



Week 36, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020

Brethren, week 36 and that autumn weather rolls into winter as we start the approach to the festivities of Christmas.

We are in lockdown, but I'm sure we all have reminders that we must not forget that life carries on in some fashion, with that normal ebb and flow of daily occurrences, some good, some perhaps challenging; but we each must play a part in ensuring that ourselves, our families, friends and fellow brethren remain as well and as content as possible, whilst supporting those who perhaps are in need during these strange times.

To brighten anyone's day, this week's Podcast is from one mason that brings many a smile to a Freemason's face, the one, the only, the Rev Justin Trevelyan Parker.

Keep strong, keep positive and stay safe.

The Ed

The Rev Justin Parker



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## Wernlegh innovates to keep it in the family....

Prior to the current lockdown, Wernlegh Abbey Lodge No. 6356 successfully held their September meeting, whilst keeping within the restrictions in place at the time. Given the closure of Newfields, a dispensation was applied for and duly granted; to hold the meeting at Paul Latham's business premises, P & B Training.



October brought something of a mixed blessing with the reopening of Newfields, but subject to the 'rule of six'. The only brethren therefore able to attend were; WBro's David Kettle, Ian Cooper, Nick Hay and Chris Vendy, together with Bro John

Dunn and the Master Elect Bro Bob Hickman, Nick Hay's Father-in-Law.

With no rulers or guests in attendance, the 'Covid secure' Newfields presented a strange and unprecedented environment in which WBro Nick Hay conducted an excellent and very moving installation of his Father-in-Law, who remarked that "it was a ceremony he would never forget" and "after 24 years in Freemasonry he never thought he would occupy the master's chair"

The restrictions prohibited a festive board, so to celebrate the brethren each enjoyed Yum Yum Cake, a favourite treat of the newly installed master, kindly supplied by the installing master.

Events have since moved on and we are now in complete lockdown, it is clear that the Installation could not have been conducted at a more opportune time.

## Fort Royal: former Army Lodge flying high

The latest in our series of stories about special interest Lodges pays a visit to Fort Royal. Ian Crowder chats to Bro's Roy Walford and Joe Parker.



"It's nice to see a change of uniform colour!" declared WBro Roy Walford, secretary of Fort Royal Lodge No. 4565. He was referring to the influx of members – mainly initiates – over recent years, of those from the ATC or are serving (or have served) in the RAF.

That's because Fort Royal Lodge which was consecrated in November 1923 – 97 years ago this month – was initially a Military Lodge. At the time, the First World War had not long ended and there was a clear need for a new Lodge for military and ex-military men. Its first Master in fact, was also Provincial Grand Master, the RW Bro General Sir Francis Davies. The sponsoring Lodge was Worcester Lodge No. 280.

So how did the more recent RAF influence arise? "We had a couple of RAF Brethren and one, Squadron Leader Bill Hoe, recruited Flt Lt Nigel Lockwood, who in turn did a splendid job attracting initiates from the Kidderminster ATC," explains Roy - it became quite an intense time with a couple of initiations every year!

One of those initiates was Bro Joe Parker who was initiated four years ago and is now Senior Deacon. "I'm really missing Freemasonry, thanks to Covid-19, but it is good to be part of how Freemasonry has jumped into action during the crisis" he says.

Roy however points out, that nowadays a military background certainly isn't a requirement for membership although it's good to see about half our membership is made up of service Brethren". I don't have a military background and was initiated into Fort Royal 20 years ago – although my father was a serviceman in the RAF but wasn't a Mason. However my grandfather was both a Mason and an Army officer!"

During lockdown no meetings have taken place although the Lodge was represented on Remembrance Sunday at St. Peter's, Martley of which Roy is also Churchwarden. "It was a very moving and solemn occasion and, if anything, was all the more moving being outdoors with birdsong filling the silence.

Fort Royal meets four times per year at Rainbow Hill - "We welcome visitors," Roy says enthusiastically. "Like many Worcestershire Lodges, we have some workings that are unique and are often commented on. Whether they came about by design or because they were mistakes that were perpetuated, we'll never know!"

If you have a military background and would simply like to become involved in a Lodge with like-minded Brethren; or you know someone looking to join a Lodge for whom this might be the perfect fit, then contact Royr.walford@knightwick-partnership.co.uk or 01886 889270

An Audience with...

Worcestershire Provincial Grand Lodge



The Membership Team Presents...

Information for our Initiates

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 7pm

A special meeting run by the membership team for those that are waiting to be initiated. We know that there were over 60 waiting, prior to the suspension of Freemasonry, so make sure your lodge keeps in touch with them and ensure they get the log in details :

<http://Bit.ly/worcsaaw>

## Tailcoat at the ready....and waiting!

Thoughts from WBro Barry Benge ProvADC, Page Lodge No. 3378, on receiving news of his appointment.



A letter arrived from Provincial Grand Lodge on a Saturday morning. On opening it I read that I was to be promoted to the rank of Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

I was, of course, both thrilled and greatly honoured, and I was delighted to accept. I was also a little relieved, as there had been a discreet enquiry, as to whether I would accept the position if offered. Of course, my answer was yes, I would, but it had been a nerve wracking wait to find out if I were to be honoured in this way.

Once the news had sunk in and I had time to think about my appointment, I appreciated what a great honour it was. The opportunity to be a Provincial ADC is only given to a small number of Masons in their Provincial careers. I had seen the Provincial DC's in operation on Installation Nights and now almost unbelievably I was to become one.

I was looking forward to undertaking the training for the role and being fully prepared for the duties expected of me. I wanted to make sure that I would be able to play my part proficiently and would hopefully help to make the installation of a new Worshipful Master as memorable for him, and the Lodge, as possible.

Then came the Pandemic and sadly everything was put on hold. PGL was postponed and I was invested by patent. There have been to date no Provincial outings. At least I now belong to an even more exclusive club of PAGDC's who have not taken part in a ceremony during their year in active office.

I have my DC's manual and wand. My new regalia and tailcoat and I am ready to start. I am now looking forward to 2021, when I hope I will finally be able to make my debut!

Our PCO Brody continues to expand his merry men with the addition of WBro Ed Kimpton ProvGSwdB as article writer to the Communications Team. Ed has submitted many articles to the Source and the "other" Ed hopes he continues to do the same for the Square News :) ED - Welcome Ed!



### This week listen to WBro The Rev Justin Parker Provincial Grand Chaplain

Hear how, and why, Justin joined Freemasonry - and how he has lots of fun(!) including his appointment to Grand Rank as Assistant Grand Chaplain.



"Enjoy and be Happy "

## Christopher Stokes

plays the Organ of the Grand Temple, at UGLE,  
Wednesday, 9th December 2020 at 7:00pm



The first of the 2020 Organ Concerts on the splendid, refurbished Willis organ, is to be given by International Concert Organist, Christopher Stokes. The event is **FREE**, and online, and can be booked [HERE](#)

Also, Freemasons Hall is hosting a gorgeous candlelight concert this Christmas (subject to Tier restrictions!), on the 19th December playing a joyful back catalogue of Christmas music that has stood the test of time.

Further details and booking form can be found [HERE](#)

## Charity Grants - seeking nominations!

During COVID-19 the Province of Worcestershire have been able to help many deserving charities through these unprecedented times of hardship.



As part of the support given by the MCF to our province during this Covid crisis, funds were allocated to us to be used for the support of local registered charities where CV19 had made additional demands on its resources. To date £14,000 has been donated, however we still have funds available to distribute.

The Provincial Charity Steward David Dey is actively seeking your support in finding worthy causes to support.

David states "We are still able to support four more deserving charities within the province. If you are aware of any charity in Worcestershire who would benefit from a grant of £1,000 please forward your recommendation to me for consideration"

Contact David at  
[PGCharityStwd@worcestershirepgl.org.uk](mailto:PGCharityStwd@worcestershirepgl.org.uk)

If you have any information on charity donations from your lodge or any individual masons making a difference in your community please forward the information to John Fennell at [jfennell01@icloud.com](mailto:jfennell01@icloud.com)

Check your COVID Tier Level restrictions

