the senior Lodge in Southend was and is Priory Lodge No.1000, which was constituted in 1864. For 15 years Priory met the Masonic needs of the area. Then in 1879 to serve the Garrison at Shoeburyness a daughter Lodge, known as St Andrew's Lodge No.1817 was consecrated.

Up to the end of the century, St Andrew's was followed by St Clements Lodge No.2442 in 1892 and Albert Lucking Lodge No.2717 in 1898. The start of the 1900's saw the dedication of Westcliff Lodge No. 2903 during 1903 and a further five Lodges were formed by 1920.

However, to return to the military lodge of St Andrew's at Shoeburyness. By 1920 it had grown to boast 200 members. It was to relieve the pressure for membership on St Andrew's

Lodge that a humble petition was made by James Berry, Capt. A.G. Stevens, Nicholas Hillyer and others to His Royal Highness Arthur William Patrick Albert, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn K.G. The Most Worshipful Grand Master.

On 13th December 1920, His Royal Highness The Most Worshipful Grand Master commanded that a warrant be issued to constitute the petitioners into a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons under the Title or Denomination of the St. Philip Lodge No.4221. There were 31 Founder Members.

On Thursday 21st April 1921, The St. Philip Lodge was consecrated at the Masonic Hall, Broadway, Southend-on-Sea by Col. The Right Hon. Lord Lamborne, P.C.,C.V.O. the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master assisted by V. W. Bro. Dr John Henry Salter J.P.,P.G.D.,D.L. Deputy Provincial Grand Master and other Provincial Grand Officers, witnessed by an assembly of approximately two hundred Freemasons.

The Rev. William Carter, Provincial Grand Chaplain, in his address, spoke of Freemasonry as a great fellowship for which there was no room for personal ambition, but only a keen desire to work for the common good. He spoke well of our Founders, in their choice of a Lodge name. Without entering into the question of doctrine, which was rightly barred from a Masonic Lodge, he felt they would all agree that at the time of St. Andrew, a great Christian fellowship had been founded. Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of St Andrew and Peter, so that Philip was a fellow townsman of St. Andrew and seemed readily to have obeyed the call to join the new Fellowship. The association, therefore, of St. Andrew and St. Philip was a close one, and it was quite appropriate that a new Lodge should bear the name of the latter.

The choice of a motto was also totally appropriate, "Amicitia Caritas et Veritas". Freely translated means "Brotherly love, Relief and Truth".

The consecration was followed by the Installation of the Master Designate, W. Bro. James Berry PAGSt.B,PPGD. by The Very Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master. W. Bro. Berry was an Alderman and the twelfth Mayor of Southend. His term in office was 1903-1904. As a matter of interest, James Berry's name appears amongst such other illustrious Southend names as Cotgrove, Dowsett and Garon on a list of the second batch of recruits who volunteered to join a Company of the Essex R.G.A. Volunteers which was founded in 1888 as a result of local interest in the Honourable Artillery Company.

At the conclusion of W. Bro. Berry's Installation and appointment of officers, he gave a hearty vote of thanks to the Provincial Grand Master and Deputy Provincial Grand Master for their kindness in attending and performing the ceremony of the day, and they were invited with the brethren who assisted them, to accept honorary membership of the Lodge. The first candidate for initiation was also proposed and seconded. He was Mr James Wallace Simpson, 26 years of age, a chemist from Thorpe Bay.

The Installation was followed by a Consecration Dinner held at Garon's Banqueting Hall when 153 Freemasons met at the festive board. In addition to the dignitaries already mentioned, amongst those present were the Masters of True Friendship No.160, Trinity No. 1734, St Andrew's No.1817, St. Clement's No.2442, Albert Lucking No.2717, Westcliff No. 2903 and Nore No. 3610.

The formation of the Lodge was followed by a proposition at the November 1921 meeting, that under the sanction of the Warrant of the Lodge, a Lodge of Instruction be formed. This was unanimously granted by the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren.

## THE EARLY YEARS

Given that the Lodge was consecrated in April it was logical that the first "Installation and Annual Festival" should also be held in April and this was in fact the case, with the election of the second Master taking place in the preceding March. However, at the November 1922 meeting, the Father of the Lodge, W. Bro. James Berry proposed that this be changed to October, with the elections taking place at the preceding April meeting. This was approved by the due process and so it was that the second Master, W. Bro. Nicholas Hillyer served his term with eight meetings!

On the completion of W. Bro. James Berry's year, he was presented with a silver cigar case by the brethren he initiated. This was followed in the following years by even more lavish gifts to the Master at the end of his term in office. Later years saw this practice change to the presentation of the I.P.M.'s collar by the Initiates but subsequently the custom died out completely.

Initially, the Lodge had met at The Halfway Hotel, Thorpe Bay. However, after only two years this proved to be inadequate. Supported by their great enthusiasm for Freemasonry, the Brethren decided to build their own Temple and to this end H. Harris Esq. was asked to be the Architect. Bro. John Wilson and Bro. J. W. Wilson were asked to be the builders.

On the 14th June 1923, the foundation stone was laid by Bro. D. Hellyer, Bro. D. Simpson and Sir John Francis J.P. for the new Temple at the rear of the Hotel. To commemorate this singular achievement an inscribed silver trowel, was for many years, displayed on the Secretary's table at every meeting.

Having built the Temple, the same enthusiasm was applied to furnish it. The original carpet was a gift from St. Andrew's in 1921, the oak pedestals, chairs, Tyler's sword and other items were gifts of individual members. The original organ used was purchased for £54 and £34.13s.0d. of this was donated by the first initiate, Bro. James Simpson, at his initiation. As a matter of pride, the furniture is still in use at The Memorial Temple, Woodgrange Drive to this very day.

Another point of interest from the early days was that our Founders and other members of the time, to the glory of God and the wellbeing of Freemasonry in east Southend adopted "Christchurch". To commemorate this event, on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1921 a foundation stone was laid on behalf of the Lodge by Colonel the Right Hon. Lord Lamborne, the Most Worshipful Provincial Grand Master. This Foundation Stone may still be viewed at the east end of the Church, from Warwick Rd, Thorpe Bay. At every Harvest Festival it was expected that all members of The St. Philip Lodge would attend. The Master and Secretary would read the lessons. Regrettably this was discontinued after the passing of the Minister, the Rev. James Atkinson who was also Chaplain of the Lodge for 25 years.

Early 1925 seems to have been a period when the Lodge suffered from an epidemic as at two meetings there were six acting Officers and no candidates. The minutes record many apologies for absence due to illness of one sort or another. Fortunately, the summer followed and by the Installation meeting in October, all had returned to normal.

On the 10th December 1926, St. Philip became a Hall Stone Lodge, as a mark of the financial support given to the construction of Freemason's Hall, Great Queen Street, London, WC2.

Freemason's Hall is the third Masonic Hall to be constructed on the site at Great Queen Street and was called the Masonic Peace Memorial.

*"In memory of those brethren who gave all for  
King and Country, Peace and Victory,  
Liberty and Brotherhood."*

Most of the money was raised by 1,321 Lodges who contributed an average of Ten Guineas per member. These were declared Hall Stone Lodges. Their names, including St Philip, are inscribed on the walls near the memorial within the building. The brethren who contributed the individual's qualifying sum were awarded the "Masonic Million Memorial Medal". It was in December 1926, that the reigning Master, W. Bro. William Newell was invested with the Hall Stone Collar by The Rt. Hon. Lord Amptill, Pro. Grand Master.

The late 20's seems to have been a period of small changes as we find that, the dress code changed from "Dress optional" to "Officer's Dress, Brethren optional", then the closing hymn was changed to "Now the evening shadows", a list of members first appeared on the back of the summons and later the Almoner, W. Bro. Talmage found that there was no Benevolent Fund he could use. He proposed and it was carried that a Benevolent Fund be established and 10% of Yearly Subscriptions be reserved for use of the Almoner up to a maximum of £1.1s.0d. per item.

On 28<sup>th</sup> December 1928 The Right Hon. Lord Lamborne PC.,CVO. the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master for Essex for 26 years, who had presided at the consecration passed away at Bishop's Hall, Romford and was buried in Lamborne Churchyard on 31<sup>st</sup> of December.

At the November 1929 meeting, a purse was agreed towards the proposed foundation stone laying by H.R.H. The Duchess of York at the site of the new General Hospital in Southend. October 1930 saw two of the brethren appointed to serve on a Provincial Grand Committee regarding a Masonic Temple for Southend, whilst over a period of years this committee got as far as considering four sites, there is no record within St. Philip of further action until the early 1950's. No doubt due to the intervening World War.

During 1931, unique ceremonies were held when a father and son were initiated, passed and raised together. The candidates were Bros. Herbert and Leslie Wade. All these workings were carried out by W. Bro. Frederick Mack, the reigning Master.

In November 1931, the Lodge went into mourning as W. Bro. James Berry PAGStdB., PPGD., Founder Member, First Master and Father of the Lodge was called to the Grand Lodge above. He was followed in April 1932 by The Deputy Provincial Grand Master V. W. Bro. Dr John Salter, J.P., D.L., P.G.D. who had installed him as the first Master of St. Philip Lodge, V. W. Bro Dr John Salter died at Tolleshunt D'Arcy aged 90 and was buried in the local churchyard. He had completed 27 years of service as DepPGM. February 1936 saw the Lodge in mourning again when Grand Lodge ordered that, "Upon the present melancholy occasion of the death of His Late Most Gracious Majesty, King George V., Grand Lodge and all subordinate Lodges be placed in Masonic mourning for three months"

What had been ideal as a Temple, or Lodge Room in the 20's was fast becoming inadequate, given the growth of the Lodge in the intervening years. In April 1937, W. Bro. Nicholas Hillyer, the Senior member of the Lodge, rose to express his view that the accommodation was now too small and the ventilation, inadequate. He thought that they would need to consider moving if the Landlord could not do something to improve the comfort of the members. Accordingly, a small committee was formed to interview the Landlord. In time, the ventilation was improved but the physical size led them to consider using the dining room

adjacent, for Lodge meetings. 12 months later, they still awaited a response from the Brewers but the first rumblings of war, put further moves on ice.

At the October 1937 meeting, a letter was read from the Secretary of the Southend General Hospital, that the Lodge had achieved Founder Governorship by the level of donations made. A year later, W.Bro. Benjamin Rawlingson presented a purse of Five Guineas to her Royal Highness the Duchess of York at the ceremonial Foundation Stone laying.

During the appropriate rising at the November 1938 meeting, a past Founding Steward of St. Philip, W. Bro. Rex Hillyer P.P.I.G. of Isaac Newton Lodge No.859, presented to the Worshipful Master, the three ebony Gavels which were used until recently.

From then on general conditions on the international scene deteriorated and the number of brethren who could attend, decreased. Problems with the size of the Temple disappeared and an enforced move that could not have been anticipated, came about....

## THE WAR YEARS

It was at noon on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939 that Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, in the House of Commons, uttered the fateful words "This country is now at war with Germany. We are ready."

A simple note in red ink appears in the Minute Book, at the top of the page for the November 1939 meeting, it records,

“The October 1939 Installation meeting cancelled due to War conditions”.

On the 19th October 1939, a special meeting was called at the Masonic Club, 25 members attended. The reigning Master, W. Bro. C. L. Albrecht PPAGSuptW. with his Officers were asked to carry on until the very unsettled conditions had improved. In March 1940 Grand Lodge contacted all Lodges with a request for Secretaries to record all members on active service. During April 1940, W. Bro. J. H. Purkiss PPGW. was installed as Master and also served an extended term of two years. He was followed during 1942 by W. Bro. W. H. Parrack PPAGDC. and in 1944 by W. Bro. A. J. Taylor PPAGSwdB.

Meetings were to be arranged at The Masonic Hall or other suitable premises as The Halfway House Hotel including The St. Philip Temple, being on the seafront, were to be closed by the Army authorities. However, from after the April 1940 Installation Meeting, there is a gap in the minutes until The October 1941 meeting when, by special dispensation the meetings were moved to the Queens Hotel at Westcliff on the first Wednesday, in the same months as before.

As public or even private meeting places were very restricted during the War Years, the Lodge of Instruction met in members' homes, more often than not in W. Bro. John Hurley's front room in his home at Cheltenham Road, Southend. His son, also W. Bro. John remembers as a child, his mother's annoyance as thick tobacco smoke would pervade her parlour! Attendance declined to around 20 Brethren as others took up the call to serve in His Majesty's Forces. Occasional best wishes from the Near East appeared in minutes and three emergency meetings were held in 1942 to initiate, pass and raise Brother Lieutenant William Foreman R.N.V.R., a Master Mariner, whose Masonry was made to fit his Naval duties. At one of these special meetings, only 13 attended including the candidate! In March of that year, the Senior Warden wrote that he would be unable to undertake the duties of Master due to his service in the Royal Navy. He was finally installed into the chair of King Solomon in 1947, but tragically died in office.

At the October 1942 meeting, The Management of the Queens Hotel notified the Lodge "That it regretted the inability to provide further food at meetings, due to restrictions and staff difficulties" In fact when W. Bro Wm. Parrack was installed, he could not invest the I.P.M., W. Bro. John Purkiss with a Past Master's Jewel as they were unobtainable at the time. Happily, this was presented later.

Gratitude is recorded for those who kept the St. Philip Lodge alive and active during those long dark years.

## A BRAVE NEW WORLD

During October 1945 the Lodge returned to their Temple at the Halfway House and resumed the normal second Tuesday meetings. In December 1945, Bro. Fred Newbury Smith, father of Joe, Myer and Samuel and Grandfather of Michael died. Bro. Fred originally had been a joining member in 1938. March 1946 appears to have been the start of the regular visits from Officers of St Andrew's although of course their brethren had been regular visitors from the start.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was not markedly celebrated within the Lodge but at the April 1946 meeting, to recognise the event. the Senior Deacon, Bro. Fred West and the Junior Deacon George Oakley did present two oak pedestal bases, suitably inscribed for use of the Deacon's wands. In October W. Bro. B. Rawlingson presented a further two oak pedestals for use by the D.C. and A.D.C., as his celebration of the Silver Jubilee. Grand Lodge also asked at this time for a complete list of brethren who had taken part in National Service.

In April 1946, the Worshipful Master outlined the proposal for the formation of a St. Philip Chapter, it was agreed that the petition would be signed in open Lodge. On 10th December 1947, The St. Philip Chapter No. 4221 was consecrated. The first M.E.Z. being E. Comp. Nicholas Hillyer who was a Founder of The Lodge and the first Junior Warden.

In the 50's it was time that the Lodge left their Temple at The Halfway House and moved to The Queens Hotel. Whilst there was some dissension regarding the move, it is thought that problems which had developed with the usage of the accommodation over a period of time made it no longer ideal. At the same time, the Lodge of Instruction moved to The Masonic Hall, Broadway, Southend (later known as the High Street).

In April 1951, the Brethren learnt of the death of the Grand Master, M. W. Bro The Duke of Devonshire, K.G. and to respect the wishes of the Acting Grand Master the Lodge went into mourning for six months from 27<sup>th</sup> November 1950, although in view of existing conditions and the need to conserve material and labour, Masonic mourning would be restricted to one rosette on the collar of each Officer of the Lodge.

At the December meeting in 1951, as had become the custom, the Officers of our Mother Lodge, St. Andrews, attended the meeting. On this occasion, by courtesy of an anonymous donor, the Master of St Philip, presented a leather case with gold lettering to hold the Lodge Warrant, to the Master of St. Andrews.

The summons for March 1952 was again edged in black and recorded: -

### *In Memoriam*

*Owing to the deeply lamented death of our beloved King,  
HIS MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY GEORGE VI Past Grand Master  
The Lodge is in mourning, Officers of the Lodge will wear one rosette on their collar.*



In September 1953 enquiries were being made for suitable premises as a Masonic Temple for the Southend district. St. Philip and its members played a major role in the acquisition, conversion and furnishing of that property when it was found. W. Bro. Morris Woolf PAGDC, PPGW. (Who was later appointed P.G.D. and Asst. Prov. Grand Master) a past Master of St Andrew's and a joining member of St. Philip in 1942, was responsible for leading the team who negotiated and purchased the Methodist Church and Hall which had remained unused since the end of The Second World War.

A major share of the cost was paid by way of a bequest from the late W. Bro. Adam Partington and administered through the Province, he was not a member of St. Philip Lodge but set an example which was followed by others including a personal donation of £500 from W. Bro. John H. Purkiss PPGW. who, as has already been recorded occupied the Master's Chair from 1940 to 1941.

To ensure that the new Temple was used by Lodges, who at the time were scattered between various Hotels throughout the town, it was decided that a "Sales Brochure" should be prepared with impressions of how the Church and Hall would look after conversion. This was prepared by Bro. Albert J. Martin of St. Philip and circulated to all Lodges in the area. It is recorded that, "The accuracy of Bro. Martin's forecast was remarkable". He later became Master in 1960.

Not only did St Philip as a founding Lodge, donate a total of £2157.7s.6d. to the purchase and conversion fund, believed to be the highest amount of any Lodge, but also donated the carpet and loaned the furniture and furnishings from their own Temple at the Halfway Hotel. (It should be noted that in 1964 the furniture was finally donated and at this time a new Secretary's and Treasurers Chair donated as a gift of the Lodge). Whilst the carpet has been replaced twice and more recently the tracing boards and wands, all other Masonic furniture and furnishings in use today are those the St Philip brethren originally donated for use in their Temple in 1923. The new Temple was dedicated and opened on 24th May 1957.

St Philip held their first meeting in the New Temple in October 1957 when Bro. Kenneth Rawlingson was installed into the chair of King Solomon by W. Bro Leonard Sewter. About two years later, W. Bro. Sewter was appointed as the Temple's first paid full time Secretary, having previously worked in the Grand Secretary's Office

Although the Lodge moved to the Memorial Temple, Woodgrange Drive, the Lodge of Instruction stayed at The Masonic Hall, Broadway until November 1959, this hall being subsequently demolished. L of I. then moved to the London Hotel, High St. This marked the start of a period of change for the L of I. as 4 months later it moved to The Palace Hotel, Pier Hill, 10 months later to The Cliff Hotel, Hamlet Road and then finally to its present Home at Woodgrange Drive in January 1963, when not only the venue stabilised but also its regular spot on a Friday evening.

## *MORE RECENT TIMES*

The early sixties marked a number of small changes as St Philip and the world about it evolved, but first it must be recorded that congratulations were given to W. Bro. Morris Woolf on his appointment as Asst. Prov. Grand Master, having taken his obligation and been invested in his Mother Lodge St. Andrew's at their November 1962 meeting.

The summons for November 1962 records the change in dress rules for the Lodge, from "Strictly dark morning dress" to "Dark suit". Doubtless this helped some of the 88 members in lowering the cost of their masonry, bearing in mind what follows. December 1962 saw the first increase in fees since 1949. Annual fees went from six to six and a half guineas.

Late in 1963, W. Bro. Albert Martin who had been Master three years previously, presented to the Temple the Founder's Book. In this, he had recorded the name of every one of the 1208 founders of the Temple under the crest of their respective Lodge or Chapter, together with the names of the 75 ladies who had contributed towards the furniture fund. At the Temple's A.G.M., W. Bro. Martin was invited by the President to place the Founder's Book in a special pedestal which had been donated by the son and daughter of the late Sir Frederic Senior, a past Provincial Grand Master.

Repeating the history of 1921, on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1965, St Philip became the Mother Lodge to Southchurch Hall Lodge No. 8005. Their summons bore the names of three stalwarts of St. Philip who were Founder members, they being W. Bro. Fred West PPGSuptW, W. Bro. Joe Newbury Smith PPGW the first Master and W. Bro. Sam Newbury Smith PPGW.

In 1965 W. Bro. John Hurley P.P.A.G.D.C. was installed as Worshipful Master of St. Philip and he has the distinction of being the longest serving Past Master who was still a member at the time of our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It is of interest to note that W. Bro. John was proposed by his father and seconded by his grandfather. His Grandfather, W. Bro John Hurley PPDepGSwdB. was initiated in 1924, was Worshipful Master in 1932 and called to the Grand Lodge above in 1954. His Father, W. Bro. John Hurley P.P.G.D., was initiated in 1932, occupied the Chair from 1946 to 1947, was D.C. of the Lodge for many years and passed away in 1968. Nor must we overlook Bro. George Hurley, Uncle of W. Bro. John T. Hurley who was initiated in 1932 and remained a member until he too died in November 1969 or W. Bro. Albert Martin another Uncle who served St Philip with distinction for many years before being made an honorary member. The other distinction is that Grandfather initiated his two sons, one of whom in turn initiated his.

The sixties are also noted in our history as a period in which it was not unusual to see four candidates initiated, passed or raised by way of two double degrees at each meeting. 1960 saw a Bro. A. Lumb, passed and raised on behalf of the Lodge of St. George No.1145, District Grand Lodge of the Eastern Archipelago.

In 1962 Bro. Michael Newbury Smith was initiated by his father, W. Bro. Sam Newbury Smith, passed by his Uncle Myer Newbury Smith and Raised by his other Uncle, Joe Newbury Smith. What must have made the Raising even more special was that he was invested with the Master Mason's Apron, first worn by his late Grandfather, Bro. Fred and then by his father, Sam at his raising. Bro. Michael has the distinction of being an Honorary member at the present time. His Father and Uncles were amongst the most active of past Masters from the numbers of degrees they conducted on behalf of, or as reigning Masters, a total of 53 between them, of which W. Bro. Joe alone conducted 30. W. Bro Joe Newbury Smith PPGW was initiated in 1937, was Master in 1953, a past master in two other Lodges, he was made an Honorary Member in January 1991 and called to the Grand Lodge above, during December 1993. W. Bro Myer Newbury Smith PPGW. was initiated during 1948, Master in 1961 and resigned in March 1993. W. Bro. Sam Newbury Smith PPGW. was initiated in 1949, Master in 1962 and a past Master in another Lodge. He sadly died during 1986.

1966 was marked in February, by the appointment of Bro. Bert Weatherson as Tyler of the Lodge. Bro. Bert remained as Tyler of the Lodge and Janitor of the Chapter until he was called to the Grand Lodge above at the beginning of April 1995. His long and valued service

to St Philip and many other Lodges having been recognised by the Right Worshipful Prov. Grand Master during 1994 when he invested Bro. Bert as PPGPurs. He is remembered by many members as their first contact with Masonry, a true gentleman and a faithful mason.

September 1966 was marked with the award by Grand Lodge of the 250<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Jewel, which is worn on the Master's Collar. This was awarded, the Lodge having made a "very satisfactory response to The Most Worshipful, The Grand Master's appeal". The income generated from the capital realised by this appeal being made available to The Royal College of Surgeons.

October was marked for a very sad reason, that being the death of W. Bro. Christopher Talmage P.P.G.W., he being the last active founder of St. Philip. He had been the Almoner for 41 years. At this time, he was survived by Bro. Archibald. H. Watkins the last remaining founder who was a Country Member.

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 1971, The Lodge celebrated its Golden Jubilee. W. Bro. E. C. Weight P.P.S.G.W. was the Worshipful Master and he, although no longer active in the Lodge, has the distinction of being the Senior of our two Honorary members. The meeting was honoured by the attendance of The Right Worshipful Prov. Grand Master, The Earl of Warwick, The Asst. Prov. Grand Master, W. Bro. M. Woolf and The Prov. Grand D.C., Colonel A. Higgins. A total of 73 members and 74 guests attended.

The Anniversary was marked by the reading of the first Regular Lodge Meeting held at The Halfway House Hotel on 10th May 1921 and the minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 1921. A short history of the lodge was also given by W. Bro. E. J. Skerman PPAGDC. Cheques totalling £260 were presented for the R.M.B.I., R.M.I for boys, R.M.I for girls and R.M. Hospital. It is interesting to note that at that time the Lodge had 95 members.

During 1973, W. Bro Reg. Goddard PPGStB who had occupied The Chair of King Solomon in 1968, had the undoubted pleasure of initiating his two sons, Richard in April and Alan in November. 1974 saw W. Bro. William Howard PPGStB. initiate his son, Alan. Later in November, the resignation of W. Bro. M. Woolf, PGD,PAPGM was received. He was elected an Honorary member for his services to Masonry in general and St. Philip in particular. He was called to the Grand Lodge above during 1978.

In 1985, at the end of his year in the chair, W. Bro. Mike Notley presented a new cushion for the Volume of the Sacred Law, an Apron Cushion and Secretary's Tablecloth to the Lodge. These were red, as had been the originals. You will of course note that the original St Philip Chairs and kneeling stools are upholstered in red which indicates that this was a conscious choice by our Founders, although the reason for the variation from the traditional blue is lost in the mists of time.

During April 1986 our last Founder Member, Bro. A. H. Watkins passed on. Living in Wimbledon, he became a Country Member during October 1925, but achieved 65 years as a Founder Member of the Lodge.

Heavy snow and prevailing blizzards hit Southend during January 1987 and as a result, the January meeting, for only the second time recorded in the history of the Lodge, was cancelled. As a result, and in order to keep the programme, up to date Bro. Alec Smart and Bro. Dennis Davy were passed together at the February meeting. A special dispensation was obtained from Provincial Grand Lodge which enabled the Lodge to maintain its continuous record of meetings, from inception.

During 1988 W. Bro. Bill Ryder initiated, passed and raised his younger son, Martin. Eight years previously his elder son, Peter had been initiated and W. Bro Bill , at the time a Steward, had acted as Junior Deacon. The minutes of that meeting record that he conducted his son round “in a proud and dignified manner”.

November 1988 saw the presentation to the Temple of new tapestry Tracing Boards by W. Bro. Edgar Symmonds of Thameside Lodge No.8147 and his brother W. Bro. Alec Symmonds. The tapestry had been done by W. Bro Edgar and the framing arranged by W. Bro Alec.

On 10<sup>th</sup> June 1992, at its quarterly meeting, The United Grand Lodge of England, adopted a Loyal Address to Her Majesty The Queen. This was the first part of the agenda held in the year of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Her Majesty’s accession, to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Grand Master’s Installation and the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Premier Grand Lodge in 1717. As had been the custom within St. Philip Lodge, it played its part, however small, in the overall grand design which led to donations by Grand Lodge to the Paediatric Nursing Service of the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund as well as other amounts to four charities active in the field of mentally handicapped adults; an area virtually untouched by Masonic Charity. In recognition of this, The Lodge was awarded the 275<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Jewel which joined the 250<sup>th</sup> Jewel on the Master’s Collar.

In February 1993 a special meeting was called to appraise members of a declining financial situation brought about by a dramatic decline in the membership, a marked increase in members transferring to the non-dining list as well as a general increase in Grand Lodge, Provincial Grand Lodge and Temple fees. This situation was resolved by instituting an annual fee, exclusive of dining and a dining fee paid in advance at each meeting. Happily, this had the effect of reducing Temple costs and appeared popular with the brethren.

At the January 1996 meeting of St Andrew’s Lodge, when the majority of St Philip Lodge Officers attended, their Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Bill Gladwin presented St Philip with a splendid heavy maul to mark the forthcoming anniversary.

## ***INTO A NEW CENTURY***

The new season of 1997 to 1998 recorded the sad passing of the Rt. Hon. The Earl Cadogan who had departed this life during the Lodge’s summer break. His death was followed later in the year with the demise of W. Bro. John Hurley, thus ending a family association with St. Philip Lodge dating back to 1924!

At the February 1996 meeting a proposition by the Secretary to spend £570.00 was passed to provide a new Lodge Banner and cover. At the same meeting, the Charity Steward reported that the magnificent sum of £5600.00 raised by the members was now donated to the Essex Festival 2000. An event later celebrated by several of the brethren at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London.

March saw an unusual meeting when Past Masters rehearsed the ceremony of Passing. Early April saw a rehearsal of the Banner Dedication under the watchful eye of W. Bro. Peter Holland, Provincial Director of Ceremonies. The Banner was dedicated at the April meeting in the presence of W. Bro. Chris Williams, APGM and W. Bro. Peter Holland, Prov. D.C. The New Banner was dedicated by Deputy Provincial Chaplain, Col. The Rev. J. Blackburn, QHC in a most sincere and impressive manner. After which the APGM presented six members with

their Festival 2000 Gold Certificates, they being in addition to the two already presented. As a matter of interest four of the eight still survive of which two are now Honorary members. Later that year, W. Bro. C. Williams, APGM was elected an Honorary member and he expressed gratitude for the honour bestowed.

At the March 1999 meeting, Province confirmed that the Lodge as a body had achieved a Silver Award for the Festival and W. Bro. John Lewsey presented the certificate on behalf of the PGM. Bro. Steve Connor had now achieved Silver status but was unable to wear the appropriate Jewel as the stock had been exhausted!

This distinction was bettered later in the year when W. Bro. M. Wollin, PAGDC, Prov.SW Presented the Lodge with its Gold Certificate an event that was marked with deserved pride.

At the last meeting of the old century, as a mark of the new Millennium, on behalf of the Worshipful Master and Officers of our mother Lodge, St. Andrews, W. Bro. Graham Halsey, their Director of Ceremonies, presented our Worshipful Master, a Millennium Crown.

In February 2000, the Lodge of Instruction gave to the Lodge, Broken Column brooches which at the festive board which followed were presented to the Lodge Widows who attended. Later in the year in the company of Brethren from St. Philip's Lodge No.7116, a few Brethren visited St. Philip's Lodge No. 5580 at Edgbaston to celebrate their 400<sup>th</sup> meeting. Later still it was voted that in similar fashion to the long-established custom of reciprocal visits to our mother Lodge, an invitation was made to our daughter Lodge, Southchurch Hall Lodge No.8005 for the same custom. During 2002 the large sum of £3000 was donated to Cancer Research from W. Bro. Bill Ryder's Masters list. It is also much regretted that in 2020 W. Bro. Bill was called to the Grand Lodge above.

Previous indications of the need to move the Temple having been promulgated by W. Bro. David Spring, in October 2005 it was approved to donate £2000 to the Saxon Hall Building Fund Appeal. In fact, January 2006 was the last meeting held at Freemasons' Hall, more correctly named the Memorial Temple, Woodgrange Drive, Southend and February saw us meet for the first time at the newly opened Saxon Hall.

2008 saw the vote and approval to reduce from seven meetings to five, primarily due to the paucity of candidates and to a lesser degree to ease the financial burden on members. It was then that meetings in January and November ceased. The following year saw W. Bro. Fred Mason PPGJW elected as an Honorary Member. This recognised his many years work as Lodge Secretary and his move to Kent.

The new decade was firstly marked by the promotion of W. Bro. David Spring to the Grand Rank of Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. Richly deserved and made all the special as the only promotion of a member of St. Philip Lodge in 100 years! The only other recipients of such an honour having received the honour via other Lodges. Other noteworthy events being the election of W. Bro. David Pritchard to Honorary membership. He having been Treasurer for some time and now emigrated to Australia. At the December 2011 W. Bro. Ron Mailes having achieved 50 years as a Freemason, presented the Lodge with an engraved decanter and two glasses for use at the Secretary's table.

April 2012 saw a visit from W. Bro. Pete Clarke from St. Philip's Lodge, Province of Warwickshire at which occasion he presented the Lodge with a Loving Cup. On the bottom of which is inscribed: -

*"It was February 2002, sitting in the SW's chair, when I realized that my Installation would be the 400<sup>th</sup> meeting of 5580. Knowing of two other St Philip's Lodges in the country, I arranged to visit them in March to invite them to come to help celebrate the event in October. Both Lodges duly attended and so started the three-way association. It was obviously meant*

*to be, we all have a double digit – 4221, 5580, 7116; and on top of that, 4221 meet on the second Tuesday, 5580 meet on the second Wednesday and 7116 meet on the second Thursday"*

The Loving Cup is on display at Saxon Hall to this day.

The following year the Lodge donated £1000 to the Holy Royal Arch Bicentenary appeal in favour of The Royal College of Surgeons. Incredibly grateful thanks were received from E. Comp. Ian Gorman the Deputy Grand Superintendent on behalf of R. W. Bro./Grand Superintendent of and over Essex, J. W. Webb.

Moving on, in February 2016 after the Lodge was closed, Ladies and non-Masonic Guests were admitted, and W. Bro. David Spring gave a brief explanation of the situation and roles of the Worshipful Master and Officers. This was followed by W. Bro. Dennis Wiles who delivered a talk on the life and times of our Primus Master, W. Bro. James Berry. This being followed when all dined together in peace and harmony.

During June 2016, a past Master and highly respected member, W. Bro. Tony Hollingsworth, PAGDC sadly passed to the Grand Lodge above. His passing was noted by a most generous bequest which he wanted to be used to help celebrate the Lodge's centenary. In addition, his daughter donated money which was used to buy a new set of gavels duly inscribed to his memory, these being used at every regular Lodge meeting.

March 2018 saw Bro. Kenneth Charles Butler initiated, he being a professional musician. Very sadly Bro. Ken died before he could be passed to the second degree. A eulogy was given in October to which all stood to order in respect to departed merit. In retrospect, over the 100 years only four did not complete all three degrees, two for the saddest of reasons. December marked a happier occasion when the Lodge donated £1000 to the Essex Festival 2022 which qualified the Lodge as a Vice-Patron.

October 2019 saw W. Bro. Alan Keith present the Lodge with new Gauntlets for the Master and Wardens as he installed his successor in the chair. He was then appointed as Secretary as W. Bro. Dennis Wiles had "retired" from that Office. This was marked in December when he was elected an Honorary Member to recognise his services as Secretary over 19 years.

2020 as all are aware was not a good year for the Lodge, Province, Freemasonry and the country in general. It started well for St. Philip when the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Nigel Jackson initiated his son Lee. But then Covid 19 raised its dreadful virus and in March the United Grand Lodge of England suspended all meetings in line with Government dictates, until 17<sup>th</sup> July. So, the lockdown began which resulted in both our March and April meetings being abandoned.

On 14<sup>th</sup> July after battling a long illness our Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Rodney Lister Bass, OBE sadly passed away. Due to Government restrictions only a limited number of family could attend his funeral although the Deputy PGM in charge did represent Freemasonry.

Freemasonry then resumed but with severe limitations including no dining. Meetings were further inhibited when the Prime Minister announced the "Rule of Six" Therefore in October W. Bro. David Spring was declared Worshipful Master for the Centenary year with only five others present. At the time of writing, it remains to be seen what the future holds!



Over the 100 years St. Philip has had 395 members with one candidate yet to be initiated and has become: -

- Patron of The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution
- Patron of The Royal Masonic Institution for Boys
- Patron of The Royal Masonic Institution for Girls
- Grand Patron of The Royal Masonic Hospital
- Double Grand Patron of The Essex Provincial Charity Fund
- Essex Festival 2000, Gold Award
- Essex Festival 2022, Vice-Patron

as well as: -

- Founding Lodge of The Royal Masonic Hospital
- Founding Lodge of The Southend-on-Sea Masonic Temple
- Founding Patron of The Saxon Hall Building Fund

W. Bro. Dennis Wiles, PPJGW.

## Past Masters

1921	!W.Bro James Berry P.A.G.Std.B., P.P.G.D.	1971	! W.Bro.Edward Weight P.P.S.G.W.
1922	!W.Bro.Nicholas Hillyer P.P.G.Reg.	1972	! W.Bro.Dennis Haywood P.P.S.G.D.
1923	!W.Bro.Dundas Simpson	1973	!W.Bro.Leonard Barnes
1924	!W.Bro.Rev.Joseph Stanton P.P.G.Chap.	1974	!W.Bro.Robert Tugwell
1925	!W.Bro.Benjamin Rawlingson P.P.G.W.	1975	!W.Bro.George Valentine P.P.G.Std.B.
1926	*W.Bro.William Newell	1976	!W.Bro.Alec Symmonds P.P.S.G.D.
1927	!W.Bro.Capt. Josiah Skinner P.P.G.Swd.B.	1978	!W.Bro.Arthur Brassington P.P.S.G.D.
1928	!W.Bro.Robert Smart P.P.A.G.D.C.	1979	!W.Bro.Frederick Mason P.P.J.G.D.
1929	!W.Bro.Percy Greenfield P.P.G.D.	1980	!W.Bro.Thomas Wade
1930	*W.Bro.John Cross	1981	*W.Bro.Jack Cowlshaw P.P.G St.B.
1931	!W.Bro.Frederick Mack	1982	*W.Bro.Alan Selman P.P.J.G.D.
1932	!W.Bro.John Hurley Snr. P.P.D.G.Swd.B.	1983	!W.Bro.Michael O'Reilly P.P.S.G.D.
1933	!W.Bro.Albert Seaman P.P.A.G.D.C.	1984	* W.Bro.Malcolm Notley P.G.St.B.
1934	!W.Bro.Edward Jarvis P.P.A.G.D.C.	1985	!W.Bro.Eric Kidwell
1935	!W.Bro.Percy Elam P.P.A.G.Supt.W.	1986	!W.Bro.Edward Soane P.P.S.G.D
1936	!W.Bro.R.Flaxman P.P.G.W.	1987	! W.Bro.William Ryder P.P.J.G.W.
1937	!W.Bro.Frederick Guiver P.P.G.W.	1988	! W.Bro.Clifford Jones P.P.G.Swd.B.
1938	!W.Bro.Carl Albrecht P.P.A.G.Supt.W.	1989	W.Bro.David Spring.P.A.G.D.C.
1939	!W.Bro.Carl Albrecht P.P.A.G.Supt.W.	1990	! W.Bro.Douglas Clarke P.P. Dep.G.Swd.B
1940	!W.Bro.John Purkiss P.P.G.W.	1991	* W.Bro.Norman Valentine P.P.A.G.St.B.
1941	!W.Bro.John Purkiss P.P.G.W.	1992	* W.Bro.David Pritchard P.P.G.Swd.B.
1942	!W.Bro. William Parrack P.P.A.G.D.C.	1993	! W.Bro.Ernest Shepherd P.P.A.G.D.C.
1943	!W.Bro. William Parrack P.P.A.G.D.C.	1994	* W.Bro.Michael Hurst P.P.A.G.D.C.
1944	!W.Bro.Alfred Taylor P.P.G.Swd.B.	1995	W.Bro.Dennis Wiles P.P.J.G.W.
1945	!W.Bro.Alfred Taylor P.P.G.Swd.B	1996	*W.Bro Dennis Davy
1946	!W.Bro John Hurley Jnr. P.P.G.D.	1997	!W.Bro Alec Smart P.P.Dep.G.Swd.B.
1947	!W.Bro.Thomas Brown	1998	!W.Bro Tony Hollingsworth P.A.G.D.C.
1948	!W.Bro.Laurence Halmshaw P.P.G.D.	1999	! W.Bro George McGavin P.P.Dep.G.Swd.B.
1949	!W.Bro.Frederick West P.P.G.Supt. W.	2000	W.Bro Eric Carpenter P.P.J.G.W.
1950	!W.Bro.George Oakley P.A.G.St.B.,P.P.G.D.	2001	!W.Bro William Ryder P.P.J.G.W.
1951	!W.Bro.Albert Wisken P.P.A.G.Swd.B.	2002	W.Bro Stephen Connor P.P.Dep.G.Swd.B.
1952	!W.Bro.Arthur Soper P.P.G.W.	2003	W.Bro. Raymond Hudd P.P.Dep.G.Swd.B.
1953	!W.Bro.Joseph Newbury Smith P.P.G.W	2004	W.Bro Nigel Jackson P.P.J.G.W.
1954	!W.Bro.Eustace Daw P.P.G.W.	2005	W.Bro Paul Carpenter P.P.G.Swd.B.
1955	!W.Bro.Edward Skerman P.P.A.G.D.C.	2006	W.Bro David Spring P.A.G.D.C.
1956	!W.Bro. Leslie Willsher P.P.A.G.D.C.	2007	*W.Bro David Pritchard P.P.G.Swd.B.
1957	!W.Bro.Leonard Sewter P.P.Dep.G.Reg.	2008	*W.Bro Julian Tite
1958	*W.Bro.Kenneth Rawlingson	2009	W.Bro Alan Keith P.P.S.G.D.
1959	*W.Bro William Price P.P.G.W.	2010	W.Bro Alan Keith P.P.S.G.D.
1960	!W.Bro.Albert Martin P.P.G.D.	2011	W.Bro Alec Smart P.P.Dep.G.Swd.B.
1961	*W.Bro.Myer Newbury Smith P.P.G.W.	2012	W.Bro Nigel Jackson P.P.J.G.W.
1962	!W.Bro.Samuel Newbury Smith P.P.G.W.	2013	W.Bro Joseph Wiggins P.Prov.G.Stwd
1963	!W.Bro.Arthur Browne	2014	*W.Bro Brian Bevan P.P.J.G.W.
1964	*W.Bro.William Howard P.P.G.Std.B.	2015	*W.Bro Paul Leacock P.P.G.Reg
1965	! W.Bro.John Hurley P.P.A.G.D.C.	2016	W.Bro. Ashley Hodges
1966	!W.Bro.David Bingham P.P.A.G.D.C.	2017	W.Bro John Engledew
1967	!W.Bro.Herbert Totman	2018	W.Bro Alan Keith P.P.S.G.D
1968	!W.Bro.Reginald Goddard P.P.G.Std.B.	2019	W.Bro Nigel Jackson P.P.J.G.W.
1969	*W.Bro.William Williams		<b>Reigning Master</b>
1970	!W.Bro.William Wood	2020	W.Bro. David Spring P.A.G.D.C.

*Resigned \**

*Deceased !*