

## PRESTON GUILD LODGE No 4408



### Preston's Hall Stone and Universities Scheme Lodge

A vibrant lodge for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Proud of its history and tradition whilst forging ahead in the modern world. Preston Guild Lodge was established in June 1922 and named in honour of Preston's most famous celebration, the Preston Guild Merchant; an event celebrated for over 800 years. We have a diverse membership and are proud of an age range of 20 years to over 90.

#### HALL STONE LODGE



Shortly after the First World War, the United Grand Lodge of England launched the Masonic Million Memorial Fund to build what is now Freemasons Hall in London, in honour of the Freemasons who fought and died in the Great War. Preston Guild Lodge was formed especially to support this Fund. Lodges that supported the fund were presented with a Jewel and their name was inscribed on marble tablets in the Shrine at Freemasons Hall. That Hall Stone Jewel is worn by the Master of the Lodge at all Masonic Meetings. Only two Lodges in Preston became Hall Stone

Lodges and Preston Guild is the sole survivor.

#### UNIVERSITIES SCHEME

Preston Guild Lodge has been appointed by United Grand Lodge of England to be one of the Universities Scheme Lodges providing access into Freemasonry for staff and students at the University of Central Lancashire. This is a national network of 90 Masonic Lodges covering England and Wales. Preston Guild Lodge continues to welcome new members from all walks of life as in the past. This scheme adds to the dynamism and vibrancy of the lodge. Members of fellow Universities Scheme lodges from across the country refer members into Preston Guild Lodge should they relocate to this area for work.



#### MEETINGS

Preston Guild Lodge meets at Preston Masonic Hall on Saul Street in Preston. Here we have dedicated Lodge Rooms as well as a variety of other meetings and social rooms, including a ballroom for large events. The lodge was very much the leader in the development of the Hall in the 1940s.

Lodge Meetings are on the fourth Monday of the month from September through to May with the exception of December when the meeting is on the third Monday. Lodge meetings start at 6.45pm. At these meetings the Lodge carries out its regular business. This can be in the form of welcoming a new Mason, or a presentation on the colourful history of Masonry. These are always followed by what we call the “Festive Board,” the post meeting meal where we enjoy the camaraderie of Freemasonry in a relaxed manner – we meet, we eat, we drink! In addition, we hold monthly committee meetings and, when required, practice meetings. These also take place on Monday evenings. Practice is a chance for experienced Masons to help new Masons understand how Lodge meetings work. We encourage every member to progress in Masonry at their own pace.

## **SOCIAL**

We are “more than just lodge meetings.” The Lodge arranges a number of social events throughout the year where family and friends who are not masons are welcomed to join us. With that membership from all walks of life and an age range from the 20s to the 90s, a wider variety of events are planned. Friendship lies at the foundation of a Masonic Lodge.

We are also part of a wider local, provincial and national network of masonic organisations. Members can join in the Social Events organised by these groups, again with family and non-masonic friends. There are many clubs and societies as well as the occasional Ball to look forward to.

## **CHARITY**

At Preston Guild Lodge we never forget those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Charity is at the heart of all we do. Whilst as expected we look after our Brother Masons and their widows should they need help; we are also dedicated to supporting our local community. In recent years we have made charitable donations to a wide range of local charitable causes including but not limited to: -The Young Carers via Barnardo’s -Preston Community Transport -Preston Street Pastors -Cancer Help Preston -The Foxtan Centre -Rosemere Cancer Foundation -Heartbeat -Lancashire Cats Rescue -Caritas Care

The lodge is home to The Preston Guild Lodge No 4408 Benevolent Fund which is a registered charity No 224311 with the Charities Commission.

## **JOINING THE LODGE**

It is a popular myth that someone needs to be invited to join Masonry. This is far from the truth. In fact, all you need to do is ask to join. Our website ([www.pg4408.co.uk](http://www.pg4408.co.uk)) has a contact form to complete. You can write to us; The Membership Officer, Preston Guild Lodge 4408, Preston Masonic Hall, Saul Street, Preston, PR1 2QU or email [membership4408@gmail.com](mailto:membership4408@gmail.com) Once a request is received, we will arrange to meet with you and help to provide a better understanding of Freemasonry and our Lodge in particular. It is our standard practice to show you around the Masonic Hall at the first meet up. We can then explain the process that we follow and inform you of the cost of membership. More information about the Lodge and its history can be found on our website [www.pg4408.co.uk](http://www.pg4408.co.uk)