



Chiltern Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners

The Royal Ark Mariner degree is around two hundred years old. It follows the story leading up to the Great Flood and the steps taken by Noah to build the Ark by which mankind was preserved from perishing in the 'Universal Deluge'.

The Order has a membership of almost 20,000 and requires every candidate to be a Mark Master Mason. Elevation into the Royal Ark Mariner degree commemorates the providence and mercy of God.

The teaching of the degree emphasises the importance of the strength of family and the need for each member of society to play his part for the benefit of all.



We are taught that out of chaos and catastrophe mankind can survive and that we should face adversity together, helping to look after those less fortunate than ourselves. The candidate is finally instructed to advance in the spirit of the Cardinal Virtues.

When the candidate enters the Lodge room his attention is directed to three pillars and at one stage the Ark is momentarily symbolised in terms similar to the Ark of Salvation.



A Lodge of Royal Ark Mariner is said to be 'moored' to a Mark Lodge and bears the same number but not necessarily the same name. The officers of a Lodge of Royal Ark Mariner are similar to those in a Mark Lodge although they bear different names.

The Master is known as The Worshipful Commander, the Secretary as the Scribe, the Inner Guard as the Guardian and the Tyler as the Warder. The principal officers represent Noah (Worshipful Commander) and two of his sons Japheth (Senior Warden) and Shem (Junior Warden). The Wardens sit, as in the craft lodges of old, in the North West and South West of the Lodge room respectively, with the Deacons being stationed together in the West.

The Order is governed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master with the advice from the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council.

Chiltern RAM meets in Dunstable on the 1st Tuesday in April and November and the 4th Thursday in September (Installation). In 2025 the joining fees is £25 and the annual subscription is £50.

The Chiltern Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners is the only Royal Ark Mariner Lodge which meets at the Dunstable Masonic Centre. Our Installation meeting is on the fourth Thursday in September. This is a standalone meeting followed by the only Royal Ark Mariner festive board in Bedfordshire, complete with Royal Ark Mariner fire! The Lodge is 'moored' alongside the Chiltern Lodge of Mark Master Masons. So, our other two meetings are held an hour before (i.e., 5 pm) the Mark Master Mason meetings in November and April.

If you're interested in joining the RAM, please complete and submit the form below and the Lodge Secretary will contact you.