

Kingsway Lodge No 7870



Kingsway Lodge was born of necessity in 1963, with thanks to former brethren from Fellowship Lodge.

With over 150 members in Fellowship Lodge, it was thought that progression on the Masonic 'Ladder' was rather slow, so plans were made and permission was granted for the formation of a new lodge, Kingsway Lodge No 7870.

The lodge's first official meeting was held at the Widnes Freemasons Hall on 13 February 1962 when plans for the consecration ceremony were formulated. The consecration ceremony was held on Monday 25 March 1963, with 22 founding members taking part.

The name Kingsway Lodge was taken from the location of Widnes Freemasons Hall on Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QH.

On the evening of the consecration, the Lodge was opened as a Provincial Lodge by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master T W Ward, being the installing master. The first person to be installed as WM of Kingsway Lodge No 7870 was Jack Williams PPrGW.

The consecration meeting was witnessed by 146 members and guests, each member was presented with a founder's jewel.

The lodge's first joining members were Alan Daniels and Bill Jackson, who were both active members of the lodge and both celebrated 50 years in Freemasonry. Other members of the lodge who have celebrated their 50 years, were Norman Millner (Founder) and Nat Killen. On 22 October 2019 the lodge welcomed brethren to celebrate Nat's 60 years in Masonry.

The lodge banner was dedicated at a ceremony on Monday 11 March 2003 to mark 40 years of the lodge being in the Widnes Group.

In March 2011, the lodge hosted the visit of the Oklahoma Indians on their first visit to the Province and were treated to an exhilarating evening with Lewis Redhead being tossed in a blanket, missing the ceiling by inches during the demonstration!

The lodge has been honoured with three of its members receiving grand rank for their service to Masonry, these being:

Joe B Crosby who was a founder member and became WM in 1966. He received the rank of Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1978.

Arthur Ford-Giltrap who was well known throughout the Province for his entertainment skills and was a member for some 48 years until he was called to Higher Service in 2016, received the rank of Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1996, and his son-in-law, Kevin Peter Poynton a member of the lodge for some 39 years was the first initiate in the lodge to be appointed to Grand Rank in 2008. This was preceded by his appointment to Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2004, a role which continued for three years and in 2014 he was appointed as Assistant Provincial Grand Master of the Province of West Lancashire and promoted to Past Senior Grand Deacon in 2015. These are the highest honours and most significant appointments within the lodge and also within the Widnes group of lodges to date.