

Great Eccleston Lodge No 8895

Great Eccleston Lodge No 8895 meets in the small historic market town of Garstang. The town is situated against the backcloth of magnificent countryside and attracts many visitors throughout the year. It lies some 12 miles north of Preston off the A6 Lancaster road.

The seed for the lodge, was planted in the cosy atmosphere of the White Bull Inn at Great Eccleston. A group of seven enthusiasts, including WBro's Bill Thompson, David Rhodes and Eddie Parkinson called an inaugural meeting when it was agreed that the name would be Great Eccleston Lodge and that it should be founded as the daughter Lodge of St Michaels on Wyre.

Several founders meetings followed, during which it is recorded, that never once was there any dissention. The 32 founding members from many different walks of life and from 14 lodges, even tackled the thorny problem of the ritual by going through every word and movement and by making a master copy, which is (almost) emulation.

The warrant of the lodge was issued on 13 June 1979. The lodge was consecrated on 9 January 1980 at Ashton Hall, Lancaster, under the guiding hand of RW Bro Sir Knowles Edge Bt.

The installing master was VW Bro Rev R K Leigh PGChap, the SW, WBro C P Wright PrSGD and JD, WBro B F Smith PrJGW.

WBro W A J Thompson PPrGD was installed as worshipful master. WBro E J Parkinson as senior warden, Bro G L Johnson as Junior Warden, Bro G S Ainscow as treasurer, WBro D K Rhodes as director of ceremonies, Bro A Kaye as assistant secretary.

In 2006 all lodges meeting in Garstang, moved to a temporary venue pending the development of a new hall on the former Wyrebank site, close to the town centre. The new Masonic hall opened in August 2008 and is in a unique setting, with excellent facilities that can also cater for formal banquets, wedding receptions and seminars etc.

The lodge is in fine health. The social committee ensures that there is a varied programme of social events each year, providing the opportunity for non-Masonic friends to join us and appreciate the fellowship that membership offers.

Throughout the years, the lodge has held meetings at the Masonic Hall, Wyrebank, Garstang, on the second Wednesday of the month (Sep to May) and visitors are warmly welcomed. The installation ceremony takes place in November.