

# PROVINCIAL PATTERN

*The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty*

**ISSUE NO 105**

**NOVEMBER 2020**

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*Container Ship Santa Ursula*

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## Editorial

Welcome to the 105<sup>th</sup> edition of the “Provincial Patter”.

I hope and trust that this November issue finds all our readers (and their families) at home and abroad keeping safe and well despite the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic.

While we cannot enjoy our Regular Meetings, you will see in this month’s issue that there is still much happening in and around the Province. Many of our Lodges are making use of Zoom to keep in touch with everyone along with other similar platforms and that must be encouraged. Admittedly, it is not the same but at least we can keep an eye on those Brethren and their families who are in the more vulnerable categories.

The cover photo for November is the container ship, Santa Ursula which has transported our container with the tools for Mountain View School for Deaf Children from docks of London all the way down the west coast of Africa to Durban in KwaZulu Natal.

The container is now off the ship and will be taken by road, almost 1500 miles, from Durban in the South African Province of KwaZulu Natal, through Central South Africa, through Zimbabwe, into Mozambique and finally into Malawi.

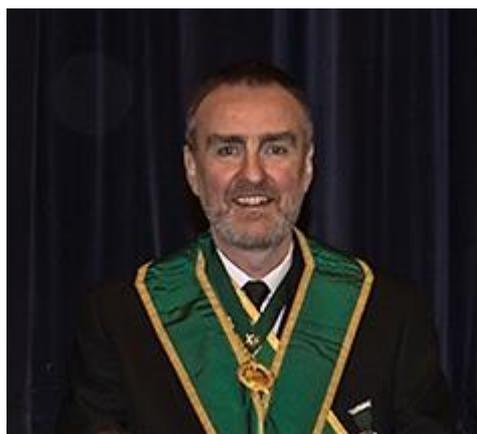
A tremendous journey which started here in our own Province. Many thanks to everyone in this Province, the Provinces of Perthshire East, Midlothian, Fife and Kinross and indeed all the individuals everywhere who have supported the project.

*Ramsay McGhee*, Editor

## Grand Lodge of Scotland



Grand Lodge is effectively still closed to the public except by appointment but the staff are all back and working extremely hard, under the guidance of our new Grand Secretary, Brother William Semple, to get things back on an even keel.



*Grand Secretary – Brother William Semple*

The asbestos removal project has now been completed and Grand Lodge is in receipt of a safety certificate to that effect.

Work has now started on the installation of a new fibre optic network which should improve things considerably and give good coverage throughout the building. This should be complete early in November after which work will commence on the installation of the lift which will be able to take those less able to all floors of the building.

*Ed*

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## Provincial Grand Lodge:

Hi Brethren

I hope everyone is keeping well. We are now going into colder times, long dark nights and shorter days. Not a lot has changed since March lock down with no Masonic meetings in lodges but lots of zoom meetings going on to keep us in touch with each other. There is lots of work going on in lodge buildings inside and outside and this is good news. It is important to maintain these buildings and keep them in good shape even although they are not in use. Remember to run the water to keep the pipes in good condition and turn the mains off for frost damage.

I am grateful to our DPGM, Raymond Mackeddie for conducting the zoom meetings for new masons. It is keeping them interested and they are keen to take part in the sessions, many thanks Raymond.

Great news on the Malawi front, the consignment of wood working tools that was sent by ship has docked but now the container must travel over land for 1400 miles to get to Mountain view school. Grateful thanks to Ramsay and his team for ALL the hard work and organising that went into the project. Grateful thanks to all the people who contributed towards the cost of the shipment. The consignment cost quite an amount to ship it out.

That is not the end of that story, PM George Robinson decided to help boost the Malawi fund by making a large tapestry to be raffled. As this is a Provincial nominated charity, we NEED your support to make it worthwhile. George has put a lot of hours and effort into this beautiful piece of handiwork - it will make a lovely Christmas present for someone. Grateful thanks from Provincial George, your next project looks good.

We will not be having our Installations this backend or in the Spring the Office bearers will stay in the office they hold just now until we are able to hold Installations , but the fees must be paid to keep you in good standing in your mother lodge , you must be paid up to hold office and the Lodges must pay Grand Lodge fees.

Keep in touch with each other by zoom or phone, your call might cheer a brother up and you will know that they are keeping well.

Stay safe until we can meet in person again

Fraternal regards

*Robin Cattanach*

PGM Ross and Cromarty

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## **OUR YOUNG MASONS**

As lockdown continues, and shows no sign of easing for a while, our Young Masons have continued to meet online, by Zoom, on a fortnightly basis.

The meetings are open to all Brethren who have recently joined Freemasonry, and the meetings usually include a presentation of a masonic topic by a nominated speaker, an opportunity to ask any questions, and also the opportunity to have a social blether amongst themselves.

Over the past few months, we have enjoyed discussions on, Gavel, Mallets and Mauls, a presentation on the History of the Kirkwall Scroll, a talk by Bro. Michael Stanley from Maine, USA, who talked to us about the Shriners, Freemasonry in Maine and the effect that the current Covid 19 situation is having in Maine, a talk from Bro. Matt Parker, a brother who is a member of a research lodge from North Carolina, USA, who gave us a very interesting talk on "The self and the false ego", and Freemasonry in general in North Carolina.

The meetings have enabled Brethren to join together from various locations, including Glasgow, Germany, and the Western Isles, and also gives them the opportunity to engage with eminent Masons from far flung corners of the world and share their experiences.

The team have recently had permission granted from our neighbouring Provincial Grand Lodges, including Inverness-shire, Sutherland and Caithness, to invite their friends along to our meetings, and so far, we have had Brethren join us from Inverness and Caithness.

The enthusiasm and commitment of the participating Brethren continues to develop an open forum, which has continued to be very entertaining and educational, and it is hoped that is filling a void in their masonic journeys until we can recommence our normal meetings.

If any lodge has any Young Masons who have not already attended these meetings, and would wish to join them, please get in touch with Raymond Mackeddie.

### **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 1996**

You just cannot get the quality staff these days. In the last issue, I reported, on the strength of information received from my roving reporter, that Brother Mike Turner, Secretary of St Martin had become a grandfather. Well, it was certainly news to Mike who started asking his family some searching questions. The congratulations should have gone to Brother Mike Devine, now Master of Lodge Ness 888, and his good lady. So, on behalf of the readership, belated congratulations to Mike Devine and apologies to Mike Turner. The reporter in question has been demoted to serving tables at Burns Suppers!

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## From the Provincial Almoner

Once again Brethren I have to start my report on a sad note and record the passing of a well loved and well-known brother.

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October Bro Colin MacPhee, Worshipful Junior Warden, Lodge Fingal passed to the Grand Lodge Above in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. Colin had been in Raigmore for the previous three weeks after years of poor health. Colin had various health issues relating in the main to kidney problems and in more recent times heart issues. He had several surgeries over the years including a kidney transplant and later an operation to have his transplanted kidney removed after its failure. He fought hard over the years and was able to continue his Civil Engineering Consultancy Company right up until the end. He was active in the Highland Kidney Patients Association and at the time of his passing was its President. Over his years in the Lodge he was a very keen freemason and attended as often as he could when his health permitted. He will be greatly missed by all the members in the Lodge. Several brethren were able to attend Colin's funeral in regalia, as requested by his wife Jane and the family, due to his love of freemasonry. A card was sent to the family conveying the condolences of the Provincial Grand Master and Brethren of the Province.

It is also appropriate at this time that the passing of Mrs Agnes Lines, Muir of Ord is recorded. Agnes was the widow of the late Bro Kenric Lines who had served many years as Provincial Grand Secretary. A card was sent to Agnes's son Cameron conveying the condolences of the Provincial Grand Master and the Brethren of the Province.

Past Master Angus Ross, Lodge Ness is doing well and is able to get out, weather permitting, on his mobility scooter. His wife Kay also takes him out in the car. He is always in good form when I speak to him.

Past Master Fraser MacKay, Lodge St Duthus is still in care at Innis Mhor Care Home in Tain. His condition has not improved.

Past Master Ian MacLaren, Lodge Rosehaugh still attends Raigmore Hospital, Inverness for three days of Dialysis treatment every week. He is coping well with it and is in good form every time I speak to him.

Past Master Mike Turner, Lodge St Martin, the Provincial Grand Secretary, has recently had a biopsy and tests in relation to Prostate issues but has been given the all clear. A card was sent to Mike conveying the best wishes of the Provincial Grand Master and Brethren of the Province.

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## From the Provincial Almoner cont.

Past Master Iain Ramsden, Lodge Allan Wilson and his wife Jo have recently been diagnosed with Covid 19 but by all reports are recovering. We wish them both well.

Brother Andy Farquhar, Lodge St Duthus is at home but is struggling a bit with his health since his fall a few weeks ago. However, he is at home.

As I said in my report two months ago due to the Covid 19 pandemic it has not been possible to make home or hospital visits but I try to keep in touch by telephone etc and I have also been kept informed by Lodge Almoners and I would like to once again put on record my thanks to them.

Should any brother require my assistance or know of a brother who does, please get in touch with me.

*David A. MacMaster*, PM

Provincial Grand Almoner

### **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 2005**

I know that we are in recess at present and I hope all are enjoying the benefits of the summer and enjoying well-earned breaks, but it should not preclude us from giving thought for those less fortunate than ourselves. I really hope that the silence in communication to me means that all are in good health, but sometimes health is not the only criteria. Loneliness and lack of companionship can also be a burden to many. If we all just take a moment of each day to think of someone in this position and consider a wee visit or maybe just a telephone call to say, "how are you"? This does not just apply to our own Brethren, but to their dependents and indeed to anyone who may be in such a position. Remember we are Freemasons and not only our own reputation is judged by our actions, but that of the craft in general. Remember Faith, Hope and Charity. Fine words, but they are only words. We must convert them into practice. We seem to think of charity as the giving of money to aid others but remember also the giving of our time and effort to the comfort of our fellowman.

Let us through our individual efforts show the world how proud we are to be Freemasons and what our craft really is all about.

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## PLEA from the PROVINCIAL GRAND TREASURER

The majority of Provincial Grand Lodge Office-bearers have paid their annual subscription to Provincial Grand Treasurer but there are still a few outstanding. I'm sure you know who you are but if not we'll print your names in the next edition!!! Could you please get in touch with Brother Cundiff and he will give you all necessary instructions for payment.

## New Provincial Grand Lodge Ties



I have a large supply of the new Provincial Grand Lodge ties which are taking up a fair amount of my limited storage space. And knowing how the Brethren are proud of both the Province and their own sartorial elegance, I am happy to supply ties by mail order as well as bringing them to some of our meetings.

The basic cost is £12 per tie plus post and packaging - a very modest £1.50 – if you send me your cheque for £13.50, (made payable to Provincial Grand Lodge General Account) to – Roger Cundiff, Sealladh-an-loch, Lochcarron, Strathcarron, IV54 8YD – together with a note of your name and address, I will send your tie by return.

*Roger Cundiff* – Provincial Grand Treasurer

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## What is Masonry?

In the Home it is Kindness  
In Business it is Honesty  
In Society it is Courtesy  
In Work it is Fairness  
Toward the Unfortunate it is Pity  
Toward the Wicked it is Resistance  
Toward the Weak it is Help  
Toward the Strong it is Trust  
Toward the Fortunate it is Congratulation  
Toward God it is Reverence and Love

I was trawling through some bits and pieces and came across the following Grace – one of the late Roddy Cade’s creations – I still miss Roddy’s input to the Patter.

O, Lord who blessed the loaves and fishes  
Look down upon these porcelain dishes.  
And if the tatties are very small,  
Lord make them plenty for us all  
Should we decide to quench our thirst  
With Famous Grouse or Fifty First,  
Lord make us all that little wiser  
And save us from the breathalyser.

Once upon a time there were four people – **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Nobody** and **Anybody**. When there was a job to be done, **Everybody**, was sure **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did. When **Nobody** did it, **Everybody**, got angry because it was **Anybody**’s job. **Everybody** thought **Somebody** would do it, but **Nobody** realised it would not be done by **Anybody**. So, **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** because **Nobody** had done what **Anybody** could have done.

*Given to me by the late PM Bob MacLean*

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## FROM THE LODGES

### Lodge St Duthus No 82



The main structure of our building is undergoing a transformation which is long overdue. After a survey of the building which took place earlier in the year, we received confirmation about some areas of concern already known to the Brethren. The main item is the gable facing the main road where the sandstone is eroding due to cement being used to point the joints instead of a lime mortar mix. The contractor for the project is Harper and Allan who specialise in sandstone buildings. Several stones must be replaced at lower level and all joints to be cleaned out and repointed. This work will begin in the New Year.

We have also removed trees that were growing at the opposite gable and it was nice to see the old building at that end in good shape. The guttering attached to the flat roof which can be seen in the photo was removed and replaced with new. Unfortunately, we discovered problems under the box profile which will have to be removed in the spring and the timbers renewed. The gutters around the building were cleaned out and the front gable skew broken pointing taken out and repointed so we should be wind and watertight for this winter.

I would like to thank everyone who helped in getting this work done.

We are holding a zoom meeting on Monday 2nd November when one of our newest MM Steven O' Donnell is giving a lecture. Steven, along with other Brethren from St Duthus has been a regular attendee at the young masons' zoom meetings arranged by the DPGM, Brother Raymond Mackeddie. It is encouraging to see them taking a sincere interest in Freemasonry.

On the fund-raising side we are in the same position as everyone else. We normally hold indoor markets in the lodge once a month during winter and quiz nights. We started the markets last year organised by our SD Bro David Johnstone and were a tremendous success with people looking forward to this year.

*I was /*

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I was talking to Bro. George Patience and asked how his daughter Michelle was getting on after her stem cell treatment in Russia. She has been home now for two weeks and not too good at present. George told me that it will take six months to a year to see any improvement and up to five years to get back to normal. It is going to be a long slow process for her, but we wish her all the best from the Brethren.

Bro Patience said he was totally overwhelmed by the donation given from the Lodge towards her appeal.

On behalf of the Lodge, I would like to thank Grand master Mason for his weekly updates.

Keep safe and well Brethren.

*John MacKenzie* – Master, Lodge St Duthus No 82



*Flat roof area needing more work*



*Front gable to be repointed*

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 1996**

During the last war, a Canadian, Harry Mayson, was stationed in Tain. While there, he joined Lodge St Duthus before eventually returning to Canada. A few years ago, he achieved his 50-year Diploma. The Tain Brethren were delighted to meet up with him once again when he visited their Lodge of Instruction at the end of September when he presented fraternal greetings from the other side of the 'pond'. It is always good to hear of old friendships being renewed and Masonic links being maintained.

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## Lodge Fortrose No 108

Another quarter of the year gone by already and still no word of this covid pandemic coming to an end to allow us to get back to meeting up together in person. However our regular zoom meetings (the first and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of every month) have proven to be very popular with masons from as far afield as London and the USA joining us at 8pm on these occasions. We've also been fortunate to have had the Grand Master Mason and our Depute Provincial Grand Master join in with us at most of these sessions. All masons are welcome to join us.

Our Depute Provincial Grand Master, Raymond Mackeddie, has been instrumental in setting up regular zoom meetings for our newer members and we have been very lucky to have excellent speakers on occasions including two from USA.

Although our social club is currently closed as are all other licensed premises meantime, we are doing our best to ensure that when things get back to normal the club can immediately re-open as normal. We will be holding our social club AGM on Monday, again by zoom. After more than 20 years as chairman I have made the decision to retire as chairman of the club which will give the opportunity to younger fitter members to take over the reins and hopefully pep the place up a bit.

Two bottles of 18-year old Glenmorangie have been donated by Bro Donald G Smith and are to be raffled to be added to the Lodge's funds for our continuing COVID relief efforts. Bro Treasurer is looking at the various options to run the raffle online. Keep your eyes open.

The "go fund me target" of £2,500 has been reached. The funding was used to supply face masks to vulnerable individuals and to groups who were involved in the COVID-19 response for distribution to their members and service users.

*Donnie Macleod*

Donald Macleod PM

### **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 1995**

The Stornoway Brethren have been very much on the move over the past few months with deputations appearing at the 75th Anniversary celebrations in Ullapool, the St Duthus Centenary Celebrations in Tain and at the Inverness-shire Provincial Grand Lodge annual visit to St Clements No 1353 in Tarbert, Harris. They fully intend to keep up the heavy travel schedule in the new year with visits to Lodge Eval No 1464, Lochmaddy, St Kilda No 881 in Portree and St John No 374 in Fauldhouse, West Lothian. The precise dates of the proposed visits will appear in the next issue of the newsletter and I have no doubt that the Fortrose Lodge Brethren would be delighted if any Brethren from the Province joined them on their visits.

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## Robertson's Lodge No 134

Sincere Greetings Brethren,

Members of the Lodge are missing the regular meetings that used to be held, it seems so long ago when thinking of it. However, Zoom Meetings continue to be held on the due date, the third Wednesday of the month for those that wish to take part. The Zoom Meetings are arranged by assistance from Bro. Henry Cameron of Lodge Fingal on behalf of the RWM Bro. Jonathan Hill. They are also attended by Visitors, as would the normal meeting be, giving an opportunity for all to see and meet fraternal friends again in these strange and hard times. It is pleasing to meet our members, and brothers from other Lodges, sharing in hospitality and friendliness. Also, our Lodge members login to other Lodge's Zoom Meetings, passing on their friendship and greetings. We are most grateful for the invitations given to us by these Lodges. The next Robertson's Lodge Meeting is planned for Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

We have to say that we are again grateful for the weekly Coronavirus Letter from our Grand Master Mason, Bro. Ramsay McGhee, a Lodge Member, keeping us all up to date with Grand Lodge info and advice on various matters. For those who use Facebook, there are many appropriate Pages for those members interested to follow, which can keep in contact over the world. Which of course is not the same as our Lodge Meetings but is part of our current situation. There is much that can be done to help others.

Even Remembrance Day and Poppy Scotland is affected, with Church Services and Parades being cancelled. Our Lodge is working on this and intends to lay a wreath at the Cromarty Cenotaph following the Guidelines, as advised. Correspondence from Poppy Scotland has been passed on to all Lodge Members.

Our RWM, Bro. Jonathan Hill was in hospital recently for a hip operation, but is now home and recovering, but this has stopped him driving, we all wish him a speedy recovery.

Sadly /

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Sadly, a lot of Lodges have missed out on celebrating their various Anniversaries, Robertson's Lodge intends to carry on planning for their 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2024. We have been advised that we must confirm and advise of our preferred date for the Anniversary Celebrations as soon as possible with Grand Lodge, which is to be discussed by members at a special meeting.

In the meantime, the Lodge premises are briefly visited regularly even though they are not being used at this time. At all times the Lodge Almoner, Brother Jim Tait, P.M. continues dutifully with his responsibilities and keeping in touch fraternally with those who are in Homes or have had illnesses.

We all hope that there will not be any more COVID-19 or other casualties with Lodge Members in this or any other Province or Community.

Fraternal Best Wishes to All. Please stay safe and well.

*Peter K. Ratcliffe.*

Lodge Secretary.

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 1999**

The next Quarterly Communication will be held in Lodge Fortrose No 108 on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2000 and will incorporate the annual Provincial Ladies Night. This will be an ideal opportunity for members of Provincial to take their ladies, many of whom have never been across the Minch, over to Stornoway to experience the fellowship and friendly welcome always extended by the Lewis Brethren.

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## Lodge Fingal No 318

At the Zoom meetings we had for August, September, and October, we were treated to exceptionally fine Lectures by Brothers Alex Craib and Morris Downie.

In August, Brother Craib gave an enlightening talk on early Freemasonry in Inverness. Being a Past Master of the oldest Lodge in the Highlands, Lodge Old Inverness Kilwinning St John No VI as well as being a member and Office-bearer of Lodge Fingal, Brother Craib is well qualified and has carried out much research into the subject matter. He took us back to 1555 and while many records have been lost over the centuries, he was able to evidence the existence of Lodges in the Highlands from that period onwards. In those early days, the Operative Masons formed the membership of the Lodges, but he went on to explain about the Geometrical Brethren, mainly businessmen and landowners, known today as Speculative Freemasons. It was interesting to note that from 1763 until 1837 there were three Lodges in existence that we no longer have today. - Fort George Ardersier Point No. 115 – 1763 to 1837, Clachnacudden Operative No. 259 – 1796 to 1837 and Union Inverness No. 350 – 1819 to 1837. He thereafter explained some interesting facts about the three Tracing Boards in Lodge Old Inverness Kilwinning St John No VI. It was an excellent evening during which we learned much.

The following month Brother Craib continued his history of Lodges in Inverness by explaining in detail the content of the MM Tracing Board. Again, it was an informative and interesting evening.

At the October meeting, Past PGM, Brother Morris Downie issued a challenge to all by asking the question – “What kind of Mason am I”. He described many of the attributes and peculiarities ascribed to Masons inferring that we as an organisation are used to being labelled. He then described the various types of Mason as defined in an article by Mason Pratt, PM, at the conclusion of which, he challenged those present to ask what importance do we place on them, what place do they have in our day to day existence and upon further examination where do we go from here? How do we view other brethren who exhibit some of these? On which of these, if any, do we place the most importance? Even further, are they in alignment with what we consider to be the principles of the Craft?

We would like to thank both Speakers for the preparation they put into their Lectures.

As we approach the Festive Season, on behalf of the Brethren of the Lodge, may we wish all Brethren, Wives, Partners and Families a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year ahead, as we go through these strange times. Take care and stay safe. That`s all Folks, watch this Space.

*D. Gunn – RWM*

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## *LODGE ALLAN WILSON 851*

As mentioned in the August edition, it has been a great disappointment that there have been no meetings of the Lodge at all this year, however, we hope and pray that we will be able to meet next June and install Brother Ian Russell into the Chair. That said, there is a move afoot to have a Zoom meeting soon just to see how everyone is doing.

One thing that has not been cancelled is the requirement to pay our annual dues and I would ask the Brethren to submit payment to the Lodge Treasurer, Bro Donnie Gunn as soon as possible. Payment can be made by BACS to the Lodge Allan Wilson General Account, Sort code - 80-06-83, Account number 06000956. The annual test fee is £40. It would be helpful if you could email the Treasurer to let him know that you have paid by BACS or contact him by email for alternative ways of paying at - [donald@fingal318.co.uk](mailto:donald@fingal318.co.uk)

*Editor*

### **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - JUNE 2015**



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## *LODGE SEAFORTH 854*

I have recently retired from regular service with the Army after 24 years and have seen a lot of destruction and the impact that conflict, has on kids. During an Operational tour of Bosnia, I can always recall a small child in need of food. I never had anything to offer her, other than the plant that was growing next to her for her amusement. The image of that day has stuck with me and will remain in my mind forever, no one ever wants to see kids hurt, injured or ill. I had nothing to offer her other than the plant that I took from the ground. We do not need to look far or even visit a conflict zone to see kids that need help. Within the MFR area we have kids that require support daily during times of hardship. As I am working from home, I feel that I need to invest in my mental and physical wellbeing due to the COVID 19 isolation period. I recently embarked on an Army Cadet Force 300 Cycling challenge, whereby it helped me find my self-esteem again. With having my self-esteem back, I invested my new-found energy in fundraising over the next few weeks/ months. It was my intention to conduct a virtual cycle from the Isle of Arran through the Western Isles on to Ullapool on the mainland and then to Thurso to Wick down the west coast to finish at my home-town of Fortrose. The challenge took me 27 days with 24 legs sometimes two part to a leg. On average I was in the saddle for anything from 1hr to 2hrs a day whilst balancing my work commitments and family life.

As such the following groups need to be thanked for their generosity, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross & Cromarty, The Royal Highland Fusiliers Veterans Branch of the Highlands, the general community of the Black Isle as well as friends and family members. We raised £820 in support of MFR cash for kids.

*James Fraser, Senior Deacon, Lodge Seaforth*



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## *LODGE SEAFORTH 854*

### **Meetings**

As lockdown continues, and meetings are on hold, the Master, Bro Graham Law continues to chair an online Zoom Meeting, held on the first and third Mondays of each month. The meetings continue to be well attended, and allow the Lodge to conduct some administration, discuss maintenance of the lodge building and generally socialise with brethren and visitors.

### **Quiz Night**

The Lodge has continued to host an online quiz on the third Friday night of each month. These quizzes have been run by our esteemed quizmaster, Bro James Fraser, SD, and are open to friends and families. The topics have included various music categories, Scottish themes, and general knowledge. Teams from the Western Isles continue to support the events well and dominate the podium places. Recent showings from Caithness and Fife are starting to upset the west coast dominance.

At the October quiz, we proposed donations from entrants for the Poppy Scotland Appeal, and thanks to the generosity of those participating the sum of £155 was raised from the event.

The quiz shall return to its usual format of free entry for all this month.



*Craftsman at Work*

Work has continued to the fabric of the Lodge building with a geotextile layer covered by gravel covering the car park, the rear footpath and garden area.

The flat roof above the porch and Ladies toilets has now been replaced, so hopefully we have seen the last of leaky roofs and can get the ceilings decorated.

The kitchen has had a new ceiling material applied to make it comply with environmental health standards.

*Raymond MacKeddie* PM - Secretary

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## *LODGE AVERON 866*

Lodge Averon 866 had the pleasure of presenting a cheque for £250 recently to the Milnafua Community Hall to help support the local kids in the area that are relying on the services provided. These guys have suffered more than most due to COVID restrictions. We tend to forget just how reliant these small parent run groups in our community rely on a community being permitted to gather. Lodge Averon 866 are happy to take them under our wing. That takes this year's total to over £1000 provided to our local community.



Brothers Gary Miller and James MacDougal had the honour of presenting the cheque for £250 to members of the Milnafua community group, monies were raised via the annual cork fund raiser in Inverness with an additional bump up from Lodge Averon.

I would also like to mention another local Kids charity group that Lodge Averon have had under its wing for a while. The group is called **The Place** who have been providing for our kids in our Community for over 30 years! We had the pleasure of presenting this group with a cheque early in the year to help them in their quest for new premises after been evicted by local council in favour of themselves.

This is beginning to take shape in an exciting new initiative. Called the **Place Field**, where all sort of things are happening and taking shape supporting our kids in whatever they do. I think also a special thanks needs to go to Bro Keith Bauer who is providing all the lighting and the kit for a cinema night well done Bro Keith. I hear the feedback from the kids was superb. Our Lodge and its Brethren will continue to support this project where we can.

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We continue with our fund raising with 3 excellent Christmas hampers produced by Bro Gary Miller.

We have a drink's hamper, a savoury hamper including £25 butcher's voucher and a chocolate hamper. Tickets are £5 per ticket and will be drawn on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> Nov live online at 6pm and is open to all. So, get your ticket now with a chance to win a fantastic Christmas hamper. Details can be had on our public facing Facebook page. Lodge Averon and community charity Fund. <https://www.facebook.com/Lodge-Averon-and-the-Community-Charity-Fund-110756820504658> Or contact Bro Gary Miller.

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## The Christmas Hampers



Bro George Robinson also had his draw for a rug in support of the local Hospice with Bro David MacMaster the proud winner. Lodge Averon were happy to support Bro George in his efforts

The draw for the Highland Hospice far exceeded expectations and raised almost £3,300. The generosity of friends and Brethren from all over the world was staggering. The tapestry took 28 days, 220 hours and almost 16,000 individual pieces of wool to complete. Congratulations to Bro David MacMaster from Lodge Fingal 318 in Dingwall who won the tapestry.

The brethren of Lodge Averon continue to support our local community in all different ways, both individually and as a lodge too many to list. With support given to The Place, Milnafua community group local hospice, local Covid groups and NHS,

We have not been idle either on the Lodge front. We have taken these quiet times whilst the lodge is closed to get on with a load of work in and around the lodge both inside and out. Our new carpark in complete, gutters cleaned, stones laid, all the wood painted inside and the spiral staircase re-painted. With plans for more painting of the woodwork in the Lodge itself and wall filled and painted at the front doors in the planning. As the current RWM I am extremely proud of all the brethren involved. They have taken these current extraordinary times we find ourselves living on the chin and got on with it. I can honestly say. That until such time as we can get back to business as normal. We are ready!

*Donald J Mathieson* – Master, Lodge Averon No 866

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## LODGE NESS No 888

The brethren have been busy painting, cleaning, gardening etc., getting the Lodge looking great inside and out - they have been keeping busy. We also have zoom meetings, more to check in on everyone and see that all is ok. Hope all is well with everyone and hopefully we can all return to Lodge soon.



*The grounds of Lodge Ness looking good*

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## **LODGE KYLE No 1117**

Many years ago, a friend and I would sit between shifts in the hospitality industry, sipping tea and swapping stories. He would tell me about his grandad, who back in the day held high office as an Ambassador. As you can imagine in this exalted position, he met the high and the mighty as well as those in less fortunate circumstances. He would hold a regular surgery for those persons who needed help, and his favourite phrase was, "If its within my power to help you, I will do so. Why would I not?" As an official with his network reaching throughout the Empire, he helped many people in a multitude of ways.

I have always remembered this life lesson and been rewarded the few times I have applied it in the world at large.

In our Lodge, as all Lodges, we have a mix of men from varied industries and specific skills. But no matter who we are, especially as Freemasons, we have the will and the power to help.

With Covid-19 at large I was delighted to see the young people of Kyle step forward and do their bit for the elders within the community; bringing round the shopping, getting medicines or filling in for tradespeople when we were all in isolation.

However, there are those less obvious who need help. Those who isolation has made lonely and would welcome a chat. Small Business owners who face an uncertain future, who would benefit from those more experienced or in a position of power who may be able to help. These are people in the coming months who will need our small but welcome assistance.

With Poppy Scotland we remember those who have served their country, and Lodge Kyle has raised in excess of 600 pounds, a good amount for a small Lodge, but largely due to just two Brethren that felt they wanted to help... and did.

As Freemasons we may encounter times when we are poor and penniless, but we will always be rich in spirit, and willing to give if it is within our power to do so.

*Ronnie Miller*, PM  
Secretary

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## LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216



- 100th Jewel priced at £20.00 sold out at present but on reorder.
- Enamel mark penny priced at £11.00 in stock.
- Bronze mark penny priced at £6.00. Out of stock but on reorder.
- Key rings priced at £10.00 in stock.
- 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary glass priced at £10.00 in stock.
- 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary ties priced at £15.00 in stock.

Having just read the Scotland's Strategic Framework Levels table you would feel a bit optimistic about the area we live in and the place of worship section being open restricted members (50). However realistically we cannot expect any meetings of any note soon especially with visitors out with the area. As one of the lodges looking forward to our 100<sup>th</sup> rededication ceremony this may well be some time off. But as the GMM states we will get there eventually. Like a number of lodges we have a couple of potential candidates awaiting to take their first step in freemasonry and they will have to bear that old Avoch Patience virtue.

Over the last few months, we have made some progress with work out with the lodge thanks to efforts by Bros John Jack and Bob Maclean. Some internal work still to get done but in hand. As yet, no Zoom meetings being attempted by the Lodge, but I know some of the younger Brethren have been involved in Bro MacKeddie's meetings and have expressed a very favourable acceptance of these. Maybe we can twist an arm or two and see if we can get something the ground soon.

Although our 100<sup>th</sup> was postponed we still have received the memorabilia recently and it is pleasing without advertising the masonic drums have had several collectors looking for bits and pieces. The full listing is shown above:

Please email me if you are interested in any of the above to [axer69@btinternet.com](mailto:axer69@btinternet.com)



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Amongst the papers I received from my Aunt following the death of John Patience PM was the following poem. This was handwritten on the back of his copy of the Emblems of Mortality. We have asked a few Brethren familiar with this part if they were aware of this which could be an additional part to the Lecture. As yet, no one has recognised the words. It could well be just some words put together by John but if any Brother does recognise these writings please let us know.

Life is the season God hath given  
To fly from Hell, and rise to Heaven;  
That day of grace fleets fast away  
And none its rapid course can stay.

The living know that they must die  
But all the dead forgotten lie;  
Thus memory and their name is gone  
Alike unknowing and unknown.

Their hatred and their love is lost  
Their envy buried in the dust;  
They have no share in all that's done  
Beneath the circuit of the sun.

Then what thy thoughts design to do  
Still let thy hands with might pursue;  
Since no device or work is found  
Nor wisdom underneath the ground.

In the cold grave, to which we haste  
There are no acts of pardon past;  
But fix'd the doom of all remains  
And everlasting silence reigns.

If anyone can throw any light on the origins of the poem, please contact Brother Keith Patience.

Finally, we normally have our monthly draw following meetings. Plans are at present to hold the draws for October to January around about Christmas time. Winnings will be distributed via bank transfers.

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## Lodge St Martin 1217

I hope this finds all brethren and their families keeping safe and well under these very strange times. The lodge like all the other lodges are now holding virtual meetings on Zoom and trying to keep an eye on all our members.

We are working on various financial initiatives within the village to try and help residents where we can, likewise, we supported Bro James Fraser on his virtual cycle trip (see photo on next page).

The lodge made a substantial donation (£1000) to the Lochbroom Community Council swing park project which has just been completed, the RWM Bro. Phil Ellis is pictured beside the new slide and there is also a new all abilities swing.



Plans are afoot to assist Santa to tour the village as usual so the children of the village will still experience the magic of Christmas, although this year there will be no door to door collection due to social distancing rules.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of the RWM, Office-bearers and brethren of Lodge St Martin to wish all brethren and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, these are very difficult times but we will get through it all.

*Charles MacAulay, PM*  
Secretary

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Presentation of cheque for £820 presented to MFR Cash for Kids with a splendid effort by SD of Lodge Seaforth No 854, Bro. James Fraser when he did a virtual cycle from the Isle of Arran along the west coast route to his home town of Fortrose.

James is seen sitting on his bike flanked by the Grand Master Mason and Bro Morris Downie standing in on behalf of the RWM Bro Phil Ellis of Lodge St Martin No 1217. Lodge St Martin No. 1217 was a main contributor to the handsome sum raised by Bro Fraser.

## Lodge Loch Ewe 1551

After 15 years in Aultbea, our past Master Bro Mike Longley and family have relocated to live in Inverness.

Looking forward to visiting lodges in their province when normality returns to this world we live in today.

Meanwhile, repairs and modifications are ongoing within the Lodge at a slow but steady pace

*Ally Gault*

Master – Lodge Loch Ewe

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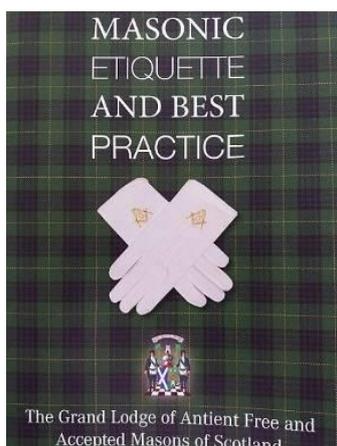
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## BITS AND PIECES

As we approach Remembrance Sunday, I thought the two verses of the following hymn used by Brethren in the United Grand Lodge of Victoria might be appropriate -

God of our fathers known of old  
Lord of our far-flung battle line  
Beneath whose awful hand we hold  
Dominion over palm and pine,  
Lord, God of Hosts, be with us yet  
`Lest we forget; Lest we forget

Our Brethren who have paid the price  
The greater love to us have known  
A noble, willing sacrifice  
That right, not might,  
the world may own  
Lest we forget; Lest we forget



This new booklet from the Grand Lodge of Scotland will be helpful to all but especially to those making their way up through the offices towards the chair of their Lodge. The new publication is available from Grand Lodge and priced at a very reasonable £3.00 per copy, £1.00 of which is going to Masonic Charities. The booklet is the work of the Information and Communications Committee and is a very easy guide to Masonic Etiquette and Best Practice.

It covers the A to Z of decorum within the Lodges from the correct positioning of the Altar to correct forms of Address, to Visiting. The booklet also contains guidelines for the use of Masonic Websites, Email and Social Media. One copy is currently being sent to each Master, free of charge and thereafter, the booklet will be available to all to purchase.

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## CHRISTMAS RAFFLE FOR MALAWI

After the tremendous success of my last project, which raised over £3000 for the Highland Hospice it was suggested that I should find another project to keep me occupied whilst still cooped up at home. I thought about it overnight then sent a message suggesting that I could do a tapestry for our kids in the Mountain View Deaf School in Malawi. One day later I was delighted to receive a call from our Provincial Grand Master Bro Robin Cattanach, and he told me he would personally pay for the kit for this project. A kit was then ordered about an hour later.

Because of the pandemic it would be a month later before the kit arrived. 55 days later and 460 hours spent on it almost 36,000 individual pieces of wool all which had to be cut to size, the tapestry was completed.

As this virus is not going away anytime soon, I think that having a Christmas raffle for the kids in Malawi is an excellent way of raising some extra funds for them. The Lodges in the Province of Ross and Cromarty have been funding the school in Malawi since 2008. This was started by our then PGM Bro Ramsay McGhee and PPGM Ian Fraser and has been carried on by the Province ever since.

I would urge all Brethren who can, to please support me in this project and help make the lives of the children in Malawi better.

Tickets for the raffle are £10 each and can be purchased online to the Provincial Grand Lodge online banking -

|                    |   |          |
|--------------------|---|----------|
| Bank of Scotland – | Sort Code                               | 80-08-84 |
|                    | Account No.                             | 00560454 |
| Reference          | TAPESTRY/ YOUR SURNAME / YOUR LODGE No. |          |

It would also be appreciated if you could drop me an email to say that you have made a BACS payment to [georger866@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:georger866@yahoo.co.uk)

Cheques, made out to the Provincial Grand Lodge Benevolent Account, can be sent to me, George Robinson 5 Rhyndie Farm Cottages, Fearn, Tain, Ross-shire. Cash donations can also be accepted.

The raffle will run from the 1<sup>st</sup> of November till the 14<sup>th</sup> of December and will be drawn by the Provincial Grand Master by a random number generator.

My thanks go to all who have supported me in this project, especially Bro Donnie Mathieson, the Master and Brethren of Lodge Averon 866.

*George Robinson* PM Averon 866

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*The tapestry made by Past Master George Robinson for the Christmas Raffle*

Brethren

Past Master Robinson has put a huge effort into making this latest tapestry and I would encourage all Brethren to seriously consider supporting the project and buy a ticket.

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 2005**

All Freemasons in the Colony are invited to attend the re-interment of the remains of the late W Bro Henry E Budden who died in the POW's Camp on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1943 and his son, the late Gilbert E Budden who died in the POW's Camp on 11<sup>th</sup> October 1942, to take place in the Old Resident's Section of the Protestant Cemetery, Happy Valley, on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 1946. No regalia will be worn by the Brethren attending.

## American Mike's Moustache Challenge

Good day to everyone,

This is almost November, and many moustaches are being either grown or planned, in aid of Men's Health. I personally am in the process of having a prostate issue investigated, so I think it is an ideal time to start a fund-raising venture for Prostate Scotland. Here is the challenge:

Grow a Moustache until the end of November

Send me a picture of your upper lip as a 'before'.

([americanmike1217@gmail.com](mailto:americanmike1217@gmail.com), or WhatsApp 07721515177)

Donate £5 to my Prostate Scotland Just-Giving page.

At the end of November, send me a picture of your upper lip as an 'after'.

([americanmike1217@gmail.com](mailto:americanmike1217@gmail.com), or WhatsApp 07721515177)

I have a panel of expert, female judges who will select the best moustache from all entries, and award a bottle of Glen Morangie malt whisky and a complimentary 4-ball at Ullapool Golf Club, valid for one year, to the moustache they think would be the most 'kissable'.

Donations may be made via the Just Giving website:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/michael-scott-turnergrowoneforprostatescotland>

or

Cheques may be sent to 20 Seaforth Road, Ullapool, IV26 2UY, made payable to Prostate Scotland.

I hope you all will join in and support a charity that deals with a condition that affects 43% of the male population. And to start you off, here is a picture of my one-day growth:



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Our Brethren of earlier days knew how to do things with style. Our closest neighbours in the Province of Inverness-shire, Lodge Priory, even encouraged the children to write to the Secretary accepting the invitation, instilling in them a level of proper etiquette from a young age -



"Like the Old Woman who lived in a shoe  
We have lots of Children, about seventy-two,  
Now all little Children like dainty things sweet  
So all get together and we'll give you a treat."

## GOODIES

TEA AND SANDWICHES  
*Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall*

FRUIT CAKE  
*Simple Simon met a Pieman*

ASSORTED PASTRIES  
*The Queen of Hearts she made some Tarts*

WINE JELLY  
*Have you a Corner*

SWEETIES FRUIT  
*That won't give you Toothache King Pippin & Sunkist*

MILK  
*From the Cow with the Crumpled Horn*

LEMONADE AND ORANGEADE  
*From The House that Jack built*

*Hickory Dickory Dock*  
WE START AT 4 O'CLOCK

PUNCH AND JUDY WILL BE WITH US

## BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 1999

It was recently discovered that a member of St Duthus had celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in Australia. Bro John Ross was born at Nigg on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1899 and emigrated to Australia during the Great Depression. He was initiated in Lodge St Duthus 73 years ago. Bro John is still in remarkably good health and managed to read all his cards without glasses. He currently resides in a Masonic Home for the elderly and is well cared for. As part of the celebrations some of his family flew from Scotland to be with him. Grand Lodge are sending a Jubilee Certificate and arrangements are in hand for a formal presentation to him. Hearty congratulations are extended to Bro John from all Lodges in the Province.

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The following article has been commissioned by “*Allseas*” – the company responsible for shipping the tools to Malawi. It will be circulated far and wide in their magazine and could attract sponsorship for what has been happening in Mountain View School.

## Helping to support kids safely back to the classroom in Malawi

We have recently proudly supported and funded the shipment of critical PPE to the Mountain View School for Deaf Children in Malawi. Our consignment, shipped on behalf of The Provincial Grand Lodge of Perthshire East and the local Dossani Trust, included many protective items such as face visors and aprons to soap and surgical gloves. We are also currently delighted to be involved in the shipment of 25 boxes of second-hand tools from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty who have been actively involved with the school for over 12 years.

The children who attend this school are particularly vulnerable to any form of virus given that many of them have inherited Aids from their parents. So, the newly delivered PPE will afford all learners, teachers, and support staff on campus protection from the Covid-19 pandemic for at least the coming term, with further shipments planned for later in the year. Until now, they were only able to source six plastic buckets with taps!

The school has been deserted since mid-March apart from Modester and other staff living on the campus. So, the PPE forms part of the latest efforts to allow the children back to their important school studies.

Daily deaths from the virus are thankfully reducing in Malawi, so this latest batch of PPE shall hopefully help maintain this steady decline.

We wish all the very best to everyone at Mountain View and The Grand Lodge of Scotland.



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## HEILAN SHED No 6

### PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C

#### Tain & Ross RAC 63

The Tain and Ross Chapter held a Zoom meeting on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020 – the night that should have been the Installation meeting. The next Zoom meeting will be on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm. The link to the meeting is -

#### St Clement RAC 244

#### Cromarty Firth RAC 310

#### ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER HEBRIDES NO. 364.

As mentioned in the last edition the lockdown means that although we have a candidate waiting for his EM degree we do not know when we will be able to hold our next meeting and admit him.

*Donnie Macleod*

Donald Macleod IPGS R&C

#### PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

As previously mentioned, everything has come to a halt and we have no idea when our next meeting will be. When that takes place, we believe it will be a Malta grade.

*Donnie Macleod*

†‡ Donald Macleod KCT

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The Brethren of the District Grand Lodge of East Africa held an open-air meeting in the grounds of Lodge Mount Longonot in Naivasha. Social distancing was observed, and all went according to plan.

The District Grand Secretary in East Africa, Brother Kalpesh Shah has more to cope with than the administration issues – he was called upon recently to look after a friend’s cat – not exactly what he was expecting .....



Have seen him looking happier!!!!

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*And finally –*

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 1998**

### **Volume of the Sacred Law**

I am frequently asked at what Chapter the Volume of the Sacred Law should be open during a Lodge Meeting. The following verses are what I have always acknowledged to be the proper places to have the Good Book open at during the three Degrees. If any Brother has any other suggestions, I would be delighted to publish same.

### **EA Degree:**

Psalm 133, Verse 1:

“Behold how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity.”

### **FC Degree:**

Amos Ch 7, Verse 7:

“Thus, he shewed me: and behold, the Lord stood upon a wall, made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand.”

### **MM Degree:**

1<sup>st</sup> Kings Ch 17, Verse 20:

“And he cried unto the Lord, and said, O Lord my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son.”

