

What are the Royal Arch Ceremonies?

Apart from the annual Installation Ceremony, there is only one ceremony in the Royal Arch ritual, that of the 'Exaltation' of a new Companion. After the darkness of the Third Degree, it is a colourful, enlightening and memorable ceremony, with profound, challenging, allegorical significance. The story told, which contains some of the most delightful lines of Masonic ritual, concerns the re-building of the Temple after the Exile of the Israelites.

Regalia.

The Apron, Sash and Jewel worn by Companions in Chapter meetings are shown in this leaflet. Companions should wear the Jewel of the Order in Lodge with their Craft regalia, as a visible sign of the indissoluble link between Royal Arch and Craft Freemasonry. (No emblems of other Orders should be worn in Lodge).

What next?

Every Lodge should have a Royal Arch Representative named on the Summons, but there will always be many Brethren eager to give advice about joining the Royal Arch and make the necessary introductions. Your Lodge Mentor will also be able to offer advice.

A Lodge Summons may give details of an attached Chapter although it is not obligatory for a Brother to join the Chapter attached to his Lodge.

If you are unable to obtain an introduction to a Chapter you should contact the Provincial Grand Lodge/Grand Chapter office.

Provincial Grand Chapter of Derbyshire
Derby Masonic Hall,
457 Burton Road,
Littleover,
Derby.
DE23 6XX
Telephone 01332 272202
E-mail: pgse@derbyshiremason.org



Provincial
Grand Lodge
of
Derbyshire

THE NEXT STEP IN FREEMASONRY



INITIATION TO EXALTATION

Provincial
Grand
Chapter
of
Derbyshire



Your future in Freemasonry: The Royal Arch

Who is eligible to join the Royal Arch?

A Master Mason may join a Royal Arch Chapter four weeks after being Raised to the Third Degree. It is the natural and traditional next step in Freemasonry.

What is the Royal Arch?

Long ago, the Royal Arch degree would have been worked in a Craft Lodge. For many years following the re-organisation of Freemasonry after the Union of the Grand Lodges in 1813, the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch was stated to be the completion of the Third Degree, but it is now more accurately described as the completion of the journey through pure and antient Freemasonry.

This is undoubtedly a most rewarding and enlightening step for a Master Mason to take. It offers him an opportunity to fill the gaps left in Craft Masonry after the Third Degree and to continue his Masonic journey towards a spiritual conclusion.

In the degrees which you received in the Craft you were taught that Freemasonry is a system of morality, based on a belief in T.G.A.O.T.U. and promoting brotherly love, relief and truth as the rule for your earthly pilgrimage.

The Ceremony of Raising implies that there is more to learn, for it urges us to lift our eyes beyond our civil duties and routine existence. The Royal Arch develops this theme and teaches us that the true secrets of a Freemason are to be found within ourselves.

Why should I join?

The Royal Arch has a unique position as part of the mainstream of Freemasonry, so that it and the Craft are totally complementary, and are together described

as forming the whole of pure and antient Freemasonry. There are other Masonic Orders, all of which require Craft membership as a pre-requisite; many of them also requiring candidates to have been exalted into the Royal Arch.

Usually, a Royal Arch Chapter is attached to a specific Lodge, and will most likely use its name, number and precedence though not all Lodges have a Chapter. It follows that Companions of a Chapter may come from different Lodges around the Province. Certainly, joining a Chapter will extend the circle of your Masonic friends.

How is it organised?

The close affinity of the Craft and the Royal Arch is further emphasised by the fact that the Grand Master is automatically the First Grand Principal of Supreme Grand Chapter, the Pro Grand Master is the Pro First Grand Principal, and the Grand Secretary is

also Secretary of the Royal Arch in which he is called the Grand Scribe Ezra.

The Royal Arch Regulations are in the Book of Constitutions of Grand Lodge (the Grey Pages) which you received at your initiation.

Chapters meet less frequently than Lodges, commonly three to four times a year. Joining Fees and Annual Dues are usually less than those of the Craft.

Our members are known as "Companions".

Companions who become one of the three Principals of a Chapter (broadly equivalent to the Worshipful Master and Wardens) are known as "Excellent Companions". It has recently become permissible to be elected a Principal of a Chapter without having been a Worshipful Master of a Lodge.

The Royal Arch in Derbyshire

There are at present 30 Chapters in the Royal Arch Province of Derbyshire.

The Head of a Province is a Grand Superintendent. He is supported by a Deputy Grand Superintendent as well as Second and Third Grand Principals.

The basic unit in the Royal Arch, the Chapter, has three leaders known as Principals, elected each year by the members, and assisted by a team of Officers including Scribes, a Treasurer and Sojourners.

The complete list of Royal Arch Chapters and their locations may be found in the Freemasons Year Book for the Province of Derbyshire.

Further information is available on the Royal Arch website, www.derbysroyalarch.com

Royal Arch Breast Jewels



Companion



Excellent Companion



Provincial and Grand Officer