



Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire
Celebrating 300 years of Freemasonry
with a series of special events across the province.



22nd February 2016

Dear Bro Secretary.

Tercentenary briefing letter

Further to the information on the Provincial Web Site and discussed by the executive on their formal visits, I set out the latest position on various Tercentenary matters.

Saturday March 25th 2017 – Grand lodge Visit/2nd Degree Ceremony

We are planning this to be the first of our high profile events to start our 2017 celebrations. Planning for the 2nd Degree Ceremony and preceding Grand Lodge Temple Lecture on the 25th March 2017 are progressing well. The timings are yet to be confirmed but it is anticipated the Lecture will start at 11am followed by a buffet lunch and the 2nd Degree Ceremony at 3pm with the day concluding at around 6.00pm.

We hope to offer and fill a minimum 1000 seats for the 2nd Degree Ceremony and 1200+ for the Lecture. It is assumed that the PGM and the Executive will attend along with a full complement of Grand Officers/Active Provincial Officers. It would be good if every lodge within the Province was represented. Therefore there will be an allocation to each Lodge in the order of 10-15. The lecture is open to both Masons and non-Masons male and female. Conducted by Library Staff it will be an explanation of the Grand Temple including the magnificent bronze doors followed by a talk on its history from construction to the present day. During the afternoon the Ladies and non-masons will have the opportunity to visit the extensive Library or venture out and explore Covent Garden and its surrounding area.

This will be the first time that a 2nd Degree Ceremony has been conducted in the Grand Temple we are greatly honoured that our Province has been chosen to conduct it. I urge you to try and give this the support it deserves. As an added incentive: from the cohort of Masters in office it is hoped that 20 of them will be given a part to play, obviously the earlier the response the more chance that your Lodge's Master will have a role in the Ceremony.

We would appreciate your early guidance on the following points please. Your feedback is not binding at this stage but will enable the committee to plan with greater clarity and confidence. Please reply to William Diggins the Tercentenary Chairman (tercentenarywilliam@aol.com)

1. Would you expect to take up your full allocation of seats? Might you welcome more if these were available?
2. Would you wish to travel as a group?
3. If so, would you wish to travel from one of the allocated leaving points where coaches will be available at a return cost of £10 per person? Please note that coaches if needed will be leaving from Huntingdon, Peterborough, Kettering, Wellingborough, Northampton, Towcester and Daventry only on a pre-booked basis. We will develop this in the light of the feedback received
4. We are currently negotiating a cost for a buffet Lunch.
 - i) 2 course buffet with coffee in the Gallery Suite (Grand Lodge) £25.00 per person
 - ii) 1 course buffet with coffee in the Gallery Suite (Grand Lodge) £20.00 per person
 - iii) Make your own arrangements for Lunch.

Would you please indicate the preferred choice of your group in your reply?



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Sunday June 11th 2017 – Parade and Church Service

The second high profile event is the Parade and Church Service at Peterborough Cathedral. Again planning is progressing well, final timings are as yet not finalised, it is anticipated that we will start the short parade from Peterborough Town Hall at 2-45 arriving at the Cathedral in good time for the 3-30 evensong service. Like the Grand Lodge event it would be good if every lodge within the Province were represented. On this occasion there will be no restriction on numbers and the event is again open to Masons and non-Masons Male and Female. (Children can also attend)

Likewise we would appreciate your early guidance on the following points please. Your feedback is not binding at this stage but will enable the committee to plan with greater clarity and confidence. Please reply to William Diggins the Tercentenary Chairman (tercentenarywilliam@aol.com)

1. Does your Lodge have a banner and is it transportable and suitable to be part of a procession?
2. How many would you expect to attend the event?
3. How many tickets would you require for the cheese and Wine get together, at the church following the service (£5.00 each)?
4. Would your Master and his Two Wardens be available for the Parade?

Saturday October 21st – Wickstead Park Grand Ball

The last of the three main events is a Black Tie Ball at Wickstead Park Kettering. Tickets and details for this event are some way off but it is important that we get an indication from around the Province of attendance. Again we are hoping to get representation from all Lodges so on this occasion only 6 tickets per Lodge are guaranteed, the event is open to Masons and non-Masons alike. Costing £35 per person it is anticipated demand will be extremely high.

Again we would appreciate your early guidance on the following points please. Your feedback is not binding at this stage but will enable the committee to plan with greater clarity and confidence. Please reply to William Diggins the Tercentenary Chairman (tercentenarywilliam@aol.com)

1. Will your Lodge fill your full allocation?
2. Might you welcome more if they were available?
3. If you do want more could you estimate how many.

As you can probably imagine organising this event will take a considerable amount of co-operation from Lodges. Your early response is vital.

Sincerely and Fraternaly

William Diggins
Tercentenary Chairman.