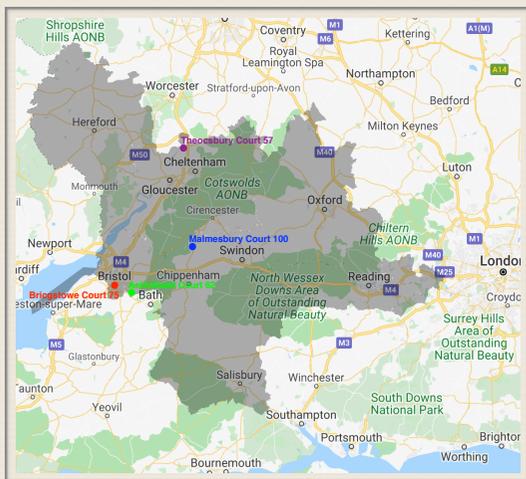


PROVINCE of WESSEX



The Province of Wessex covers the areas of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Wiltshire, Bristol, Oxfordshire and Berkshire.

In England and Wales the Order of Athelstan is structured so that its Provinces wherever possible reflect the ancient Kingdoms of the Anglo-Saxon Period.

In the Order of Athelstan, individual units are not referred to as Lodges but as Courts, in line with the Anglo-Saxon setting of the Order.

At present there are four Courts in the province with new Courts planned in Berkshire, Herefordshire, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. It is hoped that within 5 years this will bring our number of Courts up to 9 or 10.

If you are interested in learning more about Athelstan Masonry or have aspirations to become a member

Please contact:

Provincial Grand Secretary of the Province of Wessex
Email: provgsec@athelstan-wessex.org.uk

QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The Masonic Order of Athelstan recognises that the Craft and Royal Arch are the foundation stones of Masonry.

The qualifications therefore for membership of the Masonic Order of Athelstan is that prospective members must be current subscribing members of a Lodge recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England and a current subscribing member of a Royal Arch Chapter recognised by the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England.

COURTS AND MEETING PLACES IN THE PROVINCE of WESSEX

Theocsbury Court No. 57.

Masonic Hall, Trinity Walk, Tewkesbury,
Gloucestershire GL20 5NP
on the second Wednesday in January, **June**
(Installation) and first Thursday in November.

Aethelbald Court No. 62.

Masonic Hall, Keynsham, Bristol BS31 1SR
on the fourth Monday in March, **September**
(Installation) and the third Monday in May.

Bricgstowe Court No. 75.

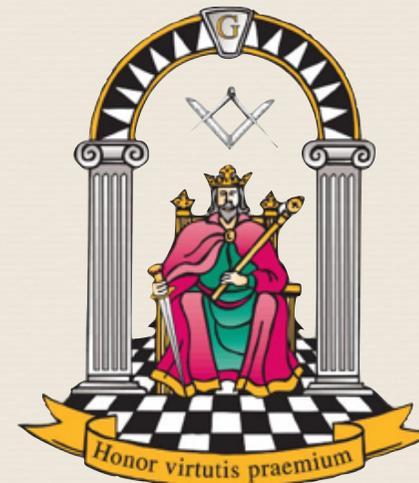
Freemasons Hall, Park Street, Bristol BS1 5NH
on the first Tuesday in **September** (Installation), the
third Tuesday in January and first Monday in June.

Malmesbury Court No. 100.

Masonic Hall, Silver Street, Malmesbury,
Wiltshire SN16 9BU
on the second Wednesday in **May** (Installation), and
the second Tuesday in September and January.

THE MASONIC ORDER of AETHELSTAN

in
England Wales and its Provinces Overseas



PROVINCE of WESSEX



INFORMATION for PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Provincial Website:
www.athelstan-wessex.org.uk
Grand Court Website:
www.athelstan.org.uk

ATHELSTAN FIRST KING OF ALL THE ENGLISH

(Born 894AD - Died 939AD)

Athelstan was the son of Edward the Elder and the Grandson of King Alfred the Great. He ascended the throne at the age of 30 in 925AD and was consecrated on the famous Coronation Stone in the town of Kingston-on-Thames, then named Cynningstun. The Stone is still to be seen in the Town.

Athelstan reigned from 925AD to 939AD and was a courageous and distinguished soldier who, in the 14 years of his reign, extended the boundaries of his kingdom beyond anything previously attained. In 927AD Athelstan took the city of York from the Viking king thus becoming the first Anglo-Saxon king to rule the whole of England. Having established his sovereignty over the whole of England, the Scottish and Welsh Kings soon recognised Athelstan, and even the Cornish were forced into submission.

In 926AD an event took place which cemented Athelstan firmly in the ranks of Masonic history and, although he could not have realised it at the time, ultimately led to the foundation of the Masonic Order of Athelstan almost 1100 years later.

This was the legendary assembly of Master Masons at York, said to have been called at the behest of King Athelstan. This assembly was called to correct poor practices which had crept into Operative Masonry. At the assembly new codes of practice were introduced and laws for the government of the Craft were firmly established. These in time became known as the **Antient Charges** and have since been recognised as a foundation stone of Masonic practice by orders of Freemasonry throughout the world.

Athelstan left a rich legacy of organisational and legal reform and at the time of his death in 939AD had instituted huge changes to the laws of England.

Athelstan was buried in Malmesbury Abbey in our Province of Wessex and a 15th century tomb can still be seen in the Abbey today.

THE MASONIC ORDER OF ATHELSTAN

The Order of Athelstan, as the name suggests, is based upon the life and times of King Athelstan. The focus of the Order is to show how the early reference to the importance of Masonry in English history played a significant role in the later development of speculative Freemasonry.

Since its foundation in 2005, having sprung from the researches and common interests of a group of Masonic friends, the growth of the Order has been extraordinary, with Provinces throughout England and Wales, North and South America, Europe and the Far East.

In common with most Masonic Orders, Athelstan utilises legend and allegory in its ritual to impart and illustrate moral lessons. It seeks to provide its members with a code for life and a thirst for knowledge. The ritual centres on a young Master Mason attending the Grand Assembly at York and the lessons learnt from his Instruction (*please note that we use the word Instruction instead of Initiation*).

All Courts generally have three regular meetings a year, although additional meetings may be held, by dispensation, solely for the purpose of Instructing Candidates. Court meetings are followed by a Festive Board. There are no speeches at the Festive Board and no wine takings. This practice is designed so that members and guests may talk together with little or no interruption. The Formal Toasts are given standing at the end of the meal, one after another, with no preamble before each Toast.

Subscriptions are kept to a minimum and annual charges levied by both the Province and Grand Court are modest. There is one alms collection a year and that is at the installation meeting.

The Order is an Invitational Order with a current member inviting a suitably qualified Craft and Royal Arch Mason to consider Membership.

COURT OFFICERS

Court Officers are similar to, but not the same as, the Officers in a Craft Lodge. For the purpose of comparison we have listed the Craft Equivalent next to each Athelstan Officer where appropriate:

Worshipful Master
Eminent Prior (*Chaplain*)
Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Secretary
Treasurer
Marshal (*DC*)
Almoner
Deputy Marshal (*ADC*)
Senior Deacon
Junior Deacon
Organist
Captain of the Guards (*Inner Guard*)
Burghs (*Stewards*)
Guard (*Tyler*)

ATHELSTAN REGALIA



Members Apron



Installed Master



Provincial Apron



Grand Officer