

History of the Masonic Centre Rue De Le Vallee St Martin's



Bro Matthew Tostevin
President Museum & Library

2026

Foreword

Chapter One: Introduction

Chapter Two: St Martin's Lodge Building

Chapter Three: Le Marchant Street Building

Chapter Four: The German Occupation

Chapter Five: Post Occupation

Chapter Six: The Birth of the Masonic Centre

Chapter Seven: Open Days

Chapter Eight: The Museum and Library

Chapter Nine: The Ashlars

Chapter Ten: Portraits in the Centre

Chapter Eleven: The Great War 1914 – 1918 Memorial

Chapter Twelve: The Missing Chairs

Chapter Thirteen: The Lily Tavern Bar

Chapter Fourteen: The Future

Foreword

WBro. David Corson

When I was approached to write a foreword for this publication, I had served on the Board of Septimal Limited for almost 9 years with the last five as Chairman.

It has been my pleasure to know the Author since he joined St Martin's Lodge in 2019. Brother Matt has shown great dedication to the organisation from the day he joined and has been one of the very first to volunteer his time and expertise to any task required. He has shown great interest in the history of the Freemason's in Guernsey and has become somewhat of an expert in this subject and the 'man to go to', for information. Much of his expertise has come from his research to compile the fabulous displays he and his team have put together at the centre and many of our members and visitors alike are impressed with the stories that the displays cover.

The content of this book it's very interesting to myself as I did not join the Mason's until 1999, so I never visited the original St Martin's Temple or the Le Marchant Street Temple in St Peter Port so I've taken a great interest in the content of the book, and I am sure that other Masons who don't know anything other than our present Home, will find the content fascinating. During my time on the Septimal Board, I took a great interest in the construction, design and maintenance of the building, and I think it's important that this book will record the history related to the site and the people responsible for its creation.

Without the foresight of the original team of Masons that instigated the construction of the temple, where would we be today? So, a big thank you to them and to the board of Septimal Limited who have the unenviable task of maintaining this for future generation of Freemasons.

It is giving me great pleasure to write this foreword for Brother Matthew, who should be very proud of what he was produced, and I trust any of you who read this book will enjoy it as much as I have.

Sincerely & fraternally,



WBro. David E Corson Prov.G.SupWks

Chairman - Septimal Limited July 2025

Chapter One

Introduction

To fully understand the history of the Masonic Centre we need to first look at where the Lodges of the Province met prior to the Masonic Centre, there are Ten Masonic Lodges that meet in Guernsey and one in Alderney, traditionally Lodges met at Taverns or private residences and this was the same for Guernsey when Freemasonry was officially first introduced to the Island In 1753 with the Lily Tavern Lodge that met at the Lily Tavern the basement of what is now the Thomas De La Rue Pub in St Peter Port.

We will only be documenting the main two buildings that the Lodges met at prior to the development of the Masonic Centre, but here listed are the places where the Lodges of the Island met just before the opening of the Le Marchant Street Temple.

Mariners Lodge No.168, Loyalty Lodge No.243, Lodge Fidelis No.1809

1882 St Julians Hall, St Julians Avenue, St Peter Port

1883 Le Marchant Street, St Peter Port

Doyles Lodge of Fellowship No.84

1871 Masonic Hall, Court Place, St Peter Port

1932 Le Marchant Street, St Peter Port

St Sampsons Lodge No.2598

1896 Masonic Temple, Commercial Road, St Sampson

1932 Le Marchant Street, St Peter Port

Balfour Cockburn Lodge No.2805

1900 Freemasons Hall, Court Row, St Peter Port

1904 Le Marchant Street, St Peter Port

Hansard Lodge No.3515

1911 Masonic Temple, Commercial Road, St Sampson

1925 Le Marchant Street, St Peter Port

St Martin's Lodge No.4142

1920 Dauntless Hall, La Vallee, St Martins

Victor Carey Lodge No.6892

1949 Le Marchant Street, St Peter Port

Guernsey & Alderney Lodge of Installed Masters No.8564

1974 Le Marchant Street, St Peter Port

All Lodges met at La Villette Hotel 1996-1998

Chapter Two

St Martin's Lodge Building

St Martin's Lodge was Consecrated on the 30th September 1920 and met at "Dauntless Hall" a granite building that was built in 1902 and was used as a rifle club and community hall, that stood on the same site as the Masonic Centre, it was a central location in the parish and big enough to accommodate 100 members at the time of the Lodges consecration the building was very generously offered to the Lodge by the Senior Warden Designate, Brother Harold Barnett who held a bond on the property and so the building was purchased by the Lodge from Mr George De Carteret the Great Grandfather of the V.W. Bro. Simon Hamon Deputy Provincial Grand Master, who had purchased the site in 1912, with the generous help of its Founders it was purchased on the 3rd July 1920.

In 1924, WBro. Barnett made another generous offer. If the members of the Lodge would add two more anti-rooms and renovate the existing long anti-room at no expense to the Lodge, he would vacate his bond on the property, this meant he would give up the freehold of the property. The work having been completed, WBro. Barnett handed over the deeds of the property and the building became St. Martin's Lodge's own freehold property complete with two new changing areas.



**Images of the St Martin's Lodge building taken shortly
before its demolition in 1996**



These photos show the Temple at the last official St Martin's Lodge meeting held before the demolition of Dauntless Hall. That meeting was held on Monday 5th June 1995, the official guests were Mariner's Lodge No. 168

Le trois juillet mil neuf cent vingt.

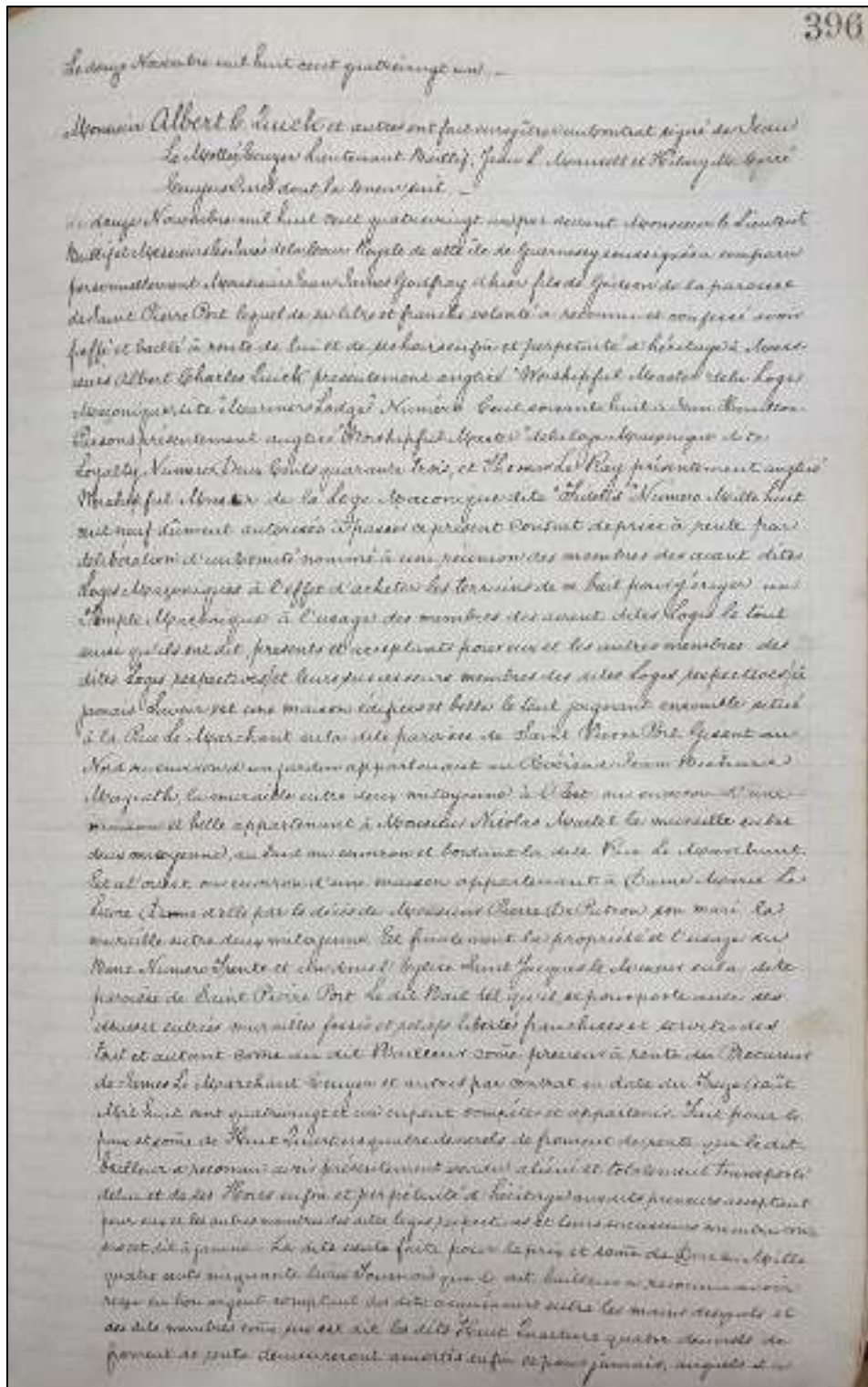
L'anglais *Worshipful Master* de la Loge Maçonique dite "*St Martin's Lodge*" No 4142 a fait enregistrer un contrat signé de Edward Chapman, Ebenezer Mayne Beatty et de Julius Bishop et Jean Albin Simon, écuyers, d'ores, dont la teneur suit :

Le premier juillet mil neuf cent vingt par devant Monsieur le Beatty et Messieurs les jurés de la Cour Royale de cette Île de Surinam susdignés a comparu personnellement Monsieur *George de Cartier* fils de Pierre de la Mare, demeurant en la paroisse de Saint Martin lequel de sa lèvre et franche volonté a reconnu et confessé avoir pûssé et baillé à rente de lui et de ses héritiers en fin et perpétuité d'héritage à Monsieur de la Courant d'Oran, de Rouge Rens en la paroisse de Saint Pierre Port présent et acceptant comme anglais *Worshipful Master* de la Loge Maçonique dite "*St Martin's Lodge*" numéro quatre mille cent quarante deux et pour ses successeurs "*Worshipful Masters*" et les membres de la dite Loge Maçonique et leurs successeurs membres à jamais, *Parce* est un morceau de terre sur lequel il y a vingt une sottes appelées "*Twenty One Acre*" le dit morceau de terre formant et devant un courtil appelé le Courtil de la Vallée situé en la dite paroisse de Saint Martin sur le Top de Ror, *Visant* au Nord ou environ d'un courtil appartenant à Monsieur Charles Allez Manger et femme à cause d'elle, le fossé entre deux appartenant de ce last, au Sud ou environ de l'Église Paroissiale de la dite paroisse de Saint Martin et terrain y joignant le fossé entre deux appartenant de ce last, à l'Est ou environ d'un courtil appartenant à Monsieur Jean de Rorignot et femme à cause d'elle un fossé entre deux appartenant aux dits de Rorignot et femme et à l'Ouest ou environ d'un courtil appartenant à Monsieur Jean Manger la rue de la Vallée entre deux. *Le dit bail* tel qu'il se rapporte avec ses clauses et entrées fossés et schiefs libelles franchises et coutumes tout et autant comme au dit bailleur premier à rente de Monsieur Nicolas William Broutton par contrat enregistré sur le livre des contrats pour la dote du premier Jean mil huit cent quatre vingt seize en peut compiler et appartenir. *Fait* pour le prix et somme de quinze quartiers d'écus.

Chapter Three

Le Marchant Street Building

The building in Le Marchant Street was purchased by the respective Masters of Mariner's Lodge, Loyalty Lodge and Fidelis Lodge on the 12th November 1881 from Mr Jean James Godfrey Ahier, with the aim of building a Temple for the Lodges of the Island to meet.



Conveyance registered 12th November 1881 courtesy of
the Greffe

Building work for the Temple at Le Marchant Street commenced in February 1882 and was carried out by Bro. Gervase F. Peek, interestingly during the works in an upper room of the building that was a Blacksmiths Shop some old decorations found on the walls indicated that it had been used for Masonic purposes, the Corner Stone was laid on the 3rd March 1882.

The front elevation of the building was to be of stucco however it was decided that as Guernsey was known as the "Island of Granite" the front of the building was to be made of Guernsey granite this was generously provided by Bro. John Hamley of Loyalty Lodge No.243 a Stonemason in St Sampsons who undertook to donate the granite required and carry out the architect's designs, with the Building Board only having to pay for the labour, the builders were given nine months to complete the construction.

On completion the building contained a spacious entrance hall with offices either side and at the back the Banqueting Hall which was 40 feet long and 24 feet wide and 12 feet high and could easily accommodate 100 Brethren.

On the first floor there were committee and dressing rooms, and the Lodge Room this was 40 feet long and 24 feet wide and 18 feet high, it was lit by a sunlight in the centre, The Masonic Temple was Consecrated on the 6th September 1883 at 3pm.

During 1895 works began to upgrade the lighting to gas and to decorate the Lodge Room, gas lighting was installed two lamps in the East, two in the North and two in the West and South and one either side of the main arch of the room.

Over the years the building was used by the Lodges and on the 1st December 1928 an area of land adjacent to the building was purchased with the aim of carrying out extension works to allow new facilities and a new smaller temple that was dedicated on the 4th October 1932.



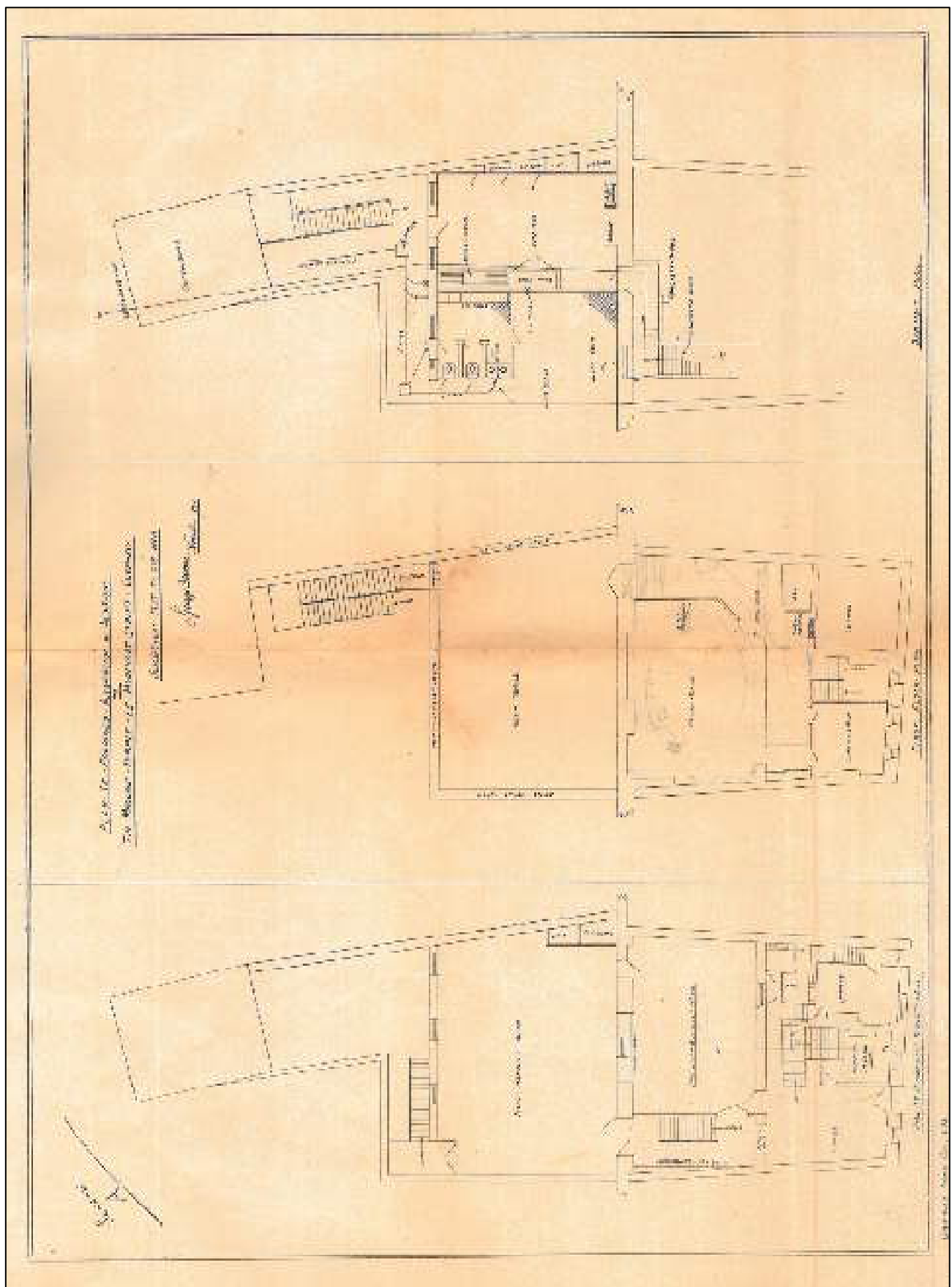
The Temple at Le Marchant Street, first picture taken before its sale and the second in 2025, showing its fine Granite finish and retaining the Square and Compasses



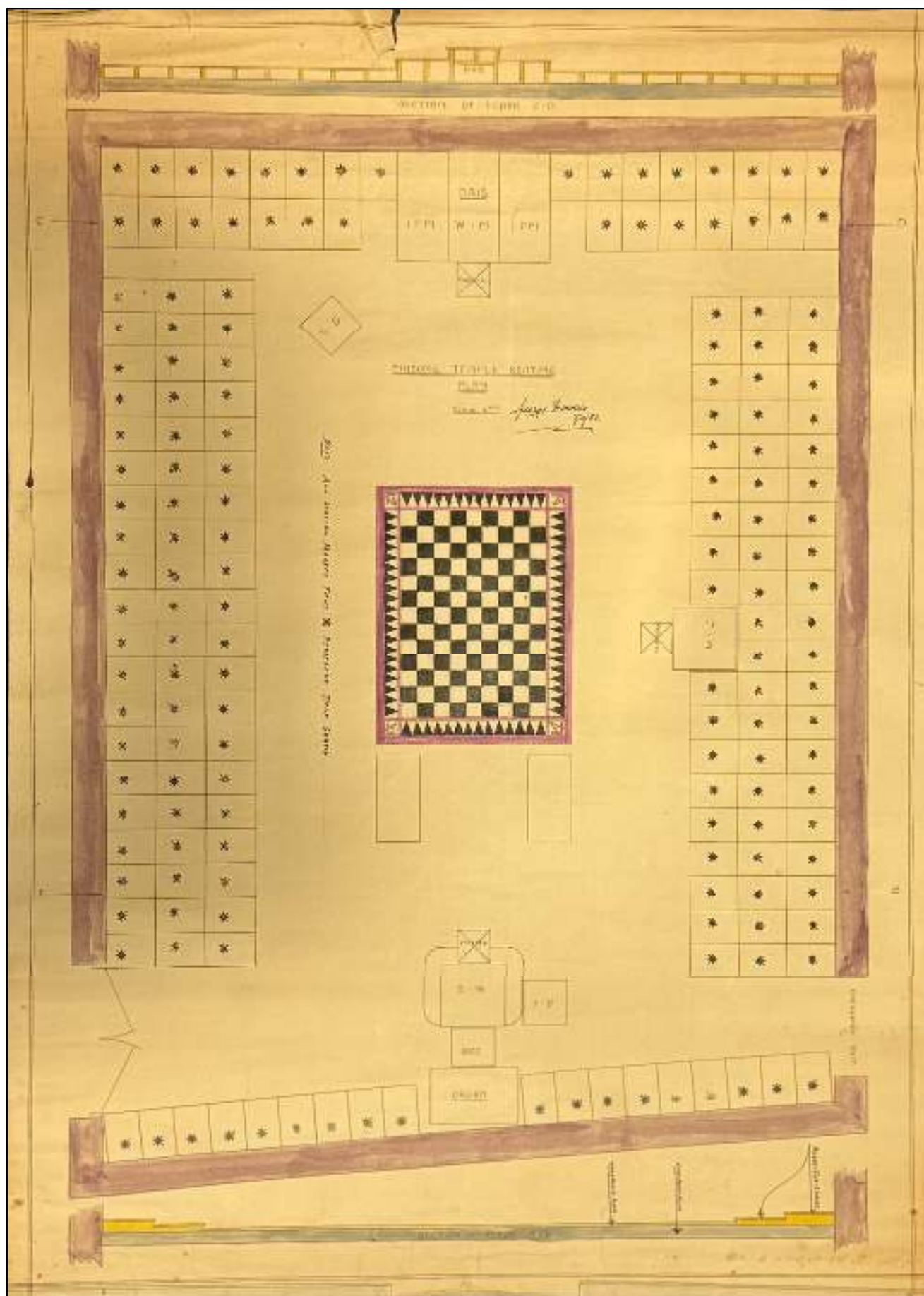
This brass plaque is engraved with the date the stone was laid 3rd March 1882 and who laid the stone WBro. J.S. Sneath Worshipful Master of Lodge Fidelis No.1809, along with a list of other Brethren who were in attendance and lists the three founding Lodges who built the Temple Mariner's Lodge No.168, Loyalty Lodge No.243, and Lodge Fidelis No. 1809.

WBro. Sneath was Initiated into Franklin Lodge No.1140 Boston Lincolnshire on the 4th September 1861, Passed on the 4th December 1861 and Raised on the 5th February 1862, he joined Doyle's Lodge of Fellowship No.84 on the 9th January 1867 and Lodge Fidelis No.1809 on the 4th February 1879. The plaque was removed when the Temple was sold and is deposited in the Provincial Museum.

On the evening of the 3rd May 1995 a presentation on the History of the Le Marchant Street Temple was given to the Brethren at the last meeting of Mariners Lodge No.168 by WBro. Anthony J. Cutter held there he also repeated this for the last Victor Carey Meeting held there on the 1st July 1995. A more in-depth history of the Le Marchant Street Temple can be found in The First 100 Years of the Province of Guernsey & Alderney book published 1994.



Plan of the Le Marchant Street Temple Alterations drawn
up by WBro. George Downie in 1932



Floor plan of the Le Marchant Street Temple dated 7th April 1932 by WBro. George Downie

On the 4th October 1932 the New Masonic Centre at Le Marchant Street was Dedicated by V.W. Bro. Sir Colville Smith C.V.O Grand Secretary in the presence of R.W. Bro. Sir Victor Gosselin Carey along with a number of Provincial Grand Officers and Brethren, this development allowed small Lodge meetings and Chapters to use the older rooms and the new rooms allowed for general gatherings, as a result of this extension the Temple Building now extended from Le Marchant Street to Lefebvre Street.

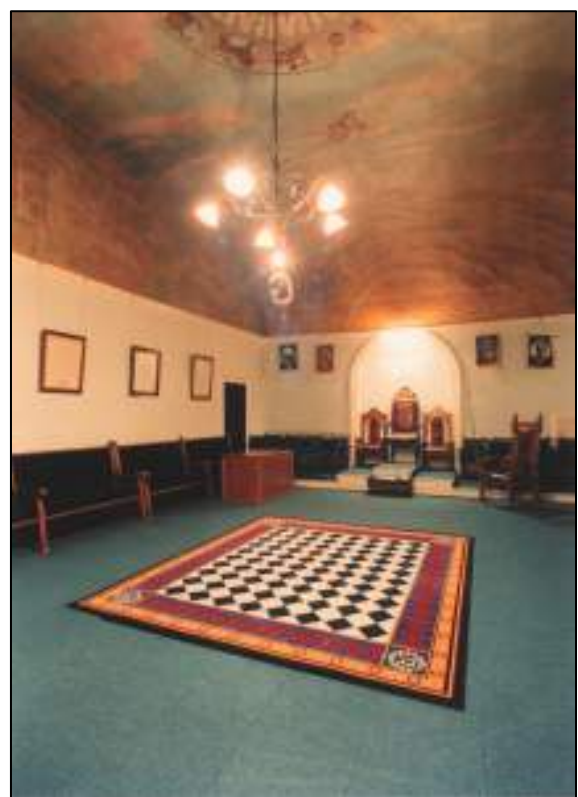


Banquet Card from the dedication of the New Masonic Temple 4th October 1932

The following are a selection of images taken by Bro. Brian Green shortly before the building was sold on the 25th June 1996.



The Small Temple Ceiling



The Small Temple that was used for mainly for Chapter Meetings



The Main Temple



The Dining Hall at Le Marchant Street photo taken 28th January 1931

Chapter Four

The German Occupation

The last Lodge meeting to be held prior to the Occupation was Mariner's Lodge No.168 on the 1st May 1940 with 20 Members and 1 Visitor being in attendance.

Prior to the arrival of the German Forces the Secretary of the Temple Board along with the resident caretaker of the Le Marchant Street Temple had left the Island. As a result, this meant that access to the building was very limited. As is the case today many Brethren stored their Regalia in the Temple buildings at both the Le Marchant Street Temple and the St Martin's Temple in a single draw rented for that purpose. With this reduced access many Brethren left the Island not being able to retrieve their Regalia and it was left in the Temple Buildings albeit in most cases securely in locked draws.

WBro. Cyril Stonelake discovered an old key that fitted the door of the Le Marchant Street Temple and was instrumental prior to the Occupation in saving the Regalia of around twenty Brethren. Some he managed to bury but for safe keeping unfortunately some had to be destroyed due to the risk of being discovered with so much Masonic Regalia in his possession.

On the 29th June 1940 on the eve of the German Occupation, several members of the Temple Board of Management obtained packing cases into which they placed a quantity of items held in the Masonic Museum. The Museum had been established in the 1850s, with the intention to secure by gift, purchase, or loan books, manuscripts, objects, or things of general Masonic interest, particularly items which have a connection to the Province of Guernsey & Alderney. They managed to hurriedly pack several cases, and they were sent to the furniture repository at I.C. Fuzzey's Limited, Bordage, St Peter Port.

On the 30th June 1940 the German Forces occupied the Island, over the following few days, a number of orders were issued by the occupying forces including one that concerned Freemasonry. It became one of seven "Lodges & Friendly Societies" that within the first days of the war were ordered to cease any form of gatherings. Other groups that fell into this order were The Ancient Order of Foresters, Order of Rechabites, Order of Oddfellows, National Deposit Friendly Society, Rational Association Friendly Society and the Salvation Army.

It was laid out in somewhat simple terms by these first military commanders that should the Temples be locked, and no meetings held, nothing would be done to interfere with the buildings or their contents. However, this was only one part of the Occupation Forces and soon civil administration units arrived namely the Feldkommandantur 515, who it would appear paid no attention to the promises previously made and soon set about implementing the directions in relation to the dissolution of Freemasonry and other Friendly Societies as dictated by the German authorities in occupied France.

On Friday 2nd August 1940 both now locked temples in were sealed by the Geheim Feld Polizei, the secret field police. The buildings remained with just the external doors sealed, until

Saturday 9th November 1940 when buildings were simultaneously opened and a complete inventory of every room and storage cupboard was conducted.

The inventory was conducted in a very thorough manner and as a room was completed, each individual room or cupboard was sealed. The inventory was so complete they even list the dustpan and brush, mop and bucket at St Martin's Temple. It is known that the Germans left an armed guard outside the St Martin's Temple and the keys for the building were handed over to an officer apparently "au fait" with Masonic matters. This list was demanded by Dr Raffler in an order issued on the 18th July 1941.

On Friday 15th November 1940 the Germans reopened the Masonic Temple at Le Marchant Street and the dining room was used by the Germans as a makeshift store for seized wireless sets. The building was subsequently resealed, but not the dining room. We know the Temple was unsealed and the wireless sets removed at Christmas 1940, when they were returned to their owners, but other than that there were little other recorded movements at the Temples.

On Monday 27th January 1941 again troops went to both Temples and the looting commenced predominately at Le Marchant Street, although St Martin's and Alderney items are known to have been taken out for display in Germany and regalia destroyed. Items taken included all the warrants for the various lodges and side orders, regalia and decorative masonic inscribed furniture and many of the beautiful silk banners representing the various orders. It was also as a result of this looting that the Germans were able to build a detailed picture of Freemasonry in the Channel Islands and United Kingdom and resulted in a detailed report being written and sent to France.

The St. Martin's Temple was however taken over and used as makeshift accommodation by engineers of the Reichsarbeitsdienst (RAD), or German National Work Service unit in Guernsey. This unit constructed other accommodation huts predominately on the east side of Rue de la Vallée running down towards Les Camps du Moulin.

At the Le Marchant Street Temple the Chapter room with its beautifully decorated domed ceiling was felt worth protecting. So, to protect the ceiling from damage it was filled with furniture and packing cases by the States, after the contents of the Chapter room had been looted. This was a deliberate act and was a careful attempt to protect the room from further damage. Fortunately, the room was never emptied, and the decorations largely survived.



Two German soldiers standing outside the Le Marchant Street Temple in 1945, image courtesy of VWBro. Simon Hamon.

Chapter Five

Post Occupation

After the Occupation the two buildings were returned to the Ownership of their Lodges from the States of Guernsey and the Brethren returned to find that both buildings had been extensively damaged by the occupying forces indeed the building at Le Marchant Street needed to replace most of its interior structure due to water damage, while at the St Martin's Temple damage had been caused to the walls, doors fixtures and fittings, work began to restore the buildings and replace looted regalia and equipment.

Mariner's Lodge No.168 was the first Guernsey Lodge to hold a regular meeting in the now restored Le Marchant Street Temple on Wednesday 2nd January 1946, although they had to apply to the Grand Lodge of England for dispensation as their charter had been taken and had to be reissued.

The first meeting to be held at the St Martin's Temple was held on 7th October 1946, which gives some idea of how much work was needed to be done there. As a result, many of the St Martin's Lodge Brethren in keeping with the time of "Make do and Mend" made items to furnish the Lodge including using blinds from shops to make the chequered carpet and a light cover that hung from the centre of the Lodge. The dark blue triangular lamp cover was made out of a heavy grade zinc sheet. It is believed the zinc came from the lining of a German ammunition box, it was folded, formed and painted by W Bro. A. O. Hamon. The first meeting to be held by St Martin's Lodge No.4142 post the occupation was on the 4th February 1946 after the Temple Board of Management of Le Marchant Street gave permission for temporary accommodation to be rented, this being the only time St Martin's Lodge has held a meeting outside the Parish.



Lamp used at the St Martins Lodge Dauntless Hall building after the Occupation, now in the Museum Display in St Martin's Lodge

Thankfully one of the most important items that survived the war after being hidden away is the St Martin's Lodge Warrant, this being one of only a couple of remaining original Lodge Warrants after they were looted or destroyed by the German Forces.



**St Martin's Lodge No. 4241 Warrant of
Constitution dated 1920, Courtesy of St Martin's**

While reconstruction works were being carried out at the Royal Court building during 1949-1950 the States of Deliberation as well as Royal Court Sitzings were held in the Large Dining Room at the Le Marchant Street Temple.

Meanwhile in 1965 the Lodge Committee approved the use of the lobby and ante rooms of the building to be used by the neighbouring St Martin's School during the day as classrooms, this also helped provide some small income for the Lodge from the States Education Department.

Chapter Six

The Birth of the New Masonic Centre

1974 saw the start of a journey that became one of our most significant changes since the Occupation. The Le Marchant Street Temple had suffered from years of lack of maintenance and with its age and needing significant upgrades as the costs to restore the building at this time was in the region of £2 Million Pounds.

In 1974 St Martin's Lodge began negotiations with the Temple Management Board of Le Marchant Street Temple with an offer to develop the Dauntless Hall site into the Masonic Centre for the Island.

That planning process ceased in August 1975 when the Island Development Committee refused the development of the site.

1982 saw a revisit with the Temple Management Board to establish a Masonic Centre at St Martin's and in 1983 the Island Development Committee again rejected the proposal.

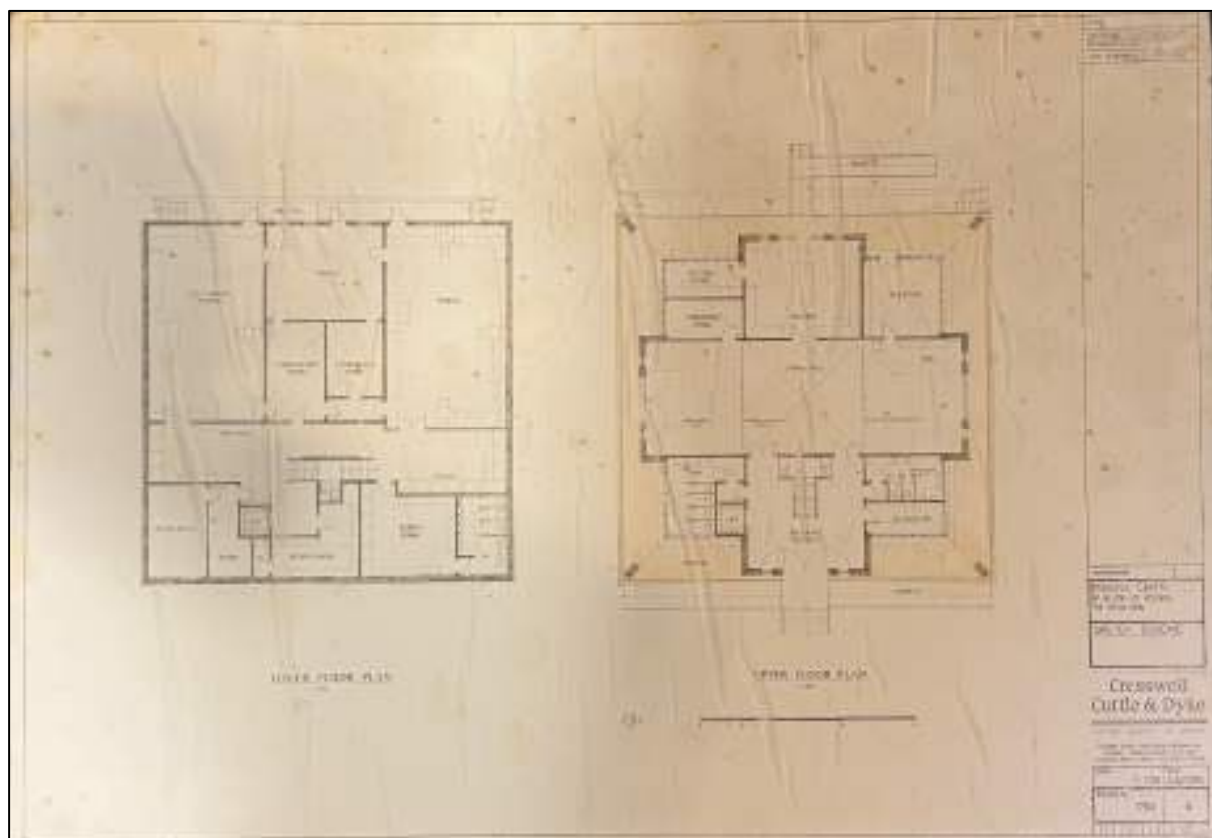
However, 1992 saw progress for a Guernsey Centre for Freemasonry with a planned move to a new site by both the Le Marchant Street users and Dauntless Hall members. Due to local planning laws, it was found that the only place which that would be suitable and also be acceptable to the authorities was the area which was already occupied by the St. Martin's Lodge building, despite that location having been rejected twice by that committee before, this time round it was approved but with several restrictions placed on the build including the size and height of the building.

After long negotiations with the other eight lodges and St. Martin's Lodge it was agreed that St. Martin's Lodge would donate their land to build the new Masonic Centre. In view of this generosity, it was decided by the Temple Management Board that St Martin's should be given an exclusive Lodge room within the new complex, with conditions they are responsible for the upkeep of the room and its furnishings this also had implications in the use of the room by other Lodges and Chapters that we see today, that being the costs to rent the room being set by Septimal.

On this agreement and the sale of the Le Marchant Street property the old St. Martin's building was cleared and demolished to make way for the new Masonic Centre, Architects Cresswell, Cuttle and Dyke and Builders J.W. Rihoy were appointed to plan and develop the 9,500sq ft building.

While the building work was being completed the Lodge, together with all the other Guernsey Lodges, made exclusive use of a room provided by WBro. Power a St. Martin's member, at La Villette Hotel while the New Masonic Centre was being built.

This also saw the formation in 1995 of the new management committee that would oversee the running of the New Masonic Centre, the organisation was to be named “Septimal” (an adjective relating to the number Seven)



Early plans drawn up in July 1994 showing the external appearance of the Masonic Centre and the internal layout, Architects Cresswell, Cuttle and Dyke

On the 26th June 1996 the Le Marchant Street Temple Building and Land was sold to Le Marchant Holdings Limited for £1,010,000.00 by the following Worshipful Masters acting on behalf of the members of their respective Lodges.

Alan Le Pelley Mariners Lodge No.168

Adrian Ridgwick Doyles Lodge of Fellowship No.84

Alasdair Stewart Loyalty Lodge No.243

John Symons Lodge Fidelis No.1809

Donald Clark Balfour Cockburn Lodge No.2805

John Sullivan St Sampsons Lodge No.2598

Rex Champion Victor Carey Lodge No.6892

John Mauger Hansard Lodge No.3515

On the same day William Jones, the Master of St Martin's Lodge on behalf of its members sold Dauntless Hall to Septimal Limited, this paved the way for the construction of the New Masonic Centre.

With the Contractor and Architect chosen they could begin work within the restrictions put on the development, that the building was not to be any larger than the footprint of the Dauntless Hall site that was there.



Demolition of Dauntless Hall

In a letter dated the 17th April 1997 the Chairman and Director of Septimal wrote to Brethren explaining that work had commenced and an informal ceremony had been held at the site on Wednesday 2nd April 1997 when the turf was dug by RWBro. Sir Charles Frossard Provincial Grand Master, assisted by E Comp Douglas Randall GSupt and RWBro. Alan Spencer Provincial Grand Master of Mark Master Masons.



The letter also made Brethren aware that the contract price was approximately 1.4 million Pounds, and that more money was needed to be raised for its completion and the proposal of a Bond was introduced to be issued in denominations of £100, £500 and £1000.

A further letter sent to Brethren on the 17th December 1997 shows work had progressed well with the building being wind and water tight and that the fitting out of the Temples was due to commence in February 1998, however £40,000 was still required to be raised by May 1998 and that Bonds were still available to buy.

It was also announced that the name of the building had been chosen, and it was to be known as "The Masonic Centre" and that the Temples were not to be given names but simply known as the "St Martin's Temple" "The Main Temple" and "The Small Temple".

A couple of different methods of raising funds for the building works and furnishings was offered to the Brethren one was that they could sponsor a chair at a cost of around £50 in the Main Temple, on the back of each light blue chair is an engraved plaque with the Brothers name who sponsored a chair, another was with the closure of the Le Marchant Street Temple there was an abundance crockery each bearing the name of the Province, the decision was taken that they were not to be used at the new centre, these consisted of Diner Plates, Side Plates, Starter Plates and Soup Bowls, they were sold as a set for approximately £20 per set and are now highly desirable items, over the years examples have been donated to the Museum.



**Example of the plaques found on the back of
the light blue chairs in the Main Temple**



**Plates and Bowls sold to Brethren that were
used at the Le Marchant Street Temple**



Handing over of the keys by Jeremy Rihoy of J.W. Rihoy and Sons Ltd (right) to WBro Keith Tydeman (left) on the 24th April 1998



Last meeting held by St Martin's Lodge at La Villette Hotel 1st June 1998

The building works took almost two years to complete starting in 1996 and being completed in 1998 with the dedication taking place on the 25th July 1998 the dedicating officer was RW Bro. Sir Charles Frossard K.B.E Provincial Grand Master of Guernsey and Alderney, and the first Lodge to meet in the new Centre was Mariner's Lodge No.168 on the 2nd September 1998.

*The United Fraternity of Ancient Free and Accepted
Masons of England*

M.W.Bro. H.R.H. The Duke of Kent, K.G., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., A.D.C.
The Most Worshipful Grand Master

Province of Guernsey and Alderney

*Lumen Ingens
Oriente Lucet*



*Ubi Pax et
Silentium Regnant*

Dedication Ceremony
of the
MASONIC CENTRE, ST. MARTIN'S

R.W.Bro. Sir Charles Frossard, K.B.E.
Provincial Grand Master
Dedicating Officer

9th June 1998

La Collerie, Les Croutes
St. Peter Port
Guernsey

Dear Sir and Brother,

BY COMMAND of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, a DEDICATION CEREMONY is appointed to be held at THE MASONIC CENTRE, ST. MARTIN'S, GUERNSEY at:

10.30 a.m. on SATURDAY 25TH JULY 1998.

All Present Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge, together with the Worshipful Master and other invited Brethren of the several Lodges of this Province, are hereby summoned to attend in full Masonic Clothing.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,
D.P.L. HODGETTS, P.A.G.D.C.,
Provincial Grand Secretary

All Brethren are requested to be seated by 10.15 a.m. with the exception of Grand Officers and Present Provincial Officers.

**Summons for the Dedication Ceremony of the Masonic Centre
held on the 25th July 1998**



Construction of the Pyramid feature of the Masonic Centre this enabled the building to remain the same size as the Dauntless Hall structure



A small topping out ceremony held in October 1997



Various images of the Masonic Centre

By WBro. Mike Stanford



Artist impressions of the murals to be painted around the Main Temple produced by W.Bro. Le Cheminant



The Main Temple that can accommodate 160 Brethren



The ceiling of the Main Temple incorporates two-star formations illuminated by fibre optic lights these are set out in the angle of “Norma” a Carpenters Square and “Circinus” the Compasses



The Small Temple that can accommodate 50 Brethren



Anteroom leading to the Small Temple



The St Martin's Lodge Temple that can accommodate 110 Brethren



Changing Room accessed from the Entrance Lobby



The Dining Hall and Bar with a capacity of approximately 160



The Displays in the Museum and Committee Room adjacent to the Dining Hall



Entrance Lobby with the stairs leading down to the Temple Rooms

As part of the building works it was stipulated to include several fixtures and fittings from both the Le Marchant Street Temple and Dauntless Hall site, including the two round windows that were used in the front elevation of the Le Marchant Street Temple.



The All-Seeing Eye above the main entrance of the Masonic Centre and the Square and Compass found in the Dining Hall



Ceiling light in the main entrance of the Masonic Centre that was used in the Main Temple in the Le Marchant Street building



Two items stand out as soon as you enter the Main Temple, they are the Two Pillars that stand at the West end of the room, these were previously used in the Main Temple at Le Marchant Street, the Pillars were unveiled at the Victor Carey Lodge No.6892 Meeting held on the 2nd July 1953 the anniversary of the birthday of RWBro. Sir Victor Gosselin Carey. The Pillars were made in Guernsey to a design provided by WBro. Thomas Oscar Guilbert of Hansard Lodge No.3515, by Messrs Lovell & Co. Ltd. Smith Street, St. Peter Port.



In addition to making sure a lot of the Provinces historical items and history of the two previous buildings and Temples were incorporated in the New Masonic Centre, as part of the decorating of the Temples the walls were decorated with murals depicting ancient scenes as well as more modern ones and features of Masonic Interest like corn and water, and of the Islands coastline.

The murals in the Main Temple were completed by Bro Steven Collenette of Mariner's Lodge No.168 and the in the St Martin's Temple by WBro. David Paul of St Martins Lodge No.4142.



**Mural found in the NE Corner of the
Main Temple**



**Mural found in the NW Corner of the
Main Temple**



Mural found in the West of the Main Temple behind the Senior Warden depicting the Masonic Centre



Mural found in the West of St Martin's Temple behind the Senior Warden depicting the Dauntless Hall Building

Also, as part of the design of the building on the roof are two lightening conductors one at the top of the glass pyramid in the centre of the building is an Orb and the other above the main entrance is a large metal Jewel of the Royal Arch.



Jewel of the Holy Royal Arch on the apex of the roof at the entrance of the Masonic Centre

During 2012 it was identified that there was evidence of water staining found on the ceiling of the Main Temple and a leak over the entrance to St Martin's Temple as a result of further investigations on the 2nd January 2015 Brethren were sent a letter from the Chairman of Septimal as a result of this damage, and that failings in the waterproofing had been identified as a result of this remedial works were needed to take place at a cost of almost £504,000.00, and that the proposal of issuing Bonds was presented to the Brethren this method of raising funds to ensure the building is maintained for the future is still in use today.



Pictures taken during the redecoration as a result of water damage in the St Martins Lodge Room

Chapter Seven

Open Days

Throughout the years the Masonic Centre has been opened to the public many times with more planned for the future.

It was first opened to the public on the afternoon of Saturday the 19th September 1998, and within the first hour over 200 had come through the doors, there were around 30 Brethren on hand to show people around and answer questions with a series of ten minute talks being given.



Photo from the Guernsey Press 21st September 1998 of the first open day

The Centre was also opened to the public on the 9th September 2017 as part of the Tercentenary Celebrations of the United Grand Lodge of England, this was another very successful day with members of the public making the most of seeing what Freemasonry has to offer and the work it does in the community.



Photo of the open day 2017

Chapter Eight

The Museum and Library

The Province of Guernsey & Alderney's Museum and Library had been established in the 1850s, with the intention to secure by gift, purchase, or loan books, manuscripts, objects, or things of general Masonic interest, particularly items which have a connection to the Province of Guernsey & Alderney and was based at the Le Marchant Street Temple.

As a result of the ransacking of the Temple by the German Forces during the Occupation many items of historical value to the Province were lost and for many years Brethren have been trying to recover stolen items and to rebuild the Museum, as a result when the Masonic Centre was built and Committee and Library Room was also created just off from the Dining Hall, for many years this had been used as a storage area for many books and boxes of material from various Lodges, the decision was taken by the Museum and Library Committee in 2023 to empty the room and dedicate it to displaying some of the many items of interest the Museum holds, as a result a group of Brethren met and stripped the books and boxes out and put them into storage and the new displays were laid out, lighting was installed and the Lodges now have a welcoming area to show off the items and entertain visitors and Initiates.

One of the most striking areas within the Dining Hall is the Large Glass Display Cabinet built into the wall that divides the Dining Hall and the Entrance Lobby, this impressive cabinet that is 2.75 meters high and 2.96 meters wide with glass front and back was presented to the Province by Loyalty Lodge No.243, when the displays were originally laid out and the Masonic Centre was opened you could view the display from both sides, however due to issues with the sun shining through it was decided that curtains would be installed on the Lobby side and the display would mainly be viewed from the Dining Hall, but still retaining the option to open the curtains to show both sides, this display is changed around four to five times a year.

There are also several Glass Display Cabinets that were donated by WBro. Martyn Guille, located around the Dining Hall containing many items from Rare Jewels to Lusterware Jugs from the Museum's Collection,

St Martin's Lodge also has its own small Museum Display incorporated into the Secretary's Table this was made available to the Lodge by the bequest of Bro. John Allez who donated a sum of money to be used towards the purchase of the display, it contains many items of historical value to the Lodge, and within the entrance of the Masonic Centre is a book shelf where Brethren can borrow books of Masonic interest.



Display Cabinet built into the Secretary's Desk in St Martins Lodge



**Main Display cabinet in the dining hall seen from the Hall and Entrance
at the opening of the Centre**

An impressive Photo Album was produced by several Brethren with the intension to record the building, completion and dedication of the Masonic Centre from the start of the build and also includes several images up unto 2001, the album was compiled and mainly photographed by WBro. A Jelly St Sampsons Lodge No.2598 with contributions from WBro. B Vandertang, St Sampsons Lodge No.2598 and Bro. Brian Green of St Martins Lodge No.4142, many of these photos have featured in this booklet and have proved to be a valuable addition to the history of the building, the album is available to be viewed in the Museum Room on request.

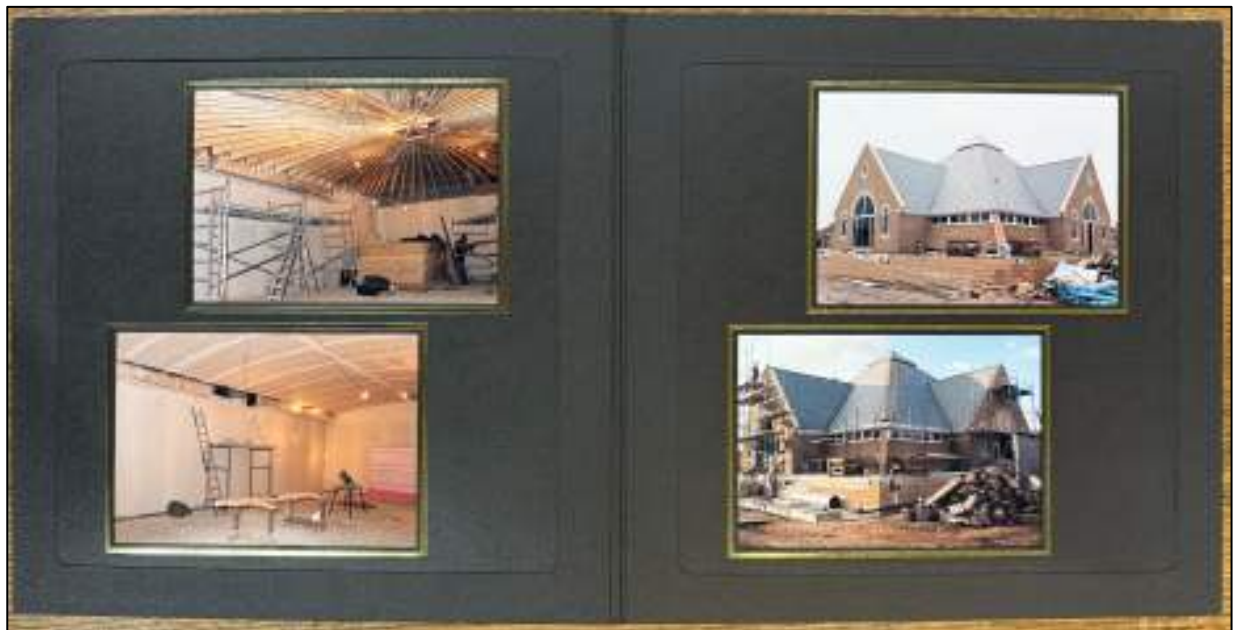


Photo Album of the building of the Masonic Centre

Chapter Nine

The Ashlars

When the Masonic Centre opened in 1998 the then Provincial Grand Secretary was approached by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Isreal as he wished to visit for the Dedication along with 29 Brethren, unfortunately this request could not be accommodated due to the numbers of Brethren attending, as a result the Grand Master sent a stone from the mines of King Solomon, which holds great significance to the organisation as a gift to the Province, this was then fitted under the Master's pedestal in the Main Temple.



The Smooth Ashlar incorporated into the Master Pedestal in the Main Temple, from Kings Solomons Quarry

In the St Martin's Temple on the Junior Wardens Pedestal is the Rough Ashlar, however this Rough Asher is part of the Dauntless Hall building that was recovered during its demotion and is a fitting tribute to the connection between the old St Martin's Temple and the new.



Rough Ashlar made from Granite from Dauntless Hall on the Junior Wardens Pedestal in St Martin's Lodge

Chapter Ten

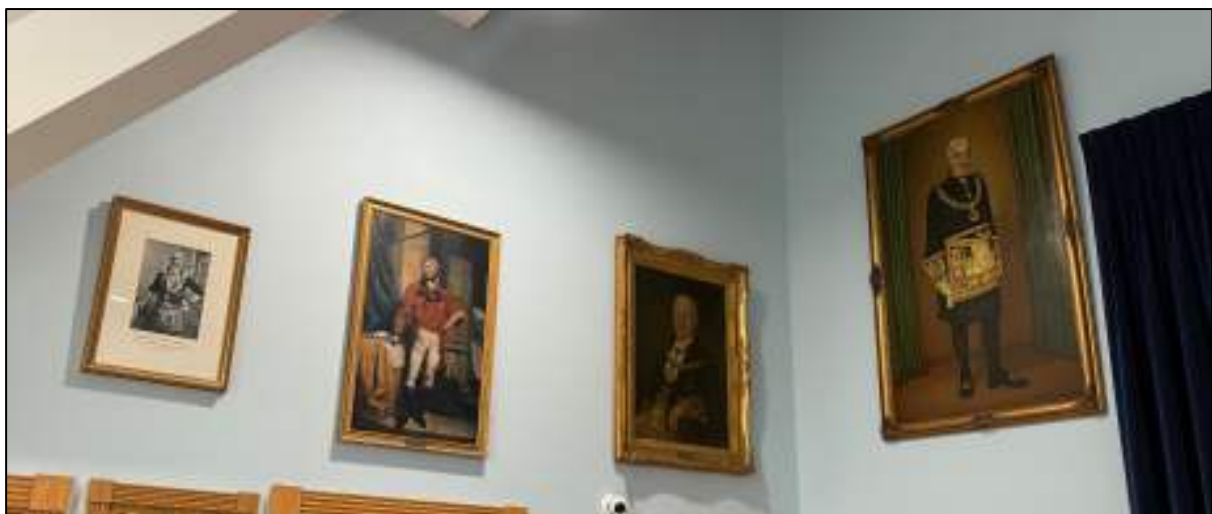
Portraits in the Masonic Centre

There are several portraits found in the Masonic Centre most of which came from the Le Marchant Street Temple, these include of Provincial Grand Masters found in the entrance hall and in the dining room the Grand Master.

This reproduction of the portrait of the Grand Master the Duke of Kent, that was commissioned by the United Grand Lodge of England in 1975 and painted by Derek Hill, in it the Grand Master is seen wearing the robes of the Order of the Garter and in the background a stained-glass window with Square and Compasses as seen in United Grand Lodge Building in Great Queen Street, London.



The Portrait of The Grand Master on display in the Dining Hall



Portraits all around the Entrance Hall of the Past Provincial Grand Masters of the Province of Guernsey and Alderney.

Chapter Eleven

The Great War 1914 – 1918 Memorial

To the left-hand side of the entrance hall, you will find a memorial plaque to the Roll of Freemasons of the Province of Guernsey and Alderney who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the Great War 1914 – 1918.

The Brass plaque measuring 38cm by 96cm mounted onto a wooden frame was unveiled at the Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting on the 16th October 2015 by the then Provincial Grand Master RW. Bro David Hodgetts L.V.O and list the following names.

Mariners Lodge No.168:

John Henry Clayton.

Doyles Lodge of Fellowship No84:

Ralph Hawtrey, Charles Edward Lloyd, Edward Graeme Ozanne, Fergus Hamilton Reed,
George Edward Ram.

Loyalty Lodge No.243:

Albert James Rabey, Charles Thomas Flux.

St Ann's Lodge No.593:

George Albert Cook, Thomas Fell, Frederick William Quinain.

Lodge Fidelis No.1809:

Stanley Alfred Rihoy, Guy Allen Thomas Veal.

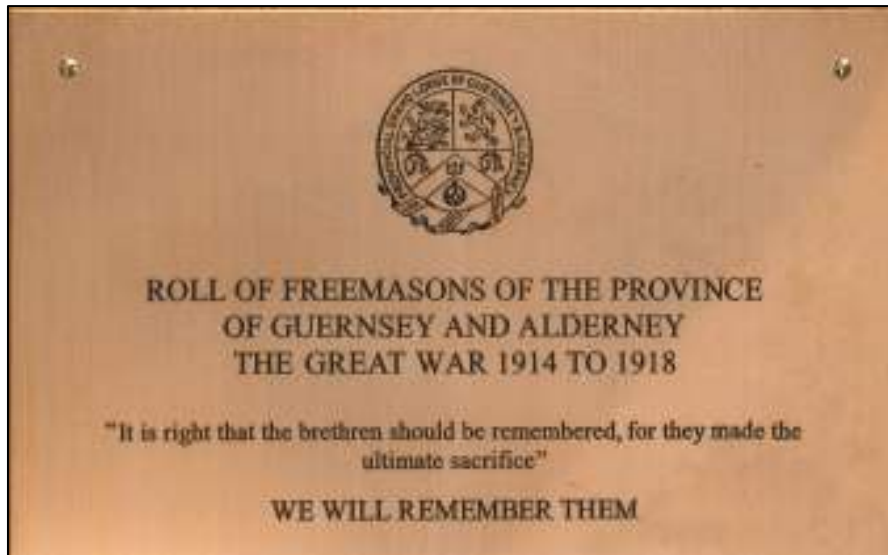
St Sampsons Lodge No.2598:

Harry E K Stranger MC, Louis Joseph Auguste Bulteau, George Stranger, Willie Hotton, Peter
Paul Le Page, Francis William Peters, Charles Duncan, Frederick John Grenfell.

Balfour Cockburn Lodge No. 2805:

Ernest James Blight.

The memorial plaque was researched, and the idea developed by Bro Michael Beecham Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer.



The top of the Brass Memorial Plaque



Bro. Michael Beecham at the unveiling of the Memorial Plaque



RWBro. David Hodgetts unveiling the Memorial Plaque

Chapter Twelve

The Missing Chairs

As part of the investigations into the Masonic Centre, I came across an image in the photo album produced by WBro. A Jelly, of three dark wood chairs in the dining hall at the Masonic Centre that appeared to have been delivered with other chairs from storage.

The three chairs appeared to be for the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens being of an impressive design and highly decorated with Masonic Symbolism, although we know the chairs made it to the Masonic Centre, they are not to be found in the building, so it posed the question of what happened to them?

After talking to many Brethren who would have remembered the Le Marchant Street Temple it became clear they were used in the smaller of the two Temples there that was predominantly used for Holy Royal Arch Meetings, however no one could recall them ever being used in the Masonic Centre, as a result posters were put up seeking information on the whereabouts a few leads indicated that they may have been sent to Alderney for use by the Lodge there however after checking with Brethren in Alderney they were never sent there.



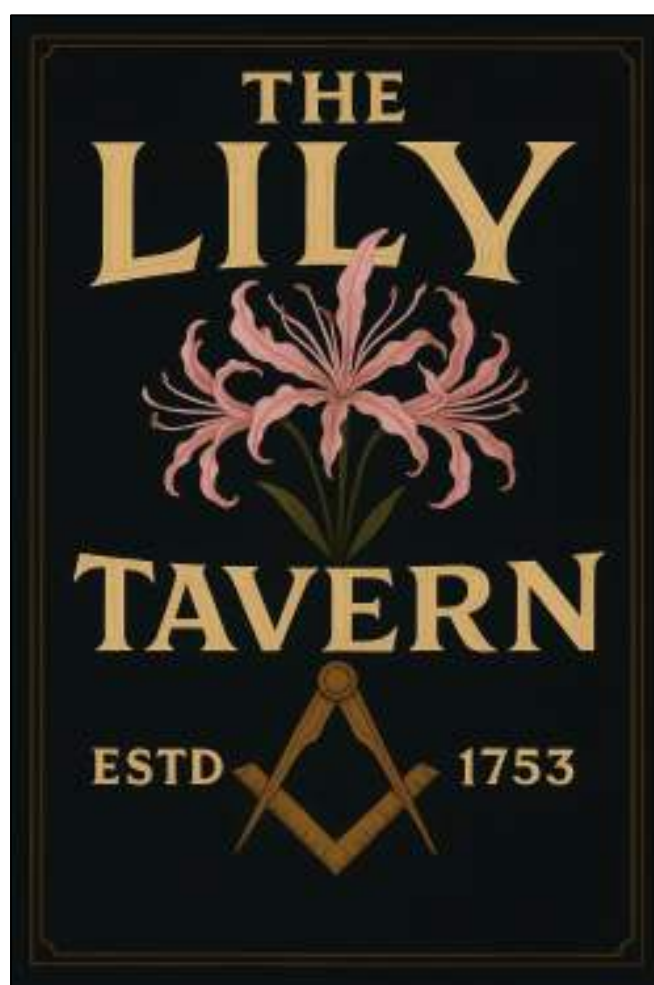
The Three chairs seen at the Masonic Centre and being repaired at the Guernsey Woodcarvers

Chapter Thirteen

The Lily Tavern Bar

At the Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting held on the 17th October 2025, the RWBro Philip Falla the Provincial Grand Master, announced that the bar area was to be named the “Lily Tavern” after the first Guernsey Lodge in 1753, the proposal came about following the bar and café at the United Grand Lodge of England being named “The Goose and Gridiron”.

Bro Matthew Tostevin who was working on a documentation of the First Provincial Grand Lodge of Guernsey & Alderney thought it would be a fitting tribute to also name our Centre bar, and the proposal was put forward along with his design of the sign.



The Lily Tavern Sign above the bar at the Masonic Centre

Chapter Fourteen

The Future

As with all buildings maintenance is key to ensuring it will last as long as possible even more so in a building that by the nature of its design will make repairs and upkeep that little bit harder and is used by multiple people almost every day of the week.

At the time of writing this work is needed to take place to the distinctive glass pyramid at the top of the centre due to damage to the glass, this however will require it to be removed in one piece and reinstalled also requiring scaffolding both inside and outside the building the cost to carry out this work alone will be estimated to be over £100,000 and will also need to be timed with the summer break so as not to disrupt the scheduled meetings, this work as well as other preventative maintenance cannot take place without the generous donations made by Brethren in the form of donations, the purchasing of Bonds, and provision in wills via a legacy.

It is also hoped that the Masonic Centre will also welcome the return of the Isle of Sarnia Lodge as its meeting place, the Isle of Sarnia Lodge was the only female Freemasons Lodge in the Province of Guernsey & Alderney that unfortunately had to surrender its warrant due to declining membership, however progress is being made to restart the Lodge with the Masonic Centre being its home along with the other Lodges of the Island.

We have already looked at how Bonds have helped raise funds for the ongoing maintenance of the Centre, over the last few years Septimal has looked at how we can get more use and income from the Centre, this has involved allowing the building to be used for Birthday Parties, a very popular monthly coffee morning hosted by Victor Carey Lodge No.6892, and also funeral services, all these events are held with strict conditions, another method of raising funds was the introduction of a lottery where Brethren could buy a ticket with the chance of winning some money and at the same time helping raise money and it is hoped that these events and schemes can continue and be supported by the Brethren who are encouraged to contact Septimal if they have any ideas for the future use of the Centre.

2025 saw the transformation of the gardens at the Masonic Centre a project led by WBro. Martyn Guille who continues to maintain and look after them with a dedicated team of Brethren from across the Lodges, and the installation of new catering facilities for the use of the team who look after the Brethren so well at the Festive Boards, along with the installation of a new CCTV System and electrical review of the centre and works to upgrade fixtures and fittings.

It would be remiss not to mention the huge amount of work that goes on behind the scenes by the members of Septimal, the Catering Team, Care taker, Museum and Library Lodge Representatives, and everyone else who puts in time to maintain the building and ensure

works are carried out to keep the Masonic Centre clean and looked after for the enjoyment of all the Brethren of the Province and its many visitors.



Works carried out during 2025 to landscape the garden with new hedging and plants

This History of the Masonic Centre was written to commemorate 30 years since the start of the building of the Centre.

Thanks, must be given to the following Brethren for their assistance and the following sources of information.

RWBro David Hodgetts

VWBro. Simon Hamon

WBro. David Corsen

WBro. A Jelly & WBro. B Vandertang of St Sampsons Lodge No.2598, and Bro Brian Green St Martins Lodge No.4142 for the photographic contributions

WBro. Mike Stanford of Hansard Lodge No. 3515 for the use of his photos seen on the cover and within the book

The many Brethren who have shared their memories of the Le Marchant Street and St Martins Buildings

The First 100 Years of the Province of Guernsey and Alderney

Royal Court Greffe

