

Discover Freemasonry in Staffordshire

INTEGRITY
FRIENDSHIP
RESPECT
SERVICE



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.



"In my thirties I was looking for something whereby I could contribute to society further and make a difference. By chance I met a few Freemasons and saw that what they were doing was both enjoyable and commendable. Becoming a Freemason has enriched my life in countless ways."

NICK
FORRESTERS 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.

"Friendship, camaraderie, and charity is epitomised by members of the Widows Sons West Midlands Masonic Bikers Association. We always like to swap formal attire for leathers, boots, and a helmet in the name of charity!"

TONY
CHARTLEY
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.



"Freemasonry is a bit of a family tradition; I followed my father and both my grandfathers were Freemasons. It's all about the values, traditions and friendships for me."

JACOB
ANDRESEY LODGE



"Curiosity eventually got the better of me and I followed my brother-in-law into Freemasonry and I have never looked back. I really enjoy everything about Freemasonry, my only regret is that I did not join sooner."

PHIL
STEWARDS 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.



"Like martial arts, Freemasonry for me breeds a special type of fellowship where likeminded people build life-long friendships."

SELWYN
ST EDWARDS LODGE

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.



"I enjoy Freemasonry because I can be an individual and a team player, can improve myself and help others, and know that there is always a new experience waiting if I so choose."

MIKE
STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT
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.



"Joining Freemasonry was an opportunity in sharing time with my dad, who has been a Freemason for as long as I can remember. I have made new friends with people of all ages and backgrounds and admire the charity work Freemasonry carries out country wide. Most of all I enjoy the ceremonies and the fun of the festive board."

PETER

ST EDWARDS LODGE



"Quite honestly, the day I joined still ranks as one of the greatest highlights of my life. My 20 years as a Freemason have been rewarding in terms of my own personal development, in knowing that I have made a difference, and in having enjoyed the company of so many others that I would not have otherwise met."

MIKE
MINERVA LODGE

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 wife saw how much I enjoyed my Freemasonry, it inspired her to join the Lady Freemasons."

DAVE
TRENT 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.



"After Masonic residencies in Glasgow, Yorkshire and Sussex, I finally settled in Staffordshire, where I was welcomed into Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge. My letter to the Lodge Secretary, asking if a Sussex Steward could join the Lodge, was answered by letter, with the first line reading, "Of course you can join our Lodge". I am immensely proud to be described as a Staffordshire Freemason!"

DAVID
FORRESTER'S LODGE

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.

"I am a Freemason with several disabilities. Freemasonry has provided fantastic support and guidance since my initiation. I came into Freemasonry via the Universities Scheme, and this has given me some amazing opportunities."

SAM
UNIVERSITIES LODGE
OF STAFFORDSHIRE



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; Lodge of XV No. 9944 in Essex, for example, is one of a vast number found throughout the country. The Lodge is for those who are also keen rugby fans. Other specialist lodges include a variety of sports, as well as motoring and young member lodges.

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.



To find out more about Freemasonry or for information
on how to become a member, please email
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www.staffordshirefreemasons.org.uk

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