



PAPER

Joining a Lodge.

Introduction

The paths that men follow to join Freemasonry start in many different ways. We hope that the following questions and answers will help, but if they do not please contact the United Grand Lodge of England on:

<https://www.ugle.org.uk/contact-us/interested-in-becoming-a-freemason>

I have heard friends or colleagues talking about Freemasonry and I am interested in learning more, but I don't know if I should ask them?

They will be delighted if you show an interest and will be happy to tell you about Freemasonry.

I am interested in knowing more about Freemasonry, but I don't know any Freemasons so I don't know who to ask?

Either visit the United Grand Lodge of England website, London (Metropolitan) or your local County (Provincial) or District website. In the case of the UGLE website, go to *Interested in becoming a Freemason*. It will ask you to fill in a simple on-line-form based on where you live, work, or study, and then add a few details which they will forward to your local Masonic area. Please visit:

<https://www.ugle.org.uk/contact-us/interested-in-becoming-a-freemason>

Someone from your local area will then be in touch and be happy to tell you more about Freemasonry and answer your questions. If you do not live within an area that UGLE has Lodges, then they will let you know which Grand Lodges are active in your area so that you can enquire about joining them.

If you visit your local Provincial or District website, they too should return the contact, start a conversation about Freemasonry and similarly answer your questions. Please find a list of all the Provinces and Districts here:

<https://www.ugle.org.uk/about-us/provinces>

and

<https://www.ugle.org.uk/about-us/districts-groups>



Either way your enquiry will be passed to the Provincial Membership Officer who will contact you. He will ask you where it would be convenient for you to join a Lodge either near your work or near your home.

He will also confirm that you believe in a Supreme Being. Freemasonry embraces all men who believe in God. Its membership includes Christians, Jews, Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Parsees, amongst others. The Supreme Being, referred to as the Great Architect, is not a specific 'Masonic God', or an attempt to combine all gods into one, but rather a universal description used in our ceremonies to prevent disharmony, and allow men of differing religions can enjoy each other's company without offence being given.

He will then arrange for you to meet a member who is local to you, and who can answer your questions and get to know you. He will begin to form an idea of which Lodge would be most suit you. For example, if you are interested in Rugby, Golf, Motorcycling or Vintage Cars there may be a Lodge locally with members of a similar interest. You may only have certain evenings available to you, so he will find a Lodge that meets on those evenings.

How do I meet other members of the Lodge?

Whether you have used the internet route or been introduced by friends you will need to get to know the members of the Lodge. This is the role of the Lodge Membership Officer. He will make certain that you are invited to Lodge socials, perhaps arrange for a few of you to go out for a meal or other social activity. This will enable you to get to know the other members and for them to get to know you. This could take up to a year. You can use this time to find out more about Freemasonry and form an opinion as to whether it is right for you.

What happens when I decide that I want to join?

It is up to you to ask to join. Every new member needs someone to propose him into the Lodge and someone to second that proposal. By this time, you should have got to know the members quite well so it should not be difficult to decide who to ask to propose and second you. They will then arrange for you to complete an application form and answer any questions you might have. Once this has been given to the Lodge Secretary he will arrange for you to have a more formal meeting with three or four of the members. Because you have been to social evenings you will most probably know them already. The object of this meeting is for you to make certain that you know all that you need to about the Lodge and for them to know that you understand what being a Freemason is about.

What happens after this meeting?

Assuming that you are happy to proceed and the members agree, they will tell the Lodge Secretary. He will then arrange for you to be Proposed as a member of the Lodge and be Seconded by another Brother, probably at the next Lodge meeting. The members will then ballot on this proposition at the following meeting. The Lodge Secretary will then contact you, give you the result of the ballot and assuming it was favourable discuss the date of your Initiation Ceremony; though in practice he may well have discussed this with you prior to the ballot. It is at this time that you should be introduced to your Personal Mentor. Some Lodges ballot and Initiate members on the same day.

What is the role of my Personal Mentor?

Your Personal Mentor will be your guide through Freemasonry. He may be your Proposer or Secunder as you will already know them quite well, or another experienced and knowledgeable brother. Your Personal Mentor should meet you before the evening of your Initiation make certain that you are aware of the following points:

- You know the date, time and address of the meeting.
- You know what the dress code is for the meeting.
- That you will have to respond to a Toast in your honour.

Ideally, he will also arrange for your proposer or another member to give you a lift to the meeting.

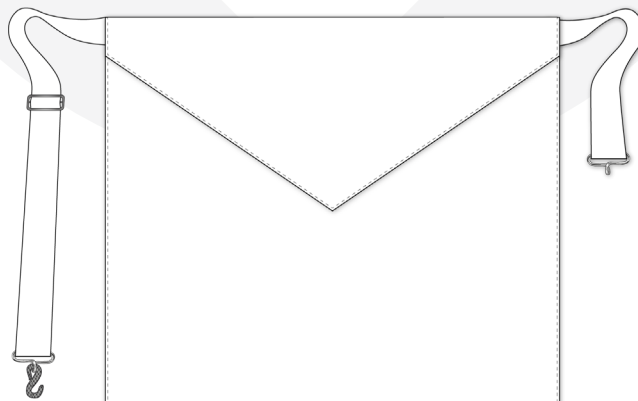
What can I expect from my Initiation Ceremony?

Most Freemasons remember the evening as a very special, unique and enjoyable evening and look back on it with very happy memories. You will have joined an ancient organisation, with members all over the world, founded on the principles of ***Integrity, Friendship, Respect and Charity***.

What will happen after my Initiation?

You will be a Freemason and a member of your Lodge. Your Personal Mentor should arrange to meet you probably in the Lodge Room when he will answer your questions and give you an explanation of the ceremony and tell you what will happen next.

While you were getting to know the members of the Lodge you will have been invited to the social events and this will continue. Most Provinces have New Masons Clubs, often referred to as 'Light Blue Clubs', and your Personal Mentor will make certain that you are introduced to your local club. This will enable you to meet Masons from other Lodges and you will receive invitations to visit their Lodges. You will then be able to witness other Initiation Ceremonies and begin to make sense of your initiation. Your Mentor will be able to advise you on the procedures regarding visiting other Lodges.



Recommended use of Papers

Papers offer a simple, direct means of advancement in a particular aspect of Masonic knowledge. They can be used in a variety of ways:

- Read at home for private study
- Shared for pre-reading by members of a discussion group
- Read aloud in Lodge or Chapter, or in an LOI/COI/new members forum
 - Followed by 'any questions'
 - As a precursor to a discussion (in which case much more time is needed, possibly more than double that allocated to the paper itself)
 - Supported by audio-visual aids, if necessary

They can be delivered by a single person or split into bite-sized pieces and read by multiple presenters (in which case, the speaker(s) should have read and practiced the delivery of the paper beforehand).

If the paper is to be used to introduce a discussion, the presenter will need to have thought about the material, done a little research, and prepared some open questions to engage with the audience. Kipling's dictum can be of help in preparing open questions, which should begin with one of his 'serving men', as follows: *'I keep six honest serving men (they taught me all I knew). Their names are, What and Why and When and How and Where and Who'*. Rudyard Kipling

*Note: All biblical passages are taken from the Authorized King James version and any reference to ritual will be from Emulation unless otherwise specified.

For further papers and other learning materials visit *Solomon* at solomon.ugle.org.uk

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