

WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?

John Clark Provincial Grand Master

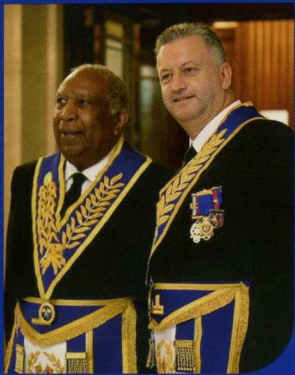
An international and widely recognised fraternity, Freemasonry provides its members with the opportunity to embark on an amazing lifelong journey of learning and self-discovery and of deepening personal moral strength and compassion.



Most Masons find the experience both challenging and rewarding and, above all, enormously enjoyable.

Whilst dating back several centuries in this country, no one knows exactly when Freemasonry, as we know it today, started. However, the Craft on which it was founded - that of stonemasons - dates back thousands of years; recent examples of which can be seen everywhere - in our castles, churches, cathedrals and other historic buildings.

The strict rules and guidelines that were used to train and develop young men into supreme masters of the stonemason's craft are used in Freemasonry, but now in metaphorical and symbolical form, thus developing the character, values and spirit of the individual.



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There are 16 Masonic Centres across Buckinghamshire and the choice of over 100 Lodges.

We range from Olney in the North to Slough in the South. Come and visit us - you will find a warm welcome awaits you

For more information about Freemasonry or details of how to join contact:

THE PROVINCIAL MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

THE OLD SCHOOL
WINDSOR END
BEACONSFIELD
BUCKS
HP9 2JW

E-mail: membership@buckspgl.org

LOCAL CONTACT

FREEMASONRY IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

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WAIT TO BE
ASKED!**



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WHAT ARE THE SECRETS OF FREEMASONRY?

The secrets of Freemasonry are the traditional modes of recognition which are not used indiscriminately, but solely as a test of membership, e.g. when visiting a Lodge where you are not known.

IS FREEMASONRY A "SECRET" SOCIETY?

No, absolutely not, but Lodge meetings, like those of many other groups, are only open to members. The rules and aims of Freemasonry are available to the public. Meeting places are known and in many areas are used by the local community for activities other than Freemasonry. Members are encouraged to speak openly about Freemasonry.

In fact we want everyone to know as much as possible about Freemasonry. However, as with any organisation, there are elements we want to keep private.



It is solely those things which, if made freely available, would destroy the sequence of the unfolding story and the amazing journey of self-discovery and learning that Masons value so highly.

WHAT HAPPENS AT A LODGE MEETING?

The meeting is in two parts. As in any association there is a certain amount of administrative procedure - minutes of last meeting, proposing and balloting for new members, discussing and voting on financial matters, election of officers, news and correspondence.



Then there are the ceremonies for admitting new Masons and the annual installation of the Master and appointment of officers. The three ceremonies for admitting a new Mason are in two parts: a slightly dramatic instruction in the principles and lessons taught in the Craft, followed by a lecture in which the candidate's various duties are spelled out.



CHARITY

FOR FREEMASONS, FOR FAMILIES,
FOR EVERYONE

The Masonic Charitable Foundation builds better lives by enabling opportunity, advancing healthcare and education and promoting independence for Freemasons, their families and the wider community.



Freemasonry plays a significant role throughout the UK and the rest of the world in supporting good causes both with and without a Masonic connection.



Every member is reminded of their duties to society and to those less fortunate than themselves.

Freemasonry generally collects money from within

its organisation and its members, therefore you are unlikely to see Freemasons organising collections on the street. Instead, functions and events promoted within the membership form the basis of charitable collections. The amounts raised total many millions of pounds and are channelled through the centrally run Masonic Charitable Foundation as well as being distributed by local lodges to local good causes of their own choice.

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