

Discover Freemasonry in Surrey

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.



"As a relatively new Mason I've been astounded to find such warmth and welcome, it is a truly unique experience."

MORGAN
BURSTOW 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.

"I've never felt such a sense of belonging, and the ability to give something back, as I do through my membership of Freemasonry."

JOHN
MORDEN PARK
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.



"I enjoy being part of something so steeped in history and something that has had many influential members, from Royalty to Prime Ministers, as well as many great sportsmen and entertainers. I also love the camaraderie that it offers."

DAN
CHESSINGTON LODGE



“Masons seek to improve themselves and to help others, not because they think they should, but because they want to. It really can help in trying to build yourself into being a better human being.”

LENNY
BISLEY 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.



“Being a Freemason is a bit like having a second family. The shared experience of having gone through the same ceremonies creates a bond of mutual trust and friendship with all masons whether you know them or not, and many of my closest friends today are people I first met through Freemasonry.” JAMES APOLLO
UNIVERSITY 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."

SHAUN
LETCWORTH 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.

“One of the best parts about Freemasonry, is how it respects and welcomes all men from so many different walks of life. No matter your religion, race, or job title, you are always equal amongst your brethren.”

ROWLAND
WOKING LODGE





“To me, the major benefit is the fraternity. Hanging out with some of the best friends one could have is fun and a great stress-reliever. The meaningful ceremonies task the mind, and may be a reason for longevity in some of the active members.”

IAIN
HARMONY &
PROGRESS 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.



“Through Freemasonry I have been privileged to meet a wide range of incredible people involved in providing charitable services and also those directly benefitting from that empowering support. I am proud to be making a difference personally, and through the Masonic Charitable Foundation our central charity.”

DAVID
AERO 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.



“Freemasons have always been part of our communities and seeing the positive impact of the contributions we make in financial and voluntary support to improve the lives of those in need, gives me a great sense of pride.”

LES
OLD STRODIANS' 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 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.

"There is a timeless need for us to have a sense of belonging and be rooted in a community of others – Freemasonry provides that magnificently."

PETER
ST JOHN'S LODGE



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 eleven Masonic Halls, and nineteen meeting places geographically spread across the County of Surrey, with many Lodges each with their own identity. There are also several specialist Lodges featuring sports, service, motoring and young member Lodges. To take the first steps to finding a best fit please utilise the contact details on the back page.

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'



TRIP ADVISOR QUOTES:

'An absolutely superb guided visit'

'Join one of the free tours for an unforgettable visit'

'A magnificent building, very friendly, helpful and informative staff and volunteers and an excellent (free) tour. Lots to see and a really interesting insight into the world of Freemasonry'

Members of the public can visit Freemasons' Hall from Monday to Saturday, with guided tours showcasing the architecture and history of the building, which comprises 22 Lodge Rooms, the Museum of Freemasonry, Letchworth's shop, Board and Committee rooms and administrative offices.

An in-demand venue, Freemasons' Hall has been hired as a location for many major films and television programmes in recent years, including Spectre, Sherlock Holmes, Assassin's Creed and Spooks.

The earliest record of a Lodge meeting in Surrey dates back to 1723. The first Provincial Grand Master was Thomas Parker (1725-1792) with the Provincial Grand Lodge being constituted in 1837. Lodge of Friendship & Harmony, Godalming has the unique distinction of having had a reigning monarch as one of its members, King Edward VIII was a member of the Lodge until his abdication in 1936. From those early beginnings the Province of Surrey now has 245 individual Lodges, and our 19th Provincial Grand Master is Ian Chandler.



www.surreyfreemasons.org.uk

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Telephone 0208 686 8388

To find out more about Surrey Freemasonry
or for information on how to become a member at
one of our nineteen meeting places across Surrey,
visit us at www.surreyfreemasons.org.uk



UNITED GRAND LODGE
OF ENGLAND

www.ugle.org.uk



www.mcf.org.uk