



YORK MINSTER EVENTS

20TH & 21ST JUNE 2025

The King Athelstan Memorial Foundation is delighted to announce the official opening of the 'Order of Athelstan Room' accommodation module at York Minster's new Centre of Excellence for Heritage Craft Skills and Estate Management.

This state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence has established the York Minster Precinct as a world-class campus dedicated to research, education, and training in traditional craft skills. The Centre is empowering our world-renowned stonemasons to undertake commissions for other ecclesiastical institutions and heritage estates, leveraging cutting-edge technology to support their craft.

The Centre is delivering significant benefits to York and the wider heritage sector. It is safeguarding the art of stonemasonry for future generations, fostering global learning and knowledge sharing, and setting a benchmark for best practice in the management of complex heritage estates. By combining advanced technology with traditional expertise, the Centre supports young people at the start of their careers and provides dedicated residential facilities for first-year apprentices.



The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new accommodation room took place on Friday 20th June 2025 and was performed by MW Bro. Paul W. Johnston, Grand Master.

The event was attended by over 100 members of the Masonic Order of Athelstan, with MW Bro. John Prizeman, Pro Grand Master of Mark Master Masons, and his wife Kay serving as Guests of Honour.



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FULFILLING OUR COMMITMENT TO YORK MINSTER

At the official opening of the 'Order of Athelstan Room,' Right Worshipful Brother Lionel Mee, President of The King Athelstan Memorial Foundation (KAMF), assisted by Most Worshipful Brother Paul W. Johnston, Grand Master, presented a cheque for £100,000 to the York Minster Fund as part of our York 1100 campaign.

The cheque was gratefully received by Cate Birch and Phil Bond of the York Minster Trust.



Cate Birch, Head of Fundraising and Development, addressed the assembled guests and expressed heartfelt thanks to the KAMF and the members of the Masonic Order of Athelstan for their outstanding generosity.



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HISTORIC UNVEILING AT YORK MINSTER THE KING ATHELSTAN GROTESQUE

On a sweltering and humid Saturday morning at the York Minster Centre of Excellence, history was made as Most Worshipful Brother Paul W. Johnston, Grand Master, accompanied by distinguished members of the Masonic Order of Athelstan, took part in a milestone event for the Order. This significant moment marked the culmination of two years of dedicated planning and collaboration with York Minster. Assisted by Richard Bossons, Stonemason of York Minster, the Grand Master unveiled the new grotesque of King Athelstan The Glorious. Commissioned by the King Athelstan Memorial Foundation and the York Minster Fund, Richard Bossons was entrusted with the design and carving of this remarkable sculpture. The grotesque will take its rightful place on a newly renovated pinnacle adorning the South Quire roof of York Minster—a fitting tribute to a pivotal figure in English history.





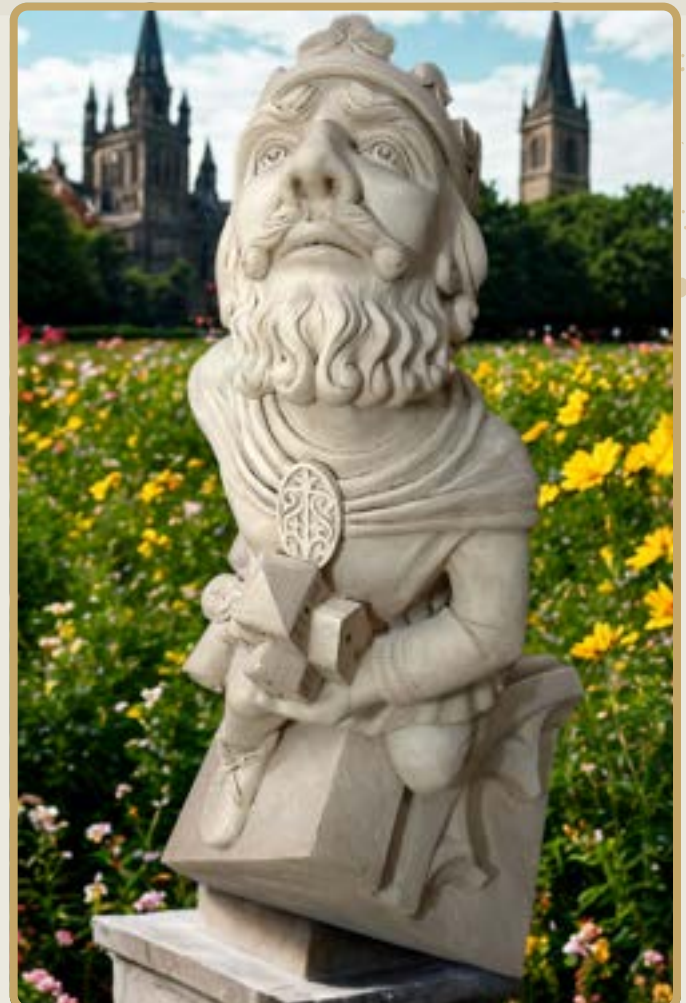
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Addressing the assembled guests, the Grand Master recounted the storied past of King Athelstan and his profound connection to York. In 927 AD, King Athelstan brought Northumbria under his rule and, with the signing of the Mayburgh Henge Treaty on 12th July that year, effectively laid the foundation for the Kingdom of England.

York itself is steeped in legend as the site where King Athelstan instructed his half-brother Edwin to convene the first assembly of operative masons; an event from which the Ancient Charges of Freemasonry are said to have emerged. In the grotesque, King Athelstan is depicted holding the scroll of these Charges, forever commemorating both the monarch and the historic events of York in 926–927 AD.

In a further revelation, MW Bro. Paul shared that he had been working closely with Master Mason Richard Bossons not only on the King Athelstan grotesque, but also on the design of three additional grotesques to be placed on the pinnacle, now officially named the 'King Athelstan Pinnacle.' Richard, whose deep knowledge of York's and Athelstan's history enriched the project, explained that King Athelstan will be joined by his illustrious aunt, Æthelflæd, the Lady of Mercia; Saint Edmund, King and Martyr (in whose honour Athelstan founded a religious community in 925 AD); and a Master Mason, representing the craftsmen called to York for the first assembly in 926 AD.





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The King Athelstan grotesque will be ceremoniously lifted into place later this year, once the refurbishment of the pinnacle and the completion of the accompanying grotesques are finished.

This extraordinary project stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of King Athelstan and the historic bonds between the city of York, the Masonic Order of Athelstan, and the rich traditions of masonry.

DONATE TO THE KAMF FUND

If you wish to donate to the fund, it could not be easier. Please click on the link to visit our Masonic Charitable Foundation Page.

If you are a UK Tax Payer then make sure you check the Gift Aid section.

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