



Centenary Events

Centenary Day; 4th October 1983 - Our Founding Day, 4th October 1983 was marked by Companies throughout the British Isles and in many places abroad by special services, the reading of HM The Queen's Centenary message and the issuing of the special New Testaments to the boys, followed by a social evening including the cutting of birthday cakes. The intention was that the actual time and date of the first meeting of the original Company, the 1st Glasgow Company would be commemorated in this way thereby linking Companies everywhere in this recollection of our founding. It has been estimated that three-quarters of a million members and friends attended these events in the United Kingdom.

National Thanksgiving Service: St Paul's Cathedral - A National Service of Thanksgiving was held in St Paul's Cathedral on Thursday 27th October 1983, the Founder's Birthday, in the gracious presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. We were also honoured to have with us the Archbishop of Canterbury (who preached the sermon), the Bishop of London and the Lord Mayor of London, together with many other distinguished guests. The congregation of 2,300 included District and Battalion representatives from all parts of the British Isles and more than 700 boys and young men of all ages. They were very much in evidence and made a major contribution to the occasion. In the congregation were Queen's Men, NCOs, and Seniors from all 180 Battalions, and representative groups of Juniors and Anchor Boys. Outside a bugle band positioned near Queen Anne's statue played during the arrival of the congregation, and a guard of honour of 100 Queen's Men lined the steps leading to the great west door. Inside the Cathedral a brass band provided music before the service and the choir stalls were occupied by a choir of 100 Brigade boys, specially formed and trained for this service. Members of the Brigade took part in leading the prayers including Simon Mooney (aged 7) of the 17th Kingston & Merton Company who is the youngest person ever to have taken part in a service in St Paul's and his name has been duly recorded in the Cathedral's archives.

In Scotland a National Service of Thanksgiving was held at St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh on 9th October, at which the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Rt Revd J. Eraser McLuskey, MC, MA, BD, DD, addressed a capacity congregation consisting of officers and boys and friends of the Brigade from all parts of Scotland.

The Service for the Brigade in Wales was held in Llandaff Cathedral, where the preacher was the Revd Dr Donald English.

In Northern Ireland a special service was held at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast; and St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, was filled to capacity for a similar service at which the President of the Republic of Ireland (Dr D. J. Hillery) was present.

Centenary Brigade Council 1983 - The hosts, Glasgow Battalion, had laid the plans with great care. For several years its Centenary Committee had prepared for this immense task with meticulous care and attention which it was felt was appropriate to so important an event in the history of the Brigade. There were many sub-committees: one for each event or function. These involved a large number of officers and many more were actively engaged in carrying out the programme of events. Some 4000 members of the BB and 20 World Conference countries together with kindred member organisations and other friends and guests, attended the week-end of celebrations. At the Annual Meeting of Brigade Council the voting strength was 958 of which 57 were proxy votes. At the Thanksgiving Service at Ibrox Park, a cheque for £49,000 was presented to the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland (the Rt Rev. Dr J. Eraser McLuskey) for overseas missions and World Conference projects.