

Discover Freemasonry in East Lancashire

INTEGRITY
FRIENDSHIP
RESPECT
CHARITY



Provincial Grand Lodge
of East Lancashire

What are your guiding principles?

Freemasons use four important guiding principles to help define their path through life: integrity, friendship, respect and charity.

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.



"Freemasonry is a great way to make new friends. It gives you the chance to grow as a person and share that knowledge with others. It's more than a brotherhood; it's a family."

ANDY
LODGE OF UNION

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.

"I'm proud to be a Freemason and would recommend anybody who is curious to come and enquire."

GARETH
ST MARTIN'S
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.



"The lessons taught have helped me in my personal life and my Lodge Brethren continue to amaze me in their dedication to each other and our wider community."

GARETH
ST MARTIN'S LODGE



"I've stayed because I've seen with my eyes, and felt with my heart, the love, care, friendship and support that Masons give each other in the Lodge and in the wider world."

ROGER
KNOWSLEY 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.

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.



“Freemasonry is a guaranteed social life. It’s the ability to grow as a person and extend what has been learnt to others seeking similar growth.”

CHRIS
IRON ROAD LODGE



“Being a Freemason gives you a chance to understand how to be the best you can be, amongst likeminded men. It gives you the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends.”

TERRY
ANCHOR & HOPE 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.

"I became a Mason because I believed I was joining men who thought in a similar way to myself. What I hadn't realised was that wherever you go to visit you are immediately among friends you had yet to meet."

COLIN
GRANTS LODGE



"Freemasonry is like being part of a fantastic story, you just want to learn more and more. While doing so, you meet new friends, that will stay with you for the rest of your life."

ANDY
GOOD REPORT 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.



"I joined because a good friend told me it was a wonderful organisation of men who believed that everyone of us can help in some small way, not just inside but outside Freemasonry. It's not about why I joined, but more about why I've stayed."

ROGER
KNOWSLEY 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.



"Freemasonry has complimented and helped me to understand my journey in life. I've also met new friends who will stay with me for the rest of my journey."

SONNY
FELICITY 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.



"A better bunch of lads I've yet to find."

ROGER
KNOWSLEY LODGE

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.

Freemasonry in East Lancashire

Freemasonry in East Lancashire has a long, fascinating and proud history – and pride is something which binds our members and knows no bounds.

Our reputation for charity, for caring to care, goes before us. Whether it is individual volunteering at a local level or working together to raise millions of pounds for the communities we live in and nationally, East Lancashire Freemasons lead the way. Why not join us and share that pride?



"I wanted to find out more about the history and rituals, and I ended up with that and more with the friends I've made."

MARTIN
NEW TRINITY LODGE



"I joined with a hope of advancing my own personal development along with getting involved with the various ritual and charitable events. I wasn't disappointed."

RYAN
ST JOHN'S LODGE

From Bacup to Bolton, Manchester to Mossley, many of our 26 meeting places have a fascinating history and are spread across the countryside and conurbations of our region. No matter where you live, Freemasonry is ready to give you a warm East Lancashire welcome. Our membership attracts a diverse range of ages, backgrounds, cultures, personal stories which enrich the experience of being an East Lancashire Freemason.

PROVINCE OF EAST LANCASHIRE

The Grand Master in London appoints a Provincial Grand Master to look after the management and administration of each of the Provinces. Each Provincial Grand Master is able to appoint a Deputy, a number of Assistant Provincial Grand Masters (dependent on how many Lodges are in the Province) and other Officers who serve the Province at a Provincial level.

To find out more about Freemasonry or for information
on how to become a member, please visit [www](http://www.eastlancashirefreemasons.org)

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OF ENGLAND

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