



**PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS
OF WEST LANCASHIRE**

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE

**HELD AT
THE SOUTHPORT THEATRE & CONVENTION CENTRE,
THE PROMENADE, SOUTHPORT PR9 0DZ**

ON

WEDNESDAY, 3rd May 2017

**Provincial Grand Master
R.W.Bro. KEITH ALAN BEARDMORE**

**Deputy Provincial Grand Master
V.W.Bro. GEOFFREY HERBERT LEE, P.G.J.O.**

**Assistant Provincial Grand Masters
V.W.Bro. MICHAEL JOHN CLARKE, P.G.J.O.
W.Bro. IAN DOUGLAS NAIRN, P.G.J.D.**

**Provincial Grand Secretary
W.Bro. JOHN CHARLES BICKNELL, P.G.J.D.**

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS FROM OTHER PROVINCES IN ATTENDANCE

BRISTOL	R.W.Bro.	John Douglas Arthur	Platts	Prov.G.M.
CESHIRE	R.W.Bro.	David Robinson	Sellers	Prov.G.M.
CESHIRE	W.Bro	Austin Westbury	Bamber	P.D.G.Swd.B., D.Prov.G.M.
CESHIRE	W.Bro.	Ronald Glyn	Hewitt	P.G.J.D., A.Prov.G.M.
CESHIRE	W.Bro	Colin	Hambleton	P.A.G.D.C., Prov.G.Sec.
CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND	R.W.Bro.	Keith	Hodgson	Prov.G.M.
CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND	V.W.Bro	Barry	Kirkbride	P.G.J.O., D.Prov.G.M.
CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND	W.Bro	David Richard	Robinson	P.G.S.D., Prov.G.Sec.
DERBYSHIRE	R.W.Bro.	Colin	Cantrell	Prov.G.M.
DERBYSHIRE	R.W.Bro.	Robert	Poxon	P.Prov.G.M.
DERBYSHIRE	V.W.Bro	Philip Charles	Ablott	P.G.J.O., D.Prov.G.M.
DERBYSHIRE	W.Bro	Ralph Everett	Hitchin	P.A.G.D.C., Prov.G.Sec.
DURHAM	V.W.Bro	Danny	Guy	P.G.J.O., D.Prov.G.M.
DURHAM	V.W.Bro	Stuart Andrew Raymond	Ingham	P.G.J.O., A.Prov.G.M.
DURHAM	W.Bro	Trevor	Lynn	Prov.G.Sec.
DURHAM	W.Bro.	Peter	Harrison	Prov.G.J.W.
EAST LANCASHIRE	R.W.Bro.	Alexander Sillars	McLaren	Prov.G.M.
EAST LANCASHIRE	R.W.Bro.	Keith Partington	Schofield	P.Prov.G.M., G.M.R.A.C.
EAST LANCASHIRE	W.Bro	John Hartley	Smith	P.G.J.D., D.Prov.G.M.
EAST LANCASHIRE	V.W.Bro.	David	Anderson	P.G.J.O., P.D.Prov.G.M.
EAST LANCASHIRE	W.Bro.	Anthony John	Davies	P.G.J.D., A.Prov.G.M.
EAST LANCASHIRE	W.Bro	Gerald Noel Howard	Young	P.G.Stwd., A.Prov.G.M.
EAST LANCASHIRE	W.Bro.	Kevin	Reaney	Prov.G.J.W.
EAST LANCASHIRE	W.Bro	David	Rainford	Prov.G.Sec.
HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT	R.W.Bro.	George John	Deacon	Prov.G.M.
ISLE OF MAN	V.W.Bro.	Kenneth Martin	Blackburn	G.Insp.
KENT	V.W.Bro.	David John	Green	P.G.S.O., D.Prov.G.M.
KENT	W.Bro	Frederick	Brown	P.G.J.D., A.Prov.G.M.
LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND	V.W.Bro	Ghanshyam Maganbhai	Patel	P.G.J.O., D.Prov.G.M.
LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND	W.Bro	Donald Arthur	Peacock	P.A.G.D.C., Prov.G.Sec.
LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND	W.Bro.	Geoffrey	Phipps	P.Prov.G.Swd.B.
LINCOLNSHIRE	R.W.Bro.	Revd. Trevor John	Walker	Prov.G.M.
LINCOLNSHIRE	W.Bro.	Ronald Henry	Harrison	P.G.J.D.,A.Prov.G.M.
NORTH AND EAST YORKSHIRE	R.W.Bro.	David Robert	Clancey	Prov.G.M.
NORTH AND EAST YORKSHIRE	V.W.Bro.	Alan Cameron	Scott	P.G.J.O., D.Prov.G.M.
NORTH AND EAST YORKSHIRE	R.W.Bro.	Frederick Arthur	Smith	P.G.J.W., P.Prov.Dep.G.M.
NORTH AND EAST YORKSHIRE	W.Bro.	Michael John	Collinson	P.A.G.D.C. Prov.G.D.C.
NORTH AND EAST YORKSHIRE	W.Bro.	Ronald Leonard	Campbell	P.A.G.D.C., D.Prov.G.D.C.
NORTH AND EAST YORKSHIRE	W.Bro.	Gordon John	Dudley	P.G.Stwd
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE	R.W.Bro.	George Edward	Bonham	Prov.G.M.
NORTHUMBERLAND	W.Bro.	Stuart	Cairns	P.G.J.D., D.Prov.G.M.
NORTHUMBERLAND	W.Bro	Richard	Northey	P.G.J.D., A.Prov.G.M.
NORTHUMBERLAND	W.Bro.	James A.	Thompson	Prov.G.S.W.
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	W.Bro.	Patrick D.M.	Westwood	P.A.G.D.C.
STAFFORDSHIRE AND SHROPSHIRE	R.W.Bro.	Michael Richard	Heenan	Prov.G.M.
STAFFORDSHIRE AND SHROPSHIRE	V.W.Bro	Ian Christopher Marshall	Smith	P.G.J.O., D.Prov.G.M.
STAFFORDSHIRE AND SHROPSHIRE	W.Bro.	Colin George	Allbrow	P.A.G.D.C.

WARWICKSHIRE	R.W.Bro.	Roger Stuart	Mac	Prov.G.M.
WARWICKSHIRE	W.Bro	Philip	Wills	P.G.J.D., D.Prov.G.M.
WARWICKSHIRE	W.Bro.	Andrew Rowland	Armbrister	Prov.G.D.C.
WARWICKSHIRE	W.Bro.	Paul Frank	Mason	Prov.G.Alm.
WEST YORKSHIRE	W.Bro	Richard Boswell	Putrell	P.G.S.D., D.Prov.G.M.
WEST YORKSHIRE	W.Bro	Roderick Gordon	Taylor	P.G.J.D., A.Prov.G.M.
WEST YORKSHIRE	W.Bro	Alan	Oldfield	P.G.J.D., Prov.G.Sec.
WEST YORKSHIRE	W.Bro.	John Edward	Vause	D.G.D.C., Prov.G.D.C.
WORCESTERSHIRE	R.W.Bro.	Eric John	Rymer	Prov.G.M.

OTHER DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

GRAND MARK LODGE	W.Bro.	Ryan	Williams	D.G.Sec.
CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND	W.Bro.	Joseph Edward	Crosby	G.S.D.
WEST LANCASHIRE	W.Bro.	Howard Neil	Emmett	G.J.D.
WEST LANCASHIRE	W.Bro.	Peter	Hegarty	A.G.D.C.
WEST LANCASHIRE	W.Bro.	Ian	Sanderson	A.G.Reg.
WEST LANCASHIRE	W.Bro.	Arthur	Robinson	G.Stwd.

OTHER DISTINGUISHED WEST LANCASHIRE GUESTS

R.W.Bro.	Peter	Connolly	PProvGM	
V.W.Bro.	James Anthony	Harrison	PGJO, PProvGM	PrGM Craft
V.W.Bro.	G. Danny	Jones	PGJO, PProvGM	PDGSupt Royal Arch
W. Bro.	Philip H.	Gunning	PGJD	DPrGM Craft
W Bro	Thomas	Blackburn	PGSwdB	PDPPrGM Craft
W. Bro.	Howard	Jones		PDPPrGM Craft
W.Bro.	Harry	Cox	PAGDC	APrGM Craft
W.Bro.	David J.	Winder		APrGM Craft
W.Bro.	J. Stewart	Seddon	PProvGReg (Des)	APrGM Craft
W. Bro.	Peter Michael	Taylor	PGSD	PrGSec Craft
W.Bro	Paul A.	Renton	PProvGReg (Des)	DPrGSupt Royal Arch
Bro.	Christopher	Butterfield		A to PrG Principals Royal Arch
Bro.	David	Randerson		A to PrG Principals Royal Arch
W. Bro.	David H.	Gallear	PGJD	Provincial Prior Lancashire KT
V W Bro	Ian	Clark	PGJO	Inspector General SW Lancashire
V W Bro	Robert Simon Curtis	Mitchell	PGJO	District Grand Master R&SM
W Bro	Michael R.	Walker	PGJD	Intendant General Red Cross
R W Bro	Thomas F.	Jackson	PGJW	Grand Master Allied Degrees
V W Bro	William R.	Seddon	PGJO	Dist G Prefect Allied Degrees
W Bro	Terrence V.	Maybury	PGJD	Prov Grand Supreme Ruler OSM

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OFFICERS 2016/2017

Provincial Grand Senior Warden	Alan	Foster
Provincial Grand Junior Warden	Alan Holmes	Fairhurst
Provincial Grand Master Overseer	Clifford James	Hughes
Provincial Grand Senior Overseer	Alan Bromley	Lloyd
Provincial Grand Junior Overseer	Eric James	Delamere
Provincial Grand Chaplain	Stephen Windsor	Leach
Provincial Grand Treasurer	John Stewart	Dutchman-Smith
Provincial Grand Registrar	Peter William	Hampson
Provincial Grand Secretary	John Charles	Bicknell
Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies	David	Emmerson
Provincial Grand Almoner	David Charles Watkin	Fairclough
Provincial Grand Charity Steward	Eric John	Sarti
Provincial Grand Inspector of Works	Mark Anthony	Cooper
Provincial Grand Sword Bearer	William	Atcheson
Provincial Deputy Grand Chaplain	Reverend Walter Owen	Balmer
Provincial Deputy Grand Secretary	Colin	Mills
Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies	Arthur	Robinson
Provincial Deputy Grand Sword Bearer	Ivan	Millington

Provincial Grand Senior Deacon	John James	Dawber
Provincial Grand Senior Deacon	George William Michael	Casey
Provincial Grand Senior Deacon	Anthony Russell	Green
Provincial Grand Senior Deacon	David Daisley	Durling
Provincial Grand Junior Deacon	James Fishwick	Hustler
Provincial Grand Junior Deacon	James	Ainsworth
Provincial Grand Junior Deacon	Alan Gordon	Perks
Provincial Grand Junior Deacon	John Derek	Gaskell
Provincial Assistant Grand Chaplain	NOT APPOINTED	
Provincial Assistant Grand Secretary	John	Waring
Provincial Assistant Grand Secretary	Geoffrey	Catterall
Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Gilbert Neil	Brown
Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Anthony Edward	Farrar
Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Bryan	Fox
Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Brian James	Gregson
Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Raymond	Pye
Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Stephen Lawrence	Walls
Provincial Grand Organist	Shaun	Haynes
Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	Norman Leonard	Mitchell
Provincial Deputy Grand Organist	David Keith	Tattersall
Provincial Assistant Grand Standard Bearer	Mark John	Taylor
Provincial Grand Inner Guard	Christopher Stephen	Walls
Provincial Grand Senior Steward	David James	Sear
Provincial Grand Steward	Colin Gerald	Ellis
Provincial Grand Steward	Peter Ronald	Gore
Provincial Grand Steward	Eric	Hart
Provincial Grand Steward	Colin George	Jenkins
Provincial Grand Steward	Justin Edward	Lewis
Provincial Grand Tyler	Ernest	Gavan

ATTENDANCE

There were four hundred and eighty nine distinguished guests and Brethren were present, comprising of one hundred and forty eight Grand Officers, two hundred and twenty seven Provincial Officers and one hundred and fourteen Masters, Wardens and Brethren.

PROCESSIONS

Provincial Grand Masters, Deputy Provincial Grand Masters, Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, Provincial Grand Secretaries and other distinguished Brethren entered in procession.

The Worshipful Masters, or their representatives, entered in procession. (All 61 Lodges were represented).

The lodge was opened in due and solemn form by the Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Keith Alan Beardmore at 13.53 hours.

A deputation of Worshipful Commanders processed into the Lodge, and W.Bro. Les Moore Worshipful Commander of Adoniram Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No.552 pledged their allegiance to the ProvGM. The ProvGM welcomed them and invited them to take their seats in Provincial Grand Lodge.

INTRODUCTIONS

The Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Keith A. Beardmore was Proclaimed and saluted with seven and he suitably responded.

The R.W.Prov.G.M. then introduced the Distinguished Guests and heads of other orders together with his Special Representatives. Distinguished Brethren were saluted with seven and R.W.Bro. G.E. Bonham Prov.G.M. of Northampton and Huntingdonshire responded on their behalf.

V.W.Bro. Geoffrey Herbert Lee PGJO was re-appointed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of West Lancashire and was Proclaimed and saluted with five to which he suitably responded.

V.W.Bro. Ian Douglas Nairn was re-appointed as Assistant Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of West Lancashire and was Proclaimed and saluted with five and he suitably responded.

The R.W.Prov.G.M. then thanked V.W.Bro. Michael John Clarke P.G.J.O. for the seven years of support and service he had given to the Province as Assistant Provincial Grand Master and invested him with the collarette of a Past A.Prov.G.M.

The Prov.G.D.C. enquired if it was the intention of the Provincial Grand Master to appoint an Assistant Provincial Grand Masters. On confirming that it was, he announced that he appointed W.Bro. Giles Frederick Berkley G.Stwd. to be an Assistant Provincial Grand Masters of the Province.

The Provincial Grand Master directed the Prov.G.D.C. to form an escort and introduce the Assistant Provincial Grand Master Designate in proper form. The Prov.G.D.C. formed an escort and retired.

The procession returned to the Lodge, bearing the regalia and the Prov.G.D.C. introduced the Assistant Provincial Grand Master Designate. The Provincial Grand Master called upon the Deputy Provincial Grand Secretary to read the Patent.

The Provincial Grand Master addressed W.Bro. Berkley, outlining the depth of his Civil and Masonic career and then asked if he was willing and able to undertake the duties of Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

On receiving an affirmative reply, the Grand Chaplain offered prayer, after which the Assistant Provincial Grand Master Designate took his obligation of an Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master Designate was conducted to the right of the Provincial Grand Master and invested and presented with his Patent of Appointment and Book of Constitutions. The Assistant Provincial Grand Master was conducted to his seat to the left of the Provincial Grand Master.

W.Bro. Giles Frederick Berkley G.Stwd., Assistant Provincial Grand Master was then Proclaimed by the D.Prov.G.D.C.:-

"BE IT KNOWN THAT

GILED FREDERICK BERKLEY

Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies of the United Fraternity of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of England;

Past Provincial Grand Steward in the Provincial Grand Chapter of West Lancashire in the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England;

Grand Steward

etc.

has this day been appointed, invested and installed as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master of the Province of West Lancashire in the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas, and for the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners,

Whom, may the Great Overseer and Supreme Commander of the Universe long preserve, and I call upon you to salute him as Assistant Provincial Grand Master with five taking the time with me."

W.Bro. Berkley thanked the Brethren for the salutations.

MINUTES

The D.Prov.G.Sec. advised that the Minutes of the last Provincial Grand Lodge had been published on the Provincial website, and copies had been placed on the Registrar's table that morning and there were no amendments.

The Prov.G.M. called upon the Prov.G.S.W., W.Bro. Alan Foster, who proposed that the Minutes be adopted and this was seconded by the Provincial Grand Junior Warden W.Bro. Alan Fairhurst and carried by the Brethren.

PRESENTATION OF THE PROVINCIAL ACCOUNTS - Appendix 1

The Prov.G.M. called upon the Provincial Grand Treasurer, who reported that the accounts for the year ending December 2016 had been published on the Provincial website, and he submitted them for approval.

W.Bro. Stuart Brackstone, P.G.S.D. proposed that the accounts be accepted. This was duly seconded by V.W.Bro. Kenneth Alker P.G.J.O. and passed by the Brethren.

The Prov.G.M. thanked W.Bro. John Dutchman-Smith for his work as Provincial Grand Treasurer.

PROVINCIAL DUES 2017/2018

The Provincial Treasurer then announced that he had been the Provincial Treasurer for five years and in each of those years, I have been able to announce that there would be no increase in Provincial Dues. Whilst all good things must eventually come to an end I am delighted to be able to continue my policy for a further year. Provincial dues therefore will continue to be £4.00p per member for Mark Lodges and £3.20 for Royal Ark Mariner Lodges.

that Provincial Grand Lodge dues for 2017/18 would remain the same at £4.00 per Mark member and £3.20 per R.A.M. member and that these were due on the 1st of September.

He added that to date six Mark lodges and six R.A.M. lodges had not paid their Provincial dues for 2014/15.

ELECTION OF PROVINCIAL GRAND TREASURER

The D.Prov.G.Sec. advised the Provincial Grand Master that he had only received one nomination for Provincial Grand Treasurer and the Provincial Grand Master therefore declared W.Bro. John Dutchman-Smith to be elected as Provincial Treasurer.

ELECTION OF AUDITORS

It was proposed by V.W.Bro. Paul Snape, PGJO, and seconded by W.Bro. Derek Horrocks, PGSD, that W.Bros. P.H. Taaffe and D.M.A. Chestnutt be re-elected Auditors for the ensuing year. This was Carried.

SALUTATIONS

V.W.Bro. James Anthony Harrison, Past D.Prov.G.M., George Daniel Jones and Michael John Clarke both Past A.Prov.G.M. were saluted with five. V.W.Bro. Harrison gave a suitable response.

V.W.Bro. Kenneth Martin Blackburn G.Insp. for the Isle of Man and the other V.W. Brethren were saluted with five and V.W.Bro. Martin suitably responded.

W.Bro. Thomas Blackburn PGSwdB and the other Grand officers were saluted with three and gave a suitable response.

REPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND SECRETARY - Appendix 2

The Prov.D.G.Sec. reported that the Prov.G.Sec's report had been published on the website the previous Wednesday, and that there was nothing to add, other than to repeat his thanks to all Secretaries and Scribes and his team in the Secretariat, and to give a reminder that copies of the new year Book are available for collection by them or to purchase at a cost of £3.

W.Bro. M.J. Winterbottom PGSD proposed and W.Bro. J. Foster PGJD seconded the proposition that the report be accepted. This was carried by the meeting.

The report of the Provincial Grand Secretary is appended to these Minutes.

REPORT OF THE CHARITY COMMITTEE

V.W.Bro. Michael John Clarke, P.G.J.O. said "R.W.Prov G.M. and Brethren, it is once again a privilege to present a brief report on the W.L.M.C. May I as Chairman thank each and every one of you for your continual support year on year The monies donated have enabled us to make numerous grants to Masonic, non Masonic charities and local organisations nominated by you I urge you all to visit and use the Provincial web site there you will see the scope of the donations, they are varied both in value and content and cover the whole of our Province I would highlight only one as an example the POD's project at Altcar being specifically for disabled and handicapped ex- servicemen and women.

This year has seen a subtle change into a more caring approach for the brethren with the Health awareness meetings in 2016 and today the PSA testing available to all including our distinguished

guests Brethren there is still an opportunity after this meeting to avail yourselves of this facility believe me it might be the most important five minutes of your life.

I want to take this last opportunity to say a public thank you to the Provincial Almoner V.W.Bro David Fairclough, the Prov.Charity Stwd W.Bro. John Sarti. together with the Honorary Secretary, Treasurer and to the Leaders and deputies of our five charity groups who all work quietly and efficiently in the background ensuring that the Charities run so effectively.

In conclusion given the uncertain economic and austere problems we are all currently facing the level of support from you all for our Charities is as always undiminished.

Remember as I have repeated on numerous occasions that the West Lancs Mark Charity is your Charity please continue to support it, keep the requests for grants coming and above all please ensure that you continue to enjoy your Mark masonry.

THANK YOU"

W.Bro. K.P. Collins P.Prov.G.J.W. proposed that the report be accepted. This was seconded by V.W.Bro. E. Drinkwater PGJO and the Proposition was carried by the meeting.

COLLECTION

A collection was taken for Masonic Charities which raised the sum of £1666.60p which with Gift aid of £346.11 raised the sum to £2012.71.

ADDRESS BY THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER - Appendix 4

A full copy of the Address given by the Provincial Grand Master is appended to these Minutes.

APPOINTMENT AND INVESTITURE OF PROVINCIAL GRAND OFFICERS

The R.W. Provincial G.M. then asked the D.Prov.G.Sec. to read out the names of those Brethren to be invested today and called upon the Prov.G.D.C. to conduct them to be invested.

The Provincial Grand Officers of the year, including Past Ranks and Promotions were appointed as follows, and those present were invested.

Provincial Grand Senior Warden	Stuart Sutherland	Boyd	Flixton Shepherd Eastwood	1173
Provincial Grand Junior Warden	Victor Henry	Norris	New Temple	1438
Provincial Grand Master Overseer	John	Dean	Leyland	1002
Provincial Grand Senior Overseer	Gordon David	Turner	Murray	490
Provincial Grand Junior Overseer	Anthony	Thackrah	Prince Setanta	1446
Provincial Grand Chaplain	Stephen Windsor	Leach	Wyre	754
Provincial Grand Treasurer	John Stewart	Dutchman-Smith	Westthoughton	1006
Provincial Grand Registrar	Brian Charles	Povey	Southport	473
Provincial Grand Secretary	John Charles	Bicknell	Lawrence	313
Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies	David	Emmerson	Prince of Wales	466
Provincial Grand Almoner	David Charles Watkin	Fairclough	Prescot	903
Provincial Grand Charity Steward	Eric John	Sarti	Progress	898
Provincial Grand Inspector of Works	Robert Frederick William	Allman	Eccles	843
Provincial Grand Sword Bearer	Andrew Charles	Stansfield	Imperial	1276
Provincial Deputy Grand Chaplain	Reverend Walter Owen	Balmer	Queensway	1331
Provincial Deputy Grand Secretary	Colin	Mills	Leyland	1002
Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies	Arthur	Robinson	Newton	1003
Provincial Deputy Grand Sword Bearer	Raymond David	Dickinson	Jubilee	375

Provincial Grand Senior Deacon	Roland	Alderton	Imperial	1276
Provincial Grand Senior Deacon	Ian David	Cottam	Furness	36
Provincial Grand Senior Deacon	John Rory	Maskell	Fylde	296
Provincial Grand Senior Deacon	Walter Martin	Wootton	Progress	898
Provincial Grand Junior Deacon	Paul Robert	Carr	Ormskirk	734
Provincial Grand Junior Deacon	Peter John	Guy	Corinthian	1052
Provincial Grand Junior Deacon	Ronald Charles	Pearson	Newton	1003
Provincial Grand Junior Deacon	Ernest Norman	Pritchard	St. Austin's	479
Provincial Assistant Grand Chaplain	Barry	Tomlinson	Excelsior	359
Provincial Assistant Grand Secretary	John	Waring	Leyland	1002
Provincial Assistant Grand Secretary	Geoffrey	Catterall	Lawrence	313
Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Gilbert Neil	Brown	Preston	143
Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Terrence	Dickinson	Murray	490
Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Anthony Edward	Farrar	Semper Fidelis	880
Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Bryan	Fox	Leyland	1002
Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Raymond	Pye	The Red Rose	1594
Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Stephen Lawrence	Walls	Corinthian	1052
Provincial Grand Organist	Shaun	Haynes	Imperial	1276
Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	John David	Roberts	Garston	942
Provincial Deputy Grand Organist	David Keith	Tattersall	Morecambe	716
Provincial Assistant Grand Standard Bearer	Gowan Patrick	O'Hagan	Progress	898
Provincial Grand Inner Guard	Christopher Stephen	Walls	Corinthian	1052
Provincial Grand Senior Steward	Eric	Hart	Leyland	1002
Provincial Grand Steward	Colin George	Jenkins	Southport	473
Provincial Grand Steward	Justin Edward	Lewis	West Lancashire	65
Provincial Grand Steward	Brian	Burgess-Dicks	Wyre	754
Provincial Grand Steward	Leslie Frank	Norton	Prescot	903
Provincial Grand Steward	Richard William Frank	Woolley	The Red Rose	1594
Provincial Grand Tyler	Ernest	Gavan	Fylde	296
FIRST APPOINTMENTS - PAST RANK				
Past Provincial Grand Registrar	Paul Andrew	Renton	New Temple	1438
Past Provincial Grand Registrar	John Stewart	Seddon	Aeon	1312
Past Provincial Deputy Grand Sword Bearer	David McDonald	Southward	West Lancashire	65
Past Provincial Grand Senior Deacon	Edward James	Adams	Preston	143
Past Provincial Grand Senior Deacon	James	Barnes	Cleveleys	1176
Past Provincial Grand Senior Deacon	Paul Henry	Friberg	Semper Fidelis	880
Past Provincial Grand Senior Deacon	Derek Sean	Grainger	Wyre	754
Past Provincial Grand Senior Deacon	David	Redhead	Wilbraham	523
Past Provincial Grand Senior Deacon	Michael	Shakeshaft	Bispham-with-Norbreck	866
Past Provincial Grand Senior Deacon	Evan Thomas	Walsh	Lodge of Charity	935
Past Provincial Grand Junior Deacon	Anthony Wilfred	Collier	Tuscan	1099
Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	James Alfred	Carey	Leigh	1322
Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	George Alan	Carter	Wilbraham	523
Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	John William	Craig	Garnett	146
Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	Peter Saeward	Smith	Freshfield	1007
Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	David James	Webster	The Red Rose	1594
PROMOTIONS				
Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden	George William	Birkin	Aeon	1312
Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden	William Howard	Jones	Jubilee	375
Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden	James Henry	Kontzle	Corinthian	1052
Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden	William Leslie	Preston	Jubilee	375
Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden	Brian William	Sharples	Rose and Thistle	158
Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden	Clifford	Bevan	Chorlton	394
Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden	Graham Samuel	Bottomley	Leigh	1322
Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden	Gordon	Glover	Leigh	1322
Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden	Anthony McEwan	Hough	Cleveleys	1176
Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden	George	Irving	Warrington	1178
Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden	Raymond William	Leather	St Austin's	479
Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden	Walter	Lyon	Leigh	1322

Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden	John Patrick	Murphy	Friendship	1549
Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden	Terence	Naylor	Wyre	754
Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden	William	Woods	Progress	898
Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden	Arnoldus	Zoetmulder	Lathom	268
Past Provincial Grand Master Overseer	Alexander John	Hammond	Murray	490
Past Provincial Grand Senior Overseer	Brian	Horabin	Wilbraham	523
Past Provincial Grand Senior Overseer	Thomas Martin	McLaughlin	Tuscan	1099
Past Provincial Grand Senior Overseer	Stephen Gordon	Wadsworth	Cleveleys	1176
Past Provincial Grand Junior Overseer	Lionel John	Gornall	Prescot	903
Past Provincial Grand Junior Overseer	George William	McDonald	Fermor	1113
Past Provincial Grand Junior Overseer	Norman	Speed	Wilbraham	523
Past Provincial Grand Registrar	John Cairns	Aitken	Murray	490
Past Provincial Grand Registrar	David Kendrick	Dixon	Lathom	268
Past Provincial Grand Inspector of Works	David William	Johnson	Garston	942
Past Provincial Grand inspector of Works	Robert Keith	Morrison	Ormskirk Priory	1019
Past Provincial Deputy Grand Sword Bearer	Mark Edward	Astbury	Scorton	1103
Past Provincial Deputy Grand Sword Bearer	David	Hayes	Morecambe	716
Past Provincial Deputy Grand Sword Bearer	John Fred	Hood	Ridgmont	1539
Past Provincial Deputy Grand Sword Bearer	Vincent Christopher	Wren	Cloister	1475
Past Provincial Grand Senior Deacon	Alan	Brown	Newton	1003
Past Provincial Grand Senior Deacon	Keith Taylor	Heys	Garnett	146
Past Provincial Grand Senior Deacon	Brian William	Honey	Prince of Wales	466
Past Provincial Grand Senior Deacon	Ian Richard	Howard	Freshfield	1007
Past Provincial Grand Senior Deacon	Kenneth William	Meath	Bootle	478
Past Provincial Grand Senior Deacon	Harold	Norton	Prescot	903

Field Appointment

Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden	William Malcolm	Cook	Lodge of Charity	935
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SALUTATIONS

W.Bro. Stuart Sutherland Boyd, Provincial Grand Senior Warden and the Provincial Grand Officers Present and Past of this and other Provinces were saluted with three.

ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY GRAND SECRETARY – Appendix 5

A full copy of the Address given by the Deputy Grand Secretary, W.Bro. Ryan A. Williams is appended to these Minutes.

VOTE OF THANKS

W.Bro. Giles Berkley G.Stwd., Assistant Provincial Grand Master proposed a Vote of Thanks to the Worshipful Master and Brethren of the Philadelphia lodge of Installed Mark Masters, Brethren from the Southport group of lodges and indeed Brethren from all over the Province for the setting up, stewarding and organization of the meeting.

This was greeted with warm applause by those present.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Provincial Grand Master enquired if the D.Prov.G.Sec. had any other business pertinent to this Provincial meeting.

The D.Prov.G.Sec. stated that he had no further business to report and confirmed that the date of the next Provincial meeting would be announced as soon as possible and advised to all members and other Provinces.

The Provincial Grand Master then closed Provincial Grand Lodge in due form at 4.13 p.m.

The first verse of the National Anthem was sung.

The Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, together with the Provincial Grand Lodge Officers, the Provincial Grand Masters, Deputy Provincial Grand Masters, Assistant Provincial Grand Masters and other Distinguished Guests retired.

Minutes Approved at Provincial Grand Lodge held on _____

Provincial Grand Secretary

Date

APPENDIX 1

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF WEST LANCASHIRE

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2016

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 August 2016

2015		2016	
£	£	£	£
	INCOME		
	2465 Fees of Honour		2665
	10400 Annual Dues from Lodges		10511
	1354 West Lancashire Masonic Year Books		1380
	503 Interest		455
	35 Sundry Income		18
	<u>14757</u>		<u>15028</u>
	 EXPENDITURE		
3448	Provincial Office	4132	
1211	West Lancashire Masonic Year Books	1330	
500	Office Equipment Provision	500	
190	Printing, Stationery, Telephones, Newsletter	849	
526	Postage	287	
1664	Sundry Expenses	1567	
202	Insurance	209	
2818	Annual Provincial Meeting	3673	
	<u>10559</u>		<u>12546</u>
	 <u>4198</u> Surplus for the year		<u>2482</u>

NOTE

Income from fees, year books and interest is accounted for on a cash received basis.

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2016

2015		2016	
£	£	£	£
			INVESTMENTS at cost
	40000		Skipton Building Soc. Bond
			<u>40000</u>
			CURRENT ASSETS
23884			Balance at HSBC Bank plc
0			Debtors
500			Payments in Advance
91			Petty Cash Float
<u>24475</u>			<u>28619</u>
			Less CURRENT LIABILITIES
1600			Creditors
	<u>22875</u>		<u>2135</u>
	62875		NET CURRENT ASSETS
			<u>66484</u>
			PROVISIONS
14003			Special Provincial Meetings
3387			Regalia
3407	20797		Office Equipment
	<u>42078</u>		<u>3906</u>
			<u>20842</u>
			NET ASSETS
			<u>45642</u>
			 Represented by:
			ACCUMULATED FUND
30110			Balance at 1st September 2015
4198			Add Surplus for the Year
	34308		Balance at 31st August 2016
			<u>36789</u>
			UNALLOCATED FUNDS
3109			2010 Centenary Celebrations
4661	7770		Provincial Social Fund
	<u>42078</u>		<u>3109</u>
			<u>5744</u>
			<u>8853</u>
			TOTAL FUNDS
			<u>45642</u>

J.S.Dutchman-Smith, FCA, Provincial Grand Treasurer.

AUDITORS REPORT: We have examined the Statement of Accounts of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of West Lancashire for the year ended 31st August, 2016 and in our opinion exhibit a true and fair view of the financial affairs of the Province for the period concerned.

W.Bro.D.M.A.Chestnutt, FCA., PGStd.B.
W.Bro.P.H.Taaffe, FCA., PGStd.B.

[Handwritten signatures and date]
17 January 2017

APPENDIX 1 - Treasurer's Report on Accounts to 31st August 2016

Income

Total income was £15,028, an increase of £271 from the 2015 total of £14,787.

There were minor increases in both Fees of Honour and Annual but a continued reduction in Building Society Interest which in present market conditions will continue.

Expenditure

Overall expenditure at £12,546 showed a significant increase of £1987, from the previous year's figure of £10,559, however £855 was a return to normal expenditure for the Annual Provincial Meeting after the one-off reduction in the cost of the meeting at Southport in May 2015. Provincial Office expenses increased from £3,348 to £4,132 an increase of £684 reflecting the full annual cost occasioned by the move to a dedicated separate office.

There were other increases in costs of Printing, Stationery and Telephones.

Surplus

The overall surplus for the year was satisfactory at £2,482 a decrease of £1,716 from the previous year's figure of £4,198.

Accumulated Fund

The balance of the Accumulated Fund remains healthy and at 31st August 2016 was £36,789 compared with £34,308 the previous year.

Provincial Social Fund (formerly Fun Day Committee Funds)

Income from the Whisky Raffle amounted to £2,583 (2015 - £2,741). The Fun Day held in previous years was not held in 2015-16. The cost of the Christmas Party was £1,501 (2015 - £1,681). No donations were made (2015 - £1,000). As a consequence the value of the fund increased from £4,661 to £5,744. In the current year £1,179 has been received to date in respect of the raffle held in 2015-16

Audit

The accounts have again been audited by Worshipful Brothers David Chestnutt and Peter Taaffe and I thank them for their continued and valuable work.

I therefore submit the accounts for acceptance and confirmation.

John Dutchman-Smith F.C.A.

Provincial Grand Treasurer.

16th April 2017

Dues for 2017-18

I have now been Provincial Treasurer for five years and previously, in each of those years, I have been able to announce that there would be no increase in Provincial Dues. Whilst all good things must eventually come to an end I am delighted to be able to continue my policy for a further year. Provincial dues therefore will continue to be £4.00p per member for Mark Lodges and £3.20 for Royal Ark Mariner Lodges.

John Dutchman-Smith F.C.A.

Provincial Grand Treasurer.

APPENDIX 2 - PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

R. W. Provincial Grand Master and Brethren,

I must start my report by expressing my apologies for not being able to attend the Provincial meeting due to another matter which I must attend to down in London in another Order.

I must also express my sincere thanks to all the Lodge Secretaries and Scribes for their continued assistance and co-operation in ensuring that this large Province is administered efficiently.

I thank most sincerely my Deputy, W.Bro. Colin Mills, the Assistant secretaries, W.Bros. John Waring and Geoffrey Catterall as well as W.Bro. Derek Easton all of whom have been a great help in managing the copious amounts of information which passes through the office on a daily basis!

Turning to the statistics of the Province, we still have 61 Mark Lodges and 24 Royal Ark Mariner Lodges in the Province.

In the 12 month period from 1st May 2016 to 30th April 2017 there have been 58 Advancements in Mark Lodges and 33 RAM Elevations which is a significant increase on the figures last year. In addition we had 31 members deciding to join or rejoin our wonderful Degree.

Brethren, it is important that we strive to increase our membership in both Degrees but we must also continue to support the Craft in attracting new members as these are our members of the future.

We have suffered 59 resignations from our Order last year mainly due to failing health and for personal reasons and regrettably 7 members had their membership ceased for 2 years arrears of subscriptions and 1 was Excluded for non-payment of subscriptions in accordance with Lodge By-Laws.

Sadly, as we have heard, we lost 20 of our Brethren.

The overall result is that the decline we suffered last year has been reversed resulting in an increase of a little over 3% in our total membership on the figure last year.

May I remind all Lodge Secretaries and Scribes that the 2017/18 Provincial Mark year book is now available and they should collect their free copy from the Help Desk today and please **do not go home** without one.

Extra copies have been printed and can be purchased from the Help Desk for £3.00.

It is pleasing for me to be able to say that, after my comments last year, Lodge secretaries and Scribes have taken heed and in most cases have submitted their Installation Returns promptly which has enabled us to enter the details of the new Masters and Commanders in the new edition.

However, a recurring problem is the extended period in settlement of the Grand and Provincial Annual fees and I appeal to the Lodge Secretaries and Scribes and the Lodge Treasurers to ensure that these are dealt with promptly when you are advised by my office that they are available - usually by the 31st August and should be settled by the 31st October.

Speaking of Grand Lodge Honours, the Province has again been recognised by Grand Lodge and a number of our Brethren will receive appointments or promotions in London on Tuesday the 13th June.

FOUR of our Brethren will be honoured with Acting Grand Rank, namely:-

V.W.Bro. James Anthony Harrison, Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master is to be appointed as the **Grand Junior Warden**

W.Bro. Ken Boon is to be appointed as **Grand Junior Deacon**

W.Bro. Tony Farrar, one of the Provincial D.C.'s team, is to be appointed **Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies** and W.Bro. Arthur Robinson, the Deputy Provincial Grand D.C. is to be appointed as **Grand Steward**.

In addition Revd. Bruce Harry, a member of Lebanon Mark Lodge, is to be re-appointed as **Grand Chaplain**.

TWELVE other Brethren will receive either first appointments or promotions namely:

V.W.Bro. John Graham Forsyth is to receive the high rank of **Past Grand Junior Warden**.

W.Bros. Stuart Brackstone is to receive promotion to the rank of **Past Grand Junior Overseer**

W.Bros. Harry Cox, David Emmerson and Bill Joughin are to receive promotion to the Rank of **Past Grand Senior Deacon**

and W. Bros. Michael Beesley and George Stones are to be promoted to the Rank of **Past Junior Grand Deacon**.

W. Bros. John Dutchman-Smith, the Provincial Treasurer, and Colin Svenson will be appointed to the rank of **Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies**

W.Bro. Roy Crawford will be appointed to the rank of **Past Assistant Grand Sword Bearer**

W.Bro. Andrew Baker will be appointed to the rank of **Past Grand Standard Bearer**

and W.Bro. Trevor Partington will be appointed to the rank of **Past Assistant Grand Standard Bearer**.

On behalf of the Province, I congratulate them all and hope that they will enjoy their well deserved ranks and I am sure that you would like to express your congratulations.

Finally, may I also remind all brethren that the Provincial website is full of interesting information about the Mark Province and includes dates of meetings and copies of Summonses but it does rely upon reports on the activities of Lodges, whether it be on Lodge meetings or social events, and your reports can be submitted to the Webmaster, W.Bro. Mike Beesley, at any time and will usually be posted on to the website within a matter of hours in many cases.

My very sincere thanks goes to Mike for his dedication to maintaining our website as well as those of several other Orders within the Province.

Brethren, I am grateful your attention to my report and I wish you all a very successful year in your Lodges.

APPENDIX 3 - REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WEST LANCASHIRE MARK CHARITIES

This year for the first time my annual report as Chairman of the West Lancashire Mark Charities is being published on our Provincial web site prior to Provincial Grand Lodge being held on 4TH May 2016.

It is always a privilege to report on what has been yet another very successful and rewarding year. The total donations received in the last financial year amounted to £34000.00, a remarkable sum given the present economic climate and outlook.

As has previously been stated it is the intention of the trustees to ensure that at least seventy five percent of the sum received is granted as donations to worthy organisations and causes throughout our great province. This year has been no exception with donations/grants amounting to £29000.00 (85%) of all monies received.

Details of the income and expenditure account are attached to this report for your perusal together with a full listing of all of the grants made.

Looking at the listing I would wish to highlight one particular grant which personally gave me the greatest satisfaction, namely that to Highfurlong School (Special needs) in Blackpool in the sum of £7503.00. This was for the provision of a purpose built eight speed wheelchair transport bicycle.

As the details imply it has enabled the wheelchair bound pupils to participate in "bike " rides in the parks and promenades around the area making them feel part of the class and able to enjoy the fresh air, sights and sounds other pupils take for granted.

It is only on these occasions that one can fully appreciate the value of your donations on the charity plate and as has been said on numerous times when a cheque has been presented at an Installation "it will be faithfully applied and thankfully received by the recipients"

On the subject of giving may I please ask for your support in considering "GIFT AID" for your donations. Year on year we are reclaiming circa £2500.00 totally free from HMRC however when taken in the context of £0.25P in every £1.00 donated it is not such a large sum.

Donations such as last year's £34000.00 could equate to a claim of £8500.00 if all donations were gift aided. Just consider what the Charities could do with an extra £5000/£6000 each and every year.

Administration of the scheme for the Lodge charity stewards is not onerous with assistance available from the Province if required. Forms are on the web site to be downloaded and gift aid envelopes are available from the Provincial Grand Charity steward.

If you are attending the banquet after Provincial Grand lodge you may well see a very happy brother after it is announced that he has won the first prize in the 21st Century draw of £750.00 or indeed one of the eleven other prizes ranging from £350.00 to £50.00. As is always stated you must be "in it to win it" if therefore you are not a member and wish to join speak to W.Bro Peter Hegarty or W.Bro John Sarti both of whom will be on duty at Provincial Grand Lodge before the commencement to take on new members.

As well as the prizes distributed approximately £2000.00 is also given to the Mark Charities which since the 2000 Festival amounts to over £30000.00. This is a magnificent amount and is a testimony to the efforts of W.Bro. Frank Thomas ("Frank the Bank") who will be retiring at Provincial Grand Lodge with the grateful thanks of all of the Executive members he has worked with during the past nineteen years.

Finally I wish to thank the leaders & deputy leaders of our five Charity groups, the Provincial Grand Almoner, the Provincial Grand Charity steward, the Honorary secretary and treasurer of the Charities and each and every one of the Lodge Charity stewards for all of the hard work they put in behind the scenes in ensuring that the Mark Charities continue to go from strength to strength whilst being ever mindful of the need of others.

Above all I thank you brethren for your support of the Charities which continues year on year unabated. The Mark Charity is your Charity, please continue to use it as well as supporting it ultimately it is the various recipients who will thank you in the long term.

Please continue to enjoy your Mark Masonry

V.W.Bro. Michael J Clarke P.G.J.O. Asst P.G.M.

APPENDIX 4 - ADDRESS BY THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

Distinguished Guests and Brethren, welcome to Provincial Grand Lodge here in Southport and I have to say what a year it has been certainly, for me, since I last addressed you from this stage.

Little did I know just 12 months ago that before the end of the summer I would have to undergo major heart surgery.

I thank all the brethren of the Province for their good wishes whilst I recovered,

I had intentionally not informed more than a few closest to me of my situation, in order that we could continue business as usual, so to speak, and I particularly thank the members of the Executive who carried on the day to day running of the Province whilst I was in recovery and filled in for me so that the Province functioned in its normal way.

Throughout the year the support of my Deputy PGM V W Bro Geoff Lee and Ass PGM's

V W Bro's Michael Clarke and Ian Nairn along with our Provincial Secretary W. Bro John Bicknell has been of the highest order and I thank them for their efforts to the Province and in support of me.

The Province is in good heart our numbers are on the increase thanks to a positive recruitment drive over the past eighteen months and the slight downturn of 3% last year is now showing an increase of 3% from the same period which relates to a 6% turn round.

Likewise the Royal Ark Mariners where the membership has almost reached 40% of our MARK Brethren. That still leaves of margin of 60% and I would like to see that reduced to 50% by actively recruiting those Mark Brethren who have not yet "Come Aboard"

But this Brethren is down to you all, your positive response to the call to increase recruitment from our Craft Lodges has paid dividends and remember this must be on going, we still have 7500 untapped Craft Masons who are not yet in our wonderful order.

We must be more pro active and spread the word to our Craft colleagues, invite them to your festive board or social functions so they can sample first hand the friendly enjoyment of this order.

But remember also Brethren we must support our Craft Lodges in finding candidates so that our grass roots Freemasonry can flourish in the first place, thereby giving us the lifeblood we need.

Speaking of social events the Provincial Afternoon Tea sponsored by Adoniram Lodge was an outstanding success with over 150 brethren at their wives enjoying afternoon tea and Prosecco at Wellington Park and this event will be repeated on June 4th this year please support this event but more importantly treat your Ladies to an afternoon out. Likewise the Children's Christmas Party at Leyland was again a wonderful event with almost 100 children attending with a first class children's entertainer keeping them all enthralled during the afternoon

We welcome to Provincial Grand Lodge today V W Bro Ryan Williams Grand Secretary Designate. Ryan when you accepted our invitation to attend this meeting just under twelve months ago, little did we know what lay ahead for you and we look forward to you addressing the meeting later.

The Provincial Team Visits to 10 Lodges and 2 RAM Lodges along with several 50th and 60th celebrations have again been an outstanding success. That is 15 occasions the team have been out this season and I trust all the acting officers have enjoyed the experience and the friendly reception they received from the host Lodges.

The Team were led in fine style by W. Bro Alan Foster Prov. GSW and W. Bro Alan Fairhurst Prov. G JW, all marshalled by our Prov GDC W. Bro David Emmerson, his deputy W. Bro Arthur Robinson and the Ass GDC's. It is their hard work that makes the Provincial Team visits such enjoyable and spectacular occasions.

We have all enjoyed the 50th and 60th Celebrations throughout the Province in the year and I am sure each of the celebrants enjoyed the fact Senior members of the Province could join them at this wonderful milestone in their Mark careers.

Likewise the support of West Lancashire Brethren at the Grand Lodge meetings in London has been at a record high level and I thank everyone who made the long journey South for their valued support.

In June the Investiture will see 16 of our Brethren Appointed or Promoted in Grand Lodge and I am delighted that our Past Deputy PGM Tony Harrison is to be appointed Grand Junior Warden. Tony I, and I am sure all the brethren congratulate you on this wonderful promotion.

Likewise I am equally delighted that VW Bro Jack Forsythe is to be promoted to Past Grand Junior Warden in recognition of his unstinting support of the Mark Degree over the last 50 years.

I also congratulate the other recipients from West Lancashire whom we will support in London in June. Please brethren support these worthy Mark Masons, your colleagues, at the Investiture Ceremony.

Today V W Bro Michael Clarke stepped down as Ass PGM and I thank him for his seven years service on the Executive. His contribution, also as Chairman of our West Lancashire Charities Committee over that same period has given our Charity fund a firm footing showing growth in a volatile economic period whilst at the same time making record donations to Charitable causes both of a Masonic and Non Masonic nature.

This being demonstrated by the support Local Mark Lodges and the Province were able to offer in helping to setting up a respite unit for retired service personnel at Altcar near here at Southport.

Also today the Province is able to offer PSA testing for any Brother as an early indicator toward Prostate health.

I invite all here present, including our visitors, to undertake this test. If you have not had the test done this morning then it will be available after the meeting.

If this testing session helps save one Brother's life then the total cost will be worthwhile, please participate.

Today I welcome W. Bro Giles Berkley to the Executive as Assistant PGM. Giles is well known to many of you. His youthful appearance belays the wealth of Masonic experience he holds, having been a Provincial Warden in both this Degree and in the Craft and also having held several rolls in the Craft Province. I look forward to a long and close association

My Nine Special representatives have again shown over this last year the importance of the contact with Lodges at a local level. They see the day to day working of Lodges and Brethren and their recommendations for Provincial and Grand Appointments is vitally important in rewarding those Brethren for their efforts toward both their Lodges and the Province. The Special Representatives work unceasingly for the benefit of all our Lodges and often do this in a very quiet and unassuming way. I take this opportunity to thank each one publicly for their efforts.

Today V.W.Bro. Ken Alker retires, for family reasons, after 12 years as Special Representative for the Wigan area. Ken I thank you for your unstinting work over those 12 years and it gives me great pleasure to appoint W. Bro Martin Stokes as his successor, Martin I wish you well in your new role.

I also thank V WBro Eric Drinkwater, W. Bro Derek Horrocks, W Bro John Forster, W. Bro Michael Winterbottom, V W. Bro Paul Snape, W. Bro Stuart Brackstone and W. Bro Kevin Collins my other Special Representatives and its gives me great pleasure to confirm their re-appointments.

Over the past twelve months members of the Executive have visited the Provinces of many of our Distinguished Guests present today. Only last Saturday we were in the Province of Derbyshire. We have been received with great friendliness and hospitality and I trust our Distinguished guests today feel we have reciprocated in similar fashion.

The coming year holds many exciting challenges not least that on Saturday of this week, Brethren of West Lancashire will join other Provinces in London for the MBF Charity. An eight mile walk through the Royal Parks with The Pro Grand Master leading off the walkers at 10.30. The projected amount to be raised has already reached 2½ times the goal and that is all due to the Mark Brethren from near and far who have magnificently supported this effort.

Nearer home, this year we plan to form a Provincial Stewards Lodge. V W Bro Rod Bennison has been the steering force behind this project and we hope it will raise the profile of Provincial Stewards to an even higher level.

Brethren, our website continues to be a great source of news and information and you should all use it. W.Bro. Mike Beesley edits the website and I do thank him for his great effort in getting items published very quickly.

Brethren looking around this magnificent venue and especially when I introduced our distinguished guests I realise now, more than ever that the interaction and support given to each Order by the other Orders shows the true strength of Freemasonry - working and supporting each other rather than being fragmented pieces of the same puzzle. Together AND IN COOPERATION we can all build the complete picture.

Brethren, for reasons beyond our control that, unfortunately, I have to announce that Provincial Grand Lodge in 2018 will be held on Tuesday the 24th April.

I will shortly have the great pleasure to appoint and promote those whose work for their Lodges and the Province has been recognised this year.

For those receiving acting rank I trust you will find the team visits an uplifting experience and I look forward to your participation at Provincial level.

Although I will convey my personal congratulations to every recipient I publicly congratulate each one and trust your new ranks will spur you even further in your efforts to work for and Promote the Mark Degree.

Brethren continue to enjoy your Mark Masonry both here in West Lancashire and I hope further afield and I trust you will be blessed with good health for the coming year.

May the Great Overseer bless you all.

Mark Well

APPENDIX 5 - ADDRESS BY V.W.Bro. RYAN A. WILLIAMS, DEPUTY GRAND SECRETARY

Brethren, it is often said that the only thing you get by looking back is a stiff neck. That's often true but it cannot be denied that there is merit in briefly looking back at where Mark Masons' Hall was just 7 years ago to understand the progress that has been made in recent years.

Many of you will recall the financial difficulties being experienced at Mark Mason's Hall in 2010. Finances were in some disarray; robust corporate governance structures were absent; and a general commercial awareness seemed to be lacking.

The situation today is much different. The latest audited accounts show that every aspect of Grand Lodge's operations are working profitably. Strong corporate governance structures are now in place ensuring a level of accountability which was previously absent.

Difficult decisions had to be taken in 2010 but those decisions have borne fruit. Painful lessons have been learned and there is a high degree of confidence that the operation of our administrative headquarters is fit for purpose and well placed for the future demands that will undoubtedly be made upon it.

Turning to membership, the difficulties of recruitment and retention being experienced by the Craft and Royal Arch can so easily make us all worried about what the future holds for the Orders administered by Mark Masons' Hall.

It is encouraging to see that whilst some of the MMH Orders have exhibited a small net reduction in numbers, and I emphasise small, the overall position across all 9 Orders is positive. So there are grounds for real optimism but we must be careful not to allow that optimism to turn into complacency.

Throughout the length and breadth of the country there is clear evidence of Provincial Heads of Orders taking a more innovative approach to the question of weak and failing Lodges. Those on the brink of failure are now being actively targeted for a new purpose. For example, there have been many recent instances of weak Lodges being turned over to special interests such as classic motor vehicles, musicians. The result of this approach has been to retain Lodges on the Active Roll while at the same time attracting new Brethren to our Orders enticed by the focus upon a special interest.

In just a few days' time we will witness significant change at the highest level in the Mark Degree with a new Pro Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Assistant Grand Master being appointed. Additionally, a new Grand Secretary will be invested and together this marks the beginning of a new chapter in the history of Mark Masons' Hall.

The Grand Secretary Designate has set communication and openness as two of his key priorities along with continuing to work closely with other Masonic Orders. The increased use of technology to benefit the administration of our Orders and make life easier for the membership is also high on the agenda.

A key part of the new technology strategy will be the further development of Keystone On Line. In the coming weeks we can expect news of the launch of online Installation Returns which will significantly improve Unit and Provincial administration routines. Enhanced reporting functionality is planned to enable users to interrogate the database and extract reports on membership profiles and long service achievements.

A quick look at the GLMMM website leaves you feeling quite underwhelmed at how outdated and non-user friendly the shop windows of our Orders is. Development of a new website has been in plan for the last year or so but other more important technological priorities forced the construction of a new website onto the back burner. The Grand Secretary Designate has identified this as a key area for development and work will shortly begin on finalising the build specification for a new website. When launched, the new site will provide a much-improved secretarial hub for Lodge Secretaries will full access to online forms; the ability to book dining for Grand Lodge events will be available through a dedicated booking portal; online access to the Constitutions & Regulations will be a feature but only to view and search. With these developments, it is hoped that the Orders administered from MMH will present a more inviting shop window to the world in general and provide enhanced functionality for existing members.

Publications – work is already well advanced on improving the look and feel of the various ritual books published by MMH. This work will be completed by the end of the year by which time the plan to move all print related activity in house will also be complete. This will drive cost savings and deliver greater efficiencies. Coupled with the appointment of a new Assistant Year Book Editor the long desired plan to issue Year Books within 8 weeks of each Order's annual meeting should be achievable.

Building for the future is high on the agenda and the Grand Secretary Designate has already been implementing a new staffing structure. This structure, once fully rolled out, will be strengthened by several additional new posts which will provide greater flexibility to cope with periods of high demand. It will bring a more diverse skill set into play and dovetail with the other changes I have already mentioned to provide a more forward looking organisation.

So, Brethren, the future looks bright. We must continue to support and encourage suitably qualified individuals to join the Craft and Royal Arch as it from these breeding grounds that we see our membership.

2017 might well be called the year of change but the change we see is change for the better.