

# Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Somerset

## Annual Meeting Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge held at the Webbington Hotel, Loxton, Nr Axbridge, Somerset, under the Banner of the Monument Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.1295 held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

After the Opening Hymn, the Provincial Grand Master, RW.Bro. John Graham Morgan, opened Provincial Grand Lodge in due form at 3.p.m.

Under the Direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro. Ray Johnstone-Smith, PAGDC, The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master was saluted with seven.

Brethren of the Province of Somerset then saluted the Deputy Provincial Grand Master W.Bro. Philip Clifford Voisey, PGSD, with five.

The visiting Right Worshipful Brethren were saluted with seven. The RW.Bro. George Bonham, Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire suitably responded.

The Provincial Grand Master then welcomed a delegation of Royal Ark Mariners representing Royal Ark Mariner Lodges within the Province.

The Deputy Grand Master RW.Bro. H. Keith Emmerson having demanded admission entered Provincial Grand Lodge and was welcomed by the Provincial Grand Master.

Under the direction of RW.Bro. Keswick Jones, Grand Director of Ceremonies, the Deputy Grand Master was saluted with nine.

The Provincial Grand Master then introduced and welcomed the many visitors and guests.

The Provincial Grand Master requested the Provincial Grand Secretary call the Roll of Mark Lodges, W.Bro. S. John Smith, PAGDC. confirmed that all the Lodges were well represented at the meeting.

The Provincial Grand Master requested that the Roll of Present Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge be called; the Provincial Grand Secretary confirmed that all the Officers were present with the exception of 2 Brethren who had tendered apologies with good reasons for absence and whose names were duly recorded.

On a proposition by the Provincial Grand Senior Warden and seconded by the Provincial Grand Junior Warden the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2015 were confirmed.

The Provincial Grand Chaplain, Bro. Rev. Stuart Boyd read the names of those Brethren who had passed to the Grand Lodge above during the last 12 months, the Brethren stood to order in solemn silence in their memory.

The Provincial Grand Secretary reported that he had received many letters, telephone calls and e-mails from this and other Provinces, containing apologies, fraternal greetings and best wishes to the Provincial Grand Master, the Executive and all the Brethren assembled for a very happy and successful meeting.

The Provincial Grand Treasurer presented his report on the Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015. Adoption of the Accounts was proposed, seconded and duly approved by the Brethren. The Provincial Grand Master thanked W.Bro. Peter Elmont, for his hard work during the year as Provincial Treasurer.

The Provincial Grand Registrar stated that his report was printed in the booklet distributed for the meeting and that he had nothing further to add, which was duly accepted. The Provincial Grand Master thanked W.Bro. Nicholson Junior for his work during the past year.

With only one nomination for the office of Treasurer, W.Bro. P.W. Elmont, PAGDC. was elected as Provincial Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year.

On a proposition, which was duly seconded, Bro. Keith R.S. Surry was elected as the Auditor of the Provincial Grand Treasurer's Accounts.

It was proposed that, The RW.Bro. J.G. Morgan, Provincial Grand Master, The W.Bro. P.C. Voisey, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. P.W. Elmont and W.Bro. S.J. Smith be elected as the Trustees to administer the Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund and the J.J. Webber Commemorative Fund, this was seconded and approved by the Brethren present.

The Provincial Grand Master re-appointed The W.Bro. Philip Clifford Voisey as Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

The Provincial Grand Master then appointed and invested the Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge as set out on the summons for the Annual Meeting.

W.Bro. C.R. Beckett was appointed Provincial Grand Charity Representative for the South and W.Bro. E.A.G. Kellett as the Provincial Grand Charity Representative for the North of the Province.

On a proposition, which was duly seconded, VW.Bro.C.A. Hannabuss, W.Bro.G.B. Gamble, W.Bro.R.M. Cole and W.Bro.J.W. Morey were elected to serve on the General Purposes Committee.

The Deputy Grand Master thanked the Provincial Grand Master for the opportunity to address Provincial Grand Lodge, during which he outlined further improvements being implemented in Grand Lodge and informed the Brethren he would be standing down as DGM at the June Investiture meeting.

The Provincial Grand Master then addressed Provincial Grand Lodge; a copy of which is attached to the file copy of these minutes. During the address he said how much he was overwhelmed by the generosity of the Brethren in their response to his Hope for Tomorrow, Response vehicle appeal, which had far exceeded the set target, stating that the surplus money would be used to buy further equipment for the Somerset mobile chemotherapy unit. He then called off Provincial Grand Lodge to receive a very in-depth explanation of the work carried out by the Hope for Tomorrow Team from Mrs Nicki Dodd, Area Fund Raiser for the South West who stated that she too was overwhelmed with the generosity, and on behalf of the Hope for Tomorrow Team thanked the Brethren with much sincerity. The Provincial Grand Master thanked Mrs Dodd for taking time to address the meeting, he then called on Provincial Grand Lodge and continued his address, during which he stated that his appeal was now closed. He also requested that grateful thanks be recorded for the sterling work carried out by W.Bro. Ray Johnstone-Smith, the retiring Provincial Grand Director of ceremonies.

A representative number (7) of newly advanced Brethren were presented to the Provincial Grand Master who, thanked them for attending, welcomed them into the Degree and presented them with Tie clips to mark the occasion.

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master proposed a vote of thanks to the host Lodge, The Monument Lodge of MMM No.1295. and members of the Wellington Masonic Hall Committee for agreeing the loan of furniture. This was followed by an offer from members of the Fidelity & Unanimity Lodge No.348 and the Langdale Lodge No 1615 to host the 2017 Provincial Grand Lodge meeting under their joint Banners which was duly accepted by the Provincial Grand Master.

The Provincial Grand Master presented cheques to RW.Bro. Peter Hawken, Provincial Grand Master for Devonshire and RW.Bro. Richard Olliver, Provincial Grand Master for Berkshire to assist in raising funds for their respective forthcoming Festivals.

The Provincial Grand Secretary confirmed the date of the next meeting, that being Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017 to be held at the Webbington Hotel, Loxton.

On a proposition by the Provincial Grand Secretary, duly seconded by the Provincial Deputy Grand Secretary and agreed by the Brethren present, the Alms collected at the meeting be donated to the Mark Provincial Benevolent Fund with a donation to the St John Ambulance.

The Deputy Grand Master, RW.Bro.H. Keith Emmerson retired from Provincial Grand Lodge.

During the closing Hymn the Alms were collected.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was closed in due form and the national Anthem sung.

A procession was formed and the Provincial Grand Master retired with his Officers and Invited Guests.

Signed..... Dated.....  
Provincial Grand Master

