

The Royal Arch Discover More

CONTINUE THE JOURNEY



OXFORDSHIRE FREEMASONS

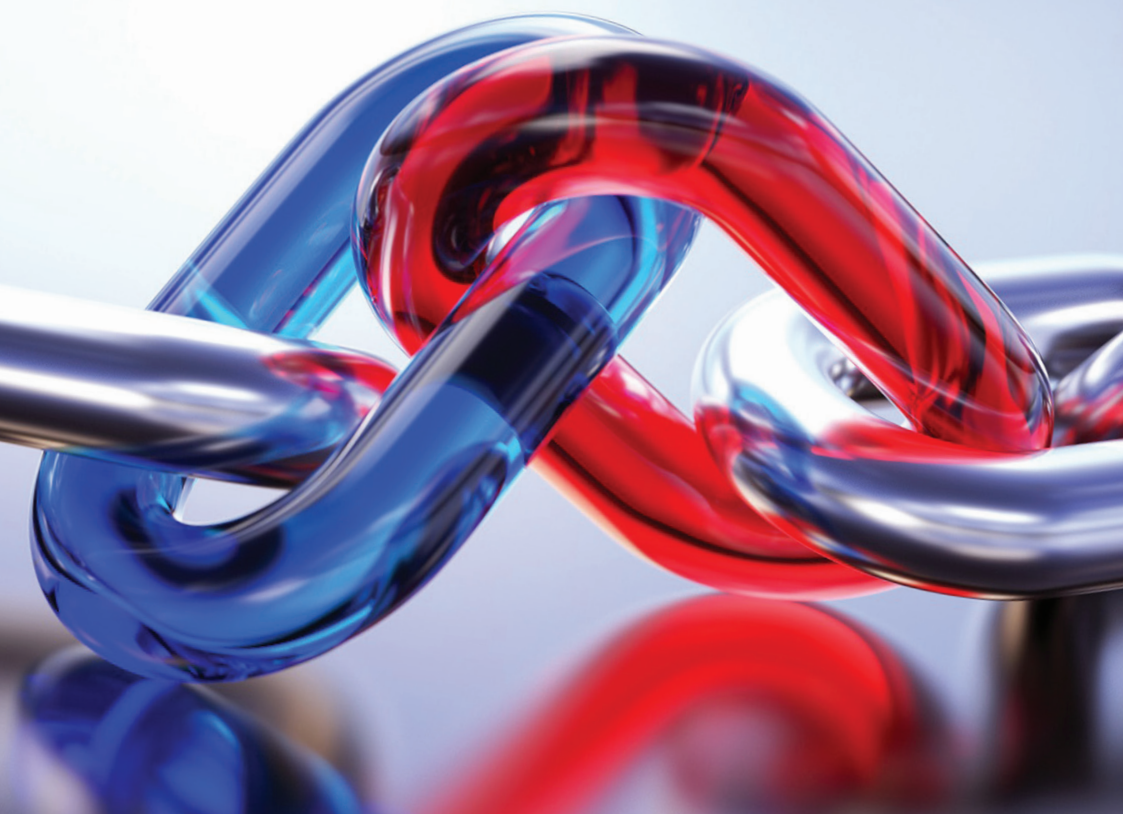


UNITED GRAND LODGE
OF ENGLAND



SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER
OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS
OF ENGLAND

One Journey
One Organisation



From Initiation to Exaltation

Every Master Mason should aspire to continue their journey from Initiation in the Craft to Exaltation as a Companion in the Royal Arch.

When the Antient and Modern Grand Lodges came together to form the United Grand Lodge of England in 1813 they declared that 'Pure Antient Masonry' consists of three degrees—the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason *including the Royal Arch*.

This declaration still stands at the front of our Book of Constitutions and means there are four parts to a Freemason's journey. For historical reasons, the first three are governed by UGLE, while the Royal Arch is governed by the Supreme Grand Chapter of England—but in real terms we are one organisation.

Because of this link, our Grand Master automatically serves as the First Grand Principal in the Royal Arch, and many other senior roles are also shared.

This connection makes English Freemasonry unique around the world and represents an important part of our history and heritage.



Discover More

Whether you have just been Raised or have been a Master Mason for some time, you probably have questions, such as *what is next?*, *how do I discover the secrets that were lost?*, or even perhaps, *what does it all mean?*

You might also be wondering how to enjoy more of what Freemasonry has to offer and how to expand your social circle beyond that of your own Craft Lodge.

The Royal Arch provides answers to these questions and is where you will discover more.

"Joining the Royal Arch completes the inquisitive and dedicated Mason's journey in Pure Antient Masonry. Steeped in colour, symbolism, and history, it provides answers to many questions left unresolved in the Craft."

ANDREW
JERSEY CHAPTER NO. 2334,
OXFORDSHIRE



Photo by Kenji Kudo

Continue the Journey



"I joined the Royal Arch to continue my Masonic journey and to Discover More - I was not disappointed. The continued learning and extended fellowship are really what I believe Freemasonry is all about."

ANDY

CARFAX CHAPTER NO. 5723,
OXFORDSHIRE

When you become an Entered Apprentice Freemason, you are placed in the North-East corner of the Lodge to represent the foundation stone of a new building, and are encouraged to *raise a superstructure perfect in all its parts and honourable to the builder.*

Your Initiation is the beginning of a lifelong journey in which you discover more about who that builder is.

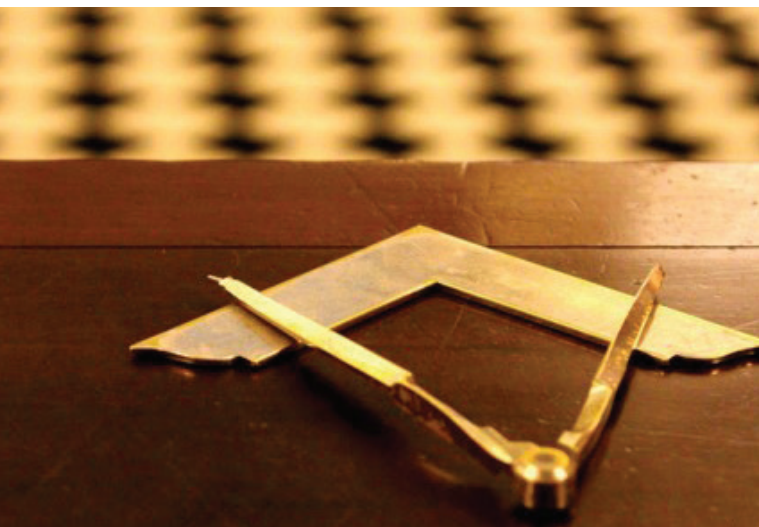
The degrees you pass through on this journey contain allegorical lessons that aim to help you live a better life in harmony with others, and serve as an example that benefits society. But even though the world has changed much since the Eighteenth Century when these allegories were first conceived, the principles involved are just as important now as they ever were.

Follow the Clues

By the time you become a Master Mason, you have learnt a lot on your masonic journey and made great progress. But you also learn that the journey is not finished because the genuine secrets of a Master Mason remain lost—this implies there is more to learn.

In the Royal Arch, you complete this journey and recover the true secrets of a Master Mason through a spectacular, colourful, and dramatic ceremony you will remember forever.

But the ‘genuine secrets’ you discover in the Royal Arch are not what you might think they are—they are even better.



“The ceremony of Exaltation places an emphasis on working together, learning more about yourself and understanding what makes you complete. It is a beautiful and dramatic climax to any Freemasons journey in Pure Antient Masonry.”

JOHN
APOLLO UNIVERSITY
CHAPTER NO. 357,
OXFORDSHIRE

Enjoy Companionship

You also learn the important lessons of companionship and collaboration—just as the three original Grand Masters worked together to build King Solomon's Temple, everything in the Royal Arch is done as part of a team.

This emphasises the further friendship and companionship to be found within the Order, and the important value of working together in harmony with others.



"The Royal Arch is not only a beautiful and profound ceremony, but an opportunity to expand your Masonic friendship circle by meeting members from other Lodges or centres around the Province."

MATTHEW
ALFRED CHAPTER NO. 340,
OXFORDSHIRE

In addition, what you learn as a Royal Arch Mason encourages you to act as an example to support and inspire others.

Discover Answers

If you have enjoyed the three Craft Degrees, then you will be pleased to know there is still more left to discover in the Royal Arch. You will not fail to be impressed by the splendour and drama in the Ceremony of Exaltation when you join—and you will learn more about the story behind the rebuilding of King Solomon's Temple.

You will also have a fantastic and enjoyable time on your journey—and make many new friends and Companions whilst doing so.



As the journey unfolds, you will start to understand Freemasonry in a whole new way—your understanding of the nature and duty of the 'builder' referred to at your Initiation will be clarified, and you will begin to understand how to build the superstructure that is 'perfect in all its parts.'

"Joining the Royal Arch may appear the end of your journey in the Craft, but it is the beginning of another amazing journey where you will explore more of the lessons of Freemasonry."

ALEXANDER

ALFRED CHAPTER, NO. 340, OXFORDSHIRE

Freemasonry in the Twenty-First Century

The journey through Pure Antient Masonry and the discoveries each person makes in the Royal Arch are very personal. But you will discover that, even today, these allegories still represent valuable lessons we can all learn from—and enjoy in the process.

By applying what we learn on this journey, we can indeed become *honourable to the builder* in a way that would still be recognisable to those who first developed these messages hundreds of years ago.

Aspire to discover more about Freemasonry, and more about yourself, by continuing your journey from Initiation to Exaltation in the Royal Arch.



The Next Chapter

What will I discover?

Answers

Follow the clues from the Third Degree to complete your journey in Pure Antient Masonry

Companionship

Work together with old friends and new Companions to build on the principles of the Craft

Splendour

Learn more about our history in a spectacular ceremony you will remember forever

Yourself

Uncover new perspectives that will support you in a personal journey of discovery

When can I join the Royal Arch?

You are eligible to join the Royal Arch four weeks after you have been made a Master Mason.

It was sometimes said in the past you should wait until you have gone through the Chair of your Lodge before joining—but this myth is based on outdated ideas, and on old rules that no longer apply.



The simple answer is that you should find the most suitable Chapter and join at a time that is right for you.

Just like in the Craft, there are many different Royal Arch Chapters in Oxfordshire, each with their own history and traditions, as well as special interest Chapters.

So just ask your Lodge Royal Arch Representative for advice, or contact your Provincial Office:

www.oxfordshirefreemasons.org.uk/royal-arch

Or just speak to anyone wearing a Royal Arch Jewel—they will be pleased to help you complete your journey.

To Discover More about the
Royal Arch in Oxfordshire



www.oxfordshirefreemasons.org.uk/royal-arch



SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER
OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS
OF ENGLAND

www.ugle.org.uk/royal-arch