



Provincial Grand  
Lodge of Lincolnshire

Pathway to Mentoring:  
Third Degree Ceremony

# Master Mason



*This Mentoring Booklet was presented to*

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*On his being raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on*

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*by Worshipful Brother*

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*The Worshipful Master of*

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*Lodge No*

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*Date*

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*Personal Mentor*

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## INTRODUCTION

**Congratulations on being raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. This, however, is not an end to your journey as a Mason. It may be said to be only the beginning. Different pathways are now open to you, and before you set off, it is worth taking a few moments to look at the Degrees you have already passed through.**

In the first you were taught about the relationship between yourself and your fellow creatures, the principles of charity and goodwill to all men. The second expanded that relationship, to that you share with the world around you, and between yourself and God. The third taught you about yourself, maintaining your principles in the face of adversity and gave you a valuable lesson on how to prepare yourself for death without fear.

The three Degrees of Craft Freemasonry can be summarised in that you were taken through the three stages of the life of man, from birth through life to death. These teachings were reinforced in a series of playlets or dramas, to impress on your mind the rules by which we should live and strive to achieve in our everyday standards.

The Third Degree is the most dramatic of the three with the most extensive of ritual.

## DEGREE OF RAISING

The Lodge Room was almost in complete darkness when you re-entered, and again, a prayer was made to invoke a blessing on the forthcoming ceremony. During the first perambulation you were examined as an Entered Apprentice at the Junior Warden's pedestal. In the second perambulation you were examined as a Fellow Craft Freemason at the Senior Warden's pedestal.

During the third perambulation you communicated the p..s g..p and p..s w..d to the Senior Warden who then presented you to the Master as a Candidate prepared to be raised to the Third Degree. You will recall that you were instructed to approach the pedestal in a particular way. At the pedestal you took the Obligation of a Master Mason and agreed forever, to conceal the Secrets of the Degree. The Exhortation and Traditional History were then related to you, during which you played a part in a very dramatic presentation to the assembled Brethren, and you were shown the Five Points of Fellowship (fpof). Towards the end of this presentation the 'Substituted Secrets of a Master Mason' were then partly explained, after which you retired from the Lodge Room. Having restored yourself to your personal comfort, you returned to the Lodge Room, advanced and saluted the Worshipful Master in the Three Degrees and you were then invested with your Master Mason's Apron. The Worshipful Master then addressed you about your duties as a Master Mason. The second half of the Traditional History was then related to you, with some explanation of how certain

Secrets came into being. Next the full five signs and secrets were demonstrated to you in great detail.

Finally, the Working Tools of a Master Mason were presented to you. You were then moved to the North West Corner, where you saluted the Worshipful Master as a Master Mason and took your seat in the Lodge.

This ceremony seeks to demonstrate a noble principle, that often it is better to die rather than be subjected to any falsehood and dishonour. This was dramatically shown when you became the representative of one who did just that. It also taught you loyalty to your fellow men; a sense of not wishing to let them down. However, you have been made aware this loyalty must never be misplaced, for whilst you have promised to keep the Masonic secrets safe, you have an overriding obligation to act as a dutiful citizen at all times and obey both the civil and moral law. As quoted in an earlier Degree, you need to do your duty to God, your neighbour and to yourself. By now you should realise that there is a strict code of conduct to which all Masons are required to adhere in their daily lives.

### SIGNS, TOKEN AND WORD

At your Initiation and Passing the Worshipful Master entrusted you with the secrets of the Degree and communicated certain Signs, Token and Word. In this Degree of Raising you were entrusted with additional secrets, again Signs, Token and Word. **These are actually substituted secrets as you were later told that the genuine secrets of a Master Mason were**



**lost 'by the untimely death of our Master Hiram Abiff'**. The substituted secrets do reflect important lessons and you should become proficient in using them as you may be required to prove yourself when visiting another Lodge or when joining another Order in Freemasonry. **If you complete your journey in 'Pure and Antient Freemasonry' these secrets will be rediscovered by joining a Holy Royal Arch Chapter.** Your Mentor, Lodge Mentor or Royal Arch Representative will advise you more on this important step.

## **THE FIVE POINTS OF FELLOWSHIP (FPOF)**

The G or Tn is the first of the fpof and is an important part of the ceremony of Raising. It also describes the behaviour that is expected of one Mason to another. The fpof is a token of recognition as well as fraternal duties to another. They are also good moral lessons in themselves and one could argue the world would be in a better place if everyone acted in this manner.

## **GRAND LODGE CERTIFICATE**

At a future Lodge meeting, soon after your raising, you will be presented with your Grand Lodge Certificate, usually by a Grand Lodge Officer or a senior Provincial Officer. Each has their own style as there is no formal ritual for this presentation.

Your attention will be drawn to the recommendations adopted by Grand Lodge that any application for approval to attend a Lodge overseas should be directed through your Lodge Secretary, who will forward it to the Provincial Grand Secretary for the attention of the Grand Secretary This is to ensure that the Lodge overseas is properly recognised by our constitution.

You may also be asked to produce your certificate when visiting a Lodge in this country where you are not known, so you should keep it handy with your regalia. The certificate alone does not guarantee you admission to a Lodge without due examination.

## **GOVERNANCE**

Freemasonry is regulated under the Grand

Lodge of England by the Book of Constitutions. These regulations may only be added to or amended with consent from Grand Lodge.

Grand Lodge consists of the Masters, Wardens and Past Masters of all Lodges under the jurisdiction of Grand Lodge. The Grand Master is the head of the Craft and is elected annually, until he decides to retire, this practice giving a continuity of governance of the Craft. The Grand Master appoints active or past officers of Grand Lodge. Active officers are appointed, and act for a year, past officers are honoured with the rank without serving it.

Policy making is performed by the Board of General Purposes, which was formed from four boards in 1838 after the two Grand Lodges united in 1813. The constitution and duties of the board can be found in rules 223 to 238 in the Book of Constitutions.

With the exception of London, England and Wales are divided into Provinces, with each Province headed by a Provincial Grand Master, who is appointed by the Grand Master. London Lodges come under the control of the Metropolitan Grand Master.

Get to know a Grand Officer and a Provincial Officer in the Lodge. Ask them about the work of Grand Lodge and the Province of Lincolnshire.

## **A DAILY ADVANCEMENT IN MASONIC KNOWLEDGE**

**To continue your daily advancement in Masonic knowledge we ask you to discuss with your Mentor the**

significance of the following:

1. Symbolism in the Third Degree
2. Signs & Secrets
3. The Five Points of Fellowship
4. The Tracing Board

## WHAT NEXT AFTER YOUR THIRD DEGREE?

See the section on the Holy Royal Arch.

You may wish to move through the offices of the Lodge to the Chair of the Worshipful Master. If so, familiarise yourself with the jobs you need to go through in the Lodge so that, you can time your progress to least impact your personal life. The key here is 'Watch, Learn and Listen'. Your Mentor may already have made this journey, or is in that process, either way, seek his guidance, or that of the Lodge Mentor.

*Contribution to your Lodge may also be made by performing other work which does not mean having to progress through the Lodge to the Chair. You could consider taking on the roles of Lodge Auditor; Librarian, Building Committee Member etc. all of which could be equally rewarding and important.*

Your Lodge may have a **Lodge of Instruction/Improvement** attached to it. You will find your progress more enjoyable if you attend their meetings. There, you will be given the opportunity of practising the ceremonies and of answering the many questions that you will be asking about Freemasonry. Contact your Mentor, the Lodge Mentor, or the Preceptor of the

Lodge of Instruction for more information.

*The importance of Charity is well worth re-emphasising after this Degree as with the other Degrees. Charity both at a national level and locally lies at the heart of Freemasonry, this is reflected in the importance of the role of Charity Steward in the structure of the Lodge. More information can be gained from The Charity Steward of the Lodge or at the websites of United or Provincial Grand Lodge or at the back of the Provincial Year book (Blue book).*

You are now in possession of your own Book of Ritual. The symbolism associated with the Third Degree is explained largely by a reading of The Explanation of the Third Degree Tracing Board and The Traditional History which are both found in the Book of Ritual.

The answers to many of your questions concerning Freemasonry may also be found in the Book of Ritual, also the Book of Constitutions, the booklet "Guidance for Members of the Craft" and the Provincial Year Book, also known in the Province as the 'Blue book'. They are important books which should be read to enhance your knowledge of Freemasonry and the manner in which we are governed.

**You should discuss and ask any questions concerning the ceremony of the Third Degree or any of the other previous Degrees with your Mentor or the Lodge Mentor.**

## THE HOLY ROYAL ARCH

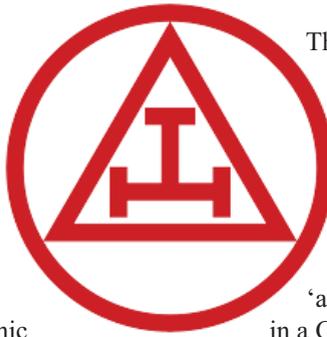
At the conclusion of the ceremony you were presented with this booklet and handed a leaflet about becoming a member of the Supreme Degree of the Holy Royal Arch.

We invite and encourage all Masons to complete their Masonic journey and make an advancement in Masonic knowledge by being Exalted into the Royal Arch.

### A short history of the Holy Royal Arch

As with Craft Freemasonry, we are unsure as to the origins of the Royal Arch, which is not helped by the lack of surviving written evidence. Although a few examples of Royal Arch vocabulary appear in Masonic minutes from the 1720s, we know that the Royal Arch is mentioned as being in existence in London by the late 1730s. The first reference which specifically relates to Royal Arch Masonry is during a procession and under the Grand Lodge of Ireland in Dublin. According to the Lodge No. 21's records, the "Royal Arch" was carried in the procession by "two Excellent Masons" on December 27, 1743.

The delightful order continued to thrive and In Lodge Minute Books still in existence from the 1750s we also know that the Royal Arch was being worked within Craft Lodges under both the Moderns, or Premier, and the Antient Grand Lodges in England. The former being formed in 1717 and the latter in 1751. Laurence Dermott was a journeyman painter originally from Dublin who came to England in 1748 and became the Antients Grand Secretary in 1752. He described the Royal Arch as 'the Root, Heart and Marrow' of Freemasonry.



Throughout the numerous attempts in the 1700s for the two Grand Lodges to combine, the Royal Arch remained a crucial part of the negotiations. The Antients felt the Royal Arch should be considered 'a fourth Degree' conducted in a Craft Lodge, whereas the

Moderns wanted to keep the Degree as a Separate Order. Happily, the eventual union took place on December 27, 1813 and the United Grand Lodge of England was formed. As a result of this event, which forged an indissoluble link between the Craft and the Royal Arch, we now have a uniquely English relationship between the two, characterised as 'Pure Antient Masonry'.

### What is 'Pure Antient Freemasonry'?

You may recall from the Fellowcraft booklet that in *1717 the Grand Lodge of England was formed* (note Grand Lodge but not UNITED) with four speculative lodges in in the Goose and Gridiron Tavern, London. As the Grand Lodge grew and more lodges considered joining the Grand Lodge, a new concept in Freemasonry at the time, a divide began to form between the Moderns or Premier and Antients. The divide largely revolved around the ritual that should be used in conducting ceremonies.

Around 1764, a lodge in Edinburgh that was affiliated with the Antient Grand Lodge, moved their charter to the Moderns. This was somewhat ironic since the Moderns did not recognize Royal Arch Masonry as legitimate Freemasonry. Interestingly, one of the members of the Edinburgh Lodge was William Preston who

became an important lecturer on Freemasonry.

By 1791, the Moderns had started to move back toward the Antient ritual. As outlined in the History previously, the two Grand Lodges came together to form the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) on December 27th, 1813.

On this date, following a **declaration a document was signed and sealed** by the then two Grand Masters, the Duke of Sussex and the Duke of Kent and three representatives from each of the two groups of nine negotiators from each of the two Grand Lodges. Article II states:

‘It is declared and pronounced, that **Pure Antient Masonry** consists of three Degrees and no more, viz. those of the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason, **including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch.**’

This definition has been the preamble to the Rules in every Book of Constitutions since 1853.

## THE HOLY ROYAL ARCH CEREMONY

The ceremony is considered by many as one of the most beautiful in Freemasonry. It has a strong historical basis and takes place 500 years after the untimely death of our Master Hiram Abiff. It is thought provoking, impressive, dramatic and it will leave a lasting impression that you will remember for the rest of your life.

**In the Third Degree the genuine secrets of a Master Mason were lost, we only had the substituted secrets**, now the legend and ritual focus on the building of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, presided over by Zerubbabel and The Grand Sanhedrin. **A number of masons make an**

**important discovery and the genuine secrets of a Master Mason are restored and thereby completing the Third Degree.** It is a beautiful and instructive ceremony and is described as completing a mason’s journey in ‘Pure Antient Masonry’. During the Exaltation ceremony the Exalte is invested with a crimson and blue apron, sash and the Holy Royal Arch jewel with a white ribbon.

The Royal Arch meets in Chapters, often in the same masonic buildings as Lodges. Royal Arch members (known as Companions) can be clearly identified in Craft Lodges as they wear a beautiful jewel, specific to the Order, as outlined in the ‘Fellowcraft’ booklet. This clearly demonstrates the indissoluble link between the Craft and Chapter.

## WHY JOIN THE HOLY ROYAL ARCH?

- 1. It completes our journey through pure and ancient Freemasonry according to Rule 1 in the Book of Constitutions*
- 2. We find the secrets which were lost in the Third Degree*
- 3. It invites you and supports you to explore the spiritual nature of man. However, we are not merely practical creatures, there is a strong spiritual element in our makeup. Without compromising our different religious beliefs, the Royal Arch helps us explore and understand the nature of our own God and our relationship with Him. In this way we are better able to understand ourselves.*
- 4. It has a beautiful Ceremony full of allegory and hidden meaning.*
- 5. It takes friendship and brotherhood to an even higher level to Companionship i.e. a closer bond of knowledge and friendship.*

Now, perhaps is the time to pause, reflect and discuss with your Mentor/Lodge Mentor and your Lodge Royal Arch Representative this next step in your Masonic career.

## VISITING OTHER LODGES

This is one of the most enjoyable parts of Freemasonry and, if invited, you should certainly accept if you are able to do so. It provides an opportunity to make new friends and see how other Lodges conduct their ceremonies. It is fair to say that no two Lodges are exactly alike!

If you are in any doubt about the ‘Regularity’ of the Lodge to which you have been invited, you should ask your Lodge Secretary to confirm that it is recognised, something which is mandatory if the Lodge is located overseas.

Whilst visiting is extremely enjoyable, you should not engage in it to the extent that it becomes detrimental to your family or working life. The same common-sense rule applies to every part of your Masonic activities.

Discuss visiting with your Mentor or Lodge Mentor.

## NEW & YOUNG MASONS’ CLUBS (NYMC) OR LIGHT BLUE CLUBS

New & Young Masons’ Clubs are often known as Light Blue Clubs. They are Masonry-based social clubs for all Brethren, irrespective of their age, who are below Provincial Rank (Dark Blues). There are already many such clubs in other Provinces and they bring New and Young Masons together in a less formal environment so that they can;

- Socialise
- Get to meet other masons and with friends and families
- Generally, enhance their Freemasonry whilst breaking down old taboos surrounding our organisation.

Some Masonic centres also have less formally named groups, such as a ‘Curry Clubs’ or ‘Forums’ where Masons meet just socially or to discuss Freemasonry in less formal surrounding out of the Lodge.

To find out more:  
New & Young Masons Clubs  
[www.nymc.org.uk](http://www.nymc.org.uk)  
Lincs Light Blues  
<https://www.linclightblues.org>

## CONCLUSION

**Whatever the service you provide to your Lodge and whatever the office you hold – remember it is but a step in your complete understanding of Freemasonry.**

You will undoubtedly encounter Brethren with a greater knowledge of Freemasonry than you, being impressed by the knowledge of your Mentor, the skills of your Worshipful Master or the confidence shown by Past Masters and Provincial and Grand Officers. Always remember that, like you, they continue to seek a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge. Freemasonry does not aim to make you better than the next man but does hope to make you better than you were. To make you someone who cares not just for his family, although this is your first duty, not just for the brethren in your Lodge, but also for the disadvantaged and vulnerable in our society. As a Freemason in the modern world, we can give you no better advice than to do unto others as you would have

them do unto you and to do all in your power to relieve the suffering of the less fortunate wherever you are able so to do.

**May you have many happy years in the Craft and most of all ENJOY**

### **Freemasonry.**

The saying that you only get out of something what you put into it is particularly relevant to Freemasonry. We hope that you will be able to share your enjoyment of Freemasonry with your family and friends through the many events which help take Freemasonry into the community via our social calendar.

Don't forget the time you were admitted to Freemasonry when you see a new Brother joining the Lodge. Ensure he is made welcome and continues to have a sense of belonging. Remember how you felt that day, help him and support him in those early days.

***INTEGRITY, TOLERANCE,  
KINDNESS, HONESTY & FAIRNESS***

## **SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

Outside your personal contacts within the Lodge, your Personal Mentor, the Lodge Mentor, and the Lodge of Instruction, there are many local, national, and international sources of information from a knowledge base that is growing every day.

Quatuor Coronati Correspondence Circle is the foremost masonic research facility in the world. Details of accessing this research are below.

The website 'Solomon' provides a forum for you to seek, learn, share, encourage,

support and promote masonic aims and practices.

You will also receive communications from Grand Lodge via the FMT Magazine, which will arrive quarterly through the post, and from the Province of Lincolnshire through the Masonic Lincs Magazine.

### **Here are details of a variety of sources:**

United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE)  
[www.ugle.org.uk](http://www.ugle.org.uk)

Provincial Grand Lodge of Lincolnshire  
[www.pgllincs.org](http://www.pgllincs.org)

The Province of Lincolnshire Year Book (Blue Book)

The Book of Ritual

The Peterborough Booklets

Grand Lodge booklet 'Information and Guidance for Members of the Craft'

Quatuor Coronati Correspondence Ltd.  
[www.quatuorcoronati.com](http://www.quatuorcoronati.com)

[solomon.ugle.org.uk](http://solomon.ugle.org.uk)

The UGLE research, learning and support website

FMT (Freemasonry Today)  
[www.ugle.org.uk](http://www.ugle.org.uk)

Ian Allen Lewis Masonic  
[www.lewismasonic.co.uk](http://www.lewismasonic.co.uk)

A source of printed Masonic material, including;

'Beyond the Craft' by Keith B Jackson

'The Freemasons Guide and Compendium' by Bernard E. Jones

## GENERIC MENTORING CHECK LIST – MASTER MASON

Personal Mentor:

Lodge Mentor:

	Date completed
Master Mason Ceremony & Mentoring Booklet	
Explain signs token & word (Ensure correctness of signs)	
Explain the Five Points of Fellowship	
Discuss reasons & benefits of joining the Royal Arch	
Freemasonry Governance	
Visiting Lodges	
New & Young Masons Clubs	
The Provincial Year Book	
Provincial & Grand Officers	
The Way to the Master’s Chair	
The Grand Lodge Certificate	
Lodge of Instruction/Improvement (LOI)	
Learning Ritual	
Contributions of a new MM to the Lodge	

## PERSONAL NOTES

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## **Acknowledgements**

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