

Discover Freemasonry in Cornwall

INTEGRITY
FRIENDSHIP
RESPECT
SERVICE



Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall

What are your guiding principles?

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

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.



"I joined Freemasonry to learn more about my great-grandfather and his charitable giving through the organisation, what I gained in return was a vast social circle of great men who all share a common goal, to help those less fortunate than ourselves."

SEBASTIAN
DUNHEVED 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.



“What amazes me the most about Freemasonry is when you meet someone for the first time and discover they too are on the square, that mutual passion bypasses all the established forms of ‘introduction or getting to know someone’ and you slip into more of a long-term friend scenario because of your shared experience and level of morality.”

SIMON
TRENWITH 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 asked my father when I was about 16 where he went each month in his black suit and case in hand. He said, 'Ask me when you are 21.' I asked on my 21st Birthday and was proposed a few months later. 40 years later I still feel privileged to be a Freemason."

STUART
ST ANNE'S LODGE



"I joined Freemasonry following an invitation by a Police Officer colleague while we stood at a road traffic accident directing traffic in 2006. I mentioned I had just read the Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown and was completely smitten by the history, background and intrigue of Freemasonry and the Knights Templar. I have since learned that the values of being a Police Officer serving and protecting the public was a good foundation of that ultimate alchemical experience: becoming a better man to be able to better be of service to my Brother and the public. To be of service truly became my higher calling through the teachings and membership of The Craft."

ANDY
TREVAUNANCE 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.



"I live with my Mum in Cornwall, my Dad died and I lost my business in the pandemic last year. Cornwall is a magical place and everyone comes here on holiday, and that means something. It's beautiful, right? Well, I still need a sense of belonging, something meaningful that makes sense. A colleague at work wears this ring. We had a chat and I went to a dinner as a gentleman guest. I was made to feel really welcome, I love the camaraderie. I thought, 'This is where I want to be.' So I'm joining this Lodge and doing lots of reading. I'm really excited and nervous at the same time, but the timing is perfect. Going to an open day in Penzance just iced the cake."

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.



"Freemasonry gives the camaraderie and belonging I enjoyed throughout my military career. I can do plenty in the community for the good of others, I truly believe Freemasonry is one of the most relevant aspects of my life, its ethos defines my conduct and challenges me to be a better person, not just for my own benefit, but for the benefit of anyone I come in contact with."

ANT
PENWITH 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 joined Freemasonry because growing up Dad was going off to these mysterious meetings that always intrigued me. When I finished my Degree and turned 21 I asked Dad if I could join. I'm interested in the history and the ritual to be honest, and where it originates. The best bit is sharing something with Dad that we do together."

JON
BREANICK LODGE



"As a member of the Armed Forces I am fully accustomed to order, procedures and structure, it is a feeling of being a 'part of something' which I enjoy. Joining Freemasonry at a young age I was unaware of what to expect initially, however I was immediately welcomed and made to feel that warmth when I have attended events of meetings. I enjoy the freedom to travel anywhere and walk into a masonic complex being made to feel like it was my own. The rewards are priceless, and I am addicted to the whole process, you only get out what you put in, but it is totally worth your efforts. I challenge anyone to prove me wrong. During COVID I have been made aware of how much of a positive impact Freemasonry has on my life, and I am very much looking forward to returning to normality."

CALLUM

THE MILLENNIUM LODGE OF CORNWALL

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.

SERVICE:

Building compassion

Whether participating in events, fundraising for a charitable cause or volunteering for public or community organisations, service is at the very heart of Freemasonry.

Our members make valuable contributions by donating time, resources and skills.



"My favourite part about Freemasonry is being able to visit and support other lodges. Visiting not only enables you to meet new friends and enjoy a common interest, but also to see Freemasonry as a bigger picture and a whole, and not just the lodge you are a member of or your mother lodge. Throughout my 20 years in Freemasonry, I have visited many lodges and met some great friends, I attend their lodge installs and invite to my own lodge installation meetings. If you're new to Freemasonry, find someone in your own lodge who may do lots of visiting, and hang on to their shirt tails... you'll never look back."

PHIL

COTEHELE 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.



"I'm not a Freemason, but I went to one of their social evenings where they have this big hall and a bar and anyone can go. They're really friendly. I said I thought my Dad was one, and someone said his photo is upstairs. Imagine! I was stunned. He came downstairs and showed me this picture and there was my Dad. He died years ago and this was a truly magical moment. I felt you don't have to be a Freemason, but they include you and there's different ways of belonging."

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 18 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 also able to join one of the 81 University Scheme Lodges.

"In light, I was surprised to see so many friends I knew and so many friends that I will soon know."



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.



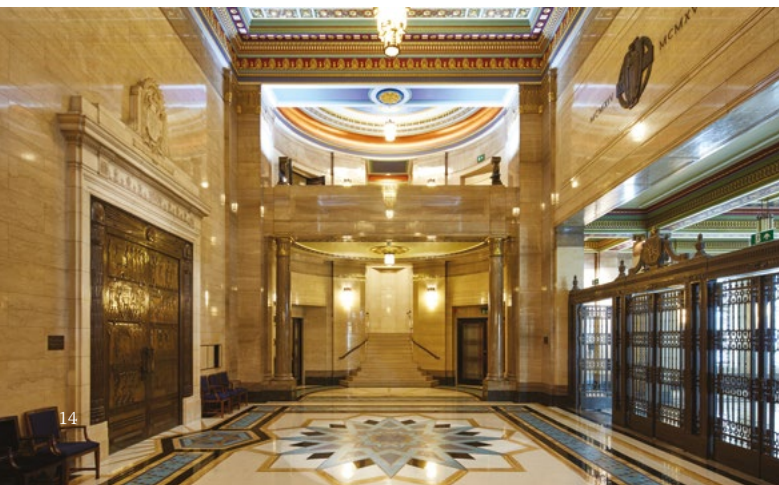
FINDING THE RIGHT FREEMASONRY FOR YOU

There are many specialist Lodges in Freemasonry; Cornish Links lodge, No. 9481 in Cornwall, for example, is one of a number found throughout the county. The Lodge is for those who are also keen golfers and enjoyers of the sport. Other specialist lodges include the Agricultural Lodge, as well as our own university Lodge, Lodge of the Chisel No. 9398 for young members and lovers of education.

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.

AN ART DECO MASTERPIECE

Freemasons' Hall is one of the last remaining Art Deco buildings in England still used for its original purpose. Did you know, the mighty bronze doors to the Grand Temple weigh one and a quarter tonnes each and the original cloakroom can hold 1,700 coats, bags and top hats?

The building and Museum of Freemasonry are open to the public Monday-Saturday; be sure to take a guided tour to discover all that Freemasons' Hall has to offer.



Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall

To find out more about Freemasonry or for information on how to become a member, please visit us at www.pglcornwall.org.uk

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UNITED GRAND LODGE
OF ENGLAND

www.ugle.org.uk



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