



# The Saint Oswald Lodge no. 910

## Date of warrant 14 February 1862

Lodge Profile Document  
No. 910 on the Register of Lodges of the United Grand Lodge of England  
Province of Yorkshire West Riding



**THE PONTEFRACT  
MASONIC HALL 1  
ACKWORTH ROAD,  
PONTEFRACT WF8  
3PA**



### History of the Lodge and its membership

Freemasonry in Pontefract can be traced back at least to a report in the 'Leeds Mercury' that on New Year's Day in 1771, Freemasons wearing regalia and led by a Brass Band paraded through the streets of Pontefract scattering hands full of money.

In 1823 the Provincial Grand Master the Earl of Mexborough tried unsuccessfully to form a Lodge in Pontefract and district, where from some cause his efforts met no encouragement and his personal influence failed to impress the men of Pontefract with the civilising advantages which a lodge infers.

In 1861, three Pontefract citizens, Messrs Ryder, Rogers, and Routledge approached Bro J Rhodes saying they wished to join the craft. Bro Rhodes knew of two others in Pontefract, Bro's Tew and Hall, they joined four others from the Wakefield Lodge No 727 in petitioning for a warrant to establish Saint Oswald's Lodge, Warrant No 1212. This was changed during the renumbering of lodges in 1863 to 910.

The motto of the Lodge, "Sit Lux et Lux frit," is the Latin version of the Hebrew Scripture (Genesis I, 3). "God said, 'Let there be light, and there was light.' And God saw the light that it was good."

The Warrant of the lodge, signed by the Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, is dated the 14 February 1862.

Two daughter lodges, Legolium No 1542 and De Lacy No 4643 have been formed. Legolium Lodge, founded in 1875, was formed for the benefit of those brethren of St Oswald Lodge who resided in Castleford.

De Lacy Lodge was founded and consecrated on 4 November 1924. A new lodge was deemed necessary as the number of candidates who sought admission St Oswald Lodge during the five years preceding the formation of De Lacy Lodge entailed 46 initiation ceremonies being performed.

In the 1950's, the desire to partake in the mysteries of Freemasonry was such that the waiting period was four or five years for admission to the Pontefract lodges. It was then felt that a third lodge would be beneficial to the

town and as a result Tateshall Lodge No 7645 was founded and consecrated on 2 October 1959.



**W. Bro. T.W. Tew**  
***First Worshipful Master***  
***Deputy Provincial Grand Master 1875-1885***  
***Provincial Grand Master 1885-1893***

Today, we have members from various walks of life, legal professionals, academics, scientists, Engineers, Retired emergency Services, and Naval Officers to name but a few.

## **Our Meetings**

### **Lodge Meetings**

- Lodge Meets every third Wednesday of the month except July and August – dress full regalia
- Junior Lodge held every first Wednesday of the month except July and August – dress informal

### **The festive board**

- Cost £18 paid on the night or via BACS,
- When we invite a personal guest, we pay.
- When the lodge “Fraternally” invites another lodge, they may all come and we, the lodge, pays for all of them.
- If someone calls the secretary and asks to come and have a meal, he pays for himself.

### **Membership Committee Meetings**

- Our membership Committee meets before the Junior Lodge every first Wednesday of the month except July and August, to discuss:
  - How to improve as a membership.
  - Measure Attendance and trends.
  - Review our profile.
  - Review our three-year strategy.
  - Review actions to enhance our Lodge and its profile.

## **Charities**

- GL charities in our annual subs. They dispense millions.
- PGL charities in our annual subs. The PGM dispenses top side of hundred thousand each year.
- Province through the Charity Steward according to our means.

### **“Without detriment to ourselves or connections”. (optional)**

- Alms fund which is dispensed by the Almoner solely to the brethren and Wives and Widows of the lodge. (optional)
- In addition, we respond to whatever needs in the community are brought to our attention ad hoc, such as tents for the scouts, support for trips to Nepal, toilet for St Stevens church, the Hurricane in the Bahamas. It is a very eclectic list and often includes Ackworth Riding for the Disabled who have a horse called Oswald (we own a quarter of him). Supporting local children’s clubs hold events. Supporting local charities such as SURF a charity to help the disabled back into a normal life.

This could be from lodge funds, the profit on a social occasion or by a whip round, or the money raised by the raffle.

We are a Fraternity; we socialise with and support each other we create bonds by joining in working for the good of the lodge and all in it and thereby improving ourselves and others

in the process.

## **Social**

Once a year we have:

- Ladies Night
- Ladies/Partners Gala

## **Social unique to The Saint Oswald Lodge 0910**

- W. Bro. James Claxton-Smith memorial Lecture
- Old Yorkshire night
- Local Church events
- Potential local children's activity day summer and December
- Links with all local Lodges
- Link with some Scottish lodges
- Potential links with a European Lodge

We also have a social committee spread across the five Lodges in Pontefract and Castleford who arrange social events such as the Ale trail, Manchester Christmas Market with partners, and BBQs.

## **Membership - who are we looking for?**

We welcome enquiries for membership from members of our community who would be able to participate regularly and share our values of **integrity, friendship, respect, and charity.**

. The general requirements for those seeking membership under the United Grand Lodge of England are:

- Male: There exist Masonic Lodges that admit women (see *Other Masonic Orders*, below)
- A belief in a Supreme Being. This may be through membership or alignment with one of the mainstream religions of the world, a personal spiritual belief, or that the laws of science and nature equate with a Supreme Being. You will not be asked to explain or justify your belief, but when the name of God or the Great Architect of the Universe is invoked, this should mean something to you.
- At least 18 years of age. However, our Lodge would suit a more mature man due to the demographic of our lodge, 40- to 60-year-old, ideally from a professional or public service background.
- Have no criminal convictions. New members of the Lodge should be worthy of our trust and friendship and should treat all people with integrity, humility, and respect. Minor spent offenses will need to be disclosed.

## **What promises are made?**

As a Freemason you are accepted into a community that prides "honour and virtue above the external advantages of rank and fortune" and so other Freemasons will see you as being friendly and trustworthy. As you may wish to attend meetings or gatherings where you are not known, there are ways of proving that you are a Freemason. When you become a member, you are asked to declare that:

- You voluntarily seek membership and for honest reasons.
- You seek membership because you agree with its principles and a desire to improve yourself.
- You agree that you will act and abide by the principles and traditions of Freemasonry.
- You will not disclose anything to a non-member that you have been asked not to.

## What will I get from membership?

People join for many varied reasons. For most, it is an opportunity to meet with like-minded individuals. It is a chance to be part of a team and to develop skills, such as leadership, administration, and public speaking. It is an opportunity to expand your social life and make new friendships with those whose lives would otherwise have never crossed paths with your own. It is a chance to become involved in your community and act charitably. You will become a member of a worldwide organisation with a long history in continuing traditional values.

## How do I join?

Just ask! Nobody is invited to join, so don't wait to be asked. Ask to meet with us, chat online, or come along to one of our social events. Ask questions. If you decide that you would like to join, we will ask you to complete an application form. Your membership will be proposed at a Regular Meeting and will ballot (vote) at the one that follows. If the ballot is successful, you can join and be initiated at that meeting or at another one within 1 year. If you were to ask any of our members if they regret anything about their membership, they are likely to say that they wish that they had joined sooner!

## Other types of Freemasonry

There are other Masonic Orders that extend the experience of Freemasonry and whose membership is drawn from those who are Freemasons under the United Grand Lodge of England.

There are likewise other Masonic Orders that exist independently of the United Grand Lodge of England, and these include those that admit only women (The Order of Women Freemasons and the Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons) or both men and women (Le Droit Humane: International Order of Freemasonry for Men and Women). All these forms of Freemasonry happily co-exist, and we sometimes work together on certain initiatives, but we cannot attend each other's Lodge meetings.

## Useful links

<https://stoswald910.com/>

<https://www.ugle.org.uk/>

<https://www.wrprovince.org.uk/>

## Social Media

[The Saint Oswald Lodge 910 | Facebook](#)

[The Saint Oswald Lodge 910 !\[\]\(626ce8ac21792b9405bfddfea8e0c96a\_img.jpg\) \(@saintoswald910\) / Twitter](#)

[The Saint Oswald Lodge 910 | Groups  
LinkedIn](#)