



Provincial Grand
Lodge of Lincolnshire

Pathway to Mentoring:
First Degree Ceremony

Entered Apprentice



This Mentoring Booklet was presented to

On his being initiated into Freemasonry on

by Worshipful Brother

The Worshipful Master of

Lodge No

Date

Personal Mentor

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Message from the Provincial Grand Master

Welcome to Freemasonry in the Province of Lincolnshire.

I am delighted you have chosen to join our world-wide fraternity and I am sure you will find it interesting, challenging and ultimately a very happy experience.

My journey in Freemasonry has continued to be one of discovery and enjoyment, and I hope you enjoy a similar experience.

I look forward to meeting you on some future occasion on my visits around our Province and I hope that you have a very fulfilling and rewarding life as a Freemason in our wonderful organisation.



Dave Wheeler
Provincial Grand Master of Lincolnshire

INTRODUCTION

This booklet is the first of three and is intended to offer guidance in the ceremony that you have just experienced. It is hoped that these booklets will support you in making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge and answer any questions you may have. We would like you to enjoy your Craft Masonry, including the Holy Royal Arch, that will complete your journey in Pure and Antient Freemasonry.

Please discuss this booklet and any additional questions you may have with your Mentor, Proposer or Seconder. They all have a shared responsibility to guide you in your development and journey in Freemasonry. There may be some questions which are unanswerable until you have taken a higher degree. Be patient if they defer from answering.

People join Freemasonry for a variety of reasons: fellowship, social aspects, friendships, intellectual and moral self-improvement or even spiritual reasons. Some because they are simply intrigued and inquisitive to learn more OR believe that Freemasonry will offer them an opportunity to learn and develop as citizens and individuals. Whatever the reason for joining Freemasonry, it is hoped that you will experience more and different benefits than you anticipated; benefits that are gained from being a member of our wonderful fraternity.

WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?

It is one of the world's oldest and largest non-religious, non-political, fraternal and charitable organisations. It teaches self-knowledge through participation in a progression of ceremonies (playlets). Whilst Freemasons are not expected to be perfect in all they do, members are expected to be of high moral standing and are encouraged to speak openly about Freemasonry.

The Three Great Principles of Freemasonry are:

Brotherly Love - tolerance and respect for others and their opinions, kindness and understanding towards other people.

Relief – caring for each other and also the wider community through charitable giving and voluntary work

Truth – truth and honesty, exhibiting high moral standards in our lives and encouraging them in others.

The Values of Freemasonry are as relevant today as they have been at any time over the last three hundred years. Freemasons encompass and embrace the fundamental principles of good citizenship in all walks of life:

- **Kindness:** Freemasons have always been deeply involved in charity and make a major contribution to society through their own charities, as well as through donations to UK charities and worldwide disaster funds, with members playing an active role in their communities

- **Honesty:** Freemasonry prides itself on its transparency. Not only are Freemasons completely free to acknowledge their membership, they are encouraged to do so.
- **Tolerance:** Freemasons are expected to show respect for the opinions of others and behave with understanding towards other people.
- **Fairness:** Freemasons treat all as equal. For many, the organisation's biggest draw is the fact that members come from all walks of life and meet as equals whatever their race, religion or socio-economic position
- **Integrity:** Freemasons are asked to be the best people they can be, which comes hand in hand with following the above principles of kindness, honesty, fairness, tolerance. A Freemason is always considered a Brother to every other Freemason in the world. The wearing of regalia is historic and symbolic and indicates the rank of the wearer in the organisation. When you are ready, we would like you to take part in our ceremonies and progress in the Lodge.

HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND

No-one can say with absolute certainty how or when the Masonic fraternity as we recognise it today was formed. A

widely-accepted theory among Masonic scholars is that it arose from stonemasons' guilds during the Middle Ages. Some of the language and symbols used in the rituals certainly come from this era. The



oldest document that refers to Masons is the Regius Poem, printed about 1390, which is known to be a copy of an earlier work. In 1646 Elias Ashmole recorded his initiation in Warrington in his diary and this remains the first firm evidence of a speculative initiation taking place in England. Continuing throughout the 1600s evidence of non-operative Lodges increases.

On 24th June 1717, four Lodges met in the Goose and Gridiron Tavern in St Paul's Churchyard in London and formed the first Grand Lodge of England - and the first in the world. Antony Sayer was elected the first Grand Master, and records from that point in time are more detailed.

Over the course of the following century Ireland and Scotland also formed their own Grand Lodges in 1725 and 1736 respectively. Lodges opened across England and abroad as the British Empire expanded. A rival Grand Lodge was formed in England though happily, after 4 years of negotiations, these Masonic bodies merged and formed the United Grand Lodge of England, or UGLE, on 27th December 1813.

By 1814, 647 Lodges existed across England and overseas. Expansion continued at home and abroad to such an extent that at the turn of the century, 2800 Lodges were operating under the aegis of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE). At the same time other Grand Lodges were being formed throughout other countries.

In 2017 UGLE, the oldest Grand Lodge in the World, celebrated its tercentenary amongst its 6000+ Lodges spread throughout the world. Celebrations culminated with an event at the Royal

Albert Hall with representatives of 136 sovereign Grand Lodges from the four corners of the globe in attendance. UGLE is led by The Most Worshipful The Grand Master. He is supported by a Pro Grand Master*, a Deputy and Assistant Grand Master and a team of Grand Officers.

* In this title, 'Pro' isn't short for anything. When the Grand Master is a member of the Royal Family he may appoint a Pro Grand Master to be his principal adviser, and to act for him on those occasions when he is unable to be present due to Royal engagements.

THE HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY IN LINCOLNSHIRE

According to Dr John Stukeley, Freemasonry within Lincolnshire started in 1730 when he moved to Grantham. Some brief notes exist in his Common Place Book.

The first Lodge known to have been constituted within the county and under the authority of Grand Lodge was number 73, meeting at the Saracen's Head in Lincoln from the 7th September 1730. From this Lodge, some records, including 3 years of minutes and some By-Laws, still exist dated from 1732.

Matching changes at national level, the number of speculative Lodges expanded across the Province and though many Lodges have ceased to exist, in 1793 the Witham Lodge was formed at Lincoln and still operates to this day.

In 1792 the Province of Lincolnshire was formed and the Reverend William Peters became the first Provincial Grand Master. He held this post for 22 years as Freemasonry expanded in the area.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Lincolnshire is a subsidiary to UGLE and exists to coordinate and support Freemasonry in this Province or County. It is led by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master who is supported by a Deputy and two Assistant Provincial Grand Masters and a team of Provincial Grand Officers.

The Province has 3,500 Freemasons meeting in 74 Craft Lodges based at 21 centres from Barton-upon-Humber and Grimsby in the north to Bourne, Spalding and Deeping St James, close to the County boundary, in the south.

Read more in 'A brief History of Craft Freemasonry in Lincolnshire' which is available online and via Lodge Secretaries.

THE LODGE MENTOR

The Lodge Mentor holds a senior office in the Lodge. He has the important role of ensuring an appropriate experienced member of the Lodge is appointed as a Personal Mentor for every new Candidate. This is to ensure that the Candidate receives the correct guidance during their informative years in Freemasonry, especially as they progress through the three degrees and into the Holy Royal Arch. The Personal Mentor may be one of your Sponsors (Proposer or Secunder) if they have the experience and time.

There are many wonderful aspects to Freemasonry (which we often simply refer to as the 'Craft') and to ensure you are able to derive as much fulfilment and enjoyment as possible from Freemasonry, your Lodge will have arranged for you to have a Mentor who will both assist and guide you.

You will find this approach especially beneficial during your early years of membership, when you will no doubt have many questions regarding our organisation and its ceremonies. Please never be too reserved to ask for information, or assistance All the Brethren in your Lodge are also your Mentors and will be pleased to assist in any way they can.

Your Personal Mentor will refer to this document and those that follow, to assist in explaining those various aspects of our organisation that make it so enjoyable, interesting and spiritually uplifting.

The approach taken by your Mentor will depend upon your personal relationship with him and your own particular wishes and needs. He will have a 'check list' of information but feel free to ask your own questions.

Whatever the style taken, he (they) will be seeking to ensure that you receive these key elements: Belonging, Understanding, Involvement and Enjoyment.

Mentoring is a two-way process, so please do be open and honest with your Mentor(s) and make him (them) aware of your wishes and needs. He (they) is there to see that you get the most, in every way, from your membership in the Craft. He (they) may even assist you to learn your words for your Second and Third Degree ceremonies.

THE CEREMONY OF YOUR INITIATION INTO FREEMASONRY

The First Degree Ceremony represents birth, in the sense of emergence, of a Candidate's Masonic knowledge. When we

first enter Freemasonry, we are without the hidden knowledge of the Craft and rely on the help and guidance of others, such as our Sponsors, Mentors and indeed any other Brother. It is hoped that you as a brother will develop in the Craft and you in turn can extend help to others.

The h...w...k you wore, represented the darkness associated with the lack of knowledge and Masonic Education and also enables the Candidate to be led into the Lodge Room without seeing the arrangement of the Lodge. At the appropriate part of the ceremony, the Lodge is revealed to you. This symbolically represents the beginning of your Masonic knowledge and journey.

The c... t... is an old emblem of a servant being bonded to his Master. In a Freemason's Lodge, it symbolises our bondage to ignorance until we are brought to the light of knowledge of the Volume of The Sacred Law. (In our Lodges this is usually the Bible but could be the sacred Book of another Religion as held by the Candidate, such as the Koran etc.).

The l... b... is made b... so that the points of both the p... and the c... can be felt next to the heart. Also, some believe, to prove that the Candidate is not female.

You were d...v...d of all m...t objects, so that you could not bring any offensive weapons into the Lodge to disturb its harmony. Equally to represent the fact that without money and riches we are all equal.

You were s...p...s...d to emphasise your poverty and your k... was made b... so that there was nothing between it and the

Earth when the Obligation was taken.

Inside the Lodge Room you confirmed that your entry was of your own volition, confirmed your belief in God, and that you were of mature age and you agreed to go through the Ceremony of your Initiation.

You were paraded before the members as a good man and true.

You recited an Obligation and agreed to obey the rules of the Organisation and promised to preserve the “Secrets of Recognition” (‘Sign, Token and Word’) which were explained and entrusted to you in detail; the symbolism of certain objects was also explained to you. The ‘Secrets of Recognition’ are the means by which we can recognise one another ‘by night as well as by day’. This originates back to our operative past to gain entry to a Lodge in the degree of work that would follow. In the past Masons were not literate and so were not given certificates of qualification as to his level of skill or expertise.

You were examined twice in reciting the ‘Secrets of the Degree’, first at the Junior Warden’s pedestal and later at the Senior Warden’s pedestal.

You were invested with an Apron of plain white Lambskin which is a symbol of purity and is derived from the Aprons worn by the Medieval Operative Masons. It is the Badge of the Order and all other Masonic aprons, however ornate, are derived from this Badge.

As a test, at the North East Corner of the Lodge, you were asked to give to Charity. You will recall the result and that you were

received without anything of value, emblematically to show that you entered Freemasonry as a man without worldly possessions and therefore in need.

The Working Tools of an Entered Apprentice were presented to you, they teach us the basis of a good life and how we become fit members of society, which is also explained in more detail in the Charge. This is outlined below.

You were then given copies of the Book of Constitutions and the Lodge Bye-Laws. In some Lincolnshire Lodges the Candidate leaves the room at this point to restore himself to his personal comforts; in others this happens after the charge we describe next.

THE CHARGE AFTER YOUR INITIATION

When you were ready, you re-entered the Lodge Room where the “Ancient Charge” was recited to you: recommending how you should behave in your life and actions.

This part of our ritual, the “First Degree Charge”, is both beautiful and meaningful, being designed to encourage the newly admitted mason to contemplate and think deeply about the deeper implications of being a Freemason. It encompasses a daily striving to make a good man better.

Below are a few points to remind you to look again at the full piece, with your Mentor, and to appreciate the message it gives.

As you have passed through the ceremony of your initiation let me congratulate you

on being admitted a member of our ancient and honourable institution.

As a Freemason let me recommend to your serious contemplation the Volume of the Sacred Law therein you will be taught the important duties you owe to God, to your neighbour and yourself.

As a citizen of the world you are to be exemplary in the discharge of your civil duties, by paying due obedience to the laws of any state which may for a time become your place of residence, ever remembering the country whence you derived your birth and infant nurture.

As an individual let me recommend the practice of every domestic as well as public virtue, Prudence, Temperance, Justice, especially Benevolence and Charity.

As a Freemason, there are other excellences of character

- Secrecy, never improperly to disclose those Masonic secrets entrusted to you.
- Fidelity of our fraternity
- Obedience to our laws and regulations
- Above all enjoyment (be happy and communicate happiness)

And finally to dedicate yourself to such pursuits as may enable you to be respectable in life, useful to mankind and an ornament to the society of which this day you have become a member and to endeavour to make a daily advancement in your Masonic knowledge.

Your Mentor will discuss all of the ceremony with you in more detail and will no doubt refer to the book of ritual. You will receive your own copy of this book, which contains all three ceremonies after you have completed your third degree.

EXPLANATION OF THE FIRST DEGREE TRACING BOARD

This is one element of the First Degree which is not always presented in a Lodge during this ceremony. If the Tracing Board, which is pictured overleaf, was not presented to you then it is worth discussing it with your Mentor. Also, to arrange a visit to a Lodge where it is undertaken as a regular part of the ceremony.

Origins of the Tracing Boards go back many centuries and were used in Masonic Ritual from the very beginning. There are accounts of early Freemasons tracing symbols onto the floors of their Lodge rooms in chalk, charcoal or sand, a practice that became systemised, and then embellished to produce some examples of truly outstanding artistic achievement.

But why trace anything at all? Since prehistoric times, we have attempted to record visual images of our surroundings and of our relationship to the world around us, that both we and others could relate to. On a spiritual level, we learned to render comprehensibly images in both sculpture and painting that would assist us in our devotions to God and the betterment of mankind. Our Masonic forebears decided to adapt the plans of buildings into allegories as a plan for moral, intellectual and spiritual development.

The ceiling of a Lodge became a canvas on which to depict the heavens. A carved stone was used to represent a stage in man's own inner development. The placing of one stone on another became an allegory for the construction of more than a physical temple, for the building of our own characters and through that, the building of a temple to humanity and of humanity.

There is ample evidence that, in the 18th

century, much instruction was imparted to Candidates, not so much in the course of the Degree ceremony, but afterwards, in preparation for the next Degree as a Tracing Board. However, this now seems to have fallen by the wayside. Today the Tracing Boards are used to attempt to fill in some of the missing features and to complete the landscape. Freemasonry is about rendering in symbol and allegory that which words alone cannot render.

A visual image gives us a way of using our own insight to decode the message. The Tracing Boards exist for this purpose, derived from their original function of laying out the plan of the building, but they have developed into a means for us to lay out messages, and then to profit, not just from contemplation of their meanings, but by their application in our everyday lives.

Right: The First Degree tracing board

MASONIC RITUAL: 'A SERIES OF PLAYLETS'

Historically, by learning the Ritual, all were enabled to take part and progress. Additionally, not committing the Ritual to print emphasised its secrecy which was insisted upon at that time. It cannot be denied that the ceremony has far more impact on the Candidate when delivered from memory.

Specially written playlets convey different aspects of the ancient mystery traditions. Each stage is another part of the whole, one leading to the next. There are three distinct playlets in Craft Masonry; The Entered Apprentice, the Fellowcraft and the Master Mason and this is then complemented by



the ceremony of Exaltation in the Holy Royal Arch.

The Entered Apprentice Degree (or initiation) represents youth because it teaches the most basic lessons of belief in Great Architect of the Universe, the necessity of charity to mankind, the importance of truth, and the value of keeping one's word. This leads to;

The Second Degree which is the Fellow Craft, (or Passing) this degree represents manhood, the middle period of life. During this playlet, the importance of education and work, and the awesome power of the

Great Architect of the Universe, are taught to the Mason. This leads finally to;

The Master Mason Degree (or Raising) is the third playlet or ritual of the Lodge. In the course of this ceremony, the new Master Mason is taught the importance of living a life true to the principles of morality and virtue. In many Lodges, a newly-initiated member does not have access to the printed ritual until he is presented with, or allowed to purchase, a ritual book following the completion of his Third Degree.

There are several versions of Masonic ritual. However, all Masonic ritual has the same purpose – to inculcate a heightened sense of morality and awareness of eternal truths within which human existence is lived.

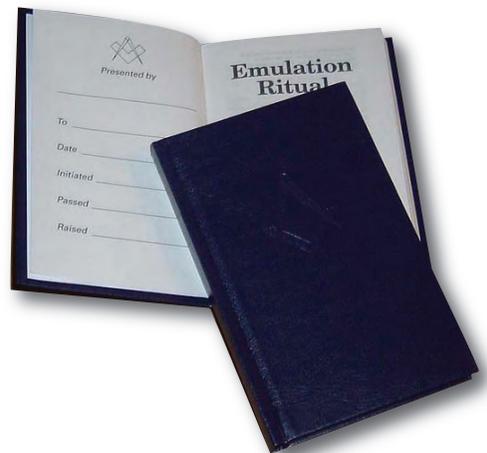
The Ritual is a book to be studied, since it carefully provides not only the words and an idea of the movements to be used in the ceremonies, but also an insight into the thinking and intentions that inspired Freemasonry.

This is part of the reason why each participating Mason should learn his words rather than simply reading them – by the repetition and concentration that the learning entails then understanding, appreciation and the sense of achievement grows. With greater familiarity comes recognition, acceptance and enjoyment so the process of learning is an essential part of the Freemason's education into the Craft and, hopefully, his subsequent lifestyle.

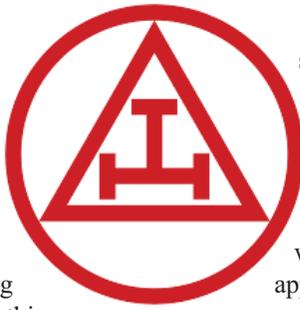
Thus, it is important that time and effort be assiduously given when learning is to be

done, so that the ceremony can be given as flawlessly as possible. For this reason, attendance at rehearsals is vital, speak to your Mentor who will advise you. A well conducted ceremony not only impresses on the mind of the Candidate, but also demonstrates to him his importance, shown by the fact that so many of his new-found Brethren have gone to such lengths for his benefit and to ensure his welcome amongst them. It does of course also provide them with huge satisfaction in a job well done with skill and co-operation.

However long or short the piece of ritual, you should always endeavour to deliver it with clarity and sincerity. If mumbled or garbled, the message will be lost and with it the purpose, not to mention the recipient's attention and interest. Having said that, it is acknowledged that very few of us are professional actors, so all that is expected is that members try their hardest and do their very best.



THE ORDER OF THE HOLY ROYAL ARCH



We appreciate that Freemasonry is very new to you and that you are just beginning your first steps along this wonderful and rewarding journey.

However, it is important to ensure you are aware, even at this early stage, that it is the wish of the Rt W. Provincial Grand Master that on completion of your Third Degree in Craft Freemasonry, and in due time, you will continue your journey in 'Pure Antient Masonry' by joining the Order of the Holy Royal Arch.

Although the Order of the Holy Royal Arch is indissolubly linked with Craft Freemasonry it has its own identical structure. The governing body for Royal Arch Masonry in England Wales and the Channel Islands is the 'Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England' based at the same building as the United Grand Lodge of England in London. Each Province is governed by a Most Excellent Grand Superintendent and in the majority of cases this is the same person as the Rt Worshipful Provincial Grand Master. That is the case in the Province of Lincolnshire, with The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent being the head of the Order.

BASIC MASONIC ETIQUETTE

You will receive a summons before the next regular meeting which will identify the agenda. If you are unable to attend a meeting for business or other personal reasons, you should advise the Secretary as

soon as possible and send your apologies. If you become an officer of the Lodge, you should also advise the Director of Ceremonies, so that someone can be asked to undertake the work you were to perform. Naturally, whoever is going to stand in for you will appreciate as much notice as possible.

The dress code is a dark suit (preferably black or charcoal grey), white shirt, black or Provincial tie (enquire where to purchase this tie), black shoes, black socks and white gloves (in some Lodges gloves are not worn until you are a Master Mason). Note that occasionally, in some Lodges evening dress may be expected to be worn. Your Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft aprons will be available to collect, usually from the Tyler, when you arrive and your Mentor should assist you with this. When you become a Master Mason you will obtain your own apron.

Remember to sign the Attendance Register on your arrival!

Always ensure you are appropriately dressed Masonically before entering the Lodge Room. Talk to your Mentor or Lodge sponsors if you are unsure.

If you arrive late for the meeting, do not panic! Given the vagaries of traffic and the seemingly ever-increasing demands of business life, it is not unknown for members or guests to arrive late for a meeting. When you have dressed appropriately, the Tyler will advise you how far the meeting has progressed. If you are unsure of the relevant sign prior to entering the Lodge, you should ask the Tyler who would be only too pleased to

demonstrate it for you. He will then give a report, by knocking on the door of the Lodge and let them know that you are outside. When the Inner Guard comes to the door to enquire who seeks admission the Tyler will announce your name. When you are admitted to the Lodge, the Director of Ceremonies or his Assistant will normally greet you. You should give the relevant sign for the degree and, holding that sign, briefly apologise to the Worshipful Master for your late arrival (a single sentence is more than adequate). The Director of Ceremonies or his Assistant will then take you to your seat. Masonic acknowledgement in the Lodge is by means of a 'court bow', i.e. a brief forward inclination of the head only, not a bow from the waist. Before being seated you give a court bow (nod of the head) to the escorting Officer.

Never take a seat in the East without invitation, even if all other seats are taken. When perambulating (walking formally, not marching) in the Lodge, remember to always start off with the left foot and avoid swinging your arms, or clenching your fists. Always exhibit a good posture.

Brethren will salute the Master when they leave the Lodge and again when they re-enter the Lodge Room.

When addressing, or responding to the Worshipful Master, you should salute first (with step) in the current degree, followed by the words "Worshipful Master". If what you are saying is to be lengthy (except as part of the ritual), cut the sign after the address, say your piece and finish with the salute.

If you make a proposition, or address the Lodge, it must be made to the Worshipful Master, giving the salute in the degree in which the Lodge is working.

When addressing Officers or Brethren in the Lodge, remember that we are all Brothers. Rank applies to the individual not to the office he holds. Correct terminology is to 'Brother Secretary' or 'Worshipful Brother Smith', not 'Worshipful Brother Secretary'. Normally forenames should not be used, except to differentiate between two Brethren who happen to have the same surname.

Never turn your back on the Master to address the Lodge without first receiving permission from the Master to speak. No man sits whilst speaking in the Lodge room, no matter if he addresses an Officer or another brother.

You must always obey the gavel and pay attention to the Worshipful Master. It is bad form to talk to your neighbour in Lodge during the ceremony, or when anyone is speaking. If you do need to talk during a break in proceedings, ensure you do so discreetly.

All mobile phones are to be turned off when in the Lodge Room.

Masonic etiquette is important in Freemasonry and customs may vary from Lodge to Lodge. As a general rule, it is sensible (and polite) to follow the custom and practice adopted by any Lodge you may be visiting.

SUBJECTS NOT FOR DISCUSSION IN LODGE

Religion and politics should not be addressed in Lodge, and there are good reasons for this. When we meet in a Lodge, we are all on a common level, and are not subject to the classes and distinctions of the outside world. Each Brother is entitled to his own beliefs and convictions. Hence we refer to our maker as the 'SUPREME BEING' 'or The GREAT ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE. Our objective is to unite men, not to divide them. These subjects create honest differences of opinion that might well cause friction between brethren.

There will also be subjects concerning the Lodge's business that should not be discussed. All deliberations should be kept within the bounds of propriety and everyone should show tolerance for the opinion of others. Every Master wants harmony in his Lodge. Once a matter has been put to vote in the Lodge and a decision is made, the decision should be accepted by all members, regardless of how they voted.

We try to teach every Mason to be a good citizen and to perform his civic duties. We do not try to keep anyone from expressing his opinion or from serving his city, county, state, or nation, in an honourable manner. Anyone who serves in political office should not act politically as a Freemason, nor use the name of Freemasonry in exercising his political rights, such as showing affiliation with any Lodge in his campaign advertising.

WHAT IS THE FESTIVE BOARD?

The Festive Board is the meal held after most Lodge meetings and varies in type from buffet to banquet, according to the wishes of the members. This is always a convivial occasion and should be considered as much a part of the evening as the Ceremony itself, albeit in a more relaxed atmosphere. Although this is a more relaxed environment there are formalities to observe and jackets will continue to be worn.

Usually a Chief Steward is responsible for organizing the Festive Board in liaison with the Secretary. If you are on the permanent dining list and are unable to attend you should cancel your meal, otherwise you may incur unnecessary expense. Alternatively, if you're not a permanent diner and you wish to have a meal then you need to order one via the Chief Steward. Inform him if you have any special dietary requirements.

The meal following the Installation meeting is usually more lavish than those following the other meetings. There are often formal seating arrangements for the meal following the Installation meeting and it is possible this meal will be accompanied by rather more 'wine takings', toasts and speeches than is usually the case.

Seating arrangements vary greatly, with some far more formal than others. However, the seats to be occupied by the Worshipful Master, his two Wardens and the Immediate Past Master are usually specified. If there is no seating plan in place, your Mentor will doubtless view dining as an opportunity to sit with you and introduce you to different brethren on each occasion.

THE LODGE ROOM

The Masonic Lodge interior seems well organised, and thought out, yet it holds many mysteries to the new Mason. It takes time to understand the function of each officer and the layout of the Lodge interior. The seating arrangements may vary slightly in different Craft Lodges. The position of the door also varies depending on the building layout.

The area of the Masonic Lodge commonly referred to as the East is where the Master of the Lodge is seated. The Master of the Lodge is elected by the brethren of the Lodge annually. He is the leader and the ruling of the Lodge rests squarely on his shoulders.

The Lodge Room is laid out very specifically and the seating arrangements may vary slightly in different Craft Lodges.

A list of the Lodge Officers is included on the summons, which you will receive before each meeting.

You may be asked to act as a Steward and, if so, you should look upon it as an opportunity to serve the Lodge and play a part, rather than something intrusive, which interferes with your meal. It is a great opportunity to meet and become familiar with members of your Lodge as well as meeting its guests.

You will find an altar in every Lodge. The Volume of the Sacred Law on the altar will vary depending on the Lodge location, the beliefs of the brethren, and specifically the Candidate. Don't be surprised to see more than one book on the altar.

You will also notice that there are certain other items of Lodge furniture that are placed in specific positions in the Lodge room.

A DAILY ADVANCEMENT IN MASONIC KNOWLEDGE

Discuss with your Mentor and mark the position of the items of Lodge furniture below, the Officers of the Lodge and the seating arrangements for the Brethren of your Lodge on the Lodge Room Template. Also, find out where you sit in the Lodge?

1. The Tracing Boards
2. The Candlesticks
3. The Pillars and Globes
4. The Moveable and Immovable Jewels

WHAT NEXT?

The next step is the second degree when you will be Passed to the Degree of a Fellowcraft. We sincerely hope you will thus continue your journey to discover those Liberal Arts and Sciences.

To do so you will need to show your knowledge of elements of the 1st Degree. You now need to learn the answers to the Second Degree questions below. Help with these will be given by your Personal Mentor or the Lodge Mentor.

You may find it useful to visit another local Lodge, if they are conducting a 1st degree ceremony, so you can remind yourself, at an early stage, the lovely ceremony and occasion you have just gone through. Talk to your Mentor and he will arrange this and join you or arrange another Brother to accompany you. Remember, if you are ever unsure about anything, you only need to ask.

Bon Voyage...

SECOND DEGREE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (ABBREVIATED)

W.M. Where were you first prepared to be made a Mason?

Cand. In my h...

W.M. Where next?

Cand. In a convenient room adjoining the Lodge.

W.M. Describe the mode of your preparation

Cand. I was d...v...d of m...l and h...w...d. My r... a..., l... b..., and k... were made b..., my r... h... was s... s... and a c... t... placed about my n...

W.M. Where were you made a Mason?

Cand. In the body of a Lodge, just, perfect and regular.

W.M. And when?

Cand. When the Sun was at its meridian.

W.M. In this country Freemasons' Lodges are usually held in the evening; how do you account for that which at the first view appears a paradox?

Cand. The earth constantly revolving on its axis in its orbit around the Sun, and Freemasonry being universally spread over its surface, it necessarily follows that the Sun is always at its meridian with respect to Freemasonry.

W.M. What is Freemasonry?

Cand. A peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.

W.M. Name the grand principles on which the Order is founded?

Cand. Brotherly love, relief and truth.

W.M. Who are fit and proper persons to be made Masons?

Cand. Just, upright and free men, of mature age, sound judgement and strict morals.

W.M. How do you know yourself to be a Mason?

Cand. By the regularity of my initiation, repeated trials and approbations, and a willingness at all times to undergo an examination when properly called on.

W.M. How do you demonstrate the p of your being a Mason to others?

Cand. By sns, ts, and the perfect pts of my entrance.

GENERIC MENTORING CHECK LIST – ENTERED APPRENTICE

Personal Mentor:

Lodge Mentor:

	Date completed
Apron – where to collect and return	
Signing of the Lodge Register	
Book of Constitutions p 6&7 Discuss some relevant rules in book	
EA Ceremony & Mentoring Booklet	
Brief History	
Explain signs token & word (Ensure correctness of the sign)	
Organisation of the Lodge and Officers	
Basic introduction to the Royal Arch	
Masonic Etiquette & Protocol	
Festive Board Protocols	
Q&A ready for next ceremony	
Solomon https://solomon.ugle.org.uk	
Provincial Website https://www.pgllincs.org	
Other useful Social Media	

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

This is a list of sources of information you may find useful:

United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE)

<https://www.ugle.org.uk>

Provincial Grand Lodge of Lincolnshire

<https://www.pgllincs.org>

Initiates' Guide

A comprehensive booklet published by the Metropolitan Grand Lodge.

Available from the Provincial Grand Mentor

The Province of Lincolnshire Year Book (Blue Book)

The Peterborough Booklets

Grand Lodge publications:

'Information and Guidance for Members of the Craft'

Information about Masonic Charities

What is Freemasonry

Freemasonry and Religion

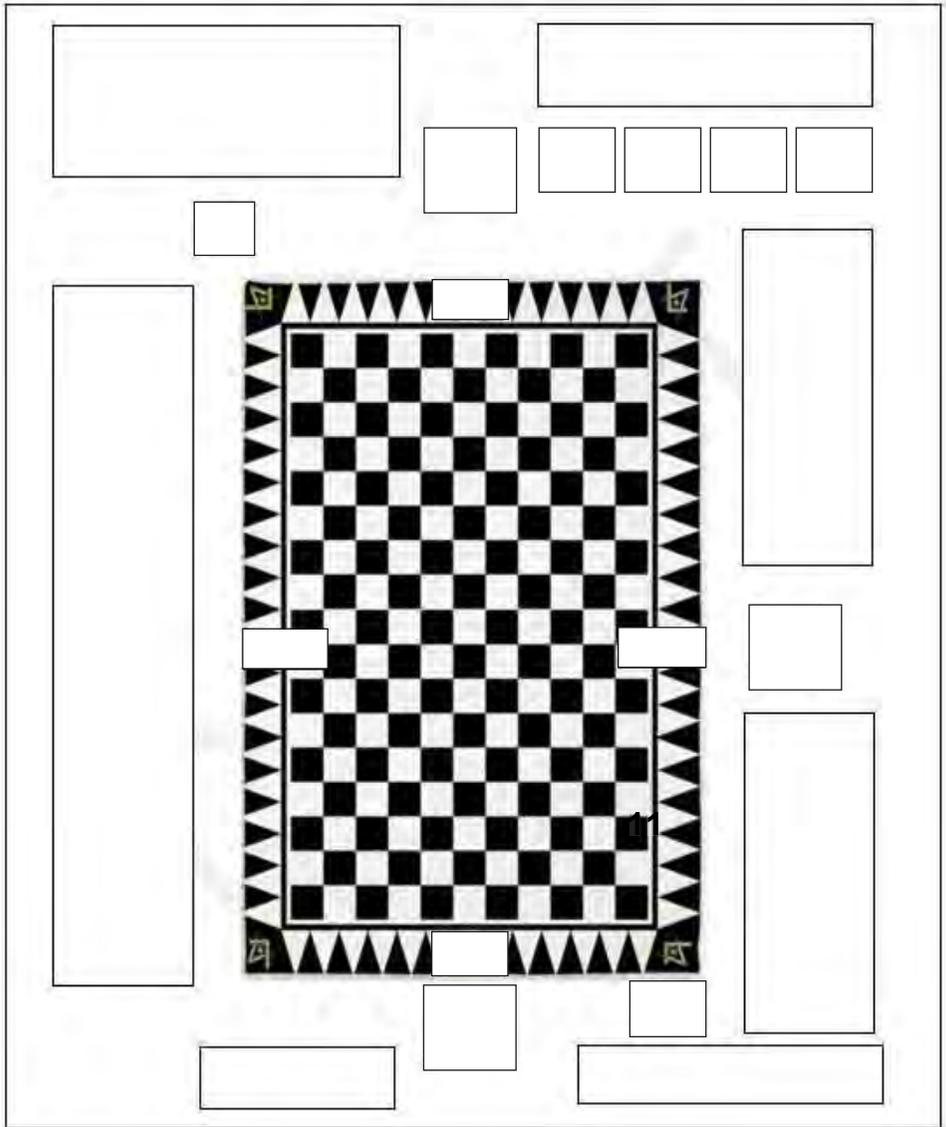
Freemasonry and Society

To increase your Masonic knowledge please register and visit: <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk>

Please do not attempt to gain the secrets of the next degree or to look at your next ceremony it will only spoil it for you... Keep the mystery

PERSONAL NOTES:

Lodge Room Template



PERSONAL NOTES:

PERSONAL NOTES:

Acknowledgements

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