



**INDEPENDENT LOYAL
ORANGE INSTITUTION**

FOUNDED 1903



The Independent Loyal Orange Institution was founded in 1903 as a Reformation of Orangeism.

To our founders it was the 'Reformation Re-fought' and a return to Biblical and democratic principles with power restored to the rank and file, and an end to the Orange Order being used by politicians for their own ends.

A century later all of those radical demands have been secured and we now see Orangeism the better for it, governed by men of principle rather than those seeking political advancement or personal gain; more democratic and focused on the promotion of faith and the celebration of culture. We are pleased to have played a part in these reforms, as they have been as much a challenge to ourselves as to others. The Centenary of the ILOI in 2003 saw us revisiting our Vision for Orangeism and looking at how best to achieve it in the future.

Like many other organisations we have been faced with change, as faith is no longer central to society, our rural heartlands are unrecognisable, and technology has transformed people's expectations. Therefore as we look forward to the future we learn from the past, and build upon the foundations laid by our founding fathers, who embraced change and espoused radical ideas and modern technology.

Our Vision remains

The Independent Loyal Orange Institution is energised by, and confidently expresses and promotes, the Reformed Faith and Heritage, through our Orange Fraternity.

Recognising the diversity of modern society, and maintaining our Independence from outside influence, we deny to no-one the rights we expect for ourselves.

Our Mission is

To actively demonstrate to all through education and example our sincere belief in the:

- ✓ Centrality and truth of the Reformed Faith,
- ✓ Vitality and relevance of our heritage and culture,
- ✓ Importance of maintaining Civil and Religious Liberty for the benefit of all.

We passionately believe that our Institution and the principles upon which it is based have a role and a relevance in society today. We also understand that not everyone shares that belief and it is our task to explain, to educate and to exemplify our vision.

Role and Relevance of the Independent Loyal Orange Institution

- ✓ The ILOI has developed a distinct identity amongst the Loyal Orders championing democracy, transparency and fraternal relations, leading to the reforms in Orangeism and the improvement in relations we see today.
- ✓ It has acted as an honest broker, it's non political position allowing it to participate in a range of initiatives within the wider Unionist Community.
- ✓ Its principled stand and courageous advocacy of causes has allowed it to punch above its weight and provide a clear consistent voice.

Our Mission can be summed up as Faith, Freedom and the Future

We believe that these three concepts are interlinked, as was shown during the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. The Reformation was a 'revolutionary' event primarily about faith, but it changed the course of human history, socially, politically, and culturally.

The origins of Orangeism lie in the ongoing defence of that Reformed faith, and we exist to protect, promote and present it positively. While we hope that the religious wars of the past are left there we recognise that sectarianism and intolerance still exist. Religious persecution remains, with Biblical values presently challenged socially, culturally and legally.

Our aim is to present a Positive Protestantism, which can be seen as faith in action through Advocacy, Behaviour and Charity. We will speak out on issues that concern faith, and defend those whose Biblical beliefs are under attack. We will lead by example as we put our faith into action, whether in our individual walks of life or as we walk on parade. In terms of charity as a fraternity we support our members through our Benevolent Fund, and a range of programs to help older members. Beyond that we support local communities and charities through an annual programme of activities and the Grand Masters Appeal.



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VISION 2020+ looking to the future.

As the Institution celebrated its Centenary it was clear that it is here to stay. Now as we look forward to 2028 and our 125th Anniversary we are planning for the next decade.

Many have asked 'Why an Independent Orange Order' indeed in some ways we have been a victim of our own success. The demands we first made, the vision for a more democratic populist Orangeism have all been fulfilled. Indeed many issues we raised, and campaigned against like Institutional abuse in the Roman Catholic Church have been shown sadly to be real issues that have received international exposure.

So why then do we still remain if what we set out to achieve has been secured, if the issues we first championed have been recognised internationally? Our answer is very clear - we are about faith, freedom and the future, and 'Eternal

vigilance is the price of liberty.' Therefore we exist as a guard against backsliding, as a dissenting voice, as the conscience of Orangeism, and an example.

We also exist because in the course of a century any organisation creates its own identity, and ethos. We have grown differently and uniquely separate from other Loyal Orders and while we welcome conversation, co-operation and collaboration on common issues we are proud to be 'Independents'.

We represent that most Protestant of traditions, - dissent and difference of opinion. It is a hallmark of our faith, that men are free to follow their consciences, and express themselves freely.

In our recent internal research the themes of Reformation, Education and Transformation were central. The legacy of Luther and the Reformation grabbed the imagination of members, and we learnt

much from him and how the cutting edge technology and 'social media' of that time was used to spread the religious revolution that was the Reformation. This inspired us to look at our own 'brand' or message and the media we use to convey it. The result has been an investment in the design of a clear, consistent brand and identity for the Institution which conveys our ethos and principles.

Our new logo is based on the cypher or royal logo of King William III, it symbolises the Glorious Revolution and the actions of King William as the basis of our British Constitution and the religious liberty we enjoy today. The reworking of his cypher to carry the letters ILOI represent how we are interwoven into that heritage and culture of Orangeism. It is surmounted by the open Bible upon which rests the Crown symbolising that our faith is the basis of our constitution, and that the ILOI exists to support both.

Measures Not Men

As one of the mottoes of the Institution it has always attracted men of action, who join not for any political or personal advancement but for the good of their community.

Remaining above party politics the ILOI has always exerted an influence beyond its size or situation. Its founder Thomas H. Sloan represented South Belfast at Westminster, and was one of the most active and vocal MPs of his day. He was involved in the development of Unionist politics while continuing to sit as an independent, championing faith and rights.

That tradition has continued with the ILOI not fettered or afraid to criticise the government of the day paving the way for that dissenting voice which has always been a feature of unionist politics. Today our Deputy Imperial Grand Master Mervyn Storey MLA for North Antrim and the Member of Parliament for East Londonderry Gregory Campbell MP represent that ongoing tradition of fearless representation which allows the principles of Independent Orangeism to be lived out and legislated for both at Stormont and Westminster. Our members serve in a number of local councils as well as a range of professions and forums from their local church and community organisations to international bodies. Here we are confident that their Biblical Protestant faith, the ethos of the Institution, and the proud heritage and culture we promote all add to the influence we have in modern society.



Imperial Grand Master James Anderson & Deputy IGM Mervyn Storey

- ✓ While remaining above party politics we continue to exert a positive influence on events around us, setting the agenda based on Biblical principles.
- ✓ We have been able to act as an honest broker in a range of unionist political, cultural and social initiatives.
- ✓ Our members are enthused and inspired by the ethos and heritage of the Institution and use opportunities to effect positive change in the world around them.



THE FUTURE OF OUR HISTORY AND HERITAGE

- ✓ As an Institution formed in memory of the events of the Glorious Revolution we do not simply look back, but recognise these events as the foundation of our modern democratic British constitution. We commemorate these and continue to defend and promote them just as Americans do on the 4th July.
- ✓ We see faith and freedom preserved by events of the past but look to the future, and how we in this generation can pass on these rights to others.
- ✓ We are not triumphalist but promote the truth of the past unapologetically through education and commemoration.
- ✓ Our parades are expressions of faith, and represent the exercise of our human rights in terms of freedom of assembly, where we manifest our religion using freedom of expression
- ✓ The parades, commemorations, services and associated festivals are part of the rich heritage and culture of our community and are cultural and heritage assets with tourism and wider socio-economic benefits for all.

- ✓ The highlight of our year remains the Twelfth of July celebrations which we have developed into a Festival with a real family feel, and Ulster Scots flavour.
- ✓ It is themed each year and hosted by a different District, with local economies and communities benefiting.



- ✓ Our Parades are all connected to a service of worship, and emphasis is on celebration not triumphalism. We respect ourselves and the communities which host our events. The result is more peaceful and enjoyable events for all.

- ✓ Our parades and other public events showcase our rich history and culture giving a platform for our bands and other musicians. It is a great way for younger people to play an active and central role in what we do and to become involved.





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