

## **Christmas with Albert Victor Lodge at Connaught Court**

When Brethren at Albert Victor Lodge, No 2328, in York conferred honorary membership on one of their members, few realised where this would lead.

WBro Lt Col. Peter Calvert PPGJW lives at, Connaught Court, York, one of the RMBI homes and although in full membership of Albert Victor finds it difficult to attend the regular meetings .

A vote in Lodge led to permission being sought to take the Christmas Lodge to Connaught Court.

It was also felt that this would be an ideal opportunity for Masons' resident at Connaught Court who cannot attend their normal Lodge meetings to attend as Visitors and to enjoy both a regular Lodge ceremony and the pleasure of the Festive Board afterwards.

Dispensation being given by Province, members then set about ensuring that the meeting at Connaught Court, which does not have its own lodge room, had all the accoutrements – automatic candles were acquired, new lightweight columns turned on the lathe and the IPM and DC spending a happy morning carrying all the normal Lodge regalia to the new meeting place.

In addition, the Lodge Organist WBro John Childs offered to provide musicians from within his family to provide entertainment at the Festive Board.

The hope that Brethren residing at Connaught Court would come to the Lodge was well received and a number took the opportunity, led in seniority, if not in years, by WBro Dr Cliff Jones PGDC. These were joined by Brethren from other Lodges within the city who either had connections with Connaught Court or just wished to share the Festive period with them.

A packed library saw WBro Stan Hardy present the Honorary Membership certificate to WBro Calvert on behalf of the Master and reflect how Peter Calvert had set the tone for his own enjoyment in Freemasonry by the welcome he had shown when he had first joined the Lodge as a young Army captain and Peter Calvert was an august Colonel!



(From L-R The Albert Victor Master, Martin Eede, WBro Calvert and WBro Stan Hardy)

The musical entertainment at the Festive Board was an unusually high standard with WBro Childs grandchildren leading the way.

Both members of the York Minster Choir School, Marina and Billy Marshall, led by their mother Joanna Marshall, entertained over 60 members and wives to a selection of music for the Festive season on cello, violin and in leading the carols which ended the afternoon. As WBro Bob Chappell said, in thanking Albert Victor Lodge for organising the event, 'we won't hear music of this high standard very often!'



Such was the warm reception for the December Lodge being held at Connaught Court it is hoped that the move will now become an annual event.

As the WM Martin Eede said 'it is important that Brethren at Connaught Court know they are very much valued and involved and can enjoy the rituals and fellowship that are such an important part of what Masons stand for.'