St Mary’s Lodge No 3879

Foreword to the First Minute Book

This Lodge was conceived by the Founders during the year A.D. 1918, at the time when the great nations of the world were engaged in the European War. They had found comfort and consolation in the peace and harmony of their respective Lodges and were desirous of encouraging the principles and tenets of Freemasonry. They felt however to obtain the greatest advantage of brotherly love it was desirable that the membership of the Lodge should be to some extent limited, the better to enable brethren to know more of each other and to exercise the practice of mutual defence and support. Accordingly having decided to form the Lodge it was mutually agreed, so far as the same could legally be done in accordance with the Constitutions of Grand Lodge, to limit the number of members to twenty five, with the addition of one new member per annum, if no casual vacancy through death or resignation should occur, and further that each initiate should receive what was considered the fullest advantage of Masonic Ritual and ceremonial that, after the first year of its existence, not more than the ceremony of one degree should be conducted at any meeting and that each and every candidate should be separately initiated, passed and raised.

The greatest encouragement was given to the founding of the Lodge by the Provincial Grand Lodge, and in due course a warrant was granted by the Grand Lodge in which was named as the first Master, a worthy and distinguished brother, W. Bro Arthur Robert Winn, PM 2034, PP Grand Deacon. To the great sorrow and profound regret of the Founders, Bro Winn was called to the Grand Lodge above on October 5th 1918, just six days before the date fixed for the Consecration Ceremony. The

Arthur Wilfred Watson, PM 2034, PP Grand Deacon, Master designate, which petition the Grand Master was pleased to grant. Accordingly the Lodge was constituted and consecrated on the 9th November 1918, two days before the cessation of hostilities in the war, to the joy and satisfaction of all.

May peace, love and unity ever exist among all the members.

This Foreword is read during each Installation meeting of St Mary’s Lodge.

Motif of St Mary’s Lodge which appears on each Summons.