

Vale of Taunton Chapter No. 826

Warranted 27th January, 1977

This Chapter is a good example of how a move towards submitting a Petition for a new Chapter is not as straightforward as many would believe. The initial move came from a meeting of ALFRED Chapter Members held on 1st July, 1975, to discuss a suggestion that there was sufficient interest in Taunton and its environs for a second Chapter. Having been advised by the Inspector General on the circumstances and conditions under which new Chapters should be founded, the majority present reached a conclusion that there was scope for development and agreed that moves should be implemented towards submitting a Petition.

The Supreme Council being satisfied it granted a Warrant dated as per above designating Ill: .Bro. H. S. Pring to be the first Sovereign.

It was at this point that matters took a turn for the worse. The Inspector General, the Rev. Dr. H. L. Franklin, had been informed that Past Sovereigns of the ALFRED Chapter intimated their complete opposition to the formation of the Chapter in Taunton. He was forced to request Supreme Council to defer the engrossing of the Warrant, stating in a letter his reasons for doing so. It appears that the Members opposing the move refused to hire their furniture and a senior Past Sovereign had informed Dr. Franklin, that the ALFRED Members regarded the new Chapter as "interlopers and not in amity with them"! The unfortunate set of circumstances took longer to resolve than was first thought and it was almost twelve months before a reconciliation was effected.

The Chapter was finally Consecrated the Chapter on Friday, 6th January, 1978 at the Masonic Hall, Taunton.

Time being the great healer amity is fully restored and the two Chapters present a solid front in promoting the well being of the Order in Taunton.

Current membership is 52.

Meets at the Taunton Masonic Hall on the second Friday of February, March, September and November (18-30hrs).