



Ian Williams
on behalf of
Freemasons
of Bristol Limited:
**Freemasons Hall,
Park Street,
Bristol**

Project:

Freemasons Hall,
Park Street, Bristol
(The Provincial Grand
Lodge of Bristol)



Task: Internal decorations and repairs

Products used:

- Johnstone's Vinyl Matt
 - Retro Blend
 - Harmony in Green
 - Basket of Bobbins
 - Bandana Blue
 - Cornwall Blue
- Johnstone's Oil Based Eggshell
 - White
 - Morning Breeze
- Johnstone's Metal Gloss
 - Gold

Client: Freemasons of Bristol Limited

Background

Located on Park Street, a focal point in the centre of Bristol, Freemasons' Hall is the home of The Provincial Grand Lodge of Bristol and is a Grade II Listed Victorian Building owned and managed by Freemasons of Bristol Limited. It consists of Lodge rooms, dining and function rooms, storage rooms, a bar and cloakrooms and is used for regular Lodge meetings, weddings, conferences and other larger scale events.

Project Details:

Ian Williams undertook internal decorations and repairs at Freemasons' Hall as part of an 8-week project to transform a previously plain white interior into a vibrant, revitalised space whilst remaining true to the building's heritage. As part of this project, we undertook works to the main vestibule, foyer including the double coffered ceiling and decorative columns, main stairs with cast-iron railings and banisters, landings and corridors on four levels, windows and architraves.

The project was tendered on a two-stage basis, enabling us to work closely with the client's representatives during stage 2 to fully understand project requirements and agree the final specification prior to commencement. This included undertaking a detailed value engineering exercise to match the original specification. We worked with PPG specifiers to demonstrate colour matching abilities and provide a cost saving of over £2,000.

Prior to decorations, we assisted our client with the removal of curtains, pelmets, pictures, noticeboards and light fittings and moved all furniture to safe and secure areas of the building. We undertook a high-level of preparation works including filling cracks, repairs to large sections of wooden banisters and masking marble located on the lower half of staircase walls.

Throughout the works, all repairs and decorations were undertaken by a consistent direct delivery team. Our experienced team is skilled in undertaking heritage works, ensuring complex elements were undertaken to a high standard, for example detailing located above and below the wooden dado rails.

Our team was also able to work with the lighting contractor to decorate ornate boxing surrounding various lights on the wall and ceiling, ensuring a high quality finish.



The Challenges...

Key challenges in this project included:

- **Large range of colours:** works to the coffered ceilings required the use of 5 separate colours alone and the cast iron railings consisted of a mix of blue and gold paint requiring extra time to ensure colours were cut in effectively
- **Intricate Features:** gold leaves were located in the corners of the coffered ceilings and required the use of specialist art brushes, ensuring we achieved an ornate effect
- **Access:** due to the complex layout of the building, we engaged early with our local scaffolding partner, Northgrant Access, to ensure detailed planning and programming. For example, we developed a Birdcage System for the four levels of a three flight, curved staircase which could be lowered after each section was completed
- **Tight Timescales:** we had to work with and around other contractors including flooring and lighting specialist to ensure the building was able to reopen for use by the deadline
- **Working around Events:** for example, a dinner took place within the building over one weekend. Our team adequately covered all scaffolding to ensure guests were unaware we were undertaking works
- **Liaison with staff:** throughout the works a live-in Hall Manager was on site at all times. Our onsite Foreman liaised with him daily to mitigate disruption, ensuring flexibility in our programme where required

Apprentices/ Trainees:

Emily Walker NVQ Level 2
Painting Apprentice

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