



The St Nicholas Lodge Bugle

February 2024



Dear Brethren!

It still feels like a bit like Winter at the moment but signs of Spring and life are starting to appear after a pretty wet Winter.

It certainly didn't feel like Winter at the St Nicholas Lodge on Wednesday as we initiated our first candidate of 2024 in the person of Daniel Vass, proposed by Bro. James Hayward. Bro. Daniel was treated to a first class ceremony, led by a high standard set by our Worshipful Master, Roger Kaye.

Bro. Daniel looked like he had a great evening with the entrusting by W. Bro. Ron T Penny, the North East Corner done by Bro. Tony Luddon, the Working Tools by Bro. James Hayward, and the Charge by W. Bro. Jamie Wallis. Special shout out to our Junior Deacon, Bro. Nev Chambers who ensured the candidate was well looked after.





Images by Bro Nev Chambers

The evening was well attended by 20 guests from 7 lodges who enjoyed our hospitality at the festive board. The adamantine chain was explained by W.Bro Chris Blackman and the brethren were in full voice for the entered apprentice song.

A great evening and a special welcome to our new made Brother, Bro Daniel Vass, we hope you have many happy years in masonry.





Lodge of Instruction

The next lodge of instruction will be held on Monday 19th February at 6:30pm in the upper temple. Officers will remain as they currently are and we will be going through a first degree ceremony with some daily advancement. Please let W. Bro Jamie Wallis know if you are unable to attend or would like to try your hand at ritual.

- **March**

In March we will aim to initiate Mr Jay Williamson- Jones, proposed by Bro Lee Holmes.

- **April**

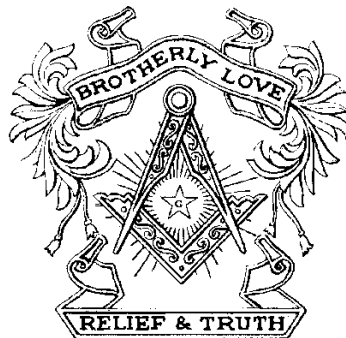
A double initiation in April for Mr Alex Blackman and Mr Heath Samples proposed by W. Bro Chris Blackman.

Social Committee

An exciting line up of social events are planned for 2024. The first date to be confirmed will be the St Nicholas Lodge Ladies Night, scheduled to take place at the Crown Spa Hotel, on Saturday 16th November.

Lodge Committee

The next meeting of St Nicholas Lodge Committee – which is open to all lodge members – will be held on Tuesday 27th February. Venue tbc.



Charity



Lodge Raffle

The Festive Board raffle proceeds went to Westway Open Arms in Eastfield which raised a fantastic £140.00 as these funds are much needed by them. This combined with last month raises £236.00 for the organisation. This time of year is equally as important as donations and funds tend to drop off after the festive period.

Solomon



The brethren, new and existing are strongly encouraged to use the free online tool from United Grand Lodge, called Solomon. It's a free tool and enables you to learn more about this fascinating craft, with nuggets and modules, and you can customise what you can view.

It's a great addition to your masonic journey, and enables you to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge and your time in Masonry more enjoyable. It is highly recommended.

[Getting Started with Solomon \(ugle.org.uk\)](http://ugle.org.uk)

You can view the different degrees and learn more about the ceremonies you have been through. Try using these QR codes for quick access.



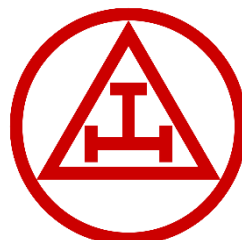


Chapter



The next meeting Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch of Jerusalem, Denison Chapter 1248 will take place on 14th February. We are delighted to be exalting our very own Bro. Danny Emmott!

Should you would like to know more and are interested in joining chapter, an essential part of your masonic journey, please contact our Chapter representative, W. Bro John White.



Daily Advancement – Masonic Aprons



The wearing of an apron is a time immemorial tradition and takes its rise from operative stonemasons who would wear aprons to protect their clothing a body in the work place and also white gloves to protect themselves from the lime– an early form of Health & Safety if you like.

Aprons were traditionally made from lambskin and is symbolic of peace, innocence and friendship. More importantly in modern masonic terms, the modern apron is the badge of membership for Freemasons. The design of the aprons you see today were set in 1825, and become more elaborate as you progress through the ranks of freemasonry.

There are three degrees in Freemasonry with an apron representing each degree.

The first is an **entered apprentice** who would wear a plain white apron, originally lambskin, pure white without fault or stain, representing innocence and purity of heart.

The second is what is known as a **Fellow Craft** and is now adorned with two rosettes or an immortal rose said to represent the dual nature of man, the Jekyll & Hyde Complex. Incidentally the writer of that book, Robert Louis Stevenson was also a Freemason.

The third degree is the **Master Mason**, now with three rosettes, said to signify the 'The Body', 'The Soul' and 'The Spirit', a Trinity now complete and in the form of a triangle now surrounded by a blue border representing a greater light, such as knowledge.

The aprons become more elaborate the higher and more experienced you become in Masonry, for example the dark blue you see in lodge marks out officer's of Provincial Grand Lodge and the even more elaborate of Grand Lodge.

The design of the aprons differ around the world but are variations of the same and have similar symbolism. In England for example the aprons are worn over the jacket in lodges and in Scotland and Ireland under the jacket as they say working masons take off their jackets before putting on their aprons.

Despite these differences the one thing that unites us is our regard of the apron as an honourable garment and one of which we treasure.

Yours fraternally

Jamie Wallis

Editor

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