

The Family of Freemasonry

So your partner may be interested on joining the Masons?

We believe it is a very positive step. In fact, we are choosy who we have as members – only honest men of integrity and who are law abiding. We would welcome him and would like to feel that we could welcome you too.



Can I be involved?

A member's family is encouraged to become involved and you will certainly be most welcome to share in any of the social activities that the Lodge, or indeed other Lodges, may hold.

These vary from the Formal Banquet occasions that we call Ladies Nights to a local Quiz night, Dinners, Sunday Lunches, Dances, Family Barbeques and a host of other functions. A number of our Centres have an active Ladies Group for partners.

How much does it cost?

Lodge membership varies from Lodge to Lodge and is generally around £200-£260 a year. Membership subscriptions normally include the cost of dining after our formal meetings.

Is there Freemasonry for Ladies?

Yes, there is and it's founded on the same principles and ideals, but the Ladies have their own organisations. Please ask us if you would like further details.



Middlesex Freemasons

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www.grandcharity.org



Middlesex Freemasons



All about Freemasons

A Partner's Guide



www.pglm.org.uk



What is Freemasonry?

Freemasonry is an organisation of men who strive to live by the fundamental principles of integrity, goodwill and charity. It is a non-profit organisation which is heavily involved in supporting charity and community service. It is a society which welcomes men of high ideals regardless of colour, creed or worldly status.

There are approximately five million Freemasons worldwide and approaching 400,000 in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Freemasons are ordinary men in the community, 21 years and over, of all religions and backgrounds, who share a concern for human values and moral standards, respect for the laws of society and the rights of individuals.



What does Freemasonry do?

Apart from the Charitable work of Freemasonry, it endeavours to make

'good men better men'

improving their moral and spiritual outlook and opening their feelings to relieve distress and suffering for those in need, both within Freemasonry and for those with no direct connection at all, particularly for the less able and disadvantaged members of our society.



Is it a Secret Society?



It certainly is not - there is no concealment of our membership - No Secret Meeting Places, Secret Ritual or Ceremonies. The nearest we get is to have some recognition signs that we use as the various stages of Moral Teaching unfold. Indeed our 'Book of Constitutions' (rules and regulations) is available to the public, and even on the Internet, so anyone may read them or purchase copies of the ritual books.

Can he tell me those signs?

No, not really, the so-called 'secrets' of modern Freemasonry are used solely as a ceremonial means of demonstrating that one is a Freemason **when at Lodge meetings.**

How often do Lodges meet?

These days most Lodges meet four or five times a year and although it is hoped that each member attends all the meetings of his Lodge, there will be occasions when family or work commitments must come first.

Any time that a Mason gives to Masonic Activities must always be without detriment to his family or his employment.

Additionally most Lodges have a weekly/fortnightly Class of instruction, where members learn and practice the work of the Lodge. These generally meet around 7.30 in the evening. Again attendance should not be to the detriment of his family life.



A typical Lodge layout

Will Freemasonry conflict with our personal faiths or religions?

It has often been wrongly considered that Freemasonry is another Religion. It is definitely not.

Whilst every Freemason must hold a personal belief in a Supreme Being there is no separate Theology. Any man who believes in a God, from whatever Faith, will be comfortable with all that Freemasonry is, does and teaches.

Freemasonry is possibly the most tolerant organisation in the world, it admits all men regardless of race, creed, colour, faith or nationality.

"We've made so many new friends since my husband became a Freemason."



What happens at 'Lodge'?

The Lodge meeting consists of two parts, the meeting itself and a "Festive Board".

At the meeting Lodge business is dealt with and Ceremonies are conducted.

Annually there will be a ceremony to install the new Master of the Lodge.



Tables set for 'The Festive Board'

After the meeting there is a short break for refreshments before all the members and their guests sit down at the Festive Board for a meal, a few traditional toasts will also be given, of which the first is always to 'The Queen'.