

**THE FREEMASONS CALENDAR AND DIRECTORY**  
**for the PROVINCE OF GLOUCESTER**  
**1945/46**

**CONSECRATION OF THE STAPLE HILL LODGE**  
**NO 6043**

A large number of Brethren assembled at the Masonic Hall, Downend, on Saturday, April 28th, 1945, to inaugurate the Staple Hill Lodge, No. 6043.

The Ceremony of Consecration was carried out by The Provincial Grand Master, R. W.Bro. Capt. F.K. Foster, O.B.E.J.P., assisted by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Capt. Hon. W.R.S.Bathurst, S.G.D., and the Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge.

Amongst the many visitors present were the Provincial Grand Master of Bristol, R. W.Bro.A. C. Powell, and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Bristol, W. Bro. G. Tryon.

The Brethren having assembled at 2.45, The Provincial Grand Master, accompanied by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the Grand Officers and Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge entered in procession.

The Lodge being opened in three degrees, the Consecrating Officer addressed the Brethren as follows :-

"Brethren, we are met to-day in a building founded and established for the purposes of Freemasonry to found and consecrate a new Lodge, taking the name of a nearby locality, where Freemasonry has been practised for many years.

To-day, new seed is being sown in Freemasonry, and its future will materially depend on the care and attention bestowed on it in its early years.

With the Founders lies that responsibility.

You are to be established by Charter in all the Rites and Privileges of Freemasonry; Privileges with which you are familiar, and to be jealously guarded. So be careful with whom you share them; bear in mind the Dignity and High Importance of Freemasonry, and suffer only those who are properly qualified to enjoy our Membership.

The time is approaching - if indeed it is not with us now - when there will be increased application for membership to our Order.

After what the world has experienced during the last few years, we hope for the fulfilment of our prayer that Masonry shall be Universal, but the time is not yet. We can prepare for it by practising in ourselves those things which we learn in the Lodge, and by exercising caution as to whom we admit. It is not good to put forward the name of a casual acquaintance. A Masonic Lodge is, so to speak, a family affair. Be sure that your recommendation would be admissible to your home.

Freemasonry can and does play some part in the Social Order of the world, and for reconstruction after the terrible times we have been through, we need the co-operation of good reliable men.

The assembled company, among whom we are glad to welcome the Provincial Grand Master of Bristol, are here to wish you well. You may be sure of a hearty welcome from all the Lodges in the Province, but no good wish will be more sincere than those offered by the Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge who are privileged to take part in the "Ceremony of Consecration."

After the Opening Prayer by the W.M. Designate, the Wardens Designate were ranged in the west round the Lodge Board and the Provincial Grand Secretary, W.Bro. G.F. Ticehurst read the Warrant and the Brethren expressed approval in Masonic form.

The Provincial Grand Chaplain, Rev. F.M.C.Hare, then delivered his oration.

"Except the Lord build the house, their labour is lost that build it." Brethren, we are exceptionally lucky in this country, in that almost wheresoever we go, we find lovely old buildings, the work of the Masons of old, who put their best into their work - especially in the buildings raised to the Glory of the Great Architect of the Universe.

And perhaps we have been led to value this heritage still more, owing to the fact that so many have been destroyed during these past years. Now we are not operative, but Speculative Masons, but we have a building to raise, and to-day we are engaged in such a building. Surely as we extend the scope of our Masonic building, we are raising something which the world really needs, if indeed our building is the true expression of our Masonic Principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

We earnestly hope and pray that a better and happier world may arise from the ruins of the old, but this cannot be unless men everywhere are filled with brotherly love, based on truth, and a real desire to relieve the ills of mankind.

Such a building then, we pray, we are raising to-day. But if the building is to be really worth while, really worthy, really able to fulfil its aims and benefit the world, it must first be built upon the right foundation. And this foundation must be none other than the foundation of Truth, in other words, the Great Architect of the Universe Himself and our duty to Him. Unless that foundation is well and truly laid, there can be no permanent building. Then we have to build into the structure, the several stones which go to make the finished building. The start of these are, of course, you, the founders, and very much will depend on you. In your hands will be the future building, and in your hands will be the guidance of those who are to be built into the building by you.

It is your responsibility to see to it that the fresh stones built into the Structure are of the right kind.

What then are the principles on which you should choose the stones to raise the walls and roof of the Edifice? They must be primarily those "of whom the tongue of good report" has been heard. The Prov. Grand Master has already spoken of the care that should be taken to choose only the right men.

This is so important because any organisation is liable to be judged very largely by the failures and because we are human and fallible, there will almost certainly be some. Therefore, as we build, we should do our best to choose, as far as possible, the stones which seem most nearly flawless.

We might add one or two more points at which we should aim.

A good Mason is one who tries, first of all, to serve the G.A. O.T.U. a man, too, who realises his own weaknesses and therefore, his need to rely on the G.A. O.T.U. and can also sympathise with the weaknesses of others, and also for the same reason, can help them. He will be a man who is not out for what he can get, but for what he can give out, spending himself in the service of others and the world; a man whose efforts will be directed to break down the acquisitive spirit which is so rife in the world, and which will ever be a danger to the world's well-being and peace.

Thus it is clear that though we would wish that all men were Masons and filled with the true spirit, yet, the world and men, being what they are, the only true and safe way to build is not to build into the edifice vast numbers for the sake of numbers, but rather as many as possible whom we sincerely believe to be of the right sort.

So may you found this new Lodge on the rock of Truth. So may you build on that foundation, and may the G.A. O.T. U. bless you in this work and always."

After the Anthem and Dedication Prayer, the Lodge Board was uncovered and the Consecrating Officer with the Prov.S.G. W., W.Bro. Sir Leslie Boyce, K.B.E., M.P., and the Prov.J.G. W., W.Bro. C.E. Hopkins, placed themselves in the East to receive the Consecration Elements. He then proceeded four times round the Lodge, scattering corn, Symbol of Plenty, pouring out wine, Emblem of Joy and Cheerfulness, then oil, symbol of Peace and Unanimity, lastly sprinkling salt, symbol of Fidelity and Friendship, the Brethren singing the appropriate verses with much heartiness.

The Lodge was then dedicated and the Provincial Grand Chaplain proceeded three times round the Lodge with his lighted censer, halting in the East.

The Provincial Grand Master then constituted the Lodge, and the ceremony closed with the Benediction.

The Lodge was then called off (at 4.05) and the Brethren were then entertained to tea.

After the interval the Lodge was called on, (at 4.35) and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. The Hon. W.R. S. Bathurst took the chair and installed W.Bro. W.P. Cole, P.P.G. W., as the first Master of the Lodge.

After election of the Treasurer and Tyler, the Worshipful Master appointed and invested his Officers.

#### **FIRST OFFICERS OF THE LODGE**

<b>Worshipful Master</b> W P Cole PPrGW	<b>Immediate Past Master</b> A Humphries PAGP
<b>Senior Warden</b> P H Kendall PPrGP	<b>Junior Warden</b> S L Lockyer PPrGD
<b>Senior Deacon</b> Rev C H J Wood	<b>Junior Deacon</b> A G Dunn
<b>Director of Ceremonies</b> W G Sheppard	<b>Asst Dir Ceremonies</b> CT Wren PPrGSuptWks
<b>Secretary</b> W E Davis PPrGSwdB	<b>Assistant Secretary</b> S W Smith
<b>Inner Guard</b> B F Brueton	<b>Tyler</b> W S Cordy (not a member of the Lodge)
<b>Stewards</b> R G Blyth A T Sparrow F G Painter CH Taylor	

At the end of the Address to the Brethren the W Bro Sir H Leslie Boyce announced that it was reported that the Germans had offered Unconditional Surrender to Great Britain and the United States of America but not to the Russians. (The) Offer had been refused'.

The Organ, which had been installed in the Temple on 27th November 1941, was played by Bro B F Brueton and the Choir for the Consecration consisted of :-

Bros B G Luton and E Gay (Altos)

F C Pepler

F B Hurle

(First Tenor)

L W Hill

(Second Tenor)

P H Kendall

(First Bass)

(Second Bass)

The Provincial Report concluded ;-

At the close of the proceedings (at 5.55pm) a collection (£6 11s Od [£6.55]) was taken for the Samaritan Fund of the Royal Masonic Hospital.

The Brethren of the Staple Hill Lodge are heartily to be congratulated on their excellent send off, and for the arrangements made for the comfort of their visitors. The musical part of the ceremony deserves special mention and added much to the success of the meeting.