



Christmas is just around the corner...



During the past week I took time to look at the Obituary column on the Provincial website. It wasn't for any morbid reason, rather it was to remind myself of the wonderful Freemasons who have transited from this sublunary abode to the Grand Lodge above. If you haven't taken the time to look at the page let me recommend it to you as an opportunity to reflect on men who truly lived respected and died regretted.

I am certainly looking forward to the Christmas Carol Service in the beautiful Marlborough College Chapel on Sunday 17th December at 3.00pm. It really will be a wonderful seasonal event with lots of popular Christmas carols and a real festive feel.

When we first discussed holding a Carol Service, we thought one hundred people attending would be a superb number. I am delighted to advise that it looks as if we will be welcoming six hundred to the event including over seventy five young people. The Province will also be pleased to welcome members of the Wiltshire Masonic Widows Association.

We will be joined by civic and college dignitaries as well as members of The Wessex, an award winning male choir; ladies from the Thamesdown Ladies Choir, and possibly members of a local Musical Theatre choir and a few voices from Pewsey Male Voice Choir.

The four manual Beckerath organ will be played by Provincial Organist Gary Cook and our very own Provincial Chaplain Rev Dr John Railton, joined by the Rev Sandy Railton will be leading the service. They assure me it is going to be the perfect start to Christmas and I'm absolutely convinced it will be a most wonderful experience.

Organiser in chief Colin Cheshire, together with his team of 'little helpers' will make sure the afternoon runs with military precision with stewards from the Craft and Royal Arch on hand to assist attendees. I have it on good authority that there will be a visit from Santa Claus who will probably have a small gift for all the younger members of the congregation.

You will read on page six the news about ARCHWAY and I recommend that every Wiltshire Freemason takes the time to view the excellent narrative forming the educational base for this new resource. Every Craft Lodge has a representative who will be pleased to assist any Brother wishing to discover more about the Royal Arch.

I enjoyed the launch event for the Wiltshire 2028 Festival so it will come as no surprise to read that I have booked two places for the second event being held at Bowood on Saturday 10th February 2024. It really does promise to be a great evening and I hope to see you there. You can find more about this event from John Deane and Des Morgan and there is a booking form to confirm your place visit this link tinyurl.com/wiltsmasons

Finally, as this is the last edition of In touch > On line before Christmas and the start of a new year. It provides me with the perfect opportunity to thank you for supporting your Lodge, your Chapter, the Province and myself throughout what has been an exciting and demanding year. It also allows me to wish everyone of you a very happy Christmas, and a healthy and prosperous New Year.



Sometimes a speaker is really special....

And this year's Prestonian Lecturer certainly fits the bill. VW Bro Akram Elias is the Prestonian Lecturer for 2023/24 and will be delivering his lecture **THE 1723 CONSTITUTIONS: THE INDISPENSABLE TROWEL; CEMENTING AMERICA'S FOUNDATIONS** at a meeting hosted by Methuen Lodge No.8692.

- Date: Tuesday 5th December.
- Time: 6.15pm.
- Location: Swindon Masonic Centre, The Planks, Swindon.



METHUEN LODGE NO.8692

invite you to

THE PRESTONIAN LECTURE 2023

VW Bro. Akram R. Elias

Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Washington



"THE 1723 CONSTITUTIONS: THE INDISPENSABLE TROWEL; CEMENTING AMERICA'S FOUNDATIONS"

Tuesday 5th December 2023

6.15pm

Swindon Masonic Centre | The Planks

For more information and to book for this event contact
Ian Priest L8692@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk

About Akram Elias....

Akram R. Elias began his Masonic journey on 18 June 1996, when he was initiated into the Society of Freemasonry at Potomac Lodge No.5 under the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia (Washington DC). He received all three degrees of Freemasonry in his Mother Lodge. Since those early days in his Masonic life, Brother Elias has been the Master of several Lodges: La France Lodge No. 93 in 1999; Benjamin B. French Lodge No.15 in 2001; Cincinnatus Lodge No.76 in 2003; and Pythagoras Lodge of Research in 2004, all in Washington, DC.

After a nine year journey starting in December 1999 with the appointment as the Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of Washington DC and following a seven year elected line as Grand officer, Brother Elias was installed as Grand Master on 8 December 2007, and served in the Grand East until 13 December 2008, under the theme of *Energize – Engage – Enlighten*.

On 26 April 2023, he received the Grand Rank (EC) appointment of Past Grand Sword Bearer.



A kind gesture for Concord....

At the November meeting of the Lodge of Concord No. 632 the Tyler, Bro Adrian Road carried a sword which used to belong to Major Allen Llewellyn Palmer, a former member of the Lodge who tragically died in the First World War.

Following his untimely death his parents subsequently donated his military sword to St James' Church in Trowbridge and it has been displayed there for over 100 years.

The Rector of St James' Church in Trowbridge, Rev Jake Eggertson, kindly agreed to lend the sword to the Lodge to be used during the Lodge's Act of Remembrance.

The sword's return for just one evening, and particularly to be used in the Act of Remembrance was especially poignant as the father of Major Palmer, Brigadier George Palmer, was Master of the Lodge in 1888.

It was a very kind gesture by Rev Jake and his Church wardens to allow the sword to be used and greatly appreciated by the Brethren of the Lodge.



Richard Knight

Mike Boddy

Adrian Road

Aaron Varnals



The two questions I've recently been asked....

1. Can the Master hold a second Office?

It's a great question and one that can be answered by reference to Rule 104 (a) BoC., that describes the two categories of officer. The first being the regular officers and the second, the additional officers.

The rule makes it clear that the Master is one of the eight regular officers.

The next sentence deals with the additional officers of the Lodge and the rule makes it clear that the Master 'shall' appoint as additional officers an Almoner and a Charity Steward. The word 'shall' is important as the sentence continues by stating the Master 'may' also appoint as additional officers a Chaplain, a Director of Ceremonies, a Mentor, and Assistant Director of ceremonies, an Organist, an Assistant Secretary, and a Steward or Stewards, but no others. Of course, this list was compiled before the introduction of a Membership Officer and so of course this office must be added to the list.

No Brother may hold more than one regular office at the same time, but the Master may appoint a Brother who is holding a regular office to one additional office only. By that logic, the Master would be within his rights to appoint himself to an additional office should he so choose.

Rule 104 (e) makes it clear that the appointment of ALL officers except that of the Master himself, the Treasurer, and if elected, the Tyler, is at the sole discretion and power of the Master.

Having decided that the Master can appoint himself to an additional office, the reasonable question one might ask is "Why would he want to?" I think that's a question for another day.

2. Can the Master appoint and invest an Acting Immediate Past Master?

The simple answer is no he can't- firstly, because no such office exists and secondly the Master leaving office on the evening of Installation is the Immediate Past Master. It is a title, not an office, that he holds by virtue of his being the last Master and no one else can claim the title, acting or otherwise while he remains a member of the Lodge.

However what if he accepts another office in the Lodge? It's certainly not usual for a Master leaving the chair to be appointed to another office in the Lodge, and if he does he becomes that officer but still retains the title of Immediate Past Master.

The Master might well invite a Brother to sit on his left and function as a prompter, but that Brother, as important as he is, is not the acting Immediate Past Master and should not be referred to as such. Indeed, his title is quite simply his rank and name.

Another minor issue is whether or not the Brother sitting to the Master's left wears the Immediate Past Master's collar and jewel. To which the answer is prefaced by the comment that no such collar and jewel exists in Freemasonry. There is only a Past Master's collar and jewel and every Past Master must wear one until such time as they are promoted to Provincial Grand Rank after which they need never wear one ever again.

If you have a question you want answered email it to contact@wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk



In touch > On line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons



You want to be a DEACON?

The Learning and Development Team invite you to join them in Trowbridge on Saturday 16th December at the Masonic Hall, Yerbury Street, Trowbridge. While the morning is designed for the Brother aspiring to become a Deacon everyone is welcome to attend. Book a place online <https://tinyurl.com/yzhf55na>



www.wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk

so you want to be a
DEACON

join the learning and development team



Saturday 16th December @ 10.00am

Freemasons' Hall | Yerbury Street | Trowbridge

CONTACT | STEVE LEE

07825 713048

EDUCATION@WILTSHIREFREEMASONS.ORG.UK



WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS

WILTSHIRE 2028 FESTIVAL

click on Bowood to book your place



BOWOOD

SUPERB FOOD | DANCE | GOOD COMPANY

Saturday 10th February 2024

Tickets £65 per person

contact@wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk



What is Archway and why is it so important?



ARCHWAY

Royal Arch Communication Officer Comp David Clatworthy has announced the launch of ARCHWAY, a new resource designed for Royal Arch Chapters. ARCHWAY'S purpose is to assist in shaping their future, fostering membership growth and enriching the experience of their members.

You can access the new ARCHWAY web page on wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk or by scanning the QR code.

If you are a Craft Freemasons and want to learn more about ARCHWAY please contact David Clatworthy racomms@wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk



@Wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk



@Wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk

Have you noticed a new email address for your Lodge and Chapter?

As part of the Province's email and communication standardisation initiative, Lodge Secretaries and Chapter Scribes are signing up to @wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk

Many Lodges and Chapters already use @gmail and some use @outlook to send and receive emails, while others use a personal email address (often the same one they use for all their correspondence). Using a distinctive @wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk address offers greater security, increased privacy and allows the Lodge/Chapter to transfer a unique email address to a successor in due time.

The Province does not have access to the content of emails sent and received using the email address @wiltshirefreemasons.org.uk and all emails are private and confidential.



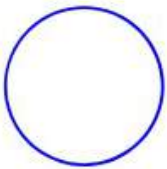
Christmas Carol Service....

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Marlborough College Chapel on Sunday 17th December for our Christmas Carol Service. The service begins at 3.00pm and we ask that you be seated in the Chapel between 2.30pm and 2.45pm.

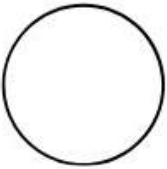
The College has allowed a number of Blue Badge permit holders to park in the quadrangle which is accessed by the Porter's Gate (see blue circle). Attendees have been sent numbered permits and the Porter will only access to vehicles with a valid permit.

Provision for other car parking is available in the main car park (see black circle) and in particular Car Park Number 5. A Provincial Steward will be on hand to direct you to the car park. It is only a short walk to the Chapel from the car park.

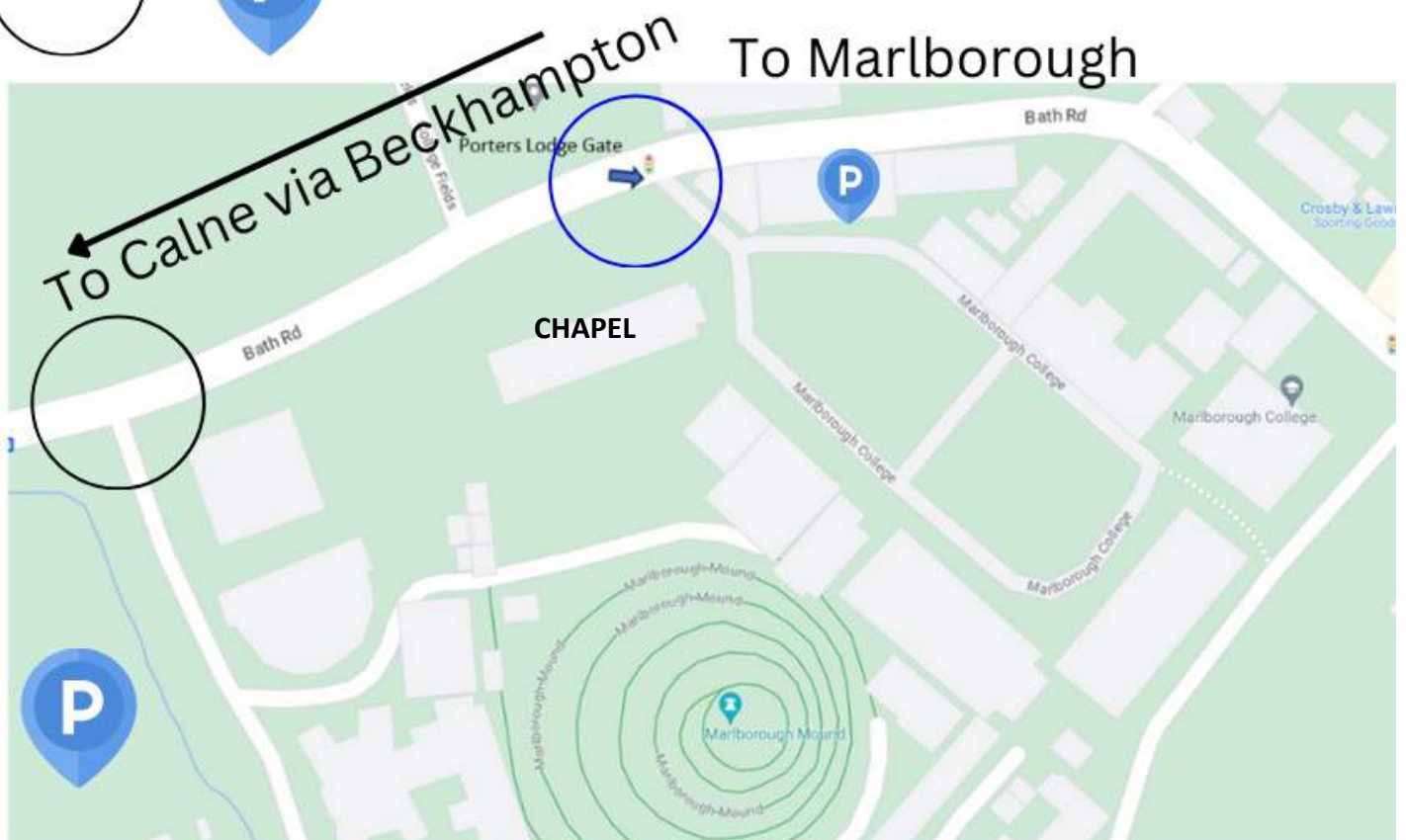
IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A PERMIT PLEASE DO NOT ASK TO PARK IN THE QUADRANGLE



If you have been given a Blue Badge permit access the car park at the Porters Lodge gate.



Free car parking is available in the Water Meadow car park





In touch > On line

The newsletter for all Wiltshire Freemasons



Coffee time is anytime and all the time...

The Perfect Ashlar Smooth Coffee was a winner at the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge on Thursday 5th October. The profit from sales of The Perfect Ashlar Smooth Coffee is being split 50/50 between the Wiltshire 2028 Festival, and Teddies For Loving Care (Wiltshire). Thank you to everyone who supported this fabulous initiative and enjoyed a drink before the meeting.

If you want to support the festival by becoming an Ashlar Coffee drinker please contact Mark Newman contact@wiltshirefreemasons.co.uk

