



LEVEL 3: UNIT RESOURCES

Engage > Continued Support > Supporting Personal Learning

Introduction

We characterise Personal Learning as learning about Freemasonry, its history, traditions and the background to its ceremonies, again the personal mentor can help an individual satisfy their interests in this regard. For some it may be slight, others may consume this material voraciously, there is no right or wrong way.

There are many ways a member can learn. Freemasons' Hall and some Provincial Centres have masonic libraries and museums that members can visit, and members can buy or borrow books of masonic interest, many of which are featured in UGLE's online magazine, Freemasonry Today.

Perhaps the most concentrated and indeed the most reliable source of material for a beginner is Solomon. It is a superb repository for learning, and new members should be encouraged to register.

Solomon has modules like Welcome Apprentice, Welcome Fellow Craft, Welcome Master Mason, and Welcome Companion. However, this is only a small part of the Solomon offer; other areas of interest include:

- Solomon Lives, in which Freemasons with an interesting story to tell are interviewed, these now include a wide range content and are available to watch.
- Mentor's Corner, in which there is material to support both Lodge Mentors and Personal Mentors in their work.
- Lodge Matters, which contains a great about the logistics within a Lodge.
- SolomonGPT, a beta test of an AI tool to help you get the most out of Solomon.
- More in depth modules about the First, Second and Third Degree, and the Royal Arch.

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The Solomon team recently launched Solomon Academy, which is focussed on the four 'Welcome' modules and introduces two exciting features. Firstly, as a user works through the module, they will be awarded 'Badges' for successfully completing part of it. Badges are designed to drive motivation, activity, and loyalty and are increasingly used by professional educators and in gaming.

Once a user has completed all the parts of a Welcome module, they can take a quiz. The quiz is entirely based on the material throughout the module, and if the user passes with 100% correct, they will be issued a certificate (the quiz can be taken as many times as the user wishes). This certificate is an A4 PDF document that the user can print. On successfully awarding all four certificates, the user also receives the Solomon Academy Diploma, which is signed by both an Assistant Grand Master and the Third Grand Principal.

The most important thing is that the members' personal learning works for them, they get as much (or as little) knowledge as they want, and that personal mentors promote this aspect regardless of whether or not it is of interest to them personally—their mentee might be quite different!



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SUGGESTED READING LIST

This reading list has been written to assist all those contemplating becoming a Freemason, and for Freemasons who are already on their Masonic journey. It is not exhaustive but rather a collection of books and publications that will hopefully encourage further reading and research. The texts below introduce Masonic ritual, symbolism, history, and other topics of interest. Where possible, the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) has been included with every text. Most of the books can be obtained from The Shop at Freemasons' Hall (United Grand Lodge of England's online store). Readers are advised to check for updated revisions before purchasing and to investigate alternative suppliers should items be out of stock. A small number of items are currently out of print but can be easily found in second-hand book shops, or at online retailers and auction websites. This list will be updated periodically and may change without notification.

Prospective and New Freemasons

- **A Quick Guide to Freemasonry** (Harrison D, ISBN 9780853184409): A source of accurate information for non-Masons wanting to find out more, and those who are new to Freemasonry. It is structured in an easy-to-follow question-and-answer format.
- **Inside the Freemasons:** First shown on Sky 1 in the spring of 2017, this five-part observational documentary is now available on DVD. It provides a great deal of useful information for those wanting to learn about Freemasonry.
- **The Peterborough Booklets** (Sandbach R, ISBN 9690000038854): A series of short papers that provide valuable guidance for a member's first steps in Freemasonry, including his journey into the Royal Arch. The series comprises:
 - Notes for a Candidate for Freemasonry
 - After the First Degree
 - After the Second Degree
 - After the Third Degree
 - Letter to a Master Elect
 - Why Join the Royal Arch
 - Notes for a Newly Exalted Companion

Ritual

- **Emulation Working Today** (Redman G, ISBN 9780853182764): A practical guide to the learning and performing of Masonic ritual as taught by the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. It will be of great value to every Freemason, no matter which ritual his lodge works.
- **What Do You Know About The Ritual** (Barker Cryer N Revd, ISBN 9780853182719): Provides a complete commentary on the Masonic ritual, covering all three degrees and the Royal Arch. It also includes various helpful insights into our ceremonies.
- **The Lectures of the Three Degrees in Craft Masonry** (Emulation Lodge of Improvement, ISBN 9780853182030): Expands upon the Masonic ritual and provides a great deal of additional information.



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Symbolism

- **Symbolism in Craft Freemasonry** (Dyer C, ISBN 0853180000): A very well-known and well-respected handbook about Masonic symbolism.
- **Masonic Symbolism** (Moore D, ISBN 9780853182948): Like the above and primarily aimed at newer Freemasons, it sets out a clear explanation of Masonic symbolism.

History

- **The Craft: History of English Freemasonry** (Hamill J, ISBN 9780850304602): Written by John Hamill, a former Librarian and Curator at the Library and Museum of Freemasonry, this book provides a reliable and comprehensive history of English Freemasonry.
- **Freemasonry: A Celebration of the Craft** (Hamill J & Gilbert R, ISBN 9781572152670) and **World Freemasonry: An Illustrated History** (Hamill J & Gilbert R, ISBN 9780850307221): Similar and recommended.
- **Foundations: The Prestonian Lecture for 2016** (Berman R, ISBN 9780995756816): Explores the evolution of Freemasonry, queries long-standing myths, and explains the change that occurred with the creation of the first Grand Lodge of England in 1717.
- **The Genesis of Freemasonry** (Harrison D, ISBN 9780853184997): A revealing and enjoyable journey through the intricate history of English Freemasonry.

The Royal Arch

- **The Royal Arch Journey** (Barker Cryer N Revd, ISBN 9780853183310): Draws on many years of research to present an analysis of the history of the Royal Arch, its origins, and development. This follows an earlier publication, **What Do You Know About the Royal Arch?** (Barker Cryer N Revd, ISBN 0853182272).
- **Understanding the Royal Arch** (Sandbach R, ISBN 0853181934): Provides an explanation of the origins and meaning of the Royal Arch and is presented as a series of lectures given during the author's term of office as a Grand Superintendent.
- **In Search of That Which Was Lost: True Symbolism of the Royal Arch** (Moore D, ISBN 9780853184249): A definitive guide to the Royal Arch and its evolution.
- **200 Years of Royal Arch Freemasonry in England 1813-2013** (Beresiner Y, ISBN 9780853184393): Provides an authoritative and interesting history of the Royal Arch during the previous 200 years.
- **Beyond the Craft** (Jackson K B, ISBN 9780853184058): Contains an overview of the many Masonic Orders worked in England and Wales today. It makes fascinating introductory reading and will serve for many years as a general reference book.



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- **Delving Further Beyond the Craft** (Barker Cryer N Revd, ISBN 9780853183198): Inspired by the above and investigates the origins and meaning of some of the most fascinating and misunderstood orders in Freemasonry.

Lodge Officers

The following series of short books describe the work of the progressive Lodge Officers and are to be read in conjunction with the Emulation Ritual. They will be of particular interest to those who are new to office:

- **No. 1. The Inner Guard's Work Today** (Redman G, ISBN 9780853183860)
- **No. 2. The Junior Deacon's Work Today** (Redman G, ISBN 9780853183877)
- **No. 3. The Senior Deacon's Work Today** (Redman G, ISBN 9780853183884)
- **No. 4. The Wardens' Work Today** (Redman G, ISBN 9780853183891)
- **No. 5. The Worshipful Master's Work Today** (Redman G, ISBN 9780853183907)
- **No. 6. The Installing Master's Work Today** (Redman G, ISBN 9780853183914)

There are a large number of additional publications covering the work of the continuing or "non-progressive" Lodge officers, such as the Treasurer, Secretary, Almoner, Charity Steward, and Mentor.

Masonic Toasts and Speech Making

- **Masonically Speaking** (Beresiner Y, ISBN 9780853182740): For those wanting to propose or respond to a toast, this is a simple, entertaining, and informative guide covering all aspects of Masonic speech-making.
- **Taken by Surprise** (Beresiner Y, ISBN 9780853184133): Includes similar content but with a focus on short-notice requests to speak. It includes many hints, tips, and suggestions.
- **The Freemasons Handbook of Toasts, Speeches, and Responses** (Beresiner Y, ISBN 9780853183365): Contains multiple versions of many common Masonic toasts, providing the reader with a handy selection of pre-prepared speeches.

Esoteric

- **The Meaning of Masonry** (Wilmshurst W L, ISBN 9780517331941): Contains an esoteric interpretation of Freemasonry that has influenced and inspired many subsequent Masonic authors.
- **The Meaning of Masonry** (Perkins L F, ISBN 0963928309): A later text, similar in nature, providing a slightly more up-to-date and lighter alternative to the above.
- **The Way of the Craftsman** (MacNulty W K, ISBN 9780954251604): Touches on the psychology of Freemasonry and explains the meaning and significance behind our rituals.
- **Freemasonry: A Journey Through Ritual and Symbol** (MacNulty W K, ISBN 9780500810378): Explores the esoteric origins, development, rituals, and symbolism of Freemasonry.



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- **Freemasonry: Symbols, Secrets, Significance** (MacNulty W K, ISBN 9780500513026): Provides an illustrated introduction to Freemasonry that considers esoteric influences on the Craft.



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Handbooks and General Interest

- **The Freemason at Work: The Definitive Guide to Craft Freemasonry** (Carr H, ISBN 0853181896): A very well-respected book and one of the most successful Masonic publications in recent times. It provides the answers to many questions asked by Freemasons and has been written in an informative and entertaining question-and-answer style.
- **Freemasons' Guide and Compendium**, first published in 1950 (Jones B E, ISBN 9781581825602): Filled with authentic and detailed information on a wide variety of subjects pertaining to Freemasons and Freemasonry.
- **Freemasons' Book of the Royal Arch** (Jones B E, ISBN 9780245582844): Provides similar information.
- **Masonic Etiquette Today: A Modern Guide to Masonic Protocol** (Redman G, ISBN 9780853182979): Covers a wide range of topics relevant to every Freemason and is a thorough and highly informative reference book that is relevant to both new and experienced Freemasons.
- **Belief and Brotherhood** (Barker Cryer N Revd, ISBN 9780853182771): By the very well-respected clergyman, Past Grand Chaplain, and Prestonian Lecturer, this book explains the compatibility of Christianity and Freemasonry.
- **Scouting and Freemasonry: Two Parallel Organisations?** (Harvey A D G, ISBN 9780957092709): Examines why many former Scouts choose to become Freemasons and the traditional, contemporary, and possible future links between Freemasonry and the world's largest values-based youth organization (The 2012 Prestonian Lecture).
- **As We Are Seen: The Press and Freemasonry** (Calderwood P R, ISBN 9780957463806): Examines the way in which Freemasonry was portrayed in the national press in England and Wales during the twentieth century (The 2013 Prestonian Lecture).
- **Man and Mason: Rudyard Kipling** (Jaffa R, ISBN 9781456781347): Discusses the life of one of the most intriguing personalities in English Literature and shows how he turned to Freemasonry at two major points in his life.
- **Freemasonry, The Open Door: Order of Women Freemasons** (Pilcher-Dayton A, ISBN 9780955859809): Will help answer questions from family and friends on the inclusive nature of Freemasonry, providing an interesting description of the history of the Order of Women Freemasons.

Magazines, Online Publications, and Others

- **Freemasonry Today**: The United Grand Lodge of England's in-house magazine. It is distributed online, with associated content on Facebook and Twitter
- **The Square**: An independent magazine that contains a wide variety of articles and information about Freemasons and Freemasonry.



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Quatuor Coronati Correspondence Circle

- **Quatuor Coronati:** The world's premier research lodge. Established in 1884 (and consecrated in 1886), the Lodge's founders wished to advance an evidence-based approach to study Masonic history and research the origins of Freemasonry. Their approach was intended to replace the more imaginative writings of earlier authors and was later referred to as the "authentic school" of Masonic research. Indeed, several of the authors listed above are, or have been, members and Masters of the Lodge.
- **Quatuor Coronati Lodge:** Has a "Correspondence Circle" comprising Freemasons and academics with an interest in Freemasonry. Members of the "Correspondence Circle" receive an annual copy of "AQC", the transactions of the Lodge, alongside invitations to events and conferences. Further information, including details of how to join, are available at the Lodge website.

Solomon

- **Solomon:** UGLE's online repository of learning materials and other reliable sources. We would encourage all members to register on Solomon and undertake regular Masonic learning, enrolling for modules that reflect their interests, whilst advising them not to read beyond their current degree.
 - Solomon <http://solomon.ugle.org.uk/>