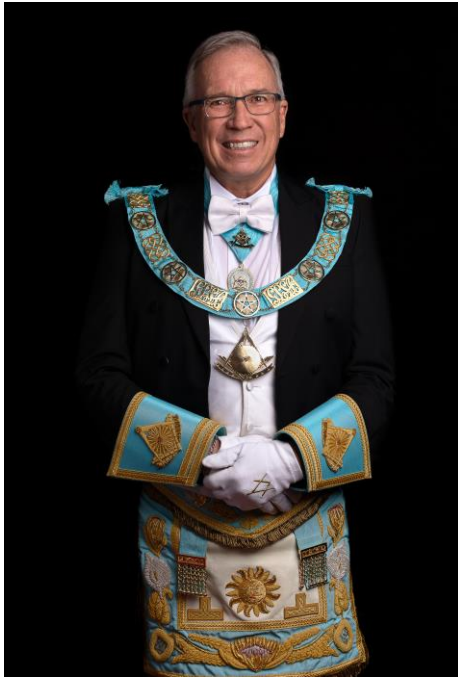


# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa, No. 145 March 2024



Most Worshipful Brother Godfrey Place.

## Freemasonry's Relevance in Modern World

Freemasonry, as we all recognise it, is a centuries-old fraternal Order. It has been a subject of intrigue and fascination for many. Its relevance in our modern world can be examined through various lenses, including its historical significance, its core principles, and its impact on society.

The understanding of the historical context of Freemasonry is crucial in assessing its relevance in our modern societies. Formal structures started to originate in the 16th to early 17th centuries. Freemasonry therefore emerged during a time of great social and political change. It provided a platform for individuals from diverse backgrounds to come together, fostering a sense of unity and brotherhood. This historical foundation has shaped Freemasonry into an Order that values inclusivity, tolerance and pursuit of knowledge.

The core principles of Freemasonry continue to resonate in our modern society. Sadly there are many who choose to ignore such principles leading to the breakdown of the accepted norms of a healthy society. As Freemasons we are guided by a set of moral and ethical values, such as integrity, morality, brotherly love, charity and personal growth. These principles serve as a compass for members, encouraging them to lead virtuous lives and contribute positively to their communities. In an era marked by increasing individualism and moral relativism, the emphasis on these timeless values is particularly relevant.

Freemasonry's impact on society cannot and must not be overlooked. Our organisation has a long-standing tradition of philanthropy and community

service. As Freemasons we actively engage in charitable endeavours, supporting various causes such as education, healthcare, and disaster relief, as well as animal welfare and looking after the aged. Our contributions have made a tangible difference in the lives of countless individuals, underscoring the relevance of Freemasonry in addressing societal challenges. For far too long we have been doing this below the radar and not in the public eye. This not being visible leads to more intrigue about the secrecy of our Order, providing naysayers with ammunition against us. It is time to shout about our good deeds and celebrate these with our fellow citizens.

Freemasonry provides a unique platform for personal and intellectual development. Through our ceremonies, rituals and symbols, we as Freemasons engage in self-reflection and self-improvement. The Order encourages all members to cultivate virtues, expand their knowledge, and engage in intellectual discourse. In an age where personal growth and lifelong learning are highly valued, Freemasonry offers a structured framework for individuals to develop their character and intellect. Additionally, Freemasonry fosters a sense of camaraderie and social connection. Our Lodges serve as spaces where individuals from diverse backgrounds can come together, transcending societal divisions. Freemasons form lasting friendships and support networks, providing a sense of belonging and camaraderie in an increasingly fragmented world. This sense of community is particularly relevant in an era marked by social isolation and disconnection.

Our critics argue that Freemasonry's relevance has diminished over time, citing its secretive nature and perceived exclusivity. However, it is important to realise that Freemasonry has evolved and adapted to the changing times. Our Grand Lodge has embraced transparency and we are starting to actively engage with the wider community. Efforts are being made to dispel misconceptions and promote a more inclusive image, ensuring that Freemasonry remains relevant and accessible to all. We just have not done a great job of "selling" our Order.

The relevance of Freemasonry in our modern world can be seen through its historical significance, core principles, and impact on society. Our Order's historical foundation, emphasis on timeless values, and commitment to philanthropy and personal growth make it a relevant and meaningful organisation. Freemasonry's ability to foster a sense of community and connection is invaluable in an era marked by social fragmentation. While it is important to acknowledge the criticisms and challenges faced by Freemasonry, its continued relevance is evident in its ability to adapt and contribute positively to our ever-changing world.

We must become active participants in our communities, we must be more visible in what we do, and we must be proud to be Freemasons. In our modern world, recognition and relevance is obtained by gaining “airtime”. This is the amount of time in which we are visible in our communities. We must change the fact that we work quietly, we must publicly announce the support we provide to our communities and gain as much exposure as we can through our presence on our websites and social media platforms and all other platforms such as local radio stations, and local print media while ensuring that our image is never tarnished by that which we publish.

**MW Bro Godfrey Place  
Grand Master**

### A Memorable Central Division AGM

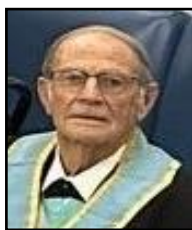
The Central Division AGM took place on Saturday 2 March in the Bloemfontein Temple

RW Bro Marcel de Kock, as Acting PGM, gave a positive report on his Division’s progress, after which the Grand Master, MW Bro Godfrey Place, assisted by his Grand Lodge Officers, installed him as the new Provincial Grand Master of Central Division. After outlining his plans, RW Bro de Kock installed his Officers, including Wor Bros Jan Coetzee and Francois Dauth as Assistant PGMs.



MW Bro Godfrey Place then took the opportunity to present 2 long service awards. Unie’s much loved

RW Bro Fanie Strydom received a 60 year jewel, while Senekal’s Wor Bro Llewellyn Rudman was awarded a jewel for his 50 years service. Both of these Brethren have contributed



a great deal to Freemasonry over the years and are much revered.

In the evening following the AGM we had the now traditional spit roast in the lapa behind the Temple. As always, this was much enjoyed by all.



### A Chain’s (Leadership) Conference of Note

This was MW Bro Godfrey Place’s first Chain’s Conference. He wanted it to be special – and it was! It took place at Horizon Stables guest house on Friday 1 March and ran from early morning until late evening.



During the day the attendees listened to presentations and worked in groups to explore some of our Grand Lodge’s challenges. The input was constructive and the feedback very positive.

In the evening we had a potjie team-building competition. The participants were split into 5 groups, given ingredients and resources and set about making a range of excellent potjies. The Most Worshipful judges were



Geoff Edwards, Godfrey Place and John Smith and the winning team was led by Bros Rex Ingle,

Reuven Coenen and Ric Gillmer. All the potjies were delicious and much enjoyed. This event, as was the whole day, had been a great success and was much enjoyed!



Central AGM attendees included (front) RW Bros Fanie Strydom, Cor van Zyl., Alf Bröner, MW Bros Geoff Edwards OSM, Godfrey Place, RW Bro Marcel de Kock, MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA, RW Bros Tommy Hardiman, Johan Britz MSA, Frans Appelgryn, Wor Bro Llewellyn Rudman. The sister PGMs are behind the Grand Master, together with other attendees.

## Brixton perform Degrees of the Captivity

On Wednesday 6 March Brixton Cryptic Council, with Thrice Illustrious Master Willem Ackerman in the chair, advanced Sir Knights Allen Tshabangu, Demos and Jacques Markantonis after they had been Received into the Degrees of the Captivity.



## Rademeyer Bros advanced to 18<sup>th</sup> Degree

On Saturday 9 March Gqeberha's AASR Chapter The Settlers advanced Ven Bros Schalk Rademeyer and Adolf Rademeyer to the 18<sup>th</sup> degree. The ceremony was chaired by Ven Bro Herdus Snyman. The Eastern Cape ESGIG, M Ill Bro Nowellyn van Vuuren and the candidate's proud father, Ill Bro Hendrik Rademeyer, were also in attendance.



## Prins Frederik initiate Bro Sabatha Magongo

On Tuesday 27 February, Lodge Prins Frederik initiated Bro Sabatha Magongo. The ritual was well conducted by RW Bro Reuven Coenen and his team with 4 Brethren earning REP points. Lodges Golden City and Star of the Rand conducted official visits. Visitors included MW Bro Godofredo Santy Lascano, a Past Grand Master of Washington State, who was presented with a Prins Frederik apron and a copy of the book "250 years of Freemasonry in South Africa".



*The Brethren of Prins Frederik are seen with their new Apprentice and their visitors after the working. MW Bro Lascano (5R) is alongside our Grand Master, MW Bro Godfrey Place (4R).*

## A meeting of 2 Grand Masters

As mentioned in our previous article, a Past Grand Master of the GL of Washington State, MW Bro Godofredo Santy Lascano, was a guest at a 1<sup>st</sup> degree meeting at Prins Frederik. Our Grand Master, MW Bro Godfrey Place was also there and had the welcomed opportunity of sharing some time with our visitor. These meetings are always very special and go a long way towards promoting our Grand Lodge and gaining insights into how things are done in other Grand Lodges around the world.



## Planning to Visit a Foreign Grand Lodge?

If you are looking to visit a Lodge in a foreign country be properly prepared. Let the Grand Secretary know just where you are hoping to visit (if possible include the Lodge) as well as the dates. Also get your Secretary to confirm your good financial standing.

The Grand Secretary will then communicate with the Grand Lodge you plan to visit and will introduce you to them. They will confirm that they are looking forward to seeing you and provide any further details.

If you do not follow this protocol, there is a very real chance that you will be declined entry and our Grand Lodge will then be cast in a poor light.

## Bro Schalla Wiese Passed to Fellowcraft

On Saturday 9 March, Lodge Jeffrey's Bay passed Bro Schalla Wiese to the Fellowcraft degree. The working was, of course, conducted in the Lodge's Temple on the Beach with Wor Bro Herdus Snyman in the Master's chair.

This picture of Herdus and Schalla standing on the sand just outside the Temple must be pretty unique.



## RW Bro Simon Nash is well Matched



On Saturday 9 March the Provincial Grand Master of Northern Division, RW Bro Simon Nash, was married to Janè in a very informal garden setting in the Johannesburg area. Congratulations to both of you and may you much enjoy your years together.

## De Goede Hoop Initiate Bro Luther Delport



On Wednesday 6 March Lodge de Goede Hoop initiated Bro Luther Delport. With the Master being RW Bro Tom Hardiman, the working was inevitably of an excellent standard and our new member has every reason to look forward to his Masonic future.

## Almoner's Report

We were much saddened to hear of the passing of Wor Bro Hendrik "Rocky" Smit (ex Sonop). He had been a member of our Grand Lodge for 20 years and attained the rank of Grand Tyler. Our condolences are extended to his family at this difficult time.

As always Brother Almoners, keep in touch with your Lodge members, particularly your seniors. We are a caring organisation and it really is vital that our members benefit from our Brotherly Love.

If anything is known about a Brother in distress, please share it with your Divisional Almoner.

Southern Wor Bro Llew Lloyd-Jones	072 9653572
Northern Wor Bro Herman Roos	082 3184238
Central Wor Bro John Meyer	073 3525832
Eastern Wor Bro Bushy McKelvey	076 8912058
E Cape Wor Bro Ian Hetherington	082 9545297

## De Goede Trouw Raise Bro Barry van Biljon



On Tuesday 12 March. Wor Bro Seppi Ricci and his de Goede Trouw team, assisted by de Goede Hoop and Westerford Brethren, raised Bro Barry van Biljon to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

## Eastern Division support Dementia Patients

As most of you will battle to read the article below, I'll give you a precis. "The dementia patients at the KwaZulu Natal Care Association were over the moon after members from the Freemason Grand Lodge of South Africa visited the local retirement facility on Monday March 11 to hand out teddy bears to elderly residents at the local retirement facility".

The teddy bears have buttons and pieces of cloth with different textures sewn on them so that the dementia patients can sit and play with them, thus helping to relieve stress and calm them. The PGM of Eastern Division, RW Bro Johan van der Merwe, advised that they had collected 100 bears and that Rina Greyling had spent 3 months sewing on all the pieces.

Rina commented that she did the work with love and was overwhelmed by how invariably happy and grateful the people receiving them were.

[bereamail.co.za/Community](http://bereamail.co.za/Community)

### Cuddly comfort for dementia patients

THE dementia patients at the KwaZulu-Natal Care Association were over the moon after members from the Freemason Grand Lodge of South Africa visited the local retirement facility on Monday, March 11, to hand out teddy bears to the elderly residents at the local retirement facility.

The Grand Lodge of South Africa have launched a project to support the Dementia Association of South Africa by donating teddy bears to dementia patients across the province.

"The teddy bears have buttons and pieces of cloth with different textures sewn on them so the dementia patients can sit and play with them. These extra bits have been sewn onto the bears so they can feel them with their hands because it helps the patients calm down," said Right Worshipful Brother Johan van der Merwe, the Provincial Grand Master of the Eastern Division of the Grand Lodge of South Africa.

The woman who added a special touch to 100 bears, by sewing bits and bobs for the dementia patients to run their hands over is Rina Greyling.

"It took me three months to finish all 100 bears, and I made them all with love. I am overwhelmed seeing how happy it makes the people receiving them and how grateful they were. If I can put a smile on their faces, that's all I want," said Greyling.

Funani Ngubane is overwhelmed with joy after receiving her teddy-bear.

Rina Greyling holds a few of the 100 teddy bears that were donated to the dementia patients.

Above: 101-year-old Catherine Christianson from the KwaZulu-Natal Care Association.

Right: Linda King from the KwaZulu-Natal Care Association.

Photos: Nia Louw

Well done Eastern Division – both on a great project and on your sharing your success through the Press!