

W.Bro. EDMUND JAMES EDWORTHY STOWERS, QPM, PPrJGW

Jim Stowers was born on 8th January 1924. He first became acquainted with this Masonic building when in the 1930s as a GPO Telegram Boy he delivered a Greetings Telegram to the Worshipful Master of this Lodge on the occasion of his Installation. The fact that it was a Freemason's Lodge stayed in his memory.

The father of his wife, Eileen, was a member of Brunswick Lodge No 159 in Plymouth, and Jim knew most of the members of Benevolent Lodge; some more than others, but especially Bert Tucker (W.Bro. Brian Tucker's grandfather) who then ran the Lifeboat Inn, and brothers Frank and Albert Bellamy who were coal merchants.

As Teignmouth was his home town, it was thought that he would join Benevolent Lodge. However, having joined the Devon Constabulary in 1949, Jim was posted to Brixham as a Detective Constable, and amongst the friends he made were members of True Love & Unity Lodge No. 248, and so, with the agreement of his friends in Benevolent Lodge, he was initiated into True Love & Unity Lodge No 248 on 21st April 1958. He became their Worshipful Master on 20th January 1976.

Prior to that in 1971 he became Worshipful Master of the True Love & Unity Mark Master Masons Lodge No. 1159, and was honoured by the Province with the rank of Assistant Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1975. He was also a member of True Love & Unity Holy Royal Arch Chapter No. 248.

In the Police he progressed rapidly through their ranks and eventually became Assistant Chief Constable for Devonshire. In 1976 he was posted to the Cayman Islands in the West Indies as Commissioner of Police and he has retained a close connection with the West Indies ever since. In 1982 he became the Holder of The Queen's Police Medal for Distinguished Service.

Whilst in the West Indies he became a Joining Member of the Cayman Lodge No. 8153 in 1977 and was appointed Chaplain in 1980 and 1981, and Almoner in 1984. He was a founder member and first Director of Ceremonies of the Cayman Holy Royal Arch Chapter in 1983.

Returning to Teignmouth in 1986, he became a Joining Member of Benevolent Lodge No. 303 and served as its Treasurer from 1990 to 1995.

He was honoured by the Province of Devonshire with the rank of Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon in 1985, and promoted to Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden in 1995.

He was a Founding Member of Pleiades Chapter Rose Croix in Totnes in 1998.

On 9th May 2008 the Past Provincial Grand Master, R W Bro Robin Osborn, presented him with a 50 year Certificate, as well as an engraved pair of silver cuff links.

Jim was nearly 91 when he passed away peacefully at Rowcroft Hospice earlier this week. We must continue to remember the 91 years of a life lived to the full, and as someone who will be long in our memories and impossible to replace. He was a good friend to many and a fine Freemason who lived by his principles - in every way a fine and dedicated Christian gentleman, to whom I am very proud to pay this tribute.

G P Rooke

Dec 2014