



### RW Bro Rev David Bonner

Past Pro Provincial Grand Master/Past Grand Superintendent

Passed to the Grand Lodge above - 20 September 2017

A Funeral Mass in Thanksgiving  
for the life of  
David Robert Bonner



Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 1pm  
at  
All Saints' Hampton

Led by: The Reverend Gareth Wardell,  
Prebendary David Vanstone,  
Miss Anne Walker, LL.M  
and Mrs Sarah Pain, LL.M  
Organist: Mr Christopher Myhill

David was born on 12 September 1928 in London within the sound of Bow Bells, which, unlikely as it may seem, made David a true Cockney! Shortly after, he and his parents moved to Hounslow and at the age of 11 he went to Isleworth County School. After leaving school he spent three years in the RAF and then joined Glynn Mills Bank where he had a successful 30 year career, rising to Chief Inspector. Whilst still with the bank he undertook training for the Ministry and was ordained a Priest in the Church of England. He served in a number of Parishes eventually being appointed the Parish Priest of All Saints, Hampton where the funeral mass was held on Tuesday 17 October.

Other than his wife Elizabeth, his family, his work as a Priest and Freemasonry, his main love was football. He was a fully qualified referee and served the game for 38 years. When at All Saints, David was also the Chaplain of Brindsworth House at Twickenham, which some of you may know, is the retirement and care home for those in the entertainment industry. David was also a Freeman of the City of London and was proud to be a member of one of the oldest City Guilds, the Worshipful Company of Parish Clerks.

In the tribute printed in the Order of Service for his funeral, his daughter Zena wrote that one of her father's most enduring qualities was that he always had time to help other people in any way he could. He could never be hurried under any circumstances but it was his calm and placid approach to life that let his virtues be most apparent. Those of us that knew him would most heartily agree with her words.

Turning to his masonic journey, he was initiated into the Heston Lodge No. 4888 in May 1968 and was exalted into the Hounslow Chapter in September 1971. He was at one time or other a member of Middlesex Masters, Bard of Avon, Quadratic, White Star and the Household Division Lodges. In a number of these Lodges he served as Master. His memberships in the Royal Arch included: Middlesex First Principals, North Surrey First Principals, Bard of Avon and Prince Michael of Kent Chapters and he served as MEZ in most of them. He had honorary memberships of a number of Lodges and Chapters, the most notable of which for him was David Bonner Lodge which he consecrated himself in 1998. The David Bonner Lodge is specifically for musicians and singers and most of the founders were members of the Middlesex Masonic Choir. During his time as Pro as well as before, David took a keen interest in the Choir and was its Patron. The Choir performs, as we know, on number of occasions and notably at the annual Provincial Service of Thanksgiving.

David's first appointment in the Craft was, unsurprisingly, Past Provincial Assistant Grand Chaplain, in 1979, one year later he was promoted to the active rank of Provincial Deputy Grand Chaplain and the following year as Provincial Grand Chaplain in which office he served the Province for several years. In 1992 he was appointed an Assistant Provincial Grand Master, in 1995 he was appointed Deputy Provincial Grand Master and in 1996 he was appointed, the second ever Pro Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent. There are a number of members of the Province, around at the time, who thought that in a peculiar sense this was the least enviable job in the Province. Who, after all, wanted to be the immediate successor of Gordon Bourne, who under the authority of the Provincial Grand Master, had proved to be such an inspirational leader. What Gordon did for this Province some future writer will no doubt record but Middlesex today is almost unrecognisable as the same Province as it was before Gordon. What a hard act David had to follow! However, that was his lot and he willingly accepted the challenge and the opportunity to be of service.

I have had the privilege of serving as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master under three Pro Provincial Grand Masters, Gordon Bourne, David Bonner and David Cons. They were and are of course all completely different personalities and they brought different skills and experiences to the job.

At his funeral service mention was made of David's sense of humour, his ready smile, his genuine affection for people and his sincerely held respect for others. All of these qualities made for an enjoyable experience for those of us who had the opportunity to serve the Province during his time. For the past 16 years of his illness we have not seen very much of him for obvious reasons, but many of us will have happy memories of David before he became ill and rejoice in remembering him as he was.

A full congregation were at his funeral including the present Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VW Bro Simon Thoday, the Deputy Grand Superintendent, E Comp Martyn Farrell, Past Pro Provincial Grand Master, David Cons, , members of his family and many of his friends especially from the Church, as well as a number of Middlesex Masons including members of the David Bonner Lodge.

David is one of those of whom it can truly be said "he lived respected (and to which I would add, greatly loved) and died regretted." He is missed by all of us who had the privilege of knowing him and his life and example will not be forgotten. May he rest in peace.

Dudley M. Wensley



## ONE LAST REMINDER



**Provincial Service of Thanksgiving  
Guildford Cathedral - Sunday 5 November - 3pm**

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sunday 12 November is Remembrance Sunday and the representatives of our Province will be, as usual, laying wreaths to commemorate our war dead, many of whom were Masons.

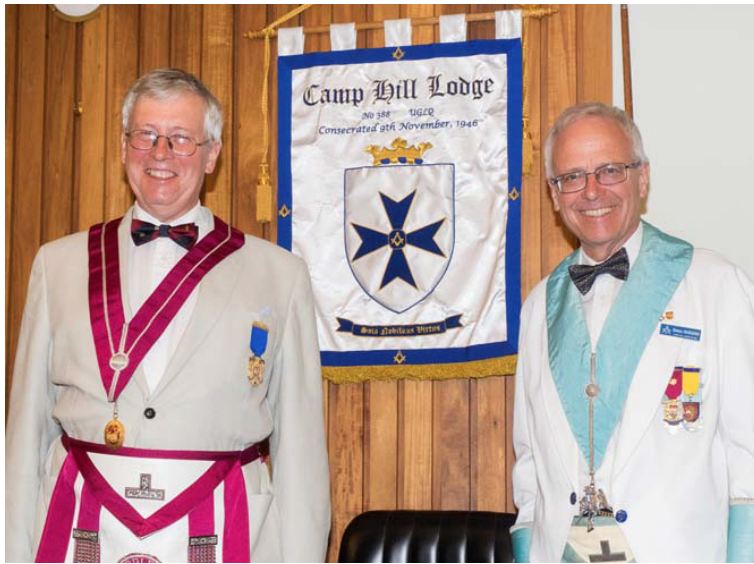
This is a very important day and one we must not forget.

Please go along and support them

Times and venues are on the Provincial website:

[www.pgml.org.uk](http://www.pgml.org.uk)





Paul and Simon at Camp Hill Lodge

## A Middlesex Mason Down Under

In early September WBro Paul Huggins, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, visited the sub-tropical City of Brisbane in Queensland, Australia to visit his brother Simon, also a Middlesex Mason now living 'Down Under'. Simon had emigrated some eight years ago having married Michelle, an Australian professional singer and musician.

My brother Simon is a member of a very active Lodge, which meets in the suburbs of Brisbane. Australian Masons have a high regard for English Masonry and I was asked if I might present a talk at the regular meeting of Camp Hill Lodge on the preparations for the Tercentenary Celebrations to be held in October in the United Kingdom. The Lodge is active with an abundance of candidates and on this occasion I was fortunate to be able

to witness my brother acting as Senior Deacon during the ceremony of Raising. The brother raised was an expatriate Filipino whose family just happened to run a restaurant. Whole suckling pig was the order of the day, whereas normally, because of the number of meetings during the masonic year, the regular fayre is sandwiches and stubbies (squat bottles of beer of about 375cl). My luck was in that night as I won the first prize in the Lodge raffle which was a large pack of barbecue meats. No surprises there.

Whilst in Brisbane I took the opportunity to see the Grand Temple and was shown around by the Grand Secretary who knew my brother. He was very proud to show me the Victoria Cross display in the museum and as he was shortly to visit London, was keen to see the VC memorial paving stone at Great Queen Street. Incidentally, the Brisbane Grand Temple is the only other one in the world, next to Grand Lodge in London, which was built as a World War 1 memorial.

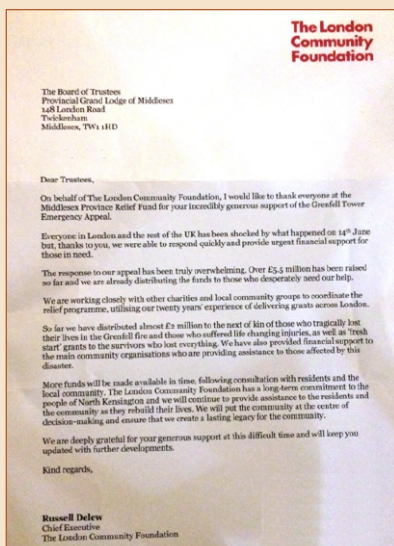
Apart from my own family connections with Brisbane, it appears that at the Harrow Masonic Centre, outside the Prince Michael of Kent Temple, there is a wooden model on the wall of the Brisbane façade with a certificate inside donated by the late Queen Mary. It appears that one of her household who happened to be a Middlesex Mason donated it. Have a look next time you are at the Harrow Masonic Centre.

In Camp Hill Lodge's magazine 'Cornerstone' the article about Paul's visit read: *'Distinguished visitor, Bro Paul Huggins, brother of our Senior Deacon Bro Simon. Bro Paul is Provincial Grand Master-Elect of the Province of Middlesex. He's so nice that we invited him to visit for every meeting!'*

I'm not sure our Pro knows of Paul's promotion!!!

## There are lots of stories on the Provincial Website Why not have a look - [www.pgml.org.uk](http://www.pgml.org.uk)

Just to pick a few things - A letter from the London Community Foundation thanking the Middlesex Province Relief Fund for the donation of £5000 in aid of the Grenfell Tower Emergency Fund. An article about the Provincial Information Trailer and how it's promoting Freemasonry around our Province.



Osterley Lodge reach Grand Patron (£30,598) with the help of W Bro Martin Burt, who raised over £7500 by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro earlier this year. His wife, Sevinc, who climbed with him, also raised a similar amount for the Children's Trust. Here is an excerpt:



W Bro Burt explained that climbing Kilimanjaro was a tremendous experience, although at times the conditions were difficult, with tropical storms and sub zero temperatures and basic creature comforts.

"It's fair to say you get to know your fellow climber (my wife) perhaps a little more intimately than the previous 15 years of marriage". He continued: "One rather humorous point is that the one thing you crave when you finally head off the mountain is a hot shower. Sevinc decided that we should not enter or have muddy boots in the hotel room when we arrived and immediately went into 'cleaning mode'.

When she had finally finished the last boot and hosed down the bath, I climbed in for a shower only to find all the hot water had gone and I was left to have a rather sobering cold shower."

To read a detailed account of the climb click on the photo above or click **here** to go to the Provincial Website to read all the stories.

## **TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PGO CLUB**

**Don't forget the next meeting is very soon**

### **14 November at Brunel University**

This is one of our two opportunities a year to gather with friends and acquaintances from across the Province for a pre-dinner drink and a relaxed dinner. Also on this occasion the Pro Provincial Grand Master will update us on what is happening in the Province and W Bro Nigel Codron will give a presentation on the new communications strategy and launch the new website.

**Please book asap using the forms on the website by clicking here**

and why not bring some guests from your Lodge who can of course be non Provincial Officers

If your Lodge is having an event which is interesting or maybe different and you think others would like to know about it please email the details so it can be considered for inclusion into The Mercury Lite.

Paul Steventon - [themercury@pglm.org.uk](mailto:themercury@pglm.org.uk)