



# **The First 50 Years of the Withy Lodge**

*At the 183<sup>rd</sup> Regular meeting of the Lodge held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1986, W. Bro. Ron Robinson, who then held the rank of PPrSGD, gave a brief history of the Lodge, explaining how the Lodge was founded, details of the Founders and his remembrances of the first twenty five years. A copy of this history was filed with the minutes. In celebrating the next 25 years and on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of the Lodge, Ron's history has been reproduced and built on.*

THE WITHY LODGE No. 7733

By Ron Robinson, P.Pr.S.G.D.

Twenty two Freemasons from various Lodges, led by W. Bro. Ernest Barton, W. Bro. Ronnie Fowler and W. Bro. Richard Almond, were brought together with the common aim of founding a new Masonic Lodge.

The early meetings of the Founders were held at The Old Original Withy Trees Public House, Station Road, Bamber Bridge, of which W. Bro. Almond was "Mine Host". W. Bro. Ron. Robinson, the Head of The Reception Centre, Brindle Road, Bamber Bridge, who had been invited to be Founding Secretary, arranged for later founder's meetings to be held at The Centre.

The name chosen for The Lodge was derived from The Withy Grove, the family home of The Inghams, which in turn was named after the grove of Withy Trees which later became Station Road. The House being featured in the centre of the Lodge Crest, which was designed by Bro. Stanley Race, a founder and The Surveyor and Engineer of Walton-le-Dale U.D.C.

The Founder's representatives had meetings with W. Bro Harry Fry, P.J.G.D., the Provincial Grand Secretary, who's guidance and constructive criticism helped to clear the way for the Warrant Application with Cuerden Lodge No. 6018 being the Sponsoring Lodge, the Petition being signed by:-

I. Fell	Worshipful Master
R. Rigby	Senior Warden
J.A. Blackwell	Junior Warden

The Lodge was consecrated on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> of February, 1961 at Leyland Masonic Hall the 22 Founders, 73 Guests and 3 joining members were present, together with the Consecrating Officers. The Consecrating Team was led by R. W. Bro. L. E. Rutherford, Provincial Grand Master.

The Consecration was followed by The Installation of the first master, W. Bro. Ernest Barton, Pr.S.G.D., by W. Bro. Thomas W. Ward, P.G.D., Deputy Provincial Grand Master, assisted by W. Bro. Sir Thomas Hargreaves P.G.D., Assistant Provincial Grand Master, together with other Grand and Provincial Grand Lodge Officers.

The Presenting Officers being: W. Bro. T.H. Ainsworth, P.A.G.D.C. and W. Bro. T. Berry, P.A.G.D.C.

A Banquet followed the Consecration, costing £1-1-0 (one guinea) per head.

The Lodge Founders, in their wisdom, had decided that the Lodge should not be allowed to grow too quickly and that friendliness should be a feature of the Lodge. To this end, there were to be no double initiations - a rule only broken when the Cundall twins, Brian and Michael were initiated in February

1968. Initially meetings were held on the third Tuesday of January, February, March, April, May, September, October, November And December. In 1967 however, the Lodge Committee decided to hold no further meetings in May and December. The reason for this decision being to limit the growth of the Lodge.

The Founders wishes should be honoured by all members being aware of them and remembering to make all new members and visitors welcome.

The Initial subscriptions were set at Z4-14-6d, with initiates fees at £31-0-0. Three Masons present at the Consecration, who were to become immediate joining members were: Bro. Norman Rickard, Bro. George Bates and Bro. Ernest Pierce. There were a further three joining members later that first year, Bro. C.G. Cundall (Gerry), Bro. A.G. Henry (Anfield) and Bro. Arthur Holme.

THE WITHY LODGE 7733

FOUNDERS

Name in	Address	Present Lodge	Logde Initiated
R.W. Fowler.	348 Preston Rd. Clayton le-Woods, Chorley	6018 7192	5920
E. Barton.	Clayton Villa Farm, Clayton-le-Woods.	6016 7192	2324
Rev. A. Williams	St. Saviours Vicarage Bamber Bridge	6018	6018
R. Almond	77 Huddle Lane, Bamber Bridge, Preston	6018	986
J. Hunt	Thursby Cottage, Kellett ln. Bamber Bridge.	6018	343
R. Robinson.	The Centre, Brindle Rd. Bamber Bridge.	2688	2688
D. Clarkson	558 Preston Rd. Clayton-le-Woods.	7192	7192
E. Dodds Archbald	9 Highgate Ave. Fulwood, Preston.	2229 6184	2600
W. Bradley	Oak Tree, Wigan Rd. Clayton-le-Woods.	6018	6018
N. Clarke	Redroof, Chorley Rd. Nalton-le-Dale.	6018	4072
F. Coupe	lairhaven, Kittlingbourne, Higher Walton.	6132	6132
A. Fishwick.	47 Moss Ln. Leyland	986	986
J.E. Kerfoot	312 Highfield Rd. North, Chorley	6018	6018
J. Miller Leyland.	The Cottage, Bow Ln.	2600	2600
S. Race	Brindle Close, Brindle Rd. Bamber Bridge.	6184	6184
J. Taylor	Pimley Farm, Brindle Rd. Bamber Bridge.	6018	6018
N.H. Walker	Sheep Hill Ln. Clayton-le-Woods	6018	3236
A. Williams	Nindy Ridge, Preston Rd. Whittle-le-Woods.	6018	6018
E.D. daddington	Oaklands, Kellett Ln. Bamber Bridge.	2600	2600
W. Waddington	56 Westgate, Leyland.	6018	6018
J. Knott.	198 Chorley Road, Walton-le-Dale.	6132	6132
H.A. Ingham.	342, Garstang Road, Fulwood, Preston.	6538	7164

DETAILS OF THE FOUNDERS

<u>W. Bro. Ronnie Fowler P.Pr.G.D.C.</u>	A Grocer from Clayton-le-Woods, Chorley R.D.C. Councillor, member and past Director of Ceremonies of Cuerden Lodge No. 6018 and a member of Buxton Lodge 7192. A quiet, retiring and kindly man.
<u>W. Bro. Ernest Barton Pr.G.S.D.</u>	The moving force behind the founding of the Lodge. A plant manager, Chorley R.D.C. Councillor and church lay-reader, Member and former secretary of Cuerden Lodge No. 6018, member of Buxton Lodge No. 7192. Director of Ceremonies of the Lodge till 1971, after being the first Master of the Lodge.
<u>Bro. Rev. Albert Williams.</u>	Vicar of St. Saviour's Church, Bamber Bridge, member and Chaplain of Cuerden Lodge 6018. Served the Lodge as Chaplain up to his death in 1984.
<u>W.Bro. Richard Almond P.Pr.G.D.</u>	"Mine Host" of The Old Original Withy Trees, Public House, Station Road, Bamber Bridge. Member of Cuerden Lodge No. 6018 and a Past Master of Hesketh Lodge No, 986. An excellent ritualist who for a good number of years directed the Friday Night practices.
<u>Bro. James Hunt P.Pr.G.Std.Br.</u>	Company Secretary of Hopwoods of Bamber Bridge, member of Cuerden Lodge No. 6018 and an active member of St. Saviour's Church, Bamber Bridge. Almoner of the Lodge for several years.
<u>W.Bro. Ronald Robinson</u>	The Head of The Reception Centre, The Head of The Reception Centre, Bamber Bridge, Past Master of Wythenshaw Lodge No. 2688 in the Province of Cheshire, which he was initiated in whilst working in the Prison Service at Strangeways Prison, Manchester. The Founding Secretary of the Lodge and Secretary until. 1968 and again from 1978 until. 1983. Also served the Lodge as Group Representative, Management Committee and Social Committee Representative.
<u>Bro. David-Clarkson</u>	The Clerk to The Chorley Rural District Council. A shy and retiring man, with a fund of Masonic Knowledge. Member and former Secretary of Euxton Lodge No.7192. Later appointed Group Secretary.
<u>W. Bro. E. Dodds Archbold P.G.D.</u>	The Grand Lodge Officer among The Founders, an Accountant with a practice in Preston. Very keen to encourage young Masons, was Appointed a steward of the Lodge at the Consecration, a position he took seriously, a lesson to all.
<u>Bro. William Bradley</u>	Local- Business Man, noted for his straight talking. A member of Cuerden Lodge 6018.
<u>W. Bro. Norman Clarke.</u>	Manager of Ley's Corn Mill, Walton-le-Dale, a local lay preacher. Member and former Director of Ceremonies of Cuerden Lodge No. 6018.

<u>N. Bro. Frank Coupe.</u>	Director of Coupe's Foundry, Higher Walton, a Justice of the Peace, Past Master of St. Leonard's Lodge. The second Worshipful Master of the Lodge.
<u>W. Bro. Alvin Fishwick.</u>	An employee of Leyland Paint. A quiet kindly man, who was appointed Assistant Director of Ceremonies at the Consecration a position he held for many years, doing much to encourage the younger brethren. A Past Master of Hesketh Lodge No. 986.
<u>Bro. J. Eric Kerfoot.</u>	A Leyland Motor's Employee, a keen and enthusiastic Mason and an excellent ritualist. A member of Cuerden Lodge No. 6018, who was sadly to die suddenly, at a young age in 1965.
<u>W. Bro. John Miller.</u>	Local Dairyman at Bamber Bridge, later to become a publican at Beetham. A Past Master of Stanley of Preston Lodge No. 2600.
<u>Bro. Stanley Race.</u>	Surveyor and Engineer of 'Halton-le-Dale U.D.C., a Justice of the Peace. Designer of the Lodge Crest. A member of Probity Lodge 6184.
<u>Bro. Jack Taylor.</u>	Farmer at Pimley Farm, Brindle Road, Bamber Bridge. A member of Cuerden Lodge No. 6018.
<u>Bro. W.H. Walker.</u>	An ex-policeman at Clayton-le-Woods, who was a keen and enthusiastic mason, but was sadly, dogged by ill health. A member of Cuerden Lodge No. 6018. The first Tyler of the Lodge.
<u>Bro. Alfred Williams.</u>	Company Secretary of Orr's Mill, School Lane, Bamber Bridge, the first Assistant Secretary of the Lodge. A member of Cuerden Lodge No. 6018.
<u>Bro. E.D. Waddington.</u>	An accountant, a member of Stanley of Preston Lodge No. 2600.
<u>Bro. William Waddington.</u>	A member of the L.C.C. Fire Service at Leyland. A member of Cuerden Lodge No. 6018.
<u>Bro. John Knott.</u>	Employed by Lancashire County Council at Bamber Bridge on transport. A member of St. Leonards Lodge No. 6132.
<u>Bro. H.Arthur Ingham.</u>	Company Director of Pendlebury's Corn Mill, Stone Mill, Bamber Bridge. A member of Old Huttonian Lodge No. 7614. Became Lodge Treasure and Charity Rep. soon after the Consecration, positions he held until 1976.

THE FIRST DECADE

1961-1971

Masters of the Lodge

1961	Ernest Barton	1965-1966	George Bates
1961-1962	Frank Coupe	1966-1967	Ernest Pierce
1962-1963	Rev. Albert Williams	1967-1968	C. Gerald Cundall
1963-1964	J. Eric Kerfoot	1968-1969	Rev. Anfield Henry
1964-1965	William Bradley	1969-1970	Norman Rickard

W. Bro. Ernest Barton, an acting Deacon of the Province, was installed as the First Master of the Lodge in February 1961.

W. Bro. Frank Coupe was installed in November, was subsequently appointed as an acting Deacon of the Province.

Bro. Rev. Albert Williams who was the First Junior Warden of the Lodge also acted as Chaplain, was installed, November 1962. Bro. Albert, noted for his quick wit and keen sense of humour, evident in his speeches. A talented man who excelled at carpentry, he made and presented the Alms Box to the Lodge.

Eric Kerfoot an excellent Master, who sadly died within a year of Installing Bro. Bill Bradley.

Bro. Bradley enjoyed life to the full and the saying "larger than life", was certainly applicable in his case. Bill had one or two quaint variations on the ritual, for example "like it's Sister Mary" instead of "Sister Mercy".

Bro. George Bates, a joining member from Cuerden Lodge who was the Lodge Organist from the First Meeting until Bro Don. Goddard joined the Lodge, was installed as Master, November 1965. He was for several years the Guest Organist of Farington Lodge and in recognition of his services he was elected as an honorary member. W.Bro. Bates was presented with a bound **set of circulars**, covering his year of office as Master of Withy Lodge, by the **members of Farington Lodge**.

Bro. Ernest Pierce a joining member from a Liverpool Lodge, brought touches of "**Scouse**" ritual to the ceremonies.

During 1967 the Craft was honoured by H.R.H. The Duke of Kent being installed as Grand Master. Sadly 1967 also brought sorrow to West Lancashire Masons, with the death of Brother L.E. Rutherford, the Provincial Grand Master. Bro. Sir Knowles Edge succeeding him.

Gerry Cundall's Installation, in November 1967 was marked by a "pea-souper" -the fog being so thick that between 50 and 60 members and guests were unable to attend. Another feature of Brother Cundall's year was the double Initiation of his twin sons, Brian and Michael. The only double Initiation worked in the Lodge.

The Rev. Anfield Henry, again a joining member of the Lodge, who was formally the Head-Master of Higher Walton-le-Dale Junior School, prior to him joining the Ministry, was Installed in the presence of The Right Reverend Charles Claxton, P.G.Chap., The Bishop of Blackburn, representing The Provincial Grand Master.

Tragically, Bro. Henry died in office after a short illness- a great loss to the Lodge.

Norman Rickard our Air-Traffic Control Officer, who earned the nickname of Professor from his fellow Masters, during his year of office, had the ability to be able to turn a disastrous practice into a perfect ceremony,

putting years on the Director of Ceremonies in the process.

The Initiation of Bro. Jim Meadows was held in March 1969. Bro. Jim a Chorley R.D.C. Councilor was proposed and seconded into the Lodge by two of his fellow Councilors and supported by numerous Councilors and Council Officials.

During the first year of the Lodge's life inflation had only a marginal affect, subscriptions rising from £4-14-6d in 1961 to £7-7-0d in 1970, with a rise from £1-0-0d to £1-5-0d for the cost of The Installation Banquet.

### THE SECOND DECADE

1971-1981

#### Masters of the Lodge

1970-1971	William Marsden	1975-1976	Alan Watkinson
1971-1972	John Crook	1976-1977	Jim. Williams
1972-1973	John Moss	1977-1978	Michael Cundall
1973-1974	John Hopwood	1978-1979	David F. Cundall
1974-1975	Dennis Onslow	1979-1980	James Meadows DFC JP.

The Second Decade of the Lodge began with Bro. Bill Marsden, the first initiate of the Lodge, being installed as Worshipful Master. Bro. Bill was noted for his excellent ritual and short speeches.

Bro. Bill Marsden was followed by the three Johns: John Crook, John Moss and John Hopwood.

At the Initiation of Glyn Davies in March 1973, Bro. Derrnis Onslow, the Junior Warden, fainted whilst presenting the Working Tools and had to be carried from the Lodge Room. W. Bro. George Bates, Director of Ceremonies, completed the explanation.

Brother John idols, a highly accomplished Tenor sang the Masters and Ladies songs at many Installations and Ladies Evenings as well as entertaining the Brethren on other occasions.

Bro. Alan Watkinson had the great pleasure of Initiating his son during his year of office.

W. Bro. Frank Cowburn, P.J.G.D., Chairman of the Group, was elected an honorary member of the Lodge at the November meeting 1976.

The Craft in general, and the Province in particular, suffered a severe loss in January 1977, with the death of W. Bro. Harry Fry The Provincial Secretary. The members stood to order in respect of his memory at the January 1977 meeting.

W. Bro George Bates was promoted to P.Pr.G.J.D. at the October Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge in 1977. The Lodge qualified as a Patron **of** the R.M.B.I.

W. Bro. Gerry Cundall had the pleasure of seeing two of his sons succeed each other into the Chair of the Lodge: Bro. Michael in 1977; and Bro.



David in 1978. Sadly Bro. Brian Cundall had found it necessary to resign from the Lodge, for personal reasons, thus preventing a unique trio of brothers following each other into the Chair of the Lodge.

Towards the end of this Decade the Lodge was saddened to hear of the death of W. Bro. Alvin Fishwick who had been A.D.C. from the Consecration until 1973.

The Second Decade was marked by a climb in inflation which resulted in subscriptions rising from £7-7-0d to £25-0-0d and Installation Meal costs rising from £1-5-0d to £4-25p.

THE THIRD DECADE

1961-1991

Masters. of the lodge

1980-1981	David J. Lord	1885-1986	J. Geoffrey Coupe
1981-1982	George Davies		
1882-1983	J. Roy Partington		
1983-1984	Robert Bullen		
1984-1985	Glynn J. Davies		

*This is where W. Bro. Ron Robinson's account of the first 25 years ended without reference to events that took place between 1980 to 1986*

THE THIRD DECADE

1981-1991

Masters of the lodge

1980-1981	David J. Lord	1985-1986	J. Geoffrey Coupe
1981-1982	George Davies	1986-1987	
1982-1983	J. Roy Partington	1987-1988	
1983-1984	Robert Bullen	1988-1989	
1984-1985	Glynn J. Davies	1989-1990	

In W. Bro. Robinson's first 25 years document, whilst listing the first six Masters in the third decade, he never gave any details. This is now remedied by gathering information from the records of the meetings during that period.

Bro. David Lord was Installed as Master on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 1980 in the presence of the Ass PGM, W. Bro. E C Dickson, PSGD. At the meeting of the Lodge in February 1981 W. Bro. Earnest Barton, the leading light in the foundation of the Lodge, was made a Honorary member. On the 12<sup>th</sup> May of that year VW Bro. Alan Fletcher Ferris was Installed as the PGM.

In Bro. George Davies' year, there were two Initiations, a Passing and a Raising, with two Joining Members. It is interesting to note that in that year there were 14 Brethren on the Stewards list with an additional Permanent Steward, Bro. John Entwhistle. This post appears to have come into place in November 1980 and continued until 1987.

W. Bro. E Bullivant, PAGDC, Chairman of the Leyland and District Group of Lodges attended as the Representative of the PGM at the Installation of Bro. Roy Partington. At this meeting W. Bro Ron Robinson stood down as Lodge Secretary, a post he had held of many years. A vote of appreciation was passed for his services to the Lodge since its inception. Sadly during the year the Lodge lost one of its founders, W. Bro. Rev Albert Williams, who had been the Chaplain of the Lodge. Subscriptions during the year were raised to £40.

Bro. Bob Bullen became the 24<sup>th</sup> Master of the Lodge in November 1983. A ceremony was conducted at each meeting during his year: and one Initiation, two Second and two Third Degree Ceremonies.

At the Installation of Bro. Glyn Davies his proud Father presented him and also gave the Address to the WM. At the end of his year Bro. Glyn Davies took over as Treasurer from W. Bro. Dennis Onslow, a post Bro. Dennis had held for eight years since 1977.

At the Installation of Bro. Geoff Coupe, having retired as Treasure W. Bro. Onslow then took over as Secretary of the Lodge. On the 18<sup>th</sup> February 1986 W. Bro Ron Robinson was made and Honorary Member of the Lodge. Indeed, at the subsequent meeting of the Lodge in March, W. Bro. Robinson presented a paper entitled 'The First 25 Years' that outlined the history of the Lodge

from Consecration to that date. Lodge subscriptions were raised to £60 from the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1986.

THE THIRD DECADE - Starting with the 25<sup>th</sup> Year

1961-1991

Masters of the lodge

1980-1981		1985-1986	
1981-1982		1986-1987	John D Holmes
1982-1983		1987-1988	Raymond Haworth
1983-1984		1988-1989	John Gibson
1984-1985		1989-1990	Clive N Pickering

It is worth noting in this record of the second 25 years of the Lodge that at the Committee Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 1986, W. Bro. George Bates thanked all who had been involved in the arrangements of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting which he reported had been a great success. It is also of note that at the same Meeting consideration have been given to relieving W. Bro. Dennis Onlswow from his duties as Lodge Secretary as result of his recent appointment to Group Secretary. He was also promoted in Provincial Grand Lodge to the rank of PPrJGW in 1987. W. Bro Bates also reported that during September an oak plaque had been dedicated at St Saviour's Church, Bamber Bridge, by the Bishop of Burnley, in memory of the Rev Albert Williams and his Wife, W. Bro. Williams being one of the Founding Members of the Lodge.

W. Bro. Frank Cowburn, PSGD, AssPrGM, and an Honorary Member of the Lodge, attended the Installation Meeting when Bro. John Holmes was installed by the WM, Bro. John Coupe. During the year, there were four lectures, two given by George Bates, with one based on a recording of a radio broadcast given by the then Grand Secretary and Stephen Knight, the author of the book 'The Brotherhood'. Subs for the year were £65.

During Bro. Raymond Haworth's year two candidates were Initiated and Passed, with one being Raised to the third degree. On one occasion, Bro. John Gibson, the SW, gave an extended explanation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Tracing Board.

On 17<sup>th</sup> January 1989, W. Bro. George Bates gave a eulogy on the late Earnest Barton, a founder member of the Lodge, who passed away on the 6<sup>th</sup> January, 1989. Demonstration Ceremonies were conducted during Bro. John Gibson's year and at the April meeting W. Bro. Glyn Davies, who was at that stage and Acting Provincial Steward, gave an audio-visual presentation on the operation of The Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys MTGB. This was to announce the start of the 1997 Festival to raise funds for the MTGB. During Bro. Gibson's year, it was confirmed at a Committee Meeting that the existing Masonic Hall was to be sold, with plans for its replacement being

out to tender, with an anticipated completion within approximately 18 months. During the year, W. Bro. Onslow became the Group Vice-Chairman.

In Bro. Clive Pickering's year in the Chair, following the resignation of RW Bro. Alan Ferris as the PGM, it was announced that Very WB Kenneth Moxley had been appointed by the Grand Master as successor to that Office. During the year two candidates were Initiated. At short notice, due to the absence of one of the candidates through illness, W. Bro. George Bates gave a lecture on the duties of a Lodge DC. The Lodge donated £2000 to the Building Fund. Lodge subs were raised to £100. Also during the year, due to concern over of low attendance at the September meetings, discussion regarding halting the September meeting had taken place. However, at the October 1990 Committee Meeting it was agreed to retain the meeting.

THE FOURTH DECADE

1991-2001

Masters of the lodge

1990-1991	John J Haisley	1995-1996	John N Williams
1991-1992	Trevor Draycott	1996-1997	J Stuart Pilkington
1992-1993	Gareth Smith	1997-1998	J Stuart Pilkington
1993-1994	Malcolm J Owen	1998-1999	Derek Engeham
1994-1995	John G Lucas	1999-2000	Kevin G Pickard

During Bro. John Haisley's year W. Bro. John Hopwood gave an explanation of the derivation and design of the Lodge emblem. One Initiation, Passing and Raising were conducted during the year. Moving the practice night from a Friday was debated but deferred. During the year W. Bro. Dennis Onslow was promoted to Grand Rank as PAGDC and W. Bro. David Lord and W. Bro. George Davies received their first appointments in Provincial Grand Lodge; PPrSGD and PPrDGSuptofWks respectively.

At the Installation Meeting of Bro. Trevor Draycott, W. Bro. David Lord became Secretary in place of W. Bro. Hopwood who had served in that Office for five years. During Bro. Draycott's year the design of the Lodge Banner was agreed by the Lodge Committee and submitted to Provincial Grand Lodge for approval. At the April Meeting 1992, members of the Lodge agreed to sponsor a new Royal Arch Chapter to be named 'The Withy Chapter. Following the Withy Chapter's consecration, in January 1993, W. Bro. Trevor Draycott became the Chapter's first Exhaltee in March of that year. At the meeting of the Lodge in September, W. Bro. Ron Robinson celebrated 50 years in Masonry. He responded to a toast to his health at the Festive Board following the presentation of a silver slaver by Bro. Draycott. The Secretary recorded as a hand written addition to the minutes of the meeting a note that stated: "The Celebrant gave what I feel to have been the most

eloquent and delightful speech ever to be heard in the Withy Lodge."

Following the Installation of Bro. Gareth Smith, at the January Meeting the Dedication of the Lodge Banner was held. The Ceremony of Dedication was conducted by W. Bro. William S Huck, PSGD, AsstPrGM. During his year as Master Bro. Smith had the pleasure of welcoming his father, Bro. Carl Smith back into the Lodge as a member. In March W. Bro. Trevor Draycott had the honour of proposing the toast to the Rt. Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Kenneth E Moxley, at the Masters and First Principles Festival held at Leyland. At the September meeting appreciation was given to Bro. John Williams for the presentation of a magnificent pair of Deacon's Wands. W. Bro. Roy Partington received his first appointments in Provincial Grand Lodge; PPrSGD.

During Bro. Malcolm Owen's year in the Chair there were two Passings and two Raisings, and Bro. Stuart Pilkington gave a lecture on 'Further research into the Knights Templar. W. Bro. Bob Bullen received his first appointments in Provincial Grand Lodge; PPrJGD and W. Bro. Glyn Davies was promoted to the rank of PPrSGD.

In Bro. John Lucas' year lectures on 'A Masonic Reflection' and 'Early Freemasonry in Lancashire' were delivered. W. Bro. Bill Marsden also gave one of his many explanations of the Grand Lodge Certificates. An Initiation was also undertaken. W. Bro. Roy Raymond Haworth received his first appointments in Provincial Grand Lodge; PPrSGD.

At the Installation Meeting in November 1995, W. Bro. Leslie D Bullen, PSGD, AsstPrGM, was due to attend but illness prevented him from doing so. Therefore, W. Bro. John Blackstone, PJGD, attended as the Representative of the PGM for the Installation of Bro. John Williams. W. Bro. Trevor Draycott took over as Secretary, a post he held for the next nine years. Another significant new appointment was that of DC, W. Bro. Clive Pickering who took over from W. Bro. George Bates after he had held that Office for many years. At this meeting the incoming Master was pleased to propose his son, Jonathan Williams, as a fit and proper person to become a member of Withy Lodge. Indeed, he conducted the Ceremony in January when Jonathan was Initiated. During Bro. William's year four other candidates were Initiated. During the year the Committee agreed to renew or refurbish the Lodge Collars. A new Master's apron and sixteen new collars were ultimately purchased but not until 1988 (the wheels of Masonry grind slowly sometimes!). It was also agreed by the Committee that the Lodge Social Committee should be formalized. W. Bro. John Holmes and Clive Pickering received their first appointments in Provincial Grand Lodge; PPrAGSuptWks and PrAGDC respectively.

Bro. Stuart Pilkington was Installed as WM on the 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1996, a position he held for two years as the SW, Bro. Derek Engeham underwent heart surgery during the year and on medical advice could not take the Chair of KS. W. Bro. John Lucas took over as Treasurer from W. Bro. Raymond Haworth, a position the latter had held for seven years. In May 1997 the MTGB Festival came to a conclusion and the Lodge Festival Representative, W. Bro. Trevor Draycott was able to announce that Withy had donated £9,479 to the charity. This was the fourth largest amount donated by the 20 Leyland Lodges, a credit to the Lodge which at that time only had 30 members. Furthermore the Withy Chapter, which had only been in existence since 1993, raised the highest amount of all five Chapters in Leyland. The grand total raised by the Province for the Festival was £7,548,197. On the 17<sup>th</sup> October 1997 W. Bro. Norman Rickard had Honorary Membership bestowed on him in recognition of his long service to the Lodge. Due to illness, Bro. Rickard then living in North Devon, was not present.

At the February 1998 meeting of the Lodge the recent death of Bro. Jack Ward, a long serving stalwart was announced. W. Bro. David Lord and W. Bro. George Davies were promoted in Provincial Grand Lodge, both to the rank of PPrJGW.

Fully recovered from his heart operation, W. Bro. Derek Engeham was Installed as WM in November 1998 in the presence of the Past PGM, W. Bro. Kenneth Moxley. During his year in Office, Bro. Engeham was able to Initiate his two Son-in-Laws.

The following year, at the Installation of Bro. Kevin Pickard, the Lodge was honoured by the presence of the PGM, RW Bro. Colin Penty Wright. Sadly, in the weeks leading up to the Installation, W. Bro. Bill Marsden lost his wife, Annie. The Lodge received from the Province a Gold Certificate recognizing its total donation of £1050 towards the PGM's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Appeal. W. Bro. John Haisley received his first appointments in Provincial Grand Lodge; PPrJGD, and W. Bros Roy Partington and Bob Bullen were both promoted to the rank of PPrGSuptofWks.

THE FIFTH DECADE

2001-2011

Masters. of the lodge

2000-2001	Richard W Brakewell	2005-2006	John N Williams
2001-2002	Paul A Renton	2006-2007	John Smith
2002-2003	Jonathan Williams	2007-2008	David Lord
2003-2004	Robert Hill	2008-2009	Paul A Renton
2004-2005	William Marsden	2009-2010	John N Williams

Bro. Brakewell was Installed on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2000 - his birthday. During Bro. Brakewell's year the Lodge experimented with the dividing of the Ritual among as many members as possible. Another initiative during the year was the capturing of the 'Withy Way'. This involved building on the work undertaken by W. Bro. George Bates in capturing the way the Emulation Ritual was interpreted by the Founders so that it would not be lost in future years. W. Bro. Trevor Draycott received his first appointments in Provincial Grand Lodge; PPrSGD and W. Bro. Clive Pickering was promoted to the rank of PPrGSuptofWks.

Bro Paul Renton, having followed W. Bro Richard Brakewell through all the respective offices, was Installed by Bro Brakewell on his actual birthday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2001 - two WM Installed on their respective birthdays in consecutive year! Bro. Renton, having been involved in Masonry in Wiltshire and Durham before joining the Lodge, had a goodly contingent from both these Provinces boosting the numbers present at the meeting to 94. This included the PGM from Wiltshire, RW Bro. Brian Edwick.

During Bro. Jonathan Williams and Bro Bob Hill's terms in office, the latter having decided to take the plunge after being the Assistant Secretary of the Lodge for many years, the Lodge embraced the New Zealand

Project and issued a questionnaire seeking members' views on the future direction of the Lodge. From this a future strategy for the development of the Lodge was constructed. In essence, this resulted in the dropping of certain Lodge and Festive Board activities that the majority of Lodge members felt to be unnecessary and building on those that were seen as being beneficial to the future of the Lodge. For example dispensing with the reading of the minutes and reducing the toast list apart from on formal occasions, At the Committee Meeting held in June 2003, all present were glad to hear that the missing Lodge Charity Collection Pig had returned to its sty. W. Bro. Malcolm Owen received his first appointments in Provincial Grand Lodge; PPrJGD. Sadly, on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2004 W. Bro. George Bates passed to the Grand Lodge above. His funeral was held at St James, Lostock Hall followed by cremation at Pleasington

The year 2004 saw the first occasion in the Lodge's history that a Past Master was Installed into the Chair, W. Bro Bill Marsden, the Lodge's first Candidate. As noted by W. Bro. Ron Robinson in his 'First 25 Years document' Bro. Bill was known for his excellent ritual and short speeches. In his second year as Master he enhanced his reputation as a really good ritualist and his speeches got a little longer! The year 2004 also saw W. Bro Dennis Onslow promoted in Grand Lodge to the rank of PJGD, and W. Bros. John Lucas and John Williams receiving their first appointments in Provincial Grand Lodge, both to the rank of PPrSGD. Also in Bro Marsden's year a Lodge Development plan was compiled and implemented. This included different ideas for attracting new members, one being the introduction of 'White Table' meetings when prospective candidates were invited into the Lodge after the meeting had closed for an explanation about Freemasonry. The first was held after the October meeting in 2005 and resulted in teh beginning of a successful run of new candidates into the Lodge. W. Bro. Trevor Draycott was promoted in Provincial Grand Lodge to the rank of PPrJGW and W. Bros. Bob Hill and Kevin Pickard received their first appointments as a PPrAGPus and PrGStwd respectively.

W. Bro. John Williams became the second Past Master to take the Chair in November 2005, this being part of the Lodge's strategy to ensure that new members of the Lodge were not forced to progress too quickly. Apart from the Installation of Bro. John Smith in November 2006, this was a planned pattern designed to be repeated until after the Lodge had celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary. In Provincial Grand Lodge W. Bro. Kevin Pickard was promoted to the rank of PPrSGD.

During 2006 W. Bro. Bob Hill was promoted in Provincial Grand Lodge to the rank of PPrJGD and W. Bro. Paul Renton was appointed as PrGStwd. In Bro. John Smith's year, and as a direct result of a succession of new candidates, a Double Second Ceremony was conducted on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2007, the Ceremony being split and performed by the WM and a number of Past Master and Junior Brethren.

Another refection of the Lodge's successful recruitment of news members was the calling of additional emergency meetings in May and December of 2007 and May 2008, the latter two meetings being when W. Bro. Lord was in the Chair for a second time. Also during this period the Lodge introduced a Mentoring Folder. Designed by W. Bro. Renton, the folder built section-by-section from a candidate's introduction into the Lodge through to his Raising.

During Bro Lord's year, the Lodge qualified to become a Patron of the New Masonic Samaritan Fund 2010 Festival. This status was elevated to Grand Patron as a result of further donations during 2008.

One of the first duties W. Bro. Renton had during his second year as W.M. was ,in January 2009, to announce the sad and sudden death of W. Bro.

Marsden after a brief illness. On a much brighter note following the closing of the Lodge, 30 Non-Masonic guests, including wives and partners, were invited into the Lodge for a presentation by a number officers about Freemasonry. Later in the year another stalwart of the Lodge passed away, W. Bro. George Davies, who was Initiated in February 1970 and went through the Chair in 1981/82. W. Bro. Richard Brakewell received his first appointment in Provincial Grand Lodge as PPrSGD.

During John William's third year in the Chair, the Lodge celebrated Jack Moorhouse's 50 Years in masonry at an Emergency Meeting held in May 2010. W. Bro. Paul Renton was promoted in Provincial Grand Lodge to the rank of PPrGSuptWks and W. Bro Jonathan Williams received the first appointment of PPrAGDC.

At the 2010 Intallation of W. Bro. Ted Battersby, a joining member formally of Stanley of Preston Lodge, No. 2600, it was particularly pleasing to note that the Wardens and all the Junior Offices were filled by those in light blue! A further candidate for Initiation was also announced, both these facts reflecting a successful end to the Lodge's second 25 years.

W. Bro. Paul Renton became the Group Secretary on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011. At the meeting in January 2011, the last before the celebrating the Lodge's 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary, W. Bro. Ted Battersby celebrated 50 years in Freemasonry.

A final sobering thought - by the end of the fifth decade Lodge subscriptions had climbed from £7-7-0d in 1961 to £220 in 2011.





## Consecration

*Masonic Hall, Leyland  
Tuesday, 21st February, 1961*

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WEST LANCASHIRE

THE WITHY LODGE 7733

## Consecration

at the  
MASONIC HALL, LEYLAND

on  
TUESDAY, 21st OF FEBRUARY, 1961

by  
R.W.Bro. L. E. RUTHERFORD,  
Provincial Grand Master

and

## Installation

of  
W.Bro. ERNEST BARTON, Pr.S.G.D.  
as Worshipful Master

by  
Worshipful Bro. THOS. W. WARD, P.G.D.,  
Deputy Provincial Grand Master

assisted by  
Worshipful Bro. Sir THOMAS HARGREAVES, P.G.D.,  
Assistant Provincial Grand Master

and other Grand and Provincial Grand Officers

Presenting Officers :

W.Bro. T. H. AINSWORTH, P.A.G.D.C.  
W.Bro. T. BERRY, P.A.G.D.C.

W.Bro. H. A. FRY, T.D., LL.D., P.G.D.,  
Provincial Grand Secretary

## OFFICERS

W. Bro. E. Barton, Pr.S.G.D. .... W.M.  
W. Bro. N. Clarke ..... I.P.M.

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W. Bro. F. Coupe ..... S.W.  
Bro. Rev. A. Williams, B.A. .... J.W.  
Bro. D. Clarkson ..... Treasurer  
W. Bro. R. Robinson ..... Secretary  
W. Bro. R. Almond, P.Pr.G.D. .... D. of C.  
Bro. J. E. Kerfoot ..... S.D.  
Bro. W. Bradley ..... J.D.  
W. Bro. E. Barton ..... Almoner  
W. Bro. A. Fishwick ..... A.D.C.  
Bro. A. Williams ..... Asst. Sec.  
Bro. W. Waddington ..... I.G.  
W. Bro. E. Dodds Archbold, P.G.D. .... Steward  
Bro. J. Taylor ..... Steward  
Bro. J. Knott ..... Steward  
Bro. S. Race ..... Steward  
Bro. H. A. Ingham ..... Steward  
Bro. E. D. Waddington ..... Steward  
Bro. W. H. Walker ..... Tyler

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Group Representative :

W. Bro. E. Dodds Archbold, P.G.D.

Charity Representative :

Bro. E. D. Waddington.

## MENU

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HORS D'OEUVRES

~  
SOUP

~  
PLAICE

~  
ROAST CHICKEN  
ROAST AND CREAM POTATOES  
PEAS            CARROTS

~  
FRUIT SALAD

~  
CHEESE and BISCUITS

~  
COFFEE

~  
DESSERT

## TOAST LIST

1. The Queen, Duke of Lancaster.  
Proposed by The Worshipful Master
2. The Most Worshipful the Grand Master.  
The Right Honourable the Earl of Scarbrough, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Knight Grand Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, Knight Grand Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, upon whom has been conferred the Territorial Decoration.  
Proposed by The Worshipful Master
3. The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master.  
The Right Honourable the Earl Cadogan, on whom has been conferred the Military Cross.  
The Right Worshipful Assistant Grand Master.  
Major-General Sir Allan H. S. Adair, Bt., Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, on whom has been conferred the Military Cross;  
and the rest of the Grand Officers, present and past.  
Proposed by The Senior Warden
4. The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master,  
Brother L. E. Rutherford.  
Proposed by The Worshipful Master
5. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master,  
Worshipful Brother Thos. W. Ward, Past Grand Deacon.  
The Assistant Provincial Grand Masters,  
Worshipful Brothers : Andrew McKie Reid,  
Cyril J. Park, Harry W. Whittle,  
Sir Thomas Hargreaves, Sir Knowles Edge, Baronet,  
T. Cecil Locker, Percy A. Shaw, George W. Hughes;  
all of whom are Past Grand Deacons;  
and the rest of the Provincial Grand Officers, present and past.  
Proposed by The Junior Warden
6. The Worshipful Master  
Proposed by W.Bro. Sir Thomas Hargreaves,  
P.G.D., Asst.Pr.G.M.
7. Consecrating and Installing Officers.  
Proposed by W.Bro. E. Dodds Archbold, P.G.D.
8. The Founders.  
Proposed by W.Bro. T. H. Ainsworth, P.A.G.D.C.
9. Masonic Charities. Proposed by The Charity Representative
10. The Mother Lodge. Proposed by W.Bro. J. Miller
11. Our Guests. Proposed by Bro. Rev. A. Williams, J.W.
12. Tyler's Toast. Proposed by the Tyler