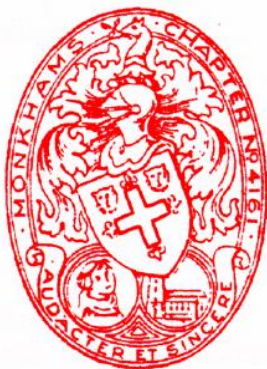


**PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER
OF ESSEX**



**MONKHAMS CHAPTER
No. 4161**

Consecrated 7th February 1946

75TH Anniversary

1946 – 2021

**A Short History
Written by E.Comp. Keith Wood**

Acknowledgements

75 Years ago, on the 7th February 1946, the Ceremony of Consecration, took place of Monkham's Chapter No 4161 at Chingford Masonic Hall. This is a short history of the Chapter.

I would like to acknowledge my thanks to the late E.Comp. Paul E. Thomason PPGSN and E.Comp. Tim J. F. Holland, for their assistance of this 75th Anniversary Booklet.

References

Military in Essex Family History - Brigadier-General Sir Richard Beale Colvin - <http://www.essexregiment.co.uk>

Wikipedia entry on Brigadier-General Sir Richard Beale Colvin

Minute Books of Monkham's Lodge No 4161 and Monkham's Chapter No 4161

The Masters Chair (Royal Arch)

Essex Freemasons' Handbook 2016-2017

Essex Masons Magazine

Monkhams Chapter No 4161

1946-2021

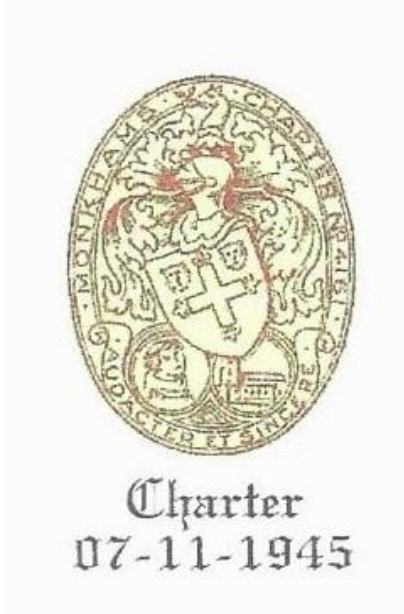
By E.Comp. Keith Wood

Like the Lodge from which it takes its name, the early history of Monkhams Chapter rests in the Essex market town of Waltham Abbey. Monkhams Lodge was founded in 1920 and one of the Founders was Brigadier-General Sir Richard Beale Colvin who was Member of Parliament for Epping between 1917 and 1923. The name Monkhams originates from his family home of Monkhams Hall in Waltham Abbey.

Sir Richard was a distinguished Mason, being appointed and invested on 9th July 1924 as the first Assistant Provincial Grand Master of Essex and Provincial Grand Master on 23rd April 1929 which he retained, together with that of Lord-Lieutenant of Essex which he became on 31st January 1929, until his death at Monkhams Hall on 17th January 1936. On 17th July 1930, the Provincial Grand Lodge met at Monkhams Hall, home of the Provincial Grand Master who there, presented Essex Province with a new set of Consecration Vessels.

As well as allowing the name of his home to be adopted by the Lodge, he also allowed his personal arms to form the main element of the Lodge Crest and later the Royal Arch Chapter Crest.

Colvin's arms were granted in 1914 by the College of Arms with the main elements consisting of a cross flory (cross with the ends shaped like fleur-de-lis), with a tiger's head appearing in the first and second quarters. It is notable that



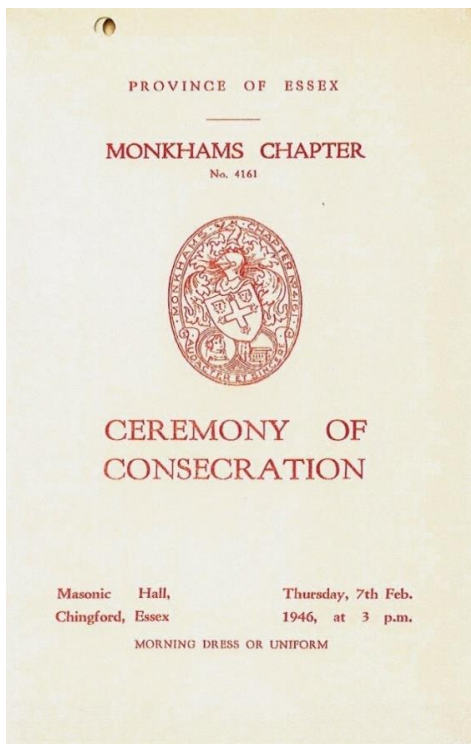
the cross should be black rather than red used in the Chapter jewels. (See the later pictures of the jewels.) This confusion was probably caused by the fact that over time the meaning of the Lodge crest had been lost and it was felt correct by the Founders to use red, more consistent with Holy Royal Arch.

Above the arms is the crest which is a greyhound's head holding a green trefoil (a three-leaf plant) in its mouth. Below the arms are images of a tondured monk and a church. These are not part of the Colvin arms but probably relate to the towns' famous abbey. The motto 'Audacter et sincere' (boldly and sincerely) is taken from the Colvin arms.

Just before the end of World War 2, we have the first reference to Monkham's Chapter. At the Monkham's Lodge meeting on 1st March 1945, the minutes record that W.Bro.

Kimber proposed and W.Bro. Gutteridge seconded that the Lodge gives its sanction to forming a new Holy Royal Arch Chapter to be named Monkham's Chapter No 4161 – the vote was carried unanimously.

The Consecration of Monkham's Chapter took place on 7th February 1946 at Chingford Masonic Hall when E.Comp. Thomas C Gutteridge was installed as the first MEZ. A copy of the Ceremony of consecration Summons is reproduced.



Founders & First Officers

H. Comp.	H. KAYE	I.P.Z.
B. "	T. C. GUTTERIDGE	M.E.Z.
Ex. "	G. HOLDSWORTH	H
E. "	C. LITTLE SMITH, P.A.G.D.C., P.P.G.Soj.	J
"	F. J. KIMBER	Scribe E.
"	J. H. FRANKLIN	Scribe N.
E. "	P. PEDERSEN	Treasurer
"	F. PEARSE	Dir. of Cers.
"	E. L. A. HANSEN	P.S.
"	H. G. LAY	1st Asst. Soj.
"	T. AKERS	2nd Asst. Soj.
E. "	A. E. GEORGE	A.D.C.
"	J. PEARSON	Steward
"	B. SMART	"
"	H. E. FORWARD	"
"	F. MORGAN	"
"	T. W. KNOWLER	"
"	P. R. SILLS	"
"	F. C. PEVERLEY	"
"	E. WILLIAMS	"
"	W. GUTTERIDGE	Janitor

The Regular Conventions of the Chapter will take place on the First Thursday in the months of October, December and April, at the Town Hall, Waltham Abbey, Essex.

P. W. South, Ltd., 110 High Street, Ponders End.

Consecration OF THE Monkhams Chapter No. 4161 AT THE MASONIC HALL, CHINGFORD ON Thursday, 7th February, 1946, at 3 p.m.

BY
M.E. GRAND SUPERINTENDENT IN ESSEX
Dr. F. DOUGLAS TURNER, C.B.E., P.A.G.Soj.

ASSISTED BY

E. Comp. Dr. A. G. DUNCAN, P.A.G.Soj. Prov. G.H. as 1st Principal.
E. Comp. Mgr. J. L. FRENCH, C.B.E. P.A.G.Soj. Prov. G.J. as 2nd Principal.
E. Comp. A. A. W. SIMMONDS — P.G.Hd. & Prov. G.S. Esq. as Scribe Esq.
E. Comp. Rev. S. O. M. HEBSTER — Prov. G.S.N. as Scribe N.
E. Comp. W. J. SLIPPER — P.A.G.Soj. Prov. G.D.C. as DC.
E. Comp. W. J. BEACH — Prov. G.Sud.B. as Sud.B.
E. Comp. G. W. RAINER — Prov. G.Rev. as Am. D.O.
E. Comp. A. WARRINER, P.P.G.Soj. Prov. Am. G. Scribe Esq. as Am. Scribe Esq.
Comp. A. D. KING — Prov. G. Janitor, as Janitor.

The Ceremony of Installation of the Principals Designate will be performed by
M.E. Comp. Dr. F. DOUGLAS TURNER, C.B.E., P.A.G.Soj., Grand Superintendent

E. Comp. T. C. GUTTERIDGE, L.G.C.R. — 1st Principal Designate
E. Comp. G. HOLDSWORTH — 2nd Principal Designate
E. Comp. C. LITTLE SMITH, P.A.G.D.C., P.P.G.Soj. — 3rd Principal Designate

Ceremonial Music
Under the direction of E. Comp. F. A. COATES, Prov. G. Organist.

Morning Dress or Uniform.

CONSECRATION CEREMONY

1. Principals Present and Past and Companions assemble in the Chapter Room.
2. The M. E. Grand Superintendent accompanied by the 2nd and 3rd Provincial Grand Principals and the Officers of Provincial Grand Chapter with Grand Chapter Officers, enter the Chapter in Procession.

OPENING HYMN

O worship the King	O measureless Might,
Almighty above;	Heavenly Love;
O gratefully sing	Woe Angels delight
His power and His love;	To hymn Thee above,
Our Shield and Defender,	The Ancient of days,
The Ancients of days,	Though feeble their lips,
Pavilion'd in splendour,	With awe adoration
And glad with praise,	Shall sing to Thy praise.

3. The Chapter is opened in ancient and solemn form.
4. The M. E. Gd. Supt. addresses the Companions on the nature of the meeting, and calls on the Prov. 3rd Gd. Principal to give the
5. OPENING PRAYER
6. The Prov. Gd. Director of Ceremonies addresses the M. E. Grand Superintendent.
7. The M. E. Gd. Supt. replies and gives directions.
8. The Petitioners are arranged in order.
9. The Prov. Grand Scribe E. reads the Charter.
10. The M. E. Gd. Supt. enquires of the Petitioners if they approve the Officers who are named in the warrant to preside over them.
11. The Companions signify their approval in Masonic form.

40.

ANTHEM

Glory to God on High,
Let Heavens and earth reply,
Praise ye His name,
Magnify His love adored
Arched in this mystic lore,
And cry out evermore,
Glory to God.

41. The Provincial 3rd Grand Principal takes the Censer three times round the Chapter.
(Solemn music during his progress.)

42. DEDICATION PRAYER (Second Portion)
By the 3rd Provincial Grand Principal.

43. Chant (Omnes)—"So mote it be."

44. THE M. E. GRAND SUPERINTENDENT
Constitutes the Chapter.

45. Chant (Omnes)—"So mote it be."

46.

ANTHEM

O, first and sole Foundation,
O, hidden Corner Stone,
O, Heavenly Star of Morning,
O, Only perfect one;
Descend on this Thy Temple,
And pour Thy blessings free
On us, Thy servants waiting
In hope of what shall be.

Where there shall be no darkness,
No grief and no doory,
Earth's shadows all dissolving
In Heaven's eternal day;
No need of Word or Token,
No need of Guard or Sign,
In that great World of Brothers,
That home of Light Divine.

There work shall be refreshment,
There parting comes no more,
That Lodge for aye stands open,
For Aye unpled that door;
And in those blessed mansions,
With God upon the Throne,
Shall Brother meet with Brother,
And know as he is known.

47. The Provincial 3rd Grand Principal gives
THE PATRIARCHAL BENEDICTION

48. Chant (Omnes)—"So mote it be."

A. A. W. SIMMONDS,

W. J. SLIPPER,
Prov. G. D. C.

Chapter Business

1. Installation of Principals.
2. Election and Investiture of Officers.
3. Resolution: "That the Consecrating Officers be invited to become Honorary Members of the Chapter."
4. Appointment of Committee to frame By-Laws.
5. Propositions for Exaltation and Joining.
6. Any other Business.
7. To close the Chapter.

CLOSING HYMN

The God of Abraham praise Who reigns enthroned above, Ancient of everlasting days, And God of Love; Jehovah, Great I Am, By earth and Heaven confessed; We bow and bless the Sacred Name For ever blest.	The God Who reigns on high The great Archangels sing; "Holy, Holy, Holy," cry "Almighty King! Who was, and is the same, And evermore shall be; Jehovah, Father, Great I am, We worship Thee."
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12.

AN ORATION

By the Provincial 3rd Grand Principal.

13.

ANTHEM

Behold how good and joyful a thing it is, Brethren to dwell together in Unity.
It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even unto Aaron's beard, and went down to the skirts of his clothing.
It is like the dew of Hermon, which fell upon the hill of Zion,
For there the Lord promised His blessing, and life for evermore.

14.

DEDICATION PRAYER (First Portion)

15. Chant (Omnes)—"So mote it be."

16. Musical Response—Glory be to God on High.

17. All the Companions turn towards the East while the Grand Superintendent pronounces

THE INVOCATION

18. Chant (Omnes)—"So mote it be."

19. The Provincial Grand Scribe N. reads Ezra, Chap. iii, verses 8 to 13.

20. The candles are now lighted and the altar is unveiled by the 2nd and 3rd Prov. Gd. Principals.

21. The M. E. Grand Superintendent places himself in the East of the Chapter facing West, the 2nd Prov. Gd. Principal on his right and the 3rd Prov. Gd. Principal on his left.

22. The elements of consecration are carried round the Chapter.
(Solemn music during the Procession.)

23. The Provincial Grand Scribe N. reads Psalm 72, verse 16.

24. Before the First Perambulation the following verse is sung:
When once of old in Israel,
Our early Brethren wrought with toil,
Jehovah's blessing on them fell.

25. The M. E. Gd. Superintendent scatters Corn—the Symbol of Plenty.

26. Musical Response—Glory be to God on High.

27. The Provincial Grand Scribe N. reads Nehemiah, Chap. x, verse 39.

28. Before the Second Perambulation the following verse is sung:

When there, a shrine to Him alone
They built, with worship sin no foil,
On threshold and on Corner-stone
They poured out Corn and Wine and Oil.

29. The M. E. Gd. Superintendent pours Wine—the Symbol of Joy and Cheerfulness.

30. Musical Response—Glory be to God on High.

31. The Prov. Gd. Scribe N. reads Exodus, Chap. xxx, verses 25, 26.

32. Before the Third Perambulation the Companions will sing:

And we have come, fraternal bands,
With joy and pride, and prosperous spoils,
To honour Him with voice and hands
And streams of Corn and Wine and Oil.

33. The M. E. Grand Superintendent pours Oil—the Symbol of Peace and Unanimity.

34. Musical Response—Glory be to God on High.

35. The Provincial Grand Scribe N. reads Leviticus, Chap. ii, verse 13.

36. The Companions will sing:

Now o'er our Work this Salt we shower,
Emblem of Thy conservant power,
And may Thy presence, Lord, we pray,
Keep this our Temple from decay.

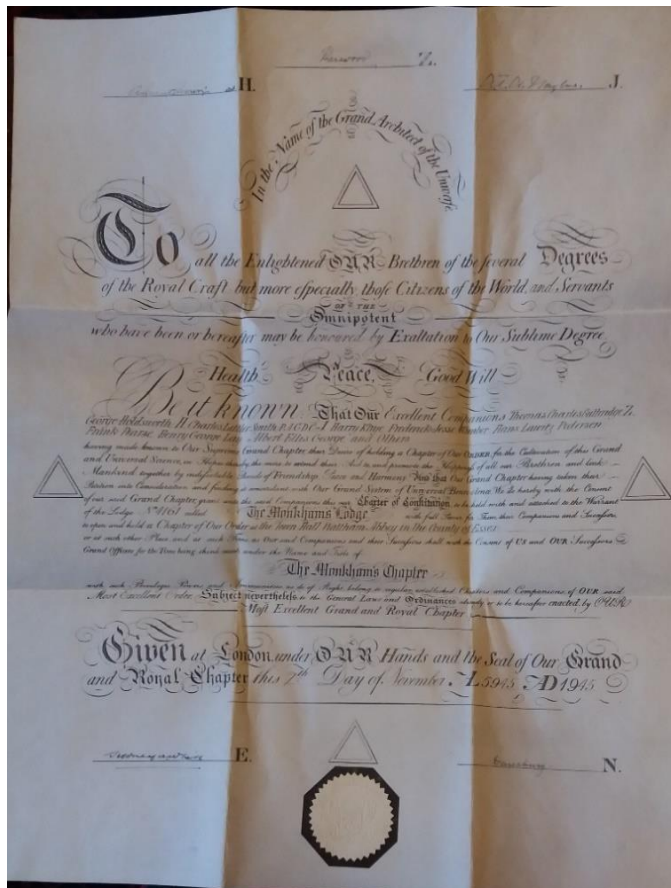
37. The M. E. Grand Supt. sprinkles Salt—the Symbol of Fidelity and Friendship.

38. Musical Response—Glory be to God on High.

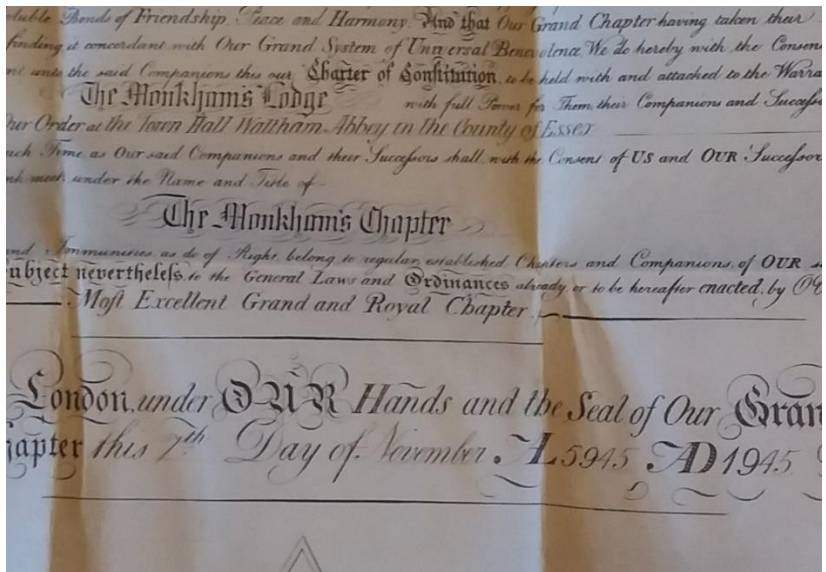
39. THE M. E. GRAND SUPERINTENDENT
DEDICATES THE CHAPTER

A month later at Monkham's Lodge meeting on 7th March 1946, W.Bro. Dunn proposed and W.Bro. Hye seconded that Monkham's Chapter No 4161 be allowed to use the Lodge furniture, the vote again was carried unanimously.

The Charter for Monkham's Chapter No 4161 was created on 7th November 1945. It is here reproduced below, but interestingly, the word Monkham's was spelt with an apostrophe 'S'. It is the same as Monkham's Lodge, and was due to a typo, by who-ever wrote the Charters.



As it is difficult to see on the main picture so below, I have zoomed in on the 'Monkham's Chapter' name on the Charter so it can be seen clearer. Why this was done is unknown as Monkham's Hall, from where both Monkham's Lodge and Chapter gained their name, is not spelt with an apostrophe 'S'.



The regular Convocations of Monkham's Chapter were originally held at Waltham Abbey Town Hall; however, in 1954 the Chapter, along with the Lodge, moved to The Community Centre, Crooked Mile, Waltham Abbey and remained there until 1981.

In the 1950's, past MEZ's were presented with their own engraved jewel. Most of these have disappeared over the years but in April 2020, E.Comp. Tim Holland our Scribe E, received a letter from E.Comp. Frank Sharp PAGSoj of Abbots Hall Chapter No 6205, informing him that a masonic friend of his in the Midlands, had recently acquired a very large collection (600+) of Past Masters & PZ's Jewels and had sent him those relating to Essex Lodges & Chapters for him to try to find homes for them. Two of these jewels were Monkham's jewels and did we wish to acquire them which obviously we did. The two jewels were presented to E.Comp. H.G.Lay in 1952 and E.Comp. E.C.Williams in 1954-55 are reproduced below.



Jewel presented to E,Comp. H.G.Lay in 1952



Jewel presented to E.Comp. E.C.Williams



Close up of both inscription, E.Comp H.G.Lay on the left and E.Comp. E.C.Williams on the right for services in 1954-55.

At the Convocation held on 2nd April 1981, under any other business, a notice of motion dated 19th March 1981, was read out by Scribe E. Signed by 10 Companions, the motion proposed that the meeting place of the Chapter, be moved from The Community Centre, Waltham Abbey to the Masonic Centre in Harlow. The MEZ, E.Comp. A.J.Owen informed the Companions that the motion would be voted on at the next meeting and Scribe E, E.Comp. C.J.Read stated that he would be applying for dispensation to hold the meeting at the Harlow Masonic Centre. On 4th June 1981, Monkams Chapter held its first Convocation at the Harlow Masonic Centre and at that meeting, the motion, proposed at the April meeting was passed unanimously. This action finally severed Monkams Chapter No 4161 direct links with Waltham Abbey.

The next major milestone in the history of Monkams Chapter took place on 4th April 1996 when the Chapter commemorated its 50th anniversary. The special meeting was attended by E.Comp. C.W.Key, PAGSoj, 2nd Provincial Grand Principal and E.Comp. A.E.Simons, PGStB, 3rd Provincial Grand Principal, together with 30 other Companions. To commemorate the occasion, all attending Companions received a specially engraved wine goblet, engraved with the Monkams Chapter Crest.



Monkhams Chapter has always been associated with supporting charities. In June 1993, the Chapter became a Grand Patron of the Essex Provincial Charity.

On 6th January 2004, Monkhams Chapter received a 'Chelmsford Cathedral Appeal' certificate, signed by the then Grand Superintendent, Col. Sir Neil Thorne, OBE, TD, DL, which authorised the Chapter to declare our qualification of Grand Patron of the Chelmsford Cathedral Appeal on our summons. During the Appeal, Essex raised over £200,000 with Monkhams Chapter contributing £450.00.

Like Provinces all over Britain, the Province of Essex holds a Festival every 11 years where Lodges and Chapters raise money over a period of 5 years. Targets are set to gain honours and at a meeting on 1st October 2009, Monkhams Chapter achieved the level of Vice Patron for the 2011 Festival and received a commemorative certificate from E.Comp. Bernard Willis.

Another unique occasion for Monkhams Chapter, took place on the 13th April 2010, when the Chapter hosted a Harlow Combined Royal Arch Chapter Meeting at the Masonic Hall, Potter Street Harlow. A copy of the summons is displayed showing how the offices were shared out.

Ixion
Monkhams
Essex Quadrant
Stedfast Unity



Harlow
High Beach
Latton Priory
Borrowed Light

PROVINCE OF ESSEX
HARLOW COMBINED ROYAL ARCH
CHAPTER MEETING

Hosted By

MONKHAMS CHAPTER No. 4161

Telephone: 01206 571356
E-mail: alan@trunccheon.org.uk

2 Toga Close
Roman Fields
COLCHESTER
Essex CO2 9JJ

Dear Sir and Companion,

You are requested to attend a Convocation of Combined Harlow Chapters, to be held at THE MASONIC HALL, POTTER STREET, HARLOW, ESSEX on
Tuesday 13th April 2010 at 6.00 p.m.

By Order of the Principals

E. Companion Alan C. Cook
Organising Scribe E.

Tea and biscuits served from 5.30 p.m.

GRACE

For good fare and good company, Thanks be to God,
As Brethren and Companions let us ever seek to do good.

MENU

Pâté with Salad Garnish and Melba Toast

Roast Beef Served with Seasonal Vegetables

Profiteroles with Chocolate Sauce

Cheese and Biscuits

Coffee and Mints

GRACE

Thus refreshed, let us give praise and thanks to the giver of all good things, not forgetting that we are of the Household of the Faithful

OFFICERS OF THE MEETING

The following Companions have kindly offered their services as Officers for this meeting and are drawn from Chapters meeting at Harlow.

MEZ	E Comp	Tony Wright	Monkhams	4161
H	E Comp	Alan Francis	Essex Quadrant	7143
J	E Comp	Brian Wapsworth	High Beach	7669
Scribe E	E Comp	Alan Cook	Monkhams	4161
Scribe N	E Comp	Peter Lane	Monkhams	4161
Treasurer	E Comp	Paul Thomason	Monkhams	4161
DC	E Comp	Mick Hennessey	Monkhams	4161
P Sojourner	Comp	Stephen Webster	Harlow	2734
1 st Asst Sojourner	E Comp	Jimmy Edwards	Isdon	2501
2 nd Asst Sojourner	E Comp	Colin Frazer	Stedfast Unity	9128
Asst DC	E Comp	David Jones	Isdon	2501
Organist	E Comp	Terry Hockley	Monkhams	4161
Steward	Comp	Peter Cole	Stedfast Unity	9128
Junior	E Comp	Tom Owen	Monkhams	4161
IPZ	E Comp	Les Pascoe	Harlow	2734

The triple tau, a mark or character affixed to the summonses of Royal Arch Masons on occasions of more than usual importance.



AGENDA

C240XY

Opening Ode.

1. To open the Chapter.
2. To receive the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, E. Comp. John Michael Webb.
3. To call the Roll of Chapters.
4. To receive a talk by E. Comp. Terry Lockhart, PPGReg, entitled 'HRH the Duke of Kent - His life and leadership of the Mother Lodge of the world'.
5. To circulate the Charity Column.
6. To close the Chapter.

Closing Ode.

Companions are advised that all contributions to the Charity Column are to be put towards the 2011 Festival Appeal.

At our installation meeting on the 3rd October 2019, Monkham's Chapter celebrated a proud occasion, when our longest serving Companion, E.Comp. Terry Hockley, was presented with a 50th certificate by E.Comp. Phil Campbell, 2nd Provincial Grand Principal. He was also celebrating his 40th year as a member of the Chapter. Back on 7th October 1982 Terry was elected MEZ of Monkham's Chapter. His 50th presentation was covered in Essex Masons which is reproduced below.

Holy Royal Arch



Monkham's Chapter

No. 4161

The Chapter was pleased to welcome the 2nd Provincial Grand Principal to the installation meeting on 3rd October at the Harlow Masonic Centre to present a 50th year certificate to E.Comp Terry Hockley who was also celebrating 40th year as a member of the Chapter.

All present enjoyed a very good meeting seeing E.Comp Terry receive a history of his Masonic career and working life, also on the night E.Comp Tim Holland install his successor E.Comp Keith Wood in an excellent manner, who in a difference to a norm installed all his officers explaining each office and duties. 25 Companions then enjoyed a lovely festive board after the meeting.

On 5th March 2020, just before the first COVID lock down started, E.Comp. Keith Wood MEZ, visited Shannon Chapter No1, in St John's Newfoundland, Canada, part of the Royal Arch Masons of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Shannon Chapter No 1 was originally Chartered by the Supreme Grand Chapter of England on 3rd August 1864 as Saint John's Chapter No 579. On 6th June 1876, it was



Chartered by the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia as Shannon Chapter No 9, then, with the formation of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland on 12th March 1994, becoming Shannon Chapter No1.

Unlike Chapters in England, their MEZ is referred to as Most Excellent High Priest.

MEHP Companion Harlow Snippen (right), is seen with MEZ E.Comp. Keith Wood at Mount Pearl, Masonic Centre, bringing together, the two jurisdictions.

The COVID 19 Pandemic

The year of 2020 will be remembered for the COVID-19 pandemic which succeeded in doing something, the two World Wars failed to do..... shut down all Masonic activities, not once but twice. The first case of COVID in Wuhan, was confirmed by the Chinese government, to the World Health Organisation on 8th December 2019. By March 2020 it had arrived in the United Kingdom and with increasing infections and deaths being reported, the Government announced that there would be a national lock down starting on 23rd March 2020. On Tuesday 17th March 2020, His Royal Highness, The Duke of Kent, K.G., The Most Worshipful Grand Master, announced that in view of the latest Government advice, all Lodge and Chapter meetings within England and Wales would be suspended for 4 months with immediate effect.

After 4 months of complete lock down, UGLE announced that from 17th July, they were lifting the suspension of meetings for up to 30 members, if Masonic Halls, offered a safe environment for brethren and companions. The maximum number of attendees depended on the size of the Temple, for example, Monkshams Chapter, which meets in Harlow Masonic Hall, would be limited to a maximum of 15 members. On 14th September, in line with new laws, this was reduced to a maximum of 6 Companions, and it was advised that face covering should be worn. Under these new rules, Monkshams Chapter held their Installation meeting on 1st October 2020 where all Officers remained in Office for a

second year. Then from midnight on 16th October, in line with new local Government restrictions, Masonic meetings in London and Essex were totally suspended again, this becoming a total lock down England wide, from 5th November 2020 due to new Government restrictions. The month-long total lock down in England, finished on 1st December, but was replaced in most parts of England, including Essex, on 2nd December by Tier Level 2 which prohibited all Masonic meetings taking place.

On 8th December 2020, 90 year-old Margaret Keenan, was given the first COVID-19 vaccination, outside trials, as the mass vaccine programme started in the UK. With infections still increasing, London, most of Essex and Kent moved into Tier 3 on 16th December with tighter restriction, but this was short lived as from 20th December, it was raised to a new much tighter Tier 4, to try to control the increasing cases of COVID-19. At the same time, Christmas gatherings in the area were effectively cancelled to only allow the meeting of one family member outside and not in the house, then on 6th January 2021, England went into full lock down. Additional vaccines have since been approved and a tiered roll out vaccination program was introduced. Then on 16th January, COVID touched Monkham's Chapter directly claiming the life of E.Comp, Paul Thomason PPGSN.

On 7th February 2021, Monkham's Chapter No 4161 celebrated its 75th Anniversary, but how the World has change in those 75 years. When the Chapter was Consecrated, World War 2 had only finished the previous year, but food rationing was still very much a part of daily life. In fact, food rationing was to continue until 4th July 1954,

14 years since the start of rationing and 9 years after the war ended, with meat being the last item to 'come off the ration'.

75 years later, the UK was under a different type of restriction, that of lock down due to the COVID pandemic. As of 7th February 2021, 112,465 people had died from Coronavirus in the UK but on a positive note, 12,014,286 people had received their first of two vaccination jabs. Forecasts predict that by the early autumn, everybody over the age of 18 years old will have been offered the vaccination, meaning that life will again become more normal.

It soon became apparent that, with the high cases of COVID and the current restrictions, any plans to celebrate our 75th Anniversary at our proposed April would have to be deferred. It was not until 17th May 2021 that the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex announced that masonic meetings could resume with a maximum of 30 members, or a lower number identified as safe by the Masonic Centre, COVID—Secure Masonic meeting of more than 6 people. Most Masonic Centres did not offer dining at this stage, so it was under this backdrop that Monkams Chapter held its first full meeting on 10th June 2021 since 3rd October 2019. It was hoped that from 21st June 2021, all Masonic restrictions would be lifted but due to the government wanting more people to receive the 2nd COVID vaccination, this was delayed until 18th July 2021.

We entered September with meetings virtually back to normal, however, a few COVID restrictions remained to ensure the safety of the members. It meant we were able to

have a full installation meeting with a festive board on 7th October 2021

Daily infections in the UK during the autumn remained high, although the number of daily reported deaths and people in hospital remained low, compared with earlier in the year. This could be put down to the high numbers receiving both vaccines and more recently, the booster vaccine. To give an example, on 22nd November 2021, the percentage of people aged 12 and over in the UK who had received their first vaccine dose was 88%, received their second vaccine dose was 80% and 27% had received their third or Booster vaccine. Confirmed COVID cases over an average of 7 days stood at 41,774 a day. People in hospital with COVID stood at 8024 and the seven-day average daily deaths with COVID stood at 147.

In Europe things were much worse with many European Countries imposing partial lock downs and Austria imposing a three-week full lock down from 22nd November 2021. Just 3 days later we learnt about a new more infectious variant, first discover in South Africa, call Omicron with the first two cases found in Britain soon afterwards. With more cases discovered, from Tuesday 29th November, masks in shops and on public transport became mandatory and as a result, Grand Lodge advised that mask should again be worn in meetings.

By 12th December, the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, announced that due to the rapid increase of Omnicom cases, around 50,000 new cases a day, he was bringing forward the date he hoped everybody would receive their third booster

vaccination from the end of January to the end of December. This followed an early announcement that from Monday 13th December, everybody should work from home, if possible. Then on the 15th December, total new daily records reached a record since the start of the pandemic of 78,610. By Friday 17th December, there were 93,045 new COVID cases in a day. For next few days, new case remained around 90,000 but on 22nd December, this jumped to 106,122 new daily cases and 140 deaths, increasing to 119,789 new cases and 147 deaths on 23rd December. People in hospital still remained low at 8216, thanks to the vaccination programme. The 29th December saw a new highest daily total of 183,037 cases with 57 new deaths. The number of people in hospital with COVID had increased to 10,462. A direct result of the increases meant Lateral Flow Tests and PCR tests were in very short supply. Figures over New Year were incomplete as some of the regions delayed reporting their figure but by 5th January 2022, the first proper day where everywhere provided figures, there were 194,747 daily cases in the previous 24 hours and 17,276 people in hospital with COVID. The number of daily deaths reported were 334, but these recorded deaths were over the previous few days rather than the usual last 24 hours. After the record daily infections on 5th January, numbers started to fall quickly and by Friday 14th January, the number had reduced to 99,652 daily cases. The number of daily recorded deaths were 270 and there were 19,539 people with COVID in hospital.

With the continued reduction of new COVID infections, on Wednesday 19th January 2022, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced in Parliament the lifting of Plan B measures,

scrapping the work from home guidance, COVID passports and mandatory wearing of face masks. He also confirmed the intention to end self-isolation rules for people with coronavirus in the coming weeks.

By the Sunday 30th January 2022, daily infections had fallen to 62,399, daily recorded deaths were 85 and there were 16,149 in hospital with COVID. Weekend figures were always lower, but the general, the trend was certainly downwards. The number of hospital patients remain well below the peak of nearly 40,000 in January 2021.

As we entered February 2022, cases were stabilising, and hospital cases were falling again. On the 3rd February, just a few days short of Monkham's Chapter 76th Anniversary, there were 88,171 new daily cases, 303 new deaths and 14,816 people in hospital, down 436 from the previous day.

It was becoming very obviously that we are going to have to learn to live with COVID 19, as we live with flu and very likely end up having to have a yearly booster vaccine as we do with flu.

During Monkham's Chapter's 75 years, 6 Companions were awarded Grand Rank.

E.Comp. C.Littler Smith PGStdB, PPSoj, LGCR.

E.Comp. F.J.Kimber PAGDC, PPSN.

E.Comp. H.Franklin PGStdB, PPGTreas, PPGJ(Herts)

E.Comp. G.Lay PGStdB, PPDepGDC.

E.Comp. C.J.Read PAGDC, PPGSN.

E.Comp. M.B.Wollin PGStdB, PProvGSwdB.

Throughout its history, Monkham's has been blessed with many long serving and distinguished Companions being members of the Chapter. Even today, a number of those members still reside in and around Waltham Abbey, thus keeping alive the links to its spiritual home.

Officers 2020-2022

E.Comp. Keith WOOD	-	MEZ
E.Comp. Gordon MUNRO	-	H
E.Comp. Paul THOMASON (D)	-	J
E.Comp. Peter Lane (From Oct 2021)		
E.Comp. Tim HOLLAND	-	Scribe E
Comp Ben THOMASON	-	Scribe N
E.Comp. Peter LANE	-	Treasurer
E.Comp. Sid Goss (From Oct 2021)		
"		
E.Comp. Rod KING	-	Director of Ceremonies
E.Comp. Paul THOMASON (D)	-	Almoner
E.Comp. Peter Lane (From Oct 2021)		
"		
Comp. Barry BRIDGEN	-	Charity Steward
Comp. Barry BRIDGEN	-	Principal Soj
E.Comp. Tony WRIGHT	-	1 st Asst. Soj
E.Comp. Sid GOSS	-	2 nd Asst. Soj
E.Comp. Steve NICHOLL	-	Asst. Director of Ceremonies
E.Comp. Terry HOCKLEY	-	Organist
Comp. Bob MARSHALL	-	Janitor
E.Comp. Charles STACEY	-	IPZ

(D) - Deceased

Current Subscribing Members

- J* E.Comp. Terry Hockley, PPGSN - 4th October 1979
Proposed by E.Comp. C.Shirley
Seconded by E.Comp. L.C.Elsom
- E (D)* E.Comp. Paul Thomason, PPGSN - 2nd April 1987
Proposed by E.Comp. C.J.Read
Seconded by Comp. M.C.N.Gill
- E* E.Comp. Ray Attfield - 7th April 1988
Proposed by E.Comp. W.C.Pryor
Seconded by E.Comp. R.J.Baker
- E* E.Comp. Peter Lane, PPDepGSwdB - 1st June 1989
Proposed by E.Comp. R.J.Baker
Seconded by E.Comp. J.Freeman
- J* E.Comp. Rod King, PPAGDC - 7th April 1994
Proposed by E.Comp. W.J.Pryor
Seconded by E.Comp. W.C.Pryor
- E* E.Comp. Steve Nicholl, PPDepGReg - 1st April 1999
Proposed by E.Comp. W.C.Pryor
Seconded by E.Comp. M.B.Wollin
- E* Comp. Barry Bridgen - 5th April 2001
Proposed by E.Comp. W.J.Pryor
Seconded by W.C.Pryor
- E* E.Comp. Tony Wright, PPGStB - 3rd April 2003
Proposed by E.Comp. M.C.N.Gill
Seconded by E.Comp. P.E.Thomason

- E* E.Comp. Charles Stacey, PPGStB - 12th June 2003
Proposed by E.Comp. E.W.C.Fisher
Seconded by E.Comp. W.J.Pryor
- J* E.Comp. Sid Goss, PPGSoj - 3rd April 2008
Proposed by E.Comp. W.C.Pryor
Seconded by E.Comp. M.Hennessey
- J* E.Comp. John Bashforth - 14th June 2012
Proposed by E.Comp. M.C.N.Gill
Seconded by E.Comp. P.E.Thomason
- E* E.Comp. Tim Holland - 13th June 2013
Proposed by E.Comp. P.E.Thomason
Seconded by E.Comp. M.C.N.Gill
- E* E.Comp. Keith Wood - 2nd April 2015
Proposed by E.Comp C.Stacey
Seconded by E.Comp. S.Goss
- E* Comp. Ben Thomason - 9th June 2016
Proposed by E.Comp. P.E.Thomason
Seconded by E.Comp. M.C.N.Gill
- J* E.Comp. Gordon Munro, PPGSwdB - 6th April 2017
Proposed by E.Comp. P.E.Thomason
Seconded by E.Comp. R.King

E – Exalted *J* – Joining Member

(D) – Deceased 16th January 2021

Life Is But A Stopping Place

Life is but a stopping place, a pause in what's to be,
A resting place along the road, to sweet eternity.

We all have different journeys. Different paths along
the way,

We all were meant to learn some things, but never
meant to stay...

Our destination is a place, far greater than we know.

For some the journey's quicker, for some, the journey's
slow.

And when the journey finally ends, we'll claim a great
reward,

And find an everlasting peace, together with the Lord.

In memory of all departed Companions of Monkham
Chapter No. 4161

PROVINCE OF ESSEX
MONKHAMS CHAPTER

No. 4161
Consecrated February 1946

1st Principals

1946	T.C.GUTTERIDGE	1984	W.C.PRYOR
1947	G.HOLDSWORTH	1985	E.M.PARKER
1948	C.LITTLER-SMITH	1986	A.J.OWEN
1949	F.J.KIMBER	1987	E.S.ARMSTRONG-BREED
1950	J.H.FRANKLIN	1988	M.B.WOLLIN
1951	F.PEARSE	1989	R.S.POUNDER
1952	H.G.LAY	1990	R.CROUCHMAN
1953	S.CHURCH	1991	R.F.JONES
1954	E.C.WILLIAMS	1992	R.D.HUMPHREY
1955	H.E.SEARLE	1993	E.W.SANKEY
1956	H.E.SEARLE	1994	E.W.C.FISHER
1957	S.L.AKEROYD	1995	R.C.BRUSSELEN
1958	W.J.PEARSON	1996	R.M.ATTFIELD
1959	F.G.CHAPLIN	1997	K.P.MASON
1960	F.C.PEVERLEY	1998	M.C.N.GILL
1961	F.C.PEVERLEY	1999	P.E.THOMASON
1962	H.G.LAY	2000	W.J.PRYOR
1963	J.FREEMAN	2001	P.A.MASON
1964	J.FREEMAN	2002	A.C.COOK
1965	L.C.ELSOM	2003	S.P.PASICZNYK
1966	C.J.READ	2004	D.R.PASICZNYK
1967	J.FREEMAN	2005	B.WHITE
1968	C.J.READ	2006	M.H.H.HENNESSEY
1969	L.C.ELSOM	2007	P.N.LANE
1970	L.C.ELSOM	2008	S.W.NICHOLL
1971	C.SHIRLEY	2009	R.A.WRIGHT
1972	A.J.OWEN	2010	S.W.NICHOLL
1973	C.J.READ	2011	C.G.STACEY

1974	G.W.PUNTER	2012	R.KING
1975	D.W.T.ROUBOTTOM	2013	S.A.GOSS
1976	E.M.PARKER	2014	P.E.THOMASON
1977	T.HALDIN	2015	M.C.N.GILL
1978	T.C.GUTTERIDGE	2016	A.C.COOK
1979	J.C.HAMILTON	2017	T.J.F.HOLLAND
1980	A.J.OWEN	2018	T.J.F.HOLLAND
1981	G.W.PUNTER	2019	K.L.WOOD
1982	T.J.HOCKLEY	2020	K.L.WOOD
1983	R.J.BAKER	2021	K.L.WOOD