



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

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The Beauty of Masonic Stained Glass to Celebrate 300 Years of English Freemasonry Commemorative Postal Sheets

This year marks the 300th anniversary of the formation of the first Freemasonry Lodges in England.

To commemorate this event, *The Masonic Philatelic Club*, in conjunction with The Royal Mail, have released a beautifully designed commemorative sheet of ten images of Masonic stained glass windows and ten Royal Mail stamps, with an additional printed sheet with background information on the two Churches featured.

The stamps and images of the stained glass windows are framed beautifully by a classic piece of Masonic art, forming the background to the whole sheet. The two churches whose windows are featured could not be more different. The first is Kingston Parish Church in Jamaica and the second, a little closer to home, St Peter's Church in Leicester. Ken Elston, Chairman of the *Masonic Philatelic Club*, is responsible for the design and image research for the project, ably assisted by the *Masonic Philatelic Club Magazine* graphics team. "When starting this project we explored a number of options for the images on the sheet, but our choice was made easier when we came across the two stained glass windows in Leicester and Kingston, Jamaica", said Ken.

"As well as the team at the MPC magazine, we are indebted to Dr. Andrew Green, an Assistant Professor at The University of Nottingham, for his invaluable background information on St Peter's Church and its Masonic stained glass window," said Ken.

Another driving force behind the project has been John Chapman, former Director of the world renowned *Bletchley Park Post Office*. "The dedicated work of Ken and his team and Andrew Green's expert background history has allowed us to produce a truly unique commemorative sheet to mark the 300th Anniversary of Freemasonry in England." John continued, "It represents an opportunity for Masonic stamp collectors and general stamp collectors the world over to add a unique piece of Masonic postal history to their collections."

A total of 400 sheets are being issued, so please make sure you place your order early to avoid any disappointment. The sheets are priced at £40.00 plus £2.50pp. extra for Intl. They can be purchased by emailing John Chapman at: chapidman@gmail.com or by telephoning him on: 07850 239923.

