

# The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



September 2017

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*The Monthly Journal of Lodge Union & Crown, No.307*

No. 406



September 2017

The beginning of October sees a party of eight Texans – five Brethren of Spring Lodge, No.1174 and three of their wives, visit Scotland for just over a week. Much of the visit has been planned by Bro Jim Renfrew PM (an Honorary member of 1174) at the request of Brother Terry Ming of Spring Lodge, and is a repeat of a much larger visit fifteen years ago.

Bro Terry made that trip back in November 2002, as a fairly young brother, and promised to return again someday, hopefully with his wife, to let her see the beauties of Scotland.

Much is planned during their visit, which kicks-off on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October when the party fly in to Scotland, via Philadelphia. Visits to Loch Lomond, The Trossachs and Stirling, followed by a tour of Grand Lodge and a visit to Roslyn Chapel are scheduled for the first few days, before one of the highlights sees the Texans have a 'Scottish Breakfast' at our Wednesday Sausage Club.



A trip to a local farm to see champion Highland Cattle, with visits to both Mother Kilwinning and Barr Castle in Ayrshire are also planned, before the Brethren attend our Regular Meeting on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October to witness the dramatised 'Table of Scottish Freemasonry'.

The last couple of days see the intrepid Texans cram in some 'retail therapy' and a visit to Castle Menzies near Aberfeldy. Bro Terry Ming is a direct descendent of the Clan Menzies and has always wanted to visit the ancestral home of his clan.

Bro George McGrandles RWM and Bro Graham Manson PM have kindly offered to assist with the transport, with Bro Stewart Gray aiding the visits to Ayrshire.

Many will remember the last visit from Spring Lodge to Scotland, and will greet our visitors fondly, albeit without some of the hangovers of 2002 !! Perhaps this will be the first step in perhaps retracing our over steps back to Texas, where in February 2001 thirty-three of us crossed the Atlantic to Houston in Texas and conferred two degrees whilst there.



# Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

*Dear Sir & Brother,*

*The Right Worshipful Master, Bro George McGrandles cordially requests your attendance at the forthcoming Meetings of the Lodge to be held within the Masonic Temple, Cochrane Street, Barrhead on :*

***Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017***

*Business :*

*Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

***Table of Scottish Freemasonry***

*conferred by*

***Lodge Instruction Class***

*Harmony*



***Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017***

*Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

***Annual General Meeting***

***Of the Lodge***

*Harmony*

*Yours faithfully & fraternally*

***James Miller P.M., Secretary***





# Dates for you Diary

- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October** Regular Meeting of the Lodge 'POSTPONED'  
(Rescheduled to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October)
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October** 'Rescheduled' Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where the members of the Lodge Instruction Class will carry out the dramatised 'Table of Scottish Freemasonry'.  
This is an open meeting, with members guests permitted to attend after the close of the short business.
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October** Annual Joint Divine Service with Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167 at Bourrock Parish Church.  
The Brethren are asked to assemble at the Lodge by 2.30pm before parading to the Church for the service at 3pm. Wives and other family members are cordially invited to attend. Thereafter, all are invited to retire to the Lodge for a cup of tea.
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October** Management Committee Meeting at 7-30pm.
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where the Annual Business Meeting & Election of Office-bearers and Committees etc. will be held.
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October** Visitation to Lodge St Conval, No.1359 where we have been invited to confer a Fellowcraft Degree.
- Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October** Visitation to Lodge Pollokshaws RA, No.153 where we have been invited to confer an Entered Apprentice Degree.

*(In addition to the above, the R.W.M. is constantly involved in unofficial visits to Sister Lodges, details of which can be obtained by contacting any senior Office-bearer who will be only too pleased to take you along with them as they represent the Lodge throughout the Province.*



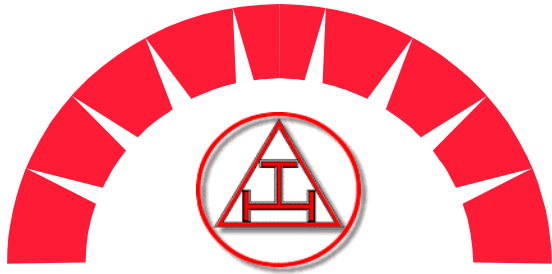
# **BITS & PIECES**

- The new 'super-duper' automatic glass washer in the newly-refurbished Downstairs Bar is proving very popular. We gather that Bro Adam Watson has been known to occasionally use it for his cups following the weekly 'Wednesday Sausage Club' !!
- We were surprised to notice that the annual PGL Lunch was cancelled last month. A popular event, held on 307 for the last few years, suffered we believe from a lack of numbers.
- Our Worthy Treasurer is still looking for outstanding Test Fees to be paid as soon as possible. If required, a 'Standing Order' can be set-up for anyone to pay their annual fees in an easy and convenient way.
- It was great to see the return of some of our local Indian residents and their families and friends, to celebrate the 'Indian New Year' at a busy event within our Function Suite. This was the second year in succession that the celebration was held in 307, and it appeared to be a great success.
- Our Worthy Treasurer would be more than willing to accept any donations towards the annual Capitation Fee that the Lodge pays to Grand Lodge. This is based upon the number of active Brethren in the Lodge and comes to a bill well in excess of £2000.
- It was heartening to see Bro Danny Webster attending the last couple of Regular Meetings of the Lodge during his recent month long visit to Scotland. Bro Danny and his family have resided in Perth, Western Australia for the last 25 years. Without doubt, Bro Danny hadn't changed a bit.
- It was good to see some well-kent faces among the deputation from Lodge Houstoun St Johnstone, No.242 at our recent meeting.
- It was excellent to see Bro Euan Martin receiving a GL Diploma, marking 60 years faithful service to The Craft, from our RWM Bro George McGrandles at a recent meeting. Although a Past Master of Lodge Thistle & Crown, Bro Euan has been an affiliate member of 307 for many years, and travels everywhere with his adopted Lodge.
- Great to hear that Bro David Watson PM has thus far raised over £1200 for his daughter's aid visit to Malawi next year. One of the fund-raisers was a busy Race Night in 307, attended by family and friends.
- Bro Jimmy Kerr PM, Treasurer has a box of Poppies if any of the Brethren would care to support this very worthwhile cause.
- Bro Lawrence Webb has carried out the role of Social Convener admirably for several years, and is to be congratulated for all his efforts, and the large sums raised for the Lodge. However, he is currently looking for some assistance with the sale of tickets for functions etc. and is looking for an 'Assistant'. Anyone interested should contact Bro Lawrence (☎07736 780 132)

# Masonic Trivia

- In 1920, Gate City Lodge No. 522 in Kansas City Missouri, met every day of the week except Sunday to confer a record 1,107 degrees, averaging 21 degrees a week.
- The Commissioner of Patents In 1872 ruled that the Masonic Square and Compasses emblem could not be used in any trademark or trade name for commercial purposes.
- Lux in Tenebris Lodge No.3856 in London is for blind Masons. The Latin words mean "Light in Darkness"
- Lodges in the state of Massachusetts have no numbers. In Pennsylvania there are eleven lodges with numbers, but no names.
- During the years that Spain was under the control of General Franco, Freemasonry was a "crime" and Freemasons were imprisoned for a term of years equal to the number of Masonic degrees possessed by the "guilty one".
- A Brother was initiated on August 23, 1879 by Lodge No.239 in a balloon flying over Paris .
- Bro Anthony Sayer, the first Grand Master of the Premier Grand Lodge of England, was chosen because he was the "Oldest Master Mason then Master of a Lodge."
- Of the 254 counties in State of Texas, 102 are named for Freemasons
- In Christchurch New Zealand, there are two natural eroded stone pillars standing at the entrance to Tumbledown Bay. Looking from the land, the one on the left is named Boaz and the other on the right is named Jachin.
- The Freemasons of London, with a total of 1350 Lodges have donated just over £2,000.000 towards an Air Ambulance for London (see *the photo below*)





## Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

At the Regular Meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September, the Chapter held its Annual Business Meeting, during which the nomination and election of Office-bearers and committees for the forthcoming session was carried out.

It is good to note that each and every office within the Chapter was filled and that we can look forward to what we are sure will be another successful year in the capable hands of MEC Hugh Cattigan, and his team of office-bearers

The next Regular Meeting of the Chapter will be the annual Installation on : **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm** and the Companions of Rockmount, extend a warm invitation to all to attend on that evening, where MECs Robert McCulloch PZ, James Miller PZ and John Miller PZ will be performing the installation duties, in what should be a good evening's work.



## Royal Hanover Lodge, No.1777

Royal Hanover Lodge, No.1777 is a very progressive and proactive Lodge within the Province of Middlesex. It publicly publishes the following criteria for ALL Candidates for Initiation :

That anyone offering himself as a candidate should be 21 years of age or over and of good repute, and should be entirely assured in his own mind:

1. *that he sincerely seeks intellectual and moral improvement for himself and others.*
  2. *that he has a belief in a supreme being (God as you understand him).*
  3. *that he is able to afford the necessary expenditure without detriment to himself or his connections. Financial ability to pay lodge subscriptions and contribute to charity, without having an adverse impact on his family. (normal Royal Hanover Lodge fees are £210 per year)*
  4. *that he is willing and able to devote part of his time, his means and his efforts, to the promotion of the aims of our ancient Institution. To make a commitment to attend Lodge meetings, rehearsals, socials and events.*
- *that he will never seek commercial, social or pecuniary advantage from his membership.*

That's what we call '**COMMITMENT**' well in advance !!!

"



# Freemasonry Around the World "

## Mexico

Mexico is probably the most diverse country in the Masonic world, possessing almost 30 Grand Lodges, most of which are not widely recognised. The exception being the York Grand Lodge of Mexico, founded in 1862, which has approximately a dozen Lodges and a combined membership of over 600 Brethren. Today, the Masonic population is difficult to quantify, due to the high number of irregular lodges, but it is accepted that it exceeds 30,000.

The history of Freemasonry in that part of Central America is extremely complex and is undoubtedly linked to the varied politics of the country. Since Mexico gained its independence from Spain in 1810, it has suffered approximately 100 revolutions with about 80 different governments resulting from the turmoil and it is no surprise that the Craft has been greatly affected as a result.

Whilst legend states otherwise, the earliest Lodges for which evidence exists, were chartered in the early part of the last century by lodges from several American jurisdictions such as Louisiana, Pennsylvania and New York. The newly-formed Lodges were soon disowned by their US cousins, due to the extreme political nature of Mexican society in those days which had found itself entrenched in Freemasonry and indeed the two factions who battled for control of the country in the 1820's were largely comprised of Masons ! The battle lines were drawn between the York Rite Masons on the one hand and the Scottish Rite on the other with the respective Grand Masters actually coming up against each other in the fight for the Presidency of Mexico in 1827 with the Scottish Rite winning on points in a contest which cost many men their lives. Shortly afterwards several well-intentioned masons attempted to unite the two factions, creating the Mexican National Rite and although they failed and Mexican Freemasonry lapsed into darkness in 1833, a Grand Lodge still exists in Mexico today practising this irregular rite.

Masonry lay dormant for almost thirty years until Scottish Rite Lodges were established at Mexico City and Vera Cruz in 1860. In keeping with earlier days, it soon factioned and by 1878 a whole proliferation of differing governing bodies existed with Grand Lodges, State Grand Lodges, Grand Orients, Supreme Councils and even a Grand Diet ! All claiming to be wholly independent from each other, with some even offering "**cut-rate initiations**" in an attempt to woo prospective candidates away from their competitors.

The craft continued to prosper well into the 20th century with mostly English and Spanish speaking Lodges, although the great division between York Rite and Scottish Rite continued unabated. Only after the end of the Second World War in 1945 did the two bodies begin to come together when agreement was reached on inter-visitation treaties. These treaties, certainly novel in Freemasonry, allow members from either allegiance, under certain conditions, to visit each other's lodges and although stopping short of actual recognition they are a great step forward in the somewhat difficult relationship that had previously existed and give hope that, in time, it might be possible for amity to exist throughout Mexican Freemasonry.



## **WORLD AT WAR 1914 – 1918 (September 1917)**



- 01 Sept Battle of Riga begins
- 02 Sept First German air raid on England by moonlight by more than one aircraft
- 04 Sept German submarine bombards Scarborough  
Anglo-French Conference in London to discuss the question of military assistance to Italy.
- 05 Sept Battle of Riga ends.
- 08 Sept General Kornilov heads revolt against Russian Provisional Government and marches on Petrograd
- 10 Sept M. Kerenski assumes Dictatorship of Russia and issues proclamation declaring General Kornilov a traitor.
- 15 Sept Russia proclaimed a Republic by the Provisional Government.
- 20 Sept Battle of the Menin Road Ridge
- 21 Sept Costa Rica severs diplomatic relations with Germany
- 25 Sept Battle of the Menin Road Ridge ends
- 26 Sept Battle of Polygon Wood

After seizing power in Russia, Bolsheviks leaked the content of the Sykes–Picot Agreement that outlined how Britain, France, and Russia had pre-determined how they would divide up territory from a defeated Ottoman Empire.

After Britain's Force defeated the Ottoman Empire at decisive battles in Palestine, British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour declared British support for the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people. Although the state of Israel would not exist until 1948.

Finland seceded from the former Russian Empire, and Denmark sold its islands in the West Indies for \$25 million to the U.S., who renamed them the Virgin Islands.

The year 1917 was plagued by massive explosions. Munition accidents levelled factories in the U.S. at Kingsland, New Jersey and Chester, Pennsylvania, and in the U.K. at Silvertown, Essex.

The Battle of Messines opened with the British Army detonating nineteen mines in subterranean tunnels behind German lines, killing 10,000 soldiers.

However, the largest man-made explosion prior to the development of nuclear weapons, occurred in Halifax, Nova Scotia. A freighter carrying munitions exploded, after colliding with another freighter in the city's harbor, levelling 325 acres of downtown Halifax, killing 2,000 and injuring 9,000 – many blinded by flying glass.

# Almoner's Report

With profound regret and heavy heart, I bring word of the passing of Bro William Baxter Amabile. Bro Bill, who was 79, collapsed whilst on holiday in Tenerife with his dear wife Julie and unfortunately failed to recover. As soon as I discovered the circumstances, I immediately telephoned Julie in Tenerife and offered her support where possible.



Following her return to Barrhead, I visited Julie at home and expressed sincere and heartfelt condolences on behalf of the Lodge, to her and her son Stephen (also a brother of 307) and offered further assistance. Both Julie and Stephen conveyed to me their gratitude for my timely response at this sad time. Bro Bill Amabile was a cheerful, popular and well-liked by the Brethren of Union & Crown and as Lodge Almoner I got to know him well following a health scare 5 years ago, after which he found inner strength and a personal drive to overcome any difficulties. In his later years, he enjoyed spending time in Tenerife, sometime for up to 8 weeks at a time, several times a year, as ever accompanied by his beloved Julie, where he made many lasting friendships.

His funeral service took place at Bourock Parish Church on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, and thereafter to Neilston Cemetery with an extremely high attendance at both. I attended all services, and I feel certain that Julie, Stephen and family took much comfort from the presence of so many friends.

## Home Visits :

- Bro Eric Gray
- Bro Robert Nixon PM
- Bro Robert Kennedy
- Bro Donald Ferguson
- Bro Gordon Percy (*following his discharge from Hospital*)
- Bro Jim Laird
- Bro Ian Russell
- Bro William Reid

## Home Phone Calls :

- Mrs Nancy Webster
- Mrs Isobel Paton
- Mrs Holly Arthur
- Mrs Anna Roberts
- Mrs Karen Laird
- Mrs Margaret McLellan

## 🌀🌀🌀 Golden Wedding Celebration 🌀🌀🌀

Congratulations to Bro William Reid and his dear wife Marion who celebrated 50 years of marriage on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

**Brother Alexander G. White**  
Lodge Almoner, ☎ 0141-571 6411

# FLASHBACK

## Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 34 Years Ago

No. 67

September 1983

At the meeting on Tuesday 6th September, the following Candidates:

**JAMES WILSON, IAN McMAHON and WILLIAM FLETCHER**

were passed to the F.C. Degree by our visitors ofv the evening, Lodge Nitshill, No. 1478. The degree work reached the usual high standard which is their hallmark and a pleasant evening was spent in the company of our neighbours.

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm      Lodge Closed : 9-50pm      Attendance : 152

On 20th September, the abovementioned brethren, were raised to the M.M. degree by the members of the Instruction Class, headed on this occasion by Bro Jim Waterston and a warm and dignified performance was given by all who took part.

The Lodge was honoured by a visitation from PGLRE, headed by Bro Alex G Hutton PGM, who presented the Major Allan Golf Trophy to Bros David Law & Alan Mooney, won for the second successive year by these young Brethren

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm      Lodge Closed : 9-55pm      Attendance : 131

**THANKS** : We give a sincere and special vote of thanks to the following Brethren :-

To Bro Jack Shaw who did an excellent job of painting the stairs, walls and vestibule at the entrance to the Downstairs Lounge.

Bro Norrie Murray who boxed in the thermostat at the top of the stairs.

Bro David Campbell for painting various parts of the kitchen.

A special mention to Bro Alex Johnston P.M. (Australian Const.) who sent us a medal for our display cases, a 1966 Yearbook (which we didn't have) and two dozen masonic lapel badges which were distributed to the Brethren of the Lodge by his Brother-in-law, Bro Jack Gauld.

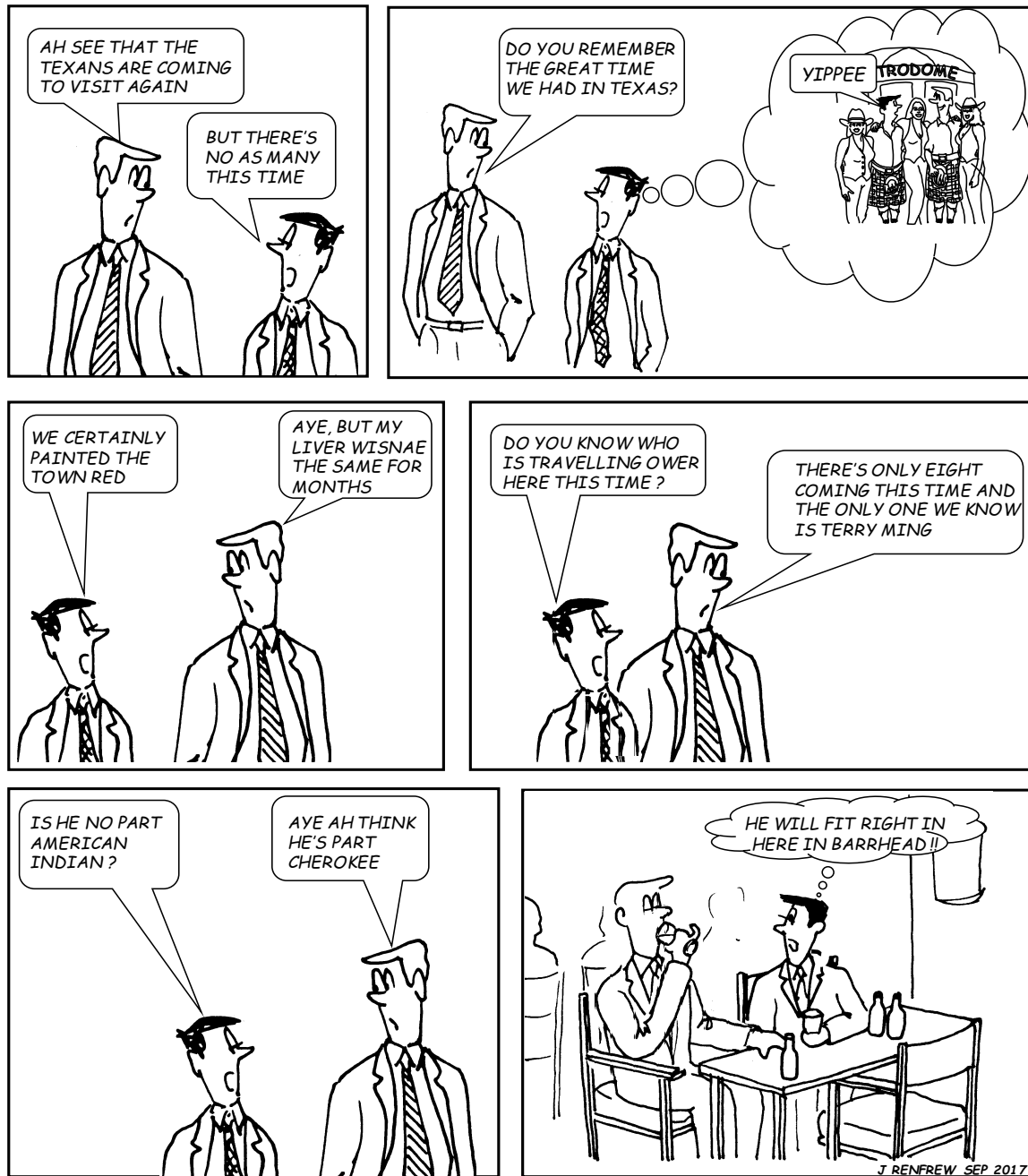
### **LODGE GOSSIP** :

We see that Solomon, our former Lodge cat is still living wild at the rear of Cochrane St.

We hear that Brian Morton PM has accepted an invitation to join the prestigious Order of St John

We gather that both Bro Davie Noble PM and Bro Kenny Hill have both joined Fereneze Golf Club.

# MARK n' ARCHIE



*The Mallet is researched, edited & printed by :*

**Brother Jim Renfrew P.M.**

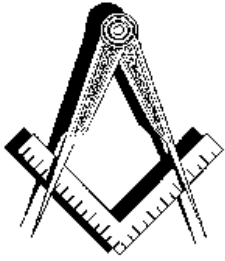
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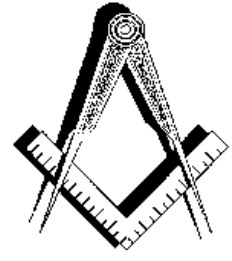
**Assistant Editor : Bro Graham Manson PM**

" With grateful thanks to all those who gladly gave their assistance "

Lodge Website address : <http://unionandcrown.org>



# Syllabus 2017



*\*- Denotes an Official visit*

## October 2017

- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October** 'Table of Scottish Freemasons' (Open Night)
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October** Lodge Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm
- \* Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October* **FC** at Lodge St Conval, No.1359
- \* Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October* **EA** at Lodge Pollokshaws RA, No.153

## November 2017

- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November** **DMM** by the Lodge Instruction Class
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November** **MMM** by Bro Ian Blair IPM
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November** Annual Installation of Office-bearers at 4pm

## December 2017

- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December** **EA** by the Worshipful Wardens
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December** **FC** by the Worthy Deacons