

# Discover Freemasonry in Leicestershire and Rutland

INTEGRITY  
FRIENDSHIP  
RESPECT  
CHARITY



# What are your guiding principles?

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

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.



*"Whilst I have only had the honour of being a Freemason for a short time, I'm humbled to have found the intimacy and warmth of our brotherhood, an experience truly unlike anywhere else."*

RICHARD DANKS  
BURBACH LODGE

Membership is open to people from all backgrounds 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.

*"Freemasonry is more than just a hobby, it provides a guiding set of principles to help with modern life."*

RICHARD BARNETT  
GRANITE 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 charitable causes.

# ■ 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.



*"By being around just and upright people who apply the teachings of Freemasonry to their daily lives, you naturally follow their example, and learn to also apply those teachings to become a man of integrity."*

KEN EVANS  
LODGE OF THE  
FLAMING TORCH





*"You try to build yourself into a better person, into somebody who doesn't necessarily take the easy way out or do easy things, but tries to do the right things."*

ROB WOOD  
REYNARD 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.



*"When I joined Freemasonry I had envisaged a camaraderie. What I found goes much deeper. You form a bond that creates friendships like no other. There's a sense of family. Your fellow Masons are your brothers and it's this sense of brotherhood that embodies everything that stems from Freemasonry... integrity, friendship, respect and charity..."*

ANDREW "JOCK" KEENAN  
ENDERBY LODGE

Being a Freemason means something different to each person who joins, but whether looking to make acquaintances 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 stronger in Freemasonry than anywhere else I've ever experienced. I have a wider, more diverse circle of friends than I ever thought possible."*

PAUL SIMPSON  
ST. WILFRID'S 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 200,000 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 love how inclusive  
Freemasonry is.  
We respect and  
welcome men from  
all walks of life,  
no matter your  
background, race,  
religion or what  
you do for a living.  
You are assured a  
warm welcome."*

DENNIS  
CROMMENTUIJN  
ROTHLEY TEMPLE  
LODGE





*"Through its ceremonies, Freemasonry allows me to reflect on myself and the principles I value in my life. My experiences in Freemasonry helps to encourage respect for others and integrity of actions in my day-to-day life."*

ELLIOT CONWAY  
WYGGESTON 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.

# CHARITY:

## Building compassion

Kindness and charitable giving are deeply ingrained within the principles of Freemasonry. The organisation provides a support structure that helps members make positive contributions to communities and worthwhile causes through fundraising events or volunteer work.



*"Freemasonry encourages me to think about what charity really means to me and why it is important. Giving to charity through my individual lodges and the Masonic Charitable Foundation also gives me confidence that my donations go straight to the charities in full."*

FREDDIE HARRIS  
BEACON LODGE

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 £48m to deserving causes in 2018 alone. Freemasons don't only donate money – over 5 million hours of volunteer work was undertaken by Freemasons in 2018.



*"Contributing at local charitable events makes me feel deeply connected to my community. When I stand back and see how Freemasonry contributes globally, the sense of pride I feel is incredible."*

ADAM ELSMORE  
LODGE OF WELCOME



## 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 you'll be joining more than 200,000 members throughout England and Wales as well as Districts overseas.

Membership is open to any man over the age of 21 irrespective of their race or religion, and women are invited 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 able to join one of the 81 University Scheme Lodges.

*"I enjoy the seriousness of the ceremony – but I also enjoy socialising with other members and friends."*

STEVE FINNIGAN  
LODGE OF  
GRATITUDE





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; Tudor Rose Lodge No.5660 in Leicester, for example, is a Lodge set up for servicemen and ex-servicemen of the Armed Forces. This is one of a number of speciality Lodges in existence today. Other specialist Lodges include sports, motoring and younger member Lodges.

# Freemasonry in Leicestershire & Rutland

Freemasons meet in eleven centres throughout the two counties, in Ashby, Coalville, Hinckley, Leicester, Loughborough, Lutterworth, Market Harborough, Melton Mowbray, Oakham, Syston, and Uppingham.

The headquarters at Freemasons' Hall Leicester is an expanded Grade II Georgian building, which includes Roman Ionic, Art Deco and Modernist Architecture. As well as serving nearly 2,000 Masons, Freemasons' Hall is home to Devonshire Place, who host weddings and conferences for the local community.



GOOGLE MARKETPLACE  
QUOTES:

*"Very lovely place for an event and very close to the station and city centre."*

*"Beautiful building inside and out."*

*"Beautiful Georgian fronted building."*

*"Ornate Lodge rooms with excellent food and facilities."*

# Light Blue Club

The Light Blue Club was formed in 2012 as another outlet for Brethren to meet and socialise in informal surroundings. All Freemasons of Leicestershire & Rutland are automatically members and welcome at any of the social events, Lodge visits and trips. There are no membership fees or applications.

Socialising is the emphasis and, with most events held outside of the Lodge room, there is an opportunity for members to invite non-masonic friends along, which has resulted in a number of gentlemen joining our fraternity.



## BUILDING BONDS

We hold monthly social drinks throughout the Province as well as a number of other fun social events throughout the year from go-karting, evenings visiting local restaurants to beer festivals and clay pigeon shooting. There is something for everyone to enjoy.

The Light Blue Club encourages the guiding principles of Freemasonry, integrity, friendship, respect and charity.



To find out more about Freemasonry or for information on how to become a member, visit us at [www.pglleics.org.uk](http://www.pglleics.org.uk)

 @LeicsFreemasons

 LeicestershireRutlandFreemasons

 @Leicestershirefreemasons



UNITED GRAND LODGE  
OF ENGLAND

[www.ugle.org.uk](http://www.ugle.org.uk)



[www.mcf.org.uk](http://www.mcf.org.uk)