

50 years with St Hilda Chapter No. 1887

E Comp Derek Hawkins, PPGSN

On the 28th February 2018 E Comp Derek Hawkins celebrated 50 years, to the day, since his Exaltation into the St Hilda Chapter No. 1887 on the 28th February 1968. He was joined on the occasion by 23 Provincial Officers of the Year, and presented with a framed Certificate by the Third Provincial Grand Principal, E Comp. Mike Warner.

Mike had carried out extensive research into Derek's background and gave a moving and informative presentation of his early life from school days, through his war time service with the RAF, and subsequent civilian life working at a prominent Wallingford Department store, finally as its Managing Director. (Full details of which are available to read [here](#).)

Derek's Royal Arch Masonry has been entirely with the St Hilda Chapter, which in itself is a remarkable achievement and shows they must be doing something right, to keep his attention for so long. During the past 50 years Derek has passed through all of the Chapter Offices, reaching the chair of First Principal in 1986, and he has continued to actively support the Chapter in various roles and Offices since, including as Treasurer for 8 years. His party piece with ritual is to deliver the long version of the Mystical Lecture, including the use of the old Hebrew names relating to the Block of White Marble. Such is his dedication to the Chapter, that even on this special occasion in his life, Derek was acting as ADC of the Chapter for the Exaltation of Mathew Summers, later on.



This was a most moving occasion enjoyed by all who attended and a most fitting tribute to a Royal Arch Mason whose 50 years of service to the Chapter and Province is truly worthy of congratulation, and an example and an inspiration to us all.

Well done Derek.