



Province of Northamptonshire &
Huntingdonshire



SO YOU WANT TO BECOME A FREEMASON?



An Introduction To Freemasonry



Let me welcome you to this brochure which gives you an insight into what Freemasonry is all about and why men all over the world have joined.

I hope that it encourages you to find out more and, perhaps, become a Freemason in the Province of Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire which is the Province of which I have the honour to be the Provincial Grand Master.

RW Bro Max Bayes
Provincial Grand Master

What is it about Freemasonry that makes more than 250,000 men in England & Wales and more than 6,000,000 worldwide want to be part of this organisation that is 300 years old?

Many of the reasons differ from one member to another, however, the enjoyment, pleasure and fun that comes from being a Freemason is common to almost all members.

So, what are some of the other reasons that members give for becoming a Freemason:



PRINCIPLES OF HONESTY, FAIRNESS, KINDNESS AT ITS HEART

Many people from all walks of life consider these principles and others like them to be important and these very same principles are at the core of Freemasonry and lead many to become members. Why would you not want to be part of an organisation that is built around these values?



WE'RE ALL INCLUSIVE...

Freemasonry is a tolerant, diverse fraternity that does not discriminate against members and prospective members because of their religion, their race or their nationality, which is in contrast to many stories that we all see in the news every day.



A CHANCE TO PUT SOMETHING BACK

Many of us want to put something back into the communities in which we live. Freemasons give their time, skills and money to help organisations such as hospices and air ambulances in their cities, towns and villages. When natural disasters such as tsunamis and earthquakes strike in the world beyond our shores, donations from Freemasons are more often than not sent to bring relief to those affected.



IT'S FRIENDLY, FUN & SOCIABLE TO BE A FREEMASON!

When you become a Freemason, you have the opportunity to make life-long friendships with people you have never met before. Many of the social events that we hold are great fun and allow us to enjoy time with our friends and families, both members and non-members alike.



LEARN SOMETHING NEW...

Many of us have found that we have learned new skills as Freemasons from organising events, managing finances to fundraising or developed abilities that have value beyond our Lodges such as having the confidence to stand up and speak before an audience.



TRADITION, HERITAGE & CULTURE

As we proudly enter our Tercentenary in 2017, it is evident that Freemasonry and its principles have stood the test of time. It is the heritage, culture and being part of the social history of our country that makes many want to join so they are part of the next three hundred years.



QUESTIONS WE GET ASKED ALL THE TIME

What is Freemasonry? Freemasonry is the oldest and the largest of the secular (non- religious) fraternal societies. Freemasons find themselves able to develop themselves in many different ways in an organisation that has fairness, integrity and kindness at its heart. They're also putting something back into a wider society by supporting a range of charities locally, nationally and internationally.

Is Freemasonry a Secret Society? No, not at all. All meetings are publicised and can be found on our Provincial website. These meetings are documented and run in accordance with rules and regulations which are publicly available. Masons are encouraged to be open about their membership among friends, family and colleagues.

Is Freemasonry a Religion? No, but, all Freemasons must be men of 'faith' and prayers are said at our meetings (prayers are also said at meeting places such as local councils and the House of Commons.) Freemasonry allows men of different religions to meet in harmony and to work towards the greater good.

Do Freemasons favour each other in business dealings? No. On joining, Freemasons agree that they are not seeking any personal, financial or material gain from their membership. However, members of any group whether it is Freemasonry, Rugby Clubs, Golf Clubs etc. will have a tendency to work with and do business with those they know and trust, but, using Freemasonry for financial gain is strictly against the rules.

Can anyone become a Freemason? Any man who is over 21, law abiding, of good character and believes in a Supreme Being is eligible to become a member. We do not discriminate against members and prospective members because of their religion, their race or their nationality.



WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS TO FINDING OUT MORE?

If you like what you have read in this brochure, then the next step is to call the Provincial Membership Officer on 01604 584213 or e-mail him pmo@northants-huntsmasters.org.uk and he will be delighted to talk to you further about joining Freemasonry and answer any questions that you may have.



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