

Discover Freemasonry in Yorkshire North and East Ridings

INTEGRITY
FRIENDSHIP
RESPECT
SERVICE



What are our guiding principles?

Freemasons use four important guiding principles to help define their path through life: integrity, friendship, respect and service.

In today's world filled with uncertainty, these principles ring as true as they have at any point in the organisation's history.

One of the oldest social and charitable organisations in the world, Freemasonry's roots lie in the traditions of the medieval stonemasons who built our cathedrals and castles.



"In this ever changing, unpredictable and uncertain world, Freemasonry has provided me with consistency, stability and purpose."

TOM
DENISON LODGE

Membership is open to people from all backgrounds faiths and cultures, and the organisation's aim is to empower members to be the best they can be – it's about building character, supporting members as individuals, and helping them make a positive contribution to society.

"I chose Freemasonry as a hobby only to find that it offers so much more. The core principles of Freemasonry play a part in every one of my days. Freemasonry has enhanced my life in numerous ways."

DOUG
DUNDAS LODGE



Freemasonry provides a structure for members to come together under these common goals, enabling people to make new friendships, develop themselves and make valuable contributions to our communities.

INTEGRITY:

Building good people

Rather than working on buildings like the masons of old, today's Freemasons focus on building themselves as people of integrity, and membership provides the structure to help achieve that goal.



"A new member will feel that he has joined an organisation which includes him, listens to what he has to say and will generally care about his life and make him feel purposeful."

RICHARD
ROSEBERRY LODGE



“Modern Freemasons aim to connect with and help their local communities. We are becoming increasingly active in this way and we are happy to show that we are proud to be Freemasons.”

DENIS
MARQUESS OF
ZETLAND LODGE

*Helicopter pilot
Steve Waudby,
a Past Master of
Agricola Lodge*

At an individual level, being a Freemason gives members a sense of purpose, supporting and guiding them on their journey through life. Collectively, members are bonded through a sense of unity and equitability – principles fundamental to Freemasonry.

THE HISTORY OF THE HANDSHAKE

Historically, stonemasons travelled from place to place to secure work. At this time, handshakes were commonly used as a means for stonemasons to identify themselves, proving their level of experience and indicating what position they held. Today, in recognition of this practice, handshakes are used ceremonially as a way of identifying the various levels within Freemasonry.

FRIENDSHIP:

Building together

One of the oldest social organisations in the world, Freemasonry is not defined by an ideology.

It is open to people from all religions and political persuasions, and provides the common foundation for friendships between members, many of which will last for life.



“Freemasonry has given me a freedom of friendship and expanded my awareness of both myself and others. It is a unique and developmental environment which enhances your social time and gives you a shared observation on life, free of race, religion and politics.”

DAVID
MITRE LODGE OF YORK

Being a Freemason means something different to each person who joins, but whether looking to make a difference in society or develop their own potential, all members share a sense of togetherness that strengthens their ability to succeed and grow.



“The bond of friendship is greater in Freemasonry than anything else I have ever experienced. Membership has increased my confidence and I have a wider, more diverse circle of friends than I ever thought possible.”

CLIVE
DE BRUS LODGE

BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS FOR LIFE

From university schemes, to new masons clubs, to special interest Lodges, Freemasonry gives members many opportunities to make friends for life. Finding bonds with people who share common interests and meeting people from all different backgrounds are only some of the ways Freemasonry can help cultivate lasting friendships.

RESPECT:

Building unity

With a membership of more than 150,000 people drawn from communities across the UK, Freemasonry brings people together irrespective of their race, religion or any other perceived differences that can divide us as a society.

"I admire how inclusive Freemasonry is. We respect and welcome men from all walks of life. We are all friends working together to be happy and we encourage each other to be better people."

TONY
OLD GLOBE
LODGE





"I have had the privilege of meeting many Freemasons over the last 30 years from a wide variety of backgrounds. Each and every one of them, in their own way, has enriched my life and made me more and more aware of what a wonderful Order we are all members of."

LES
BERESFORD-PEIRSE LODGE

Our members are proud to be Freemasons, and they are encouraged to talk openly about what the organisation does and what it means to be part of it.

FEMALE FREEMASONS

There are two female-only Grand Lodges, the Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons (HFAF) and the Order of Women Freemasons (OWF). The HFAF and OWF follow exactly the same ritual and wear the same regalia as male Freemasons – and they often work closely with community and charity projects.

Female Freemasons Annie Besant and Charlotte Despard were prominent figures in the push for universal suffrage in the early twentieth century. Besant was a British theosophist and women's rights activist who also established the first UK lodge of the International Order of Co-Freemasonry (Le Droit Humain) in 1902. Despard, an Anglo-Irish suffragist, pacifist and novelist, was a founding member of various reformist organisations whose presence lives on today in the North London pub named in her honour.

SERVICE:

Building compassion

Whether participating in events, fundraising for a charitable cause or volunteering for public or community organisations, service is at the very heart of Freemasonry.

Our members make valuable contributions by donating time, resources and skills.



“Freemasonry has introduced me to other like-minded men and given me a sense of comradeship. It has made me a more rounded person and more forgiving of others.”

RICHARD
PRIORY CHAPTER

Individuals can make an important contribution at local, national and global level by giving both their time and money. Thanks to their efforts, Freemasonry is one of the largest charitable givers in the country, contributing more than £51m to deserving causes in 2020 alone. Freemasons don't only donate money – over 5 million hours of volunteer work was undertaken by Freemasons in 2018.



“From the very beginning a Freemason is encouraged to be charitable, but not only within Freemasonry. The contribution made to society through the charitable actions and giving by our members is exceptional.”

DENIS
FERRUM LODGE



FREEDOM OF THE CITY

In 1894, facing financial crisis, Manchester City Football Club was offered a helping hand by the Freemasons. In acknowledgement of the organisation's act of charity, the club adopted Masonic colours, giving them the light blue shirts that are so recognisable to football fans today.

Membership

Becoming a Freemason means that you will be joining more than 165,000 Members throughout England and Wales, as well as Districts overseas.

Membership is open to any man over the age of 18 irrespective of their race or religion. Women are able to join one of two female-only Grand Lodges: The Order of Women Freemasons and the Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons.

In total, we have more than 7,000 Lodges, with students over 18 being able to join one of the 81 University Scheme Lodges.

“Meet another member of our Province, Barney the Travelling Bear. He goes about the Province raising money for good causes. Over three thousand pounds last year!”

DAVID CHAMBERS
PGM



Lodge meetings are typically held in two parts. The first involves more administrative procedures, such as proposing and balloting for new members and receiving news about charitable fundraising.

The second part focuses on ceremonies, which might relate to areas such as the admittance of new members or the installation of the Master of the Lodge and his officers – a process made up of three degrees, or stages, each one marked by a special ceremony.

True to the sense of friendship and togetherness among Freemasons, meetings are also social events, providing an occasion for members to dine together.

Outside of the Lodge, activities include community fundraising and volunteering activities as well as a varied programme of events where spouses, partners and families are welcome.



FINDING THE RIGHT FREEMASONRY FOR YOU

There are many specialist Lodges in Freemasonry, Invictus No 9960, for example, is one of a large number throughout the country. Invictus Lodge meets in York and it is a lodge for members or past members of the armed forces. Other specialist Lodges include sports, motoring, for fans of motorbikes, for those with connections to scouting and young member Lodges. We have even formed a Lodge in London for our Yorkshire folk, it is Yorkshire London Panmure Lodge No. 720.

Discover Freemasons' Hall

Originally built as a peace memorial to honour the thousands of Freemasons who fought during the First World War, Freemasons' Hall is the home of the United Grand Lodge of England.

The stunning Grade II listed Art Deco building sits in the heart of London's West End and welcomes more than 200,000 people from across the world through its doors every year, including members visiting for meetings and guests attending special events.



TRIP ADVISOR QUOTES:

'Beautiful architecture and very interesting displays'

'It's a great place to visit'

'An amazing experience'

'A stunning building and a very interesting museum'



“Freemasonry is a feeling of comradeship. Any Freemason you meet you instinctively know that he is ‘one of you.’ I like to think that he can be trusted, be reliable and because you have both been through the same ‘rites of passage’ you would have no subject that could not be shared and spoken freely about.”

RICHARD

MASONIC CHARITY STEWARD

In our Masonic Province we have numerous Masonic Halls where we hold our meetings. However, some of our lodges meet in Hotels or their local Community Hall.

The Halls in our province range from being exceptionally grand to quite modest. Some are historic buildings and interesting to visit. Members of the public are always welcome to see our facilities and learn about our ceremonies. Most Halls have open days each year when you can visit.

We are proud of what we as Freemasons achieve.

WHY NOT CONSIDER JOINING US?

We welcome new members with a desire to be part of something special. Our new members offer us variety and enable us to build our organization to be even stronger for the future.

The United Grand Lodge of England celebrated three hundred years of masonry in 2017. You could help us grow towards another milestone in our history.



Province of Yorkshire North and East Ridings

To find out more about Freemasonry
or for information about becoming a member
go to the website below.

www.yorkshirenerfreemasons.org.uk

To contact us through the above website click on
'Interested in finding out more?' on our homepage.

Email: membership@yorkshirenerfreemasons.org.uk



UNITED GRAND LODGE
OF ENGLAND

www.ugle.org.uk



www.mcf.org.uk