

from HUGH SINCLAIR M.A. (OXON.) ALN COURT ELLINGTON NE615LR
FOUNDER OF MFRFM, MOVEMENT FOR A REGISTER OF FREEMASONS
ALN COURT ELLINGTON NE61 5LR

Submission to members of the General Synod of the Church of England, calling for a register of Masonic clergy, sent to you with the permission of Mr. David Williams, Clerk to the Synod, and Mr. Alastair Callcutt, Synod Support Unit

prologue to submission

MFRFM

Movement for a Register of Freemasons

16.3.06

The Rt. Rev. Graham James,
Chair, Central Religious Advisory Committee of the BBC,
BBC, Broadcasting House,
Portland Place,
LONDON W1

Dear Sir,

Do we know all we need to know about religious broadcasters?
[Submission to CofE General Synod calling for a Register of Masonic Clergy](#)

An MP of some seniority in the House of Commons, well-respected for his independence of mind, has written to me, stating that in an age of transparency there should be disclosure of Masonic affiliation in the Church.

I would be pleased if you would bring the Submission (copy enclosed) to the attention of the Committee. When the clergy buttonhole the public via radio or tv, they have the privilege of addressing a captive audience. From the heights of Mount Olympus they can deliver *the Christian message* across a wide spectrum of current affairs which may include such topical subjects as equal opportunities, glass ceilings, and women priests (even Bishops). They may even, occasionally, express *the Christian message* on Freemasonry. There is an observable tendency among some contemporary clergy to adopt a stance of studied liberalism towards Freemasonry, with fairness to all, inclusivity and no witch-hunts at the top of their agenda. Among this wing of the church, a trend may be observed, laying stress on the tendency of the Freemasons 'to involve women more in their counsels.' I quote here a vicar from Lincolnshire. The Archdeacon of Totnes even implies, erroneously, that the Freemasons, an all-male order, recognize a small eccentric fringe of Women Freemasons. They do not, as a recent BBC R4 programme on Women Freemasons confirmed.

A Register serves 2 practical purposes. One, it identifies clergy who are Freemasons. Two, it enables us to ask of the rest, what on earth can you possibly know of a society of secret members sworn to secrecy? Answer, nothing, so be quiet! And don't keep mentioning *the money!* A lot of people donate large sums of cash to various causes, and as we currently hear, not always for the purest of motives.

Yours truly,

cc Chairman of the BBC, Ms Ruth Gledhill, Mr. Jonathan Petre, Mr. Richard Batson

The Masonic Antient Charges state that "you are .. to prefer a poor Brother, that is a good man and true **BEFORE** any other poor People in the same Circumstance." This obligation binds all Freemasons – including clergy, lawyers and public servants – of every degree.

MFRFM seeks to argue for a public register of Freemasons. : 01670 861736

Press self-censorship limits the reporting of matters Masonic so please consider forwarding the contents of this letter to others

submission to 4 churches.

PRACTISE WHAT YOU PREACH or “DON’T GIVE ME THAT CANT” (the late Anthony Bevins)

to

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

THE CHURCH IN WALES

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (NB ALSO PETITION TO SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT PE927, HEARING DATE 22.2.06)

THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

calling for a public register of clergy who are members of the Freemasons or any oath-bound society with a secret membership

In England and Wales, members of the judiciary, magistrates and JPs have to declare Masonic membership. The Standards Board for England requires the same accountability from councillors under a code of conduct introduced in response to the sleaze which hit the head-lines in the 1990s.

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A. “THE INDEPENDENT” 4.12.92: THE MASONIC SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

HEADLINE: QUESTIONS OVER CHURCHMAN’S CHARITY TRIP

[Secretary-General of the Synod and high-ranking Freemason in Craft and Royal Arch]

Andrew Brown reports on a leading Anglican’s visit to South Africa with a homosexual friend

“The most powerful layman in the Church of England took his homosexual friend around South Africa on a trip for an Anglican charity, the Independent has learnt. He later repaid to the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge the extra cost involved. The bills, showing the two men shared a room on the trip in 1990, were approved by Patrick Gilbert, the society’s then managing director, who resigned suddenly last year and is now facing charges of indecent assault.

The Rev Sir Derek Pattinson, as he now is, [holding the Masonic ranks of JGD, PSGD, Craft, and AGDC, Royal Arch*] was secretary-general of the Church of England’s General Synod for 18 years, until 1990, when he was knighted on retirement and embarked on training for ordination. He was also chairman of the executive committee of the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge, a 300-year-old missionary society and publishing house, currently being investigated by the Charity Commissioners after revelations about the extravagance of Mr Gilbert, its last managing director.

Sir Derek set off on a prolonged fact-finding trip around southern Africa at SPCK’s expense in the autumn of 1990, while he was still secretary-general of the Synod. In Johannesburg he was joined, by pre-arrangement, by Barnaby Miln [reported to be in Hertford Jail in 1995: fraud in an old people’s home], a homosexual activist who had been one of the youngest Justices of the Peace in England.

For most of the years when Sir Derek, 62, was training for the priesthood, he lived with Mr Miln in a flat in Westminster owned by the diocese of London. Dr. Graham Leonard, the traditionalist who has now announced he plans to leave the Church of England in protest against women priests, was then Bishop of London. He agreed to Sir Derek’s ordination without the customary investigation of his suitability by the Church’s Advisory Council on Ministry. “It’s perfectly true that [Sir Derek] never went on a selection conference, because technically he was the employer of the staff who were arranging it,” Dr. Leonard said.

Mr Miln claims that Dr. Leonard knew the set-up. “The Daily Mail chap, Tony Doran, had got through the outer door on the morning of the deaconing and accused [Sir Derek] to his face of being a homosexual. And Derek sent him away,” he said. “The telephone then started ringing and Graham Leonard decided to go ahead... The organist was told to play full blast, should there be a protest, and at the private do afterwards, Graham Leonard came up to me and said: “I did you a favour, Barnaby.” Dr. Leonard attended a packed General Synod debate in 1987 when Sir Derek was on the platform and Mr Miln then a lay member, announced that he was a homosexual. The Synod went on to pass by an overwhelming majority, a motion condemning “homosexual genital activity.”

Before Sir Derek could become a priest, Dr Leonard retired, and was replaced by the Rt Rev David Hope, the former bishop of Wakefield. He compelled Sir Derek to return to the theological college at Mirfield, Yorkshire, for an extra term, which he had hoped to skip. But he did ordain him. Dr Hope said: “I knew that they were sharing rooms or a flat. But it was put to me that Barnaby Miln was looking after Derek, caring for or about him. I would presume that their domestic arrangements were satisfactory and wholesome because I was not told otherwise.”

Q. PETITION TO THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT PE927 (HEARING DATE 22.2.06) BY HUGH SINCLAIR

on behalf of the Movement for a Register of Freemasons, calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to introduce legislation requiring the Church of Scotland to require its clergy to declare, in a public register, membership of the Freemasons or any society having a secret oath-bound membership.

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WHAT I HAVE TRIED TO PROVIDE IN THIS SUBMISSION is evidence of the uneasy and embarrassed partnership that exists between the church and the Freemasons with some illustrations of the extreme lengths to which clergy will go in order to preserve their special relationship. The most appropriate caption would be "Duck and Dive". Whatever the motivation underlying this apparent collusion may be, a publicly accessible Register of ministers of religion who belong to the Freemasons or other secret societies would transfer empowerment to the laity and reduce the anachronistic patriarchal status of the church. Those clergy who wish to remain in fraternal societies will be free to do so. My 2005 Petition PE848 (re the fledgling Scottish Grand Master Canon Morrow) sought to ban clergy in the Scottish Episcopal Church from Masonic membership (to prevent such disgraces recurring). A ban is morally justified and, indeed, some major Provinces of the Anglican Communion worldwide expressly forbid priests belonging to the Freemasons. (Doubtless some don't.) Nevertheless, a Register of Masonic membership offers a degree of protection and choice to the laity. Ordinary citizens are entitled to know if clergy acting in a pastoral, professional or representative capacity owe a secret allegiance which may impair their independence of judgment, advice or action. A Register will provide an x-ray of such secret obligations.

HUGH SINCLAIR 20.3.2006

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I wish to acknowledge the help provided by a member of MFRFM in providing access to the United Grand Lodge of England Yearbook 2003-4

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One or more attachments from the following accompany this email:

- 1. from the independent 4.12.92: the masonic secretary-general of the general synod
- 2. dr rowan williams writes about freemasonry in the church, 9.8.02
- 3. article in the independent 1992: freemasons 'should tell of allegiance' (john major)
- 4. eastern daily press 29.7.92: dean supports Freemasons
- 5. letter from the bishop of ripon & leeds 11.12.02
- 6. vicar = deputy grand master, norfolk

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THE MASONIC ANTIENT CHARGES STATE THAT "YOU ARE .. TO PREFER A POOR BROTHER, THAT IS A GOOD MAN AND TRUE before ANY OTHER POOR PEOPLE IN THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCE." This obligation binds all Freemasons - including clergy, lawyers and public servants - of every degree.

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Footnote: Reported in the Times 20th February 2006 (also in the Daily Telegraph at length): **WOMEN CLERGY VETO, BARSHAM, SUFFOLK** : "The Ven. Geoffrey Arrand, Archdeacon of Suffolk, defended the refusal by the parochial church council of Barsham to accept a woman priest. He said: ' I understand why they are doing it, but that is not the same thing as saying I agree with them.' The vacancy is advertised for men only."

The 2006/7 edition of Crockford's names one of the priests in the same Wainford group of parishes in the diocese of St. Edmundsbury as the Rev. Norman Harold Simister. A Norman Harold Simister holds several ranks of high office in the United Grand Lodge of England, Craft and Royal Arch.