

DUKE OF CORNWALL LODGE
No. 1529
ST COLUMB



150th Anniversary

1875 to 2025

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The Duke of Cornwall Lodge was granted its warrant on 17th January 1875, consecrated on 17th August 1875 and granted its Centenary warrant on 25th October 1975. It is based in St. Columb Major, commonly known to the locals simply as St Columb.



Origins of the Town

The town of St. Columb and the Parish Church are most likely named after Columba, an Irish Princess who had embraced Christianity and fled from Ireland in the 6th Century to escape the hateful attentions of a Pagan Prince. An alternative version is that she arrived from Scotland. However, both legends have it that she landed at St. Columb Porth (now Mawgan Porth) and followed the stream to its source at Ruthvoes (pronounced Ruthers). There she suffered martyrdom, beheaded by her pursuers, who had chased her from her landing place.

The town and the Parish Church adopted her as their Saint and she is celebrated annually in November. Her memorial, the Columba Celtic Cross, which dates from the 10th Century, can be found in the churchyard. The current church building dates from the 14th Century and has a 15th Century tower of 4 stages.

The place name, Sancta Columba, was first recorded in the 13th Century and was a town by Royal Charter. In 1333 Edward III granted a market in St. Columb to Sir John Arundell of Lanherne, who was believed to have been rewarded for supplying troops to fight the Scottish at the Battle of Halidon Hill, near Berwick on Tweed.

In earlier times St Columb was located on one of the main east-west routes across Cornwall and provided an option to avoid the bleak journey across Bodmin Moor. However, by the nineteenth century travel had become safer and the town was later by-passed by the railway.

Nonetheless, in the 1870s St. Columb was a thriving market town of great importance, being in the centre of a large agricultural community. Cattle and farm produce were brought into the town to be sold not only at the weekly market but also at the Annual Fair in November. To supply the needs of the community and all who visited the market from the surrounding area, as well as the many residents, there were numerous small shopkeepers, traders and merchants; and it would appear that a great deal of business was transacted. Their success was in part due to the fact that St. Columb was also on the turnpike and was a stopping place for the mail coach. Indeed St Columb was mooted at the time as the site of the first Cathedral in the County and the Bishop's Palace, now known as the Old Rectory, was re-built near the Bridge area, at the eastern end of the town.

The beginning of the Lodge

To cater for the traveller and his horse in the 1870s there were a number of hostelrys in St. Columb. The largest was the Red Lion Hotel, which boasted an Assembly Room, where a number of business meetings and social functions were held.

It was at the Red Lion Hotel in 1875 that a group of gentlemen met to consider the formation of a Masonic Lodge in the town. It was decided to petition the Grand Master for a warrant constituting a lodge to be called the Duke of Cornwall Lodge and meeting at the Red Lion Hotel on a Wednesday “on or after the full moon”. It is reported that the timing was chosen to enable farmers, traders and residents to make their journey to and from Lodge easier by the light of the moon. It also seems likely that the annual Installation took place in November to coincide with the Annual Fair and celebration of St. Columba. No records have been found to determine why the chosen name was the Duke of Cornwall, but given that the Duchy of Cornwall was established by Edward III in 1337, just after the granting of the market to Sir John Arundell, it is likely that it was intended both to pay homage to the Duchy and to promote the town as the potential site of the Cathedral.

The first members to whom the warrant was granted were Bros: -
Henry F. Whitefield; Thomas Parkyn; Nicholas Grose, Jnr and Robert Varcoe of Peace & Harmony (No. 496); William Polkinhorn, Thomas Hicks, Richard Rowe, and John Buckthought of Phoenix (No.331); Henry J. James and John Stribley of Saint Andrew (No.1151); W. Henry Martyn, Silvanus Trevail, Francis Retallick, and Thomas Hawken of One and All (No. 330); William Goodfellow of Yarborough, London (No.554); and Joseph Woolcot.

The Duke of Cornwall Lodge No. 1529 was duly consecrated on 17 August 1875 by the Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, assisted by Provincial Officers, W. Bros. E. T. Carlyon, T. Chirgwin and H. G. Colvill.

After the Consecration Ceremony, Bro. Chirgwin took the Chair as Installing Master and ably installed Bro. Thomas Hawken as the first Worshipful Master of the new Lodge. His first duty was to appoint his officers for the ensuing year. W. Bro. Thomas Geach, P. M. of St Matthew (now Restormel) Lodge (No. 856), who had been invested by the Provincial Grand Master as a Past Master of the Duke of Cornwall Lodge, was then appointed as Immediate Past Master by W. Bro. Thomas Hawken.

List of Officers: -

W. Bro. Thomas Hawken	Worshipful Master
W. Bro. Thomas Geach	Immediate Past Master
Bro. Thomas Hicks	Senior Warden & Treasurer
Bro. Thomas Parkyn	Junior Warden
Bro. John Stribley	Director of Ceremonies
Bro. Henry F. Whitefield	Senior Deacon & Secretary
Bro. Henry J. James	Junior Deacon
Bro. Silvanus Trevail	Inner Guard
Bro. W. Henry Martyn	Steward
Bro. Richard Rowe	Steward
Bro. John Buckthought	Tyler

At the conclusion of Lodge business about 60 Brethren dined at the Red Lion Hotel, with the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe presiding.

On 15th September 1875 the first regular Lodge meeting assembled and a committee was formed to draft the original by-laws, which were presented at the next Meeting on 20th October and were approved by W. Bro. Thomas Hawken and all the brethren present. Six months later certain modifications were made and members were asked to return their printed copies of by-laws for amendment, a process that endured more or less unchanged until modern times as By-laws were revised to suit the needs of the Lodge.

The first annual installation and banquet in celebration of the Festival of St. John as held at the Red Lion Hotel on 23rd November, 1875. At the outset there was a separate and earlier regular meeting in November; the Festival of St. John being fully dedicated to the installation of the new Master and the appointment of his officers.

The Festival of St. John is derived from Freemasons' historical celebration of two saints; namely John the Baptist on 24th June, and that of John the Evangelist on 27th December, roughly marking mid-summer and mid-winter respectively. During the 18th Century, the Premier Grand Lodge of England (Moderns) favoured St. John the Baptist, who was regarded as the patron of stonemasons, and the first Grand Lodge was formed on 24th June 1717. The Antient Grand Lodge installed their Grand Masters on the feast day of John the Evangelist. When the Antients and Moderns merged in 1813 to become the United Grand Lodge, it occurred on the Feast of St. John the Evangelist.

The Early Years

During the first few months many candidates were proposed and the first to be initiated were Charles Hawke, Grocer and General Merchant, Daniel Arthur Browne, Independent Minister, who was appointed Chaplain in 1876 and continued to act as such for the first few years, William W. Howard, High Bailiff, and Alexander Dingle Blamey, Farmer and Merchant.

By the end of the year in the new lodge were a schoolmaster, butcher, accountant, farmers, innkeepers and master mariners who lived in St. Columb and the neighbouring parishes of Padstow, St. Issey, St. Wenn and Roche. At the end of the first year there were 26 members. Two of the candidates were described as "Gentlemen" and one as "of no occupation". The first joining member, in November, was E. W. Brydges Wilyams of the Apollo Lodge, Oxford and Phoenix, described as "Esquire". Subsequently many more candidates were proposed, some were withdrawn, one rejected and some were renominated after rectifying unfortunate mistakes in the balloting procedure.

Interestingly, while new members were joining others were leaving; some through going to live elsewhere in England or going abroad and others through being in arrears with their subscriptions.

On 3rd January 1877 it was unanimously agreed *“That the place of the holding the Duke of Cornwall Lodge be removed from the Red Lion Hotel to the building in Victoria Street”*. Approval had already been given earlier in the meeting to the committee’s report regarding alterations necessary to convert the former Chapel into suitable Lodge premises. In order to complete the purchase of the Chapel and to carry out alterations and additions as recommended, the committee was authorised to borrow the sum of £200 either by way of mortgage or Bonds, and it was resolved in the first instance that brethren of the Lodge or their families be invited to subscribe to the loan.



Many presents were donated for the Lodge furnishings, among them being the wooden pillars at the Temple entrance by Bro. Henry Whitefield; the tessellated pavement by Bro. E. W. Brydges Willyams; and a portrait of the Grand Master, H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, by the then Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Thomas Hicks. However, the acquisition of the new Lodge created a number of financial problems and as each issue of Bonds became due for repayment, further money was borrowed. It was not until 17th July 1918, 40 years on, that the Lodge was in the pleasant position of financial freedom.



At the celebration of the Festival of St. John on 23rd November 1877, when Bro. Henry Whitefield was installed as Worshipful Master, the Provincial Grand Master, the Rt. Hon. The Earl of St Germans, with officers of Provincial Grand Lodge, performed the dedication service. This was witnessed by a large number of members and visiting brethren. To mark the occasion the banquet was held in the Town Hall.

For his year in the Chair, W. Bro. Whitefield, an attorney by profession, dedicated the magnificent frieze in the east of the Temple, which depicts the thirty-three degrees of Freemasonry; the thirty-three years of Jesus. With the ornate Master's chair and pedestal, which are replicated by those of the Senior and Junior Wardens, it remains an enduring symbol and reminder of our history.

On 9th November, 1880, five years after becoming the first joining member, Bro. E. W. Brydges Willyams, M P, was installed as Worshipful Master. His nephew, Bro. E. N. Willyams, also a joining member, would later rise even further!



The Lodge has a symbolic link to Truro Cathedral. On 20th May 1880, the foundation stone of the Cathedral was laid by H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, Grand Master, and the ceremony was attended by the Banner officers and fourteen brethren. According to ancient custom, the Worshipful Master placed on the foundation stone the sum of £4 as a contribution from the Lodge.

In 1884/85 there was an unfortunate occurrence. Bro. G. Bray was installed as Worshipful Master on 18th November 1884 at the Annual Festival, but after presiding at the following meeting he requested his clearance. Following a kerfuffle over his clearance and other issues, it was decided to expunge his name from the register for un-masonic conduct, which is why he does not appear on the Past Masters' Board.

In 1884 it was agreed to procure an Alexandra harmonium "*if funds permit*" and in 1886 a committee was given power to carry out structural repairs "*as cheaply as possible consistent with good workmanship, also if funds will admit such decorative repairs as are necessary*". It turned out that the floor of the Lodge was found to be in a dangerous state and although the cost of putting it right was more than anticipated, it was agreed that it must be done. Many minor repairs were carried out to eliminate draughts, cure dampness and generally make the Lodge more attractive and comfortable.

In 1898 a new carpet was proposed and approved, but four years later it was found to be damaged by moths. The harmonium, which seemed to be in constant need of repair, was provided with a cover and with castors to facilitate moving and it is recorded that a mirror was provided for the ante-room at a cost of 7/7d and a small looking glass and towel for the lavatory.

During the First World War the Lodge responded to appeals for the Belgian Relief Fund, for aid in Prisoner of War Camps and contributed towards a motor ambulance provided by the Province. The war over, W. Bro. T. W. Gatley was the Lodge's representative on the St Columb Peace Commission.

A big change occurred to the Temple in 1917. A tender of £22/10/- was accepted for alterations to the original Chapel balcony on the west wall to make it into an ante-room. Being wartime a permit was needed for materials, but some battens were obtained at a sale for £4/16/9 and a door and table were given for the new room.

The use of the Lodge premises was granted to the Mark Masons in 1917 and, then in 1919, it was proposed and approved that a Mark Lodge be attached to the Duke of Cornwall Lodge.

On the 8th February 1922 it was agreed to purchase cottages and land adjoining the Lodge, freehold, for the sum of £80 and a further £5 was spent on repairs. In 1925 there is a record of *“removing thatch and fixing a lean to roof over passage”*.

In 1924 it was agreed to present the Worshipful Master with a Past Masters Jewel on his retiring from the Chair at a cost of £4/11/-, the cost being met by a subscription of 2/- from 28 of the Members and the balance from the Lodge.

In the early years, the number of officers, other than the progressive ones, were fewer than in the current era, and restricted to Treasurer, Secretary and Director of Ceremonies (DC). A Chaplain was sometimes appointed, but not as an established office until 1884. Even the DC seemed to be a junior position, with inexperienced members often appointed. It was not until 1908 that a Past Master was appointed as DC. There was also less rigidity on occupying more than one office; with Bro. Thomas Hicks being both Senior Warden and Treasurer, and Bro. Henry Whitefield being both Senior Deacon and Secretary. Further, it remained common during the early years to have a separate “Festival of St John” Installation.

In 1892 one Lodge meeting was abandoned because of a very small attendance and in 1904 many members were unable to attend the Annual Festival due to inclement weather. The shortest meeting on record is that of June 1912; which opened at 7.30 pm and closed at 7.40 pm; the previous Minutes having been duly read and approved.

In the early 20th Century, almost signifying the Lodge’s coming of age, the Secretary was instructed to issue a more elaborate summons and proper Emulation was adopted as the working ritual of the Lodge.

Emulation working created the foundation for the modern Lodge. Membership had increased to 41 in 1899, but stagnated and dropped slightly until the conclusion of the First World War. Membership then rose sharply to over 70, before drifting back to 65 in 1924. By the end of 1924, since formation, a total of 201 members had been recorded in the Lodge Register.

Reigning Masters in the Early Years

1875	T. Hawken	1900	T. B. Liddicoat
1876	T. Hicks	1901	F. T. Harvey
1877	H. F. Whitefield	1902	W. T. Truscott
1878	D. A. Brown	1903	W. J. Powell
1879	C. Hawke	1904	P. T. Hoblyn
1880	E. W. B. Willyams, MP	1905	A. B. Gatley
1881	W. W. Howard	1906	A. Goldsworthy
1882	J. Best	1907	I. Tremewan
1883	T. Gatley	1908	E. R. E. Whiting
1884	G. Bray (T. Gatley)	1909	V. H. Ellis
1885	J. James	1910	W. C. Thomas
1886	W. Hortop	1911	V. H. Ellis
1887	E. F. Whitley	1912	W. T. Julian
1888	R. Drew	1913	A. Voss
1889	F. E. Remfry	1914	J. Kneebone
1890	W. R. May	1915	W. J. Rickeard
1891	E. W. Carus Wilson	1916	R. White
1892	E. Rickard	1917	R. G. Thomas
1893	C. Brewer	1918	S. Barlow
1894	J. R. Evans	1919	C. H. Hawke
1895	G. Burrow	1920	G.D. Box
1896	H. J. Rowse	1921	J. D. Thomas
1897	J. King Martyn	1922	J. Bond
1898	W. W. Crossman	1923	E. J. Roberts
1899	R E. Griffiths	1924	F. H. Williams

Many early members gave excellent service to the Lodge and it is only right that we should record their contributions; sometimes for a year or two, sometimes switching senior offices, and some over decades in multiple capacities.

Chaplains*

1876-77	D. A. Brown	1895-96	F. T. Harvey
1884-86	W. W. Howard	1897	P. T. Hoblyn
1887-88	W. E. Paget Hoblyn	1898	T. B. Liddicoat
1889	E. W. Caris Wilson	1899	F. T. Harvey
1890	R. Drew	1900	W. T. Truscott
1891-92	Rev. J. J. Gratrex	1901-16	G. Burrow
1893	H. J. Rowse	1917-19	E. R. E Whiting
1894	G. Burrow	1920-24	Rev. S. J. Childs Clarke

Treasurers*

1875	T. Hicks	1880-87	H. F. Whitefield
1876-77	C. Hawke	1888-23	T. Gatley
1878-79	C. Best	1924	V. H. Ellis

Secretaries*

1875	H. F. Whitefield	1889	E. Rickard
1876-77	W. W. Howard	1890-91	G. Burrow
1878-79	T. Gatley	1892-93	J. King Martyn
1880	T. Crapp	1894-95	J. H. Crapp
1881	E. F. Whiteley	1896-97	W. Oke
1882-83	W. Hortop	1898	W. J. Powell
1884-85	J. B. Old	1899	P. J. Hoblyn
1886	R. Drew	1916-22	V. H. Ellis
1887	W. R. May	1923-24	S. H. Tamblyn
1888	J. R. Evans		

* Years appointed

In 1917 the practice of experienced and longer-term Director of Ceremonies became evident for the first time; with W. Bro. P. T. Hoblyn remaining in post until 1926. The formal office of Almoner was first established a year later, perhaps coinciding with the with end of World War 1, and W. Bro. T. Gatley filled the role until 1924.

We come to the end of the early years with the fitting tribute recorded to W. Bro. Thomas Gatley, the Treasurer of the Lodge for 36 years. It reads: -

“One who was beloved of all the Brethren for his conduct and hearty manner. He always took the keenest interest in the work of the Lodge and his voice, coming from the N. E. corner on Initiation Nights, will be sadly missed. He, the Father of the Duke of Cornwall Lodge was called to the Grand Lodge above on August 7th, 1924 after long illness.”

W. Bros. Whitefield, Ellis, Crossman and Gatley, in particular, we salute you for your foresight, skill and efforts in establishing the Lodge.



The Middle Years

The Minutes make no mention of any particular celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Lodge, with the Annual Festival being held at the Red Lion Hotel as before. However, in a sign of changing times, the first record of a Ladies Night was in early 1925, though deferred until the Autumn. It is unclear if it did go ahead that year, but the first confirmed Ladies Night did take place after the Lodge Meeting of March 1926 at the Red Lion Hotel, with the attendees *“separating in good cheer at 11.50”*.

A new Banner was purchased for £18 in 1926. The original banner was loaned on several occasions in the 1890's to Mount Sinai Lodge, Penzance, to help decorate premises on the occasion of their Annual Ball, but its fate was not recorded and it is assumed just to be the fair wear and tear after 50 years of use.

The autumn of 1932 saw the biggest change to the Lodge Building since its acquisition in 1877. The balcony, with its converted ante-room, was removed and a new dining room extension was built. The tender of £567/15/- was accepted, being the lowest and most local. In addition central heating was installed at a cost of £80 and new iron gates were made by Bro. W. Higman. The upheaval caused the Lodge to move to the Church Hall while the alterations took place.

W. Bro. A. Rawlings, Provincial Grand Secretary, formally opened the new ante-room on 11th January 1933, with a silver key presented to him by the contractor, W. Bro. J. Bond, St Columb, when a large number of members and visiting brethren were present.

To pay for the extension a bank overdraft was obtained as an interim measure, whilst a mortgage was arranged. The debt was paid off over time, being finally redeemed towards the end of 1942, whereupon the Deeds of the Lodge were proudly produced before being deposited for safe keeping with Barclays Bank, St Columb.

In 1935 the Lodge was registered with the Local Authority as a Club, so that intoxicating liquor could be sold and consumed on Lodge nights.

Sadly, a problem occurred in early 1938 when the ball valve failed on the boiler system, causing the boiler to burn out. After deliberations and advice on the requisite capacity, a new boiler was acquired and fitted later that year for the sum of £25/19/11.

To reflect changing times, new By-laws were adopted in 1938, eventually following the model form produced by Grand Lodge.

Unsurprisingly, there were few developments during the Second World War years, and there were no references to it at all until 1947, when a list of members was recorded, totalling about 90 who had undertaken some form of National Service, ranging from Home Guard and Air Raid Protection Warden to active Regiments.



The Lodge has a long association with the Duke of Cornwall Lodge, London No. 1839. The precise origin is unknown, but in 1946 their Master and Secretary were elected honorary members of our Lodge, which has promoted exchange visits that continue to this day.

In 1947, W. Bro. J. Bond presented a gift of the “DC’s Chair” to match that of the Deacons and to mark his 30th Anniversary in the Lodge.

The Master’s Chair in the ante or dining room was presented in 1952 by Bro. T. E. Meager of St Petroc’s Lodge and later the seascape painting, which sits above the Master’s Chair was donated in honour of W. Bro. R. O. Bonney, another great stalwart of the Lodge, who resigned as Treasurer in 1983 and passed away in 1984 after 51 years in the Lodge.



In 1955 the property adjoining the Lodge, including 3 derelict cottages, was offered free of charge. It was considered that it would make an excellent car park for about 20 cars. Moreover, the costs involved to complete the work would be less than £300. The offer was gratefully accepted, the cottages demolished and the site duly made up into a car park.

Membership in the middle years steadily increased. By 1930 the total had reached 91, and it remained in the 90's until 1944, when it rose to 104. Within 2 years of the Second World War ending it had jumped to 131 and by 1956 it had peaked at 158. Thereafter, it started to decline, but still remained at 130 in 1974. During the middle years ending in 1974, the Lodge Register records a total of 273 men having either joined or been initiated into the Lodge.

Towards the end of the middle years, for the only time on record, in 1972 a mistake was made on Initiation, when W. Bro. B. B. Kessell was not divested of all metallic substance on entering the Lodge and the first part of the ceremony had to be repeated. There was also an unfortunate incident in May 1975, when a Candidate, who was waiting in the ante-room, was rejected at the requisite ballot and had to be informed to leave the building. Unsurprisingly this caused considerable angst as to why the unfavourable sentiment had not manifested itself earlier and prevented such an unsavoury episode. It was therefore informally resolved that, thereafter, no ballot for and initiation of a Candidate should occur on the same evening; a policy that endures to the present day.

The Lodge has had some very fine Masons over the years, but only two members have achieved Grand Rank. In 1949, W. Bro. S. H. Tamblyn was appointed PGStB and he was followed shortly afterwards by Lt. Col. E. N. Willyams, who had been appointed Provincial Senior Grand Warden in 1933, and was appointed as Provincial Grand Master in 1952, a position he held until 1964. The Minute book records: -

“That the Duke of Cornwall Lodge No 1529 desire to place on their Minute Book their Cordial and Sincere Congratulations and a Hearty expression of their Great Appreciation that: -

R. W. Bro. Edward Neynoe Willyams D.S.O. DL, PGD, who occupied the chair of our Lodge in 1930 has received and accepted the high

Office of R. W. Provincial Grand Master of Cornwall and was duly installed on May 15 by the M. W. Grand Master, the Earl of Scarborough."



As in the early years, several members in the middle years have made a lasting impression on our Lodge. The two Grand Officers have already been mentioned, though the service of W. Bro. Tamblyn as Treasurer for 6 years, Secretary for 21 years and Almoner for 27 years should also be highlighted. In addition, we are indebted to W. Bros. Bond, Crapp, Husband, and Osborne for their contributions to the Lodge in the middle years. Finally towards the end of the period, W. Bros. R. O. Bonney and K. I. Williams became established as senior officers and the vanguard to take the Lodge into the later years. In total, W. Bro. R. O. Bonney served 24 years (to 1983) as Treasurer and W. Bro. K. I. Williams served 22 years (to 1989) as Director of Ceremonies.

Reigning Masters in the Middle Years*

1925	C. Jenkin	1950	E. H. Glasson
1926	W. Crapp	1951	J. Smith
1927	S. H. Tamblyn	1952	J. Shipton
1928	J. E. Trebilcock	1953	G. K. Hore
1929	R. Gatley	1954	W. Solomon
1930	Lt-Col E. N. Willyams	1955	E. T. Williams
1931	A. W. L. Husband	1956	A. D. Halls
1932	W. J. Julian	1957	H. Kessell
1933	J. P. Goldsworthy	1958	A. Hoskins
1934	W. Richards	1959	Rev. A. Sykes
1935	R. R. Yelland	1960	S. Hore
1936	C. Old	1961	H. T. Bray
1937	J. A. Goodman	1962	C. Bray
1938	C. Tregonning	1963	C. S. Smith
1939	J. F. Walkey	1964	K. I. Williams
1940	P. J. Furse	1965	R. H. Bunt
1941	H. E. Bennallack	1966	R. L. Williams
1942	H. Burt	1967	P. T. Common
1943	W. Higman	1968	T. R. Olver
1944	W. J. Osborne	1969	W. J. Job
1945	W. V. Smale	1970	I. Birkett
1946	J. J. Salmon	1971	W. D. D. Snell
1947	R. O. Bonney	1972	B. J. Glasson
1948	C. H. Roberts	1973	G. J. Harris
1949	W. R. Veall	1974	C. Burnett

Treasurers *

1925-26	E. Warne	1948	J. Bond
1927	W. Crapp	1949-59	A. C. Burt
1928-33	S. H. Tamblyn	1960-74	R. O. Bonney
1934-47	A. W. L. Husband		

Chaplains*

1925	Rev S. J. Childs Clarke	1949-56	Rev. A. Sykes
1926-30	C. H. Hawke	1957	W. Crapp
1931-32	J. E. Trebilcock	1958-61	J. Smith
1933	C. H. Hawke	1962-63	W. Crapp
1934	W. Crapp	1964	W. J. Osborne
1935-37	F. H. Williams	1965	W. Solomon
1938	G. D. Box	1966	K. I. Williams
1939-43	J. E. Trebilcock	1967-74	H. T. Bray
1944-48	W. Crapp		

Secretaries*

1925-33	V. H. Ellis	1957-61	J. B. Tremain
1934-54	S. H. Tamblyn	1962-72	J. Smith
1955-56	E. H. Glasson	1973-74	W. D. D. Snell

Director of Ceremonies*

1925-26	P. T. Hoblyn	1944-46	R. R. Yelland
1927	J. Bond	1947-48	W. Crapp
1928-31	E. J. Roberts	1949-63	W. J. Osborne
1932	F. H. Williams	1964	F. H. Williams
1933-40	J. Bond	1965-66	W. J. Osborne
1941-43	W. Crapp	1967-74	K. I. Williams

Almoners*

1925-26	P. T. Hoblyn	1958	C. S. Smith
1927	J. Bond	1962-65	E. H. Glasson
1928-44	S. H. Tamblyn	1967-70	H. Kessell
1945	W. K. Thomas	1971-72	B. H. Miller
1946-54	S. H. Tamblyn	1973-74	W. J. Job
1955-56	E. H. Glasson		

* Years appointed

The Later Years

The later years effectively began with the Centenary of the Lodge, which was celebrated in October 1975. A service of thanksgiving was held in St. Columb Parish Church and attended by the Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Col. E. Perry Morgan, and officers of Provincial Grand Lodge, together with many members and visiting brethren. The opening address was given by W. Bro. Cedric Burnett, the Reigning Master, and proved to be a memorable occasion.

However, it heralded significant changes in Freemasonry, particularly on Lodge membership numbers. Unfortunately, in part, it appears to be an unintended consequence of the laudable initiative to establish more lodges across the Province and so enable easier and faster masonic progression. The number of new lodges in the Province since 1975 has increased by about 20%, with many more side orders having been established since then too. It is clear though that the major impact has come from improved living standards, greater societal choice and technological change, which have combined to bring many different demands and challenges - some good: some less so.

The 20% decline in Lodge membership from the peak in the 1950s to 1975 has sadly continued. From 127 members in 1975, our membership dropped to 101 in 1995. By 2000 it was 76 and it fell to 53 in 2020, when Covid-19 hit. Despite several new and younger members since, natural passage and resignation meant that by mid-2025 it had dropped to 45 members. Although this does not make good reading, the Lodge remains well supported and vibrant and at the higher levels of individual membership within the Province.

One positive change is that this has effectively led to attempts to improve utilisation of the building by attracting new lodges and orders, which has financially secured the viability of the Lodge. In 1989 permission was given for a new Lodge, the Agricultural Lodge of Cornwall (No. 9342), to be formed and consecrated at St Columb.

This was followed by the Lodge of the Chisel (No. 9398) in 1990, which later moved away, the Duke of Cornwall Chapter (No. 1529) in March 1994 and Pydar Conclave Order of the Secret Monitor (No. 395), in February 1995. More recently, following their venue loss in Padstow, St Petroc Lodge (No. 1785), has adopted the Temple at St Columb.

To meet the needs of the increased usage and the age related shortcomings of the building, significant alterations were made in 1995/96 with the extension and improvement of the kitchen area and toilet facilities. The building work was largely done by W. Bro. Eric Grose and the kitchen fitting was undertaken by W. Bro Peter Biddick. The final cost, which was met through donations from the members of the Lodge and fundraising activities, came in under the £10k budget at £9,118, aided in no small way by W. Bro. John Burt, who painted the outside walls gratis, and other voluntary help from Lodge members.



About the same time, W. Bro. Peter Biddick built and fitted the Bar in the south-west corner of the Dining Room, which remains virtually unchanged to today, and provides secure storage and serving facilities. In keeping with the original alcohol licence, the Bar operates under a Club Licence and, currently, the Licensing Act 2003, for members of all the lodges and their guests using the building.



Some other contemporary improvements have also taken place. In 1996 a new display case was installed in the Dining Room, where a window recess had previously stood before the alterations, and a new cooker was obtained via W. Bro. I. R. Veall and installed by Bro. A. J. Scott. In 1997 Bro. R. A. Pugh, the then lodge organist, presented the lodge with a Kawai electric organ that remains in full working order to the present time.

Since then the Lodge has maintained its continual improvement process as funds have allowed. In 2000 the entrance of the Car Park was widened and the ground resurfaced with tarmac at a cost of £3,000. New gates were supplied and fitted by W. Bro. Peter Minear at a cost of £1,000, which has ensured a good degree of security for the premises. Windows have been replaced and electric closures added, thanks to the support of Bros. Nick Bennett and Steve Michell. Kitchen hygiene was improved in 2015 with stainless steel splashbacks etc. The internal walls of the Temple were re-painted in 2016 at a cost of £1,000 and again in 2023. During Covid-19 lockdown the floorboards and related joists in the SE Corner of the Temple were replaced at a modest cost and surfaces previously affected by damp re-painted. In 2017 the Lodge purchased a defibrillator for £950. An automated Fire Alarm System was installed at a cost of £930 in 2019 along with the associated emergency evacuation procedures and signage implemented.

Externally, repair work was undertaken in early 2017 to remedy a problem with roof slates and battens at a cost of £2,500. Then, in 2018 the gas central heating boiler was replaced and the boiler-house refurbished, with the concrete chimney removed and a new slate tile roof installed; and a new gas line installed from the meter to the boiler-house, along with a new kitchen spur. The total project cost was £8,260, which substantially depleted Lodge funds.

However, unfortunately, serious cracks appeared in the Temple ceiling in 2022 after the long hot Summer. The “200-year old” lath & plaster ceiling was therefore removed and replaced with plasterboard in July-August 2023 at a cost of £9,500, including plastering and re-painting. This was made possible with substantial fundraising, financial help from all the lodges using the building and considerable voluntary support by Lodge members.

The Lodge has also continued to be the benefactor of numerous gifts and legacies in the later years. A lectern for the Secretary was donated in memory of W. Bro. R. D. Strongman and W. Bro. L. A. Johns donated

wooden ballot boxes. In 2008 W. Bro. I. R. Veall left a legacy of £10,000 towards the fabric of the building, and W. Bro. Mike Waller used a part to build in cupboards in the Foyer to create storage facilities for the lodges using the building. He also built in a lectern, which is used as the repository for the attendance register. In 2010 and 2018 legacies of £1,000 each were respectively left by Bro. T.M. J. Wearne and W. Bro. W. D. Gilbert.



Circa 2012, lighting was provided by W. Bro. J. G. Grindle for the Temple and Dining Room. In 2014 a new set of working tools and wooden case for the 3 Craft degrees was donated in memory of W. Bro. T. J. R. Trelease. In 2015, courtesy of W. Bro. Dudley Bennett MBE, the Lodge acquired, free of charge due to a Newquay Hotel refurbishment, a full set of replacement tables and chairs for the Dining Room. W. Bro. Dudley also donated a new wall clock for the Temple to mark his year as Provincial Senior Grand Warden in 2018.

With time given voluntarily to undertake a multitude of maintenance tasks, such as lighting and painting, both inside and externally, the list is endless. To those who have gone unmentioned, there is no intent to offend. Suffice to thank each and every one, because all have added to the comfort of the Lodge, and importantly retained its traditional charm and welcoming ambience.

With its broad mix of trades and professions, the Lodge remains representative of the wider local community and continues the great tradition of masonry.

As is evident from the history, the building is old and dates from about 1830, as a former chapel. Although believed to be structurally sound, there are continual age-related issues to be addressed, particularly the Temple roof, which hitherto has been maintained on an ad-hoc basis. Since 2017, to ensure good governance, the Trustees of the building have become proactive by conducting annual inspections of the premises and making recommendations to the Lodge Committee, who in turn submit proposals to the Lodge for approval. With the poor state coming to the fore after the ceiling replacement, the Trustees are currently leading discussions on replacing the roof, which will be the biggest expenditure in the history of the Lodge.

Perhaps the strangest period during the whole history of the Lodge occurred in 2020 when the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic swept across the UK and the Lodge was effectively closed from March 2020 until 1st September 2021. This was something that had not even happened during wartime. The Minute Book reads that:-

“As a result of the suspension of masonic activity by the MW The Grand Master from 17th March 2020 to 17th July 2020 and again from 5th November to 17th May 2021, the Lodge was unable to meet [during those dates as specifically listed in the Minute Book.]”

Furthermore, the Trustees wisely judged that it was unsafe to re-open the Lodge in September and October 2020 or in May and June 2021, and Meetings were formally abandoned.

A consequence of Covid-19 was that W. Bro. Terry Simmonds became our longest serving Reigning Master, with a 3-year tenure from November 2019 to November 2022, which eventually enabled him to complete a full annual set of meetings. He fittingly took the Chair again in November 2024 to lead the Lodge in the 150th Anniversary celebration.

As we reach our 150th Anniversary, one heart-warming tradition has endured from the early and middle years. In the later years, many members have continued to provide immense service to the Lodge in many offices over many years. This included for the first time Charity Stewards, which became formal appointments during the mid-1970s. W. Bro. Barry Kessell and W. Bros. Dudley and Nick Bennett have given great service over the years. They are not alone. W. Bro. Paul Tucker has maintained the tradition of long serving Treasurers, and acted, either formally or behind the scenes as he progressed through the Chair, for over 20 years and is still going. W. Bro. Chris Hawkey, with support from W. Bro. Rob Williams, has replicated the high standards of ritual forged by W. Bro. K. I. Williams in the office of Director of Ceremonies and engrained them for years to come. W. Bro. Ken Foulsham is another who will be long remembered for his dedication as Almoner. However, there is one man who sits above all others during the later years: W. Bro. Glen Harris, who was Chaplain for nearly 50 years until recently incapacitated. There will be hardly anyone in the Lodge during the later years who has not experienced and admired his ritual and, in particular, been left in total awe of his presentation of the Charge after Initiation.

Reigning Masters in the Later Years*

1975	K. Chalkley	2000	R. A. Pugh
1976	R. Sincock	2001	M. Waller
1977	P. G. Terry	2002	R. S. Bunt
1978	J. N. Robson	2003	J. Burt
1979	L. A. Baldchin	2004	N. J. R. Watts
1980	L. A. Johns	2005	P. H. Bazeley
1981	H. C. Strongman	2006	J. G. Grindle
1982	T. J. R. Trelease	2007	K. B. Foulsham
1983	S. G. F. Martin	2008	N. J. Bennett
1984	S. R. Strongman	2009	P. T. Beasley
1985	R. D. Strongman	2010	S. K. Michell
1986	B. B. Kessell	2011	I. P. Tucker
1987	I. G. J. Sherriff	2012	A. G. Hawken
1988	F. J. Brewer	2013	N. R. Westlake
1989	I. R. Veall	2014	R. A. P. Brook
1990	W. J. Scott	2015	A. Teague
1991	E. Grose	2016	P. T. Beasley
1992	E. C. Yexley	2017	N. J. R. Watts
1993	R. H. Williams	2018	P. H. Bazeley
1994	C. J. Hawkey	2019	T. J. Simmonds
1995	E. W. Jayne	2020	T. J. Simmonds
1996	P. Biddick	2021	T. J. Simmonds
1997	K. J. Bazeley	2022	A. Teague
1998	L. C. Rescorla	2023	N. P. Collins
1999	R. D. J. Bennett	2024	T. J. Simmonds

Treasurers*

1975-83	R. O. Bonney	2002	J. Hillier
1984-91	T. J. R. Trelease	2003-06	I. P. Tucker
1992-97	E. T. Wakeham	2007-12	R. H. Williams
1998-01	K. B. Chalkley	2013-24	I. P. Tucker

Chaplains*

1975-23	G. J. Harris	2024	P. H. Bazeley
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Secretaries*

1975-80	W. D. D. Snell	1995-96	J. O. Roberts
1981-83	K. M. Johns	1997-01	E. W. Jayne
1984-86	K. B. Chalkley MBE	2002	R. A. Pugh
1987-88	S. R. Strongman	2003-05	L. C. Rescorla
1989	W. D. D. Snell	2006-09	E. W. Jayne
1990-91	K. Chalkley	2010-14	J. G. Grindle
1992-94	E. W. Jayne	2015-24	A. G Hawken

Director of Ceremonies*

1975-89	K. I. Williams	2003-20	C. J. Hawkey
1990-97	I. G. J. Sherriff	2021-24	P. T. Beasley
1998-02	R. H. Williams		

Charity Stewards*

1975-77	C. J. Burnett	2005	N. J. Bennett
1978-85	P. T. Common	2006-07	I. R. Veall
1986	P. G. Terry	2008-14	R. D. J. Bennett MBE
1987-88	K. Chalkley	2015-23	N. J. Bennett
1989-01	B. B. Kessell	2024	H. A. Dunstan
2002-04	I. R. Veall		

Almoners*

1975-86	W. J. Job	2002-05	E. W. Jayne
1987-92	R. D. Strongman	2006-08	R. S. Bunt
1993-95	F. J. Brewer	2009-20	K. B. Foulsham
1996-99	E. C. Yexley	2021	T. J. King
2000-01	W. J. Scott	2022-24	R. D. J. Bennett MBE

* Years appointed

“Golden” Members**

W. W. Crossman	31-Aug-1892	09-Dec-1946	54 years
A. Williams	30-Oct-1895	19-Jan-1959	63 years
R. R. Yelland	10-Sep-1919	06-Sep-1991	72 years
A. W. L. Husband	09-Apr-1919	03-Apr-1971	52 years
W. R. Veall	02-May-1928	17-Mar-1981	52 years
W. M. H. Powell	24-Oct-1928	02-May-1999	70 years
W. J. Osborne	01-Apr-1931	15-Aug-1982	51 years
R. O. Bonney	17-Jun-1933	28-Dec-1984	51 years
C. H. Roberts	16-Mar-1934	12-Mar-1996	62 years
E. T. Williams	19-Oct-1938	11-Aug-1995	56 years
S. Hore	18-Aug-1943	01-Jun-1994	50 years
H. T. Bray	15-Mar-1944	20-Jun-2009	66 years
C. Bray	16-Mar-1943	10-Jan-1997	53 years
W. E. Roberts	17-Jan-1945	22-Dec-1995	50 years
F. J. Parkin	21-Mar-1945	06-Sep-2012	67 years
R. L. Williams	15-Apr-1946	07-Aug-2016	70 years
L. G. Bunt	20-Aug-1947	25-Feb-2014	63 years
W. T. A. Rundle	21-Oct-1948	01-Aug-2606	57 years
G Richards	14-Nov-1948	10-May-2018	69 years
P. T. Common	23-Aug-1950	15-Feb-2002	51 years
T. R. Olver	20-Sep-1950	**	75 years
T. J. Trevenna	19-Dec-1951	20-Nov-2015	62 years
W. F. Oliver	16-Aug-1952	07-Feb-2009	56 years
G. J. Harris	19-Sep-1956	**	69 years
V. L. G. Brewer	20-Dec-1961	05-Sep-2012	50 years
T. J. R. Trelease	19-Jun-1963	20-Jul-2014	51 years
W. J. B. Rowe	13-Nov-1964	**	60 years
B. B. Kessell	17-May-1972	**	53 years

** as at September 2025 – members with a minimum of 50 years in FM or the Lodge

Holders of the Provincial Grand Master’s Certificates of Service to Freemasonry

1987	K. I. Williams	2006	T. J. R. Trelease
2007	G. J. Harris	2024	C. J. Hawkey

Trustees (2017-2025)

- W. Bro. B. B. Kessell (Chairman)
- W. Bro. C. J. Hawkey
- W. Bro. I. P. Tucker
- W. Bro. M. Waller

This short history of the Lodge concludes with the Golden Members, the people who have each given over 50 years’ service in support of the Lodge, Holders of the PGM’s Certificates of Service to Freemasonry within the Province, and the Trustees, who, from 2017 have taken a proactive approach to their role and responsibilities as custodians of the Building.

All three groups represent the Lodge’s greatest asset as we reach the 150th Anniversary of the Lodge – the people who made it happen in the early years; those who sustained and developed Freemasonry in the middle years; and those who have continued the finest traditions of the Lodge and Freemasonry to this day.

To all those who have passed to the Grand Lodge above and all those who continue to be with us, we say a humble but heartfelt
“Thank you”.



With acknowledgements to: -
W. Bro. Richard Bonney, who compiled the history for the Centenary
Celebration of the Lodge in 1975;
W. Bros. John Grindle and Eric Jayne for their historical notes; and
Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall, for permission to reproduce extracts
from "Thread of Gold" published in 2001.

Compiled by W. Bro. Alan Hawken, Secretary, 2025

The Chapel prior to it becoming our Masonic Hall

The view is of the east wall and the date is believed to be 1877 when it was acquired by the Lodge. The origin is unknown.



Photograph reproduced courtesy of W. Bro. Paul Tucker

