

The Royal Arch

In East Lancashire



Robert I Frankl
Most Excellent Grand Superintendent



EComp Tony Freemont
2nd Provincial Grand Principal



EComp Andrew Procter
3rd Provincial Grand Principal



EComp Paul Bowen
Deputy Grand Superintendent



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Keep an all-seeing eye out for random Royal Arch artwork





Dear Brethren,

The Members of East Lancashire are deeply shocked and saddened by the tragic event that occurred yesterday, Yom Kippur, at Heaton Park Synagogue.

The Synagogue was a wonderful host when we held our Celebration of Judaism in Freemasonry there in November 2021.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims, their loved ones, our Jewish Brethren and their families, and the wider community.

Robert

Robert Frankl
RW Provincial Grand Master





Foreword from the Deputy Grand Superintendent E.Comp Paul Bowen

Dear Companions,

This is my second Foreword to the Royal Arch Newsletter. Our Newsletter should be seen as a different way of communicating ideas and information from our Province to that used by 2nd Rising and is complimentary. It gives us a chance to consider masonic matters from the perspective of the Royal Arch within its newly emphasised role as the last step in a man's entry into Freemasonry.



In my last Foreword I said I believed this to be a very exciting time to be, or become, a Royal Arch Companion. The impetus coming from the Centre to accelerate the seamless progression of new Masons through the three Craft degrees using the 3 ceremonies performed in a Lodge and the fourth in a Chapter.

To my mind, it has increased the level of excitement still further.

We still need to be alert for opportunities to exalt Master Masons into the Royal Arch, but we need also to be aware that there is an expectation for every Master Mason to complete his entry onto his masonic journey through exaltation.

The Building Together website on Solomon is fantastic as is the Royal Arch section. They are full of interesting ways to make our meetings even more enjoyable, and I thoroughly recommend them to you and to your Chapters. Building Together has only recently been launched and really does provide a plethora of resources: please do have a look it, it will be time well spent. Please also consider inviting the Talking Heads team and the East Lancashire Royal Arch Presentation Team to bring both enjoyable and thought-provoking presentations into your Chapters and Lodges.

Together with the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, I am determined to see the aims of UGLE and SGC delivered in our Province. There is a real need in modern society for our organisation: it supports men and brings their lives direction. I am looking forward to continue working with you all to make this happen.

Can I thank everyone for their kind words following my wife's hospital admission. The thought is much appreciated.

I hope that you all continue to enjoy your Royal Arch Masonry in good health



What is Building Together from the 2nd Provincial Grand Principal E.Comp Tony Freemont



To understand Building Together we need to take a short trip through Masonic history (with thanks to David Blair, a Cambridgeshire Mason, but at one time a steward in both the Craft and Royal Arch in East Lancs).

On a Tuesday afternoon in October 1646, in Warrington, the first recorded Masonic initiation took place. Little is known about the attendees or the ceremony, however we do know that of the candidates - Henry Mainwaring and Elias Ashmole- one was a Parliamentarian and the other a Royalist. Even then, at the height of the English Civil War, Freemasonry was able to bring two men of opposing views together in an environment of brotherhood and mutual respect.

By 1717, Freemasonry had become so well established that the first Grand Lodge was formed. However, the fledgling organisation was far less structured than today. Only in 1723 with the advent of Anderson's Constitutions were our rules and regulations first set down.

Even a cursory reading of those rules and regulations provides an insight into the values of our founders. They remain recognisable and relevant and clearly differentiated the brotherhood from the plethora of Gentleman's drinking clubs that were so popular at the time.

This was the age of the Enlightenment. A time when a culture of tradition and superstition was being replaced with one of reason, science and individual liberty. Many of the great thinkers who drove that change were Freemasons. Their principles lie at the heart of modern democracy and remain central to the structure of society today.

Like all great things, Freemasonry is founded on very simple ideas. Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Explaining those to a potential member today in terms of what they might derive from membership we might describe them as Fun, Helping Others and Self Development.

It is the element of Self Development – being the best version of yourself that you can be- that continues to differentiate Freemasonry from other hobbies and pastimes. It enables you to develop personal skills by going outside your natural comfort zone in an encouraging and supportive environment where a misstep will neither incur the wrath of social media nor become a “career limiting move”.





Those skills are taught using a complex allegory which includes that of the Royal Arch. Building resilience is a key part of the journey and there is no fault in falling - the fault is in not getting back up. This is fundamental to the indissoluble link between the Craft and the Royal Arch and is reflected in that which was lost in the former being found in the latter.

To return to our historic theme, as the structure of Freemasonry evolved throughout the eighteenth century a difference in opinion emerged among senior masons regarding the role and purpose of the Royal Arch. This was ultimately resolved by the Act of Union of the Antients and Moderns in 1813 and has resulted in today's relationship of Craft and Royal Arch Freemasonry which is unique to the English Constitution.

But somehow over the last 200 years the origins of the Royal Arch and its place in Freemasonry have become blurred and the significance and importance of the Royal Arch diluted.

As an organisation we must never lose sight of our own constitution drawn up in 1813 and still fundamental to our organisation, that quite emphatically states: **"pure Antient Masonry" consists of three degrees: Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch**

Over the last few years, we have seen a gradual shift in the emphasis of the status of the Royal Arch in English Freemasonry towards that embedded in our constitution. At its most obvious has been the strapline One Journey, One Organisation. It set a scene but didn't embrace everything we stand for.

But in the last year and driven by the Pro Grand Master and Pro First Grand Principal, Jonathan Spence, the process of returning to our 1813 Constitution has accelerated, leading to an overt acknowledgement that exaltation into the Royal Arch is a key step in completion of entry upon a lifelong masonic journey. Whilst the Royal Arch should now be seen as a seamless extension of the Craft in terms of progression towards a Mason achieving his full potential, the challenge facing us all is in making this project a reality in East Lancashire.

This month sees the launch of this project led by our Provincial Grand Master and Most Excellent Grand Superintendent.

He has led the implementation of changes that represent profound alterations in the way we think about the Craft and the Royal Arch and embedded them into how the Province works. They will change mind sets, but only if they have the support of all of us.





We have a single Cabinet with members taking responsibilities across the Craft and Royal Arch. There is a single DCs team. Grand Officers can now be called upon to rep in the Craft and Royal Arch even if they hold Grand rank in only one. The L&D team now covers the Craft and Royal Arch as does the Comms team and Provincial acting appointments such as Mentor cover both.

At a national level when a man joins Freemasonry he now pays a single fee which enters him into the Craft and the Royal Arch. Just think what this means to him; from the moment of entry, a new Mason is effectively a member of the Royal Arch. I think this is exciting and relevant and I hope you do too.

To help drive forward the ideas and practicalities of this, United Grand Lodge and Supreme Grand Chapter have put together a comprehensive online resource with templates, presentations, lectures, quizzes etc to better enable us all to understand and achieve the true potential of this initiative. This is named "Building Together".

See: <https://www.ugle.org.uk/discover-freemasonry/blog/introducing-building-together>
<https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/course/view.php?id=142>

It replaces Pathway and Archway. It recognises some of the shortfalls of Pathway and the different approach taken by Archway, placing at its core the requirements for explaining why Freemasonry is attractive for men in the 21st century, the importance of a Mason completing his Journey through Initiation, Passing, Raising and Exaltation, and emphasises the absolute requirement of any organisation like ours to make our members want to attend, learn, teach, understand and enjoy, and to recognise and support those wishing to leave.

To help us to implement and develop Building Together the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent has asked one of our APGMs, Dave McGurty, to lead the team that helps us to embed Building Together into our Province. Dave has in turn asked Pip Titterton who is here today to manage the day to day activities of rolling out Building Together. Our LRARs and RAOs will be key to ensuring Building Together becomes seen as a key resource to drive understanding of the importance of the Royal Arch, but we all have responsibility for ensuring every Master Mason realises the value of completing his entry into Antient Freemasonry by being exalted.

I sense and hope Building Together will be with us for a very long time. After all, our Constitutional structure has already survived for 212 years, but like the genuine secrets of a Master Mason although we knew it was there the Indissoluble Link it has only recently been rediscovered and its significance recognised.





Thoughts from the 3rd Provincial Grand Principal

Hello Companions,

Welcome back to our new masonic season.

Six short months ago, I had one of my two genuine “Wow” moments in Freemasonry. The first was 20 years ago at my exaltation into the Royal Arch on my first view of the chapter room and the gathered companions; the splendour and the beauty. That was when I fell for the Royal Arch. The second was on being invested as the Third Provincial Grand Principal. As the companions of the province stood to acclaim my appointment, a huge bulb lit up in my head: I now really had to step up and ensure that I earned the respect being offered.



I said in my final article as ProvGDC that I was looking forward to continuing to serve the Province and the last six months have not let me down. I am as busy as I ever was as DC but it's a different busyness altogether and as they say...a change is as good as a rest! My role is also a little different from that of my predecessors. I will still be taking part in the various ceremonies and celebrations: I have already written my first oration and am looking forward to celebrations this coming season. I have also taken on a wider pastoral role and intend visiting every chapter during my term in office. (Scribes E, if I am not on your summons distribution list, please would you add me: 3PGP.East.Lancs@Gmail.com ?) Additionally, I personally contact companions who leave the Royal Arch, just to make sure they have a safe landing. I have also taken on the lead for all things military and much of that will be related to Armed Forces Covenant and will also be accompanying the MEGSupt to the National Memorial Arboretum to represent the Province at the National Masonic Remembrance Service on 1st November. I am being kept busy and thoroughly enjoying it.

Finally, one for every Companion to remember: all Royal Arch Masons should be membership officers. We are not having to go into the wider world for our new members, they are already members of our own lodges. If you have a brother who is not in the Royal Arch, have that conversation with him. The key piece of information for any brother asking why he should join the RA is that pure and ancient Freemasonry consists of four ceremonies, three in a Craft Lodge and the fourth in a Royal Arch Chapter. To explain a little: when the Premier Grand Lodge was formed, there were only two degrees.





Thoughts from the 3rd Provincial Grand Principal

As Freemasonry grew in popularity, the number of lodges grew, they met more often and at regular times and places. There was a need for more ceremonies. The Third degree in Craft followed by the Exaltation into the Royal Arch were the solution. They were written deliberately to complement each other: in the former something was lost, and, in the latter, that something was found. Until a brother has completed his exaltation and become a companion, he has not completed his masonic journey. There are lots of other good reasons to join the RA, but I don't plan to expand on them here. Instead, I will refer you back to my own very personal reason, that first "Wow" moment in Freemasonry.....and speaking to lots of Companions, I know I am not the only one!

Some of our early 17th century roots



Obverse



Reverse



Read more at:

<https://www.thesquaremagazine.com/mag/article/20220917th-century-and-the-holy-royal-arch/>

AutumnNewsletter 2025





Greetings from 2 of our two newest APGPs: Doug Smith Eastern Area

I feel truly honoured and humbled to have received an invitation from EComp Robert Frankl, our Esteemed Grand Superintendent, to serve as Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals for the Eastern Area. The official appointment was celebrated at the Provincial Grand Chapter meeting on Thursday, 20th March, held at the Tough Sheet Community Stadium in Bolton – an incredible and exciting milestone in my masonic journey. Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my



predecessor, Steven Boyle, for his years of distinguished service as Eastern Area APGP.

Most of the Companions in the area will already know me from my previous roles as a District Chairman. I'm looking forward to visiting all the Eastern Area chapters soon and looking forward to connecting with everyone!

For me, Freemasonry is more than just the ceremonies—it's about personal growth, friendship, and making a difference. I feel truly honoured to take on this new role, as it gives me a fantastic opportunity to serve the Royal Arch and be part of others' journeys.

East Lancashire has embraced the One Organisation principle, bringing Craft and Royal Arch closer together under the guidance of our Provincial Grand Master, Robert Frankl.

I'm genuinely excited to collaborate with the Provincial Grand Principals and to help promote the Royal Arch throughout the Eastern Area and beyond. It's an excellent opportunity for us to come together, share ideas, and support one another as we grow in our Masonic journey.

Just as every Worshipful Master is invited to Craft Installations, so too is a Principal from each Chapter welcomed to Royal Arch Installations. This "circuit" enables Companions to travel across the Area, experience different traditions, meet new friends, and gain fresh perspectives. In doing so, it strengthens attraction, retention, and retrieval.

The Royal Arch represents the pinnacle of Ancient Freemasonry, a lively and joyful order — a message we need to share to help those who wish to benefit fully from their Masonry. Our success depends on providing the Royal Arch Representatives in every lodge with the support and guidance they need to promote the virtues and values of the Royal Arch within their Lodges. But overall, have fun, laugh at our quirks, enjoy the friendships, and perform the ritual with sincerity.

My Strategy is clear: deliver growth while keeping Royal Arch Freemasonry fun, friendly, and fulfilling.





An important point and heartfelt thankyou from The North (Ed)

The 2026 festival is now approaching its zenith. Contributions to the charity have come from far and wide. Collective and individual. What I find most heart warming are not the donations made by Lodges, as impressive as they are. It is those made by RA Chapters.

In the Northern area, there are four Chapters that have become, or about to become Vice Patrons. The thing that impresses me is the fact that, as we know, Chapters meet less often than Lodges and generally have less members, and a lot of those members through their Lodges, and/or through personal

contribution, and yet Chapters still become Vice Patrons of the festival.

It is pleasing to see that Royal Arch members are really doing their bit to make this festival a success.



With thanks to the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

<https://virginiaroyalarch.org/paintings/>

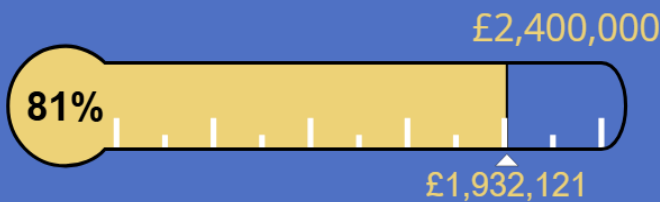




The PGLEL 2026 Festival Appeal



So far we have a Pledged Amount of £1,932,121 towards our £2,400,000 target!



The total Cash received to date, plus Gift Aid is £1,702,852 representing 71% of the total collected so far against our target figure

If you haven't been to the PGLEL 2026 Festival Appeal web site recently, you've got to visit. There is so much happening, and it's all fun in a serious cause. The link:

<https://eastlancashirefreemasons.org/the-pglel-2026-festival-appeal/>

Some stand outs are on the next few pages





**As you can see from the
“thermometer” at the top of the
previous page we are still a bit under
£500k short of our target.
Let’s go for a final sprint to our
£2.4m goal**

**Please consider making regular
donations through a Direct Debit no
matter how small. Regular donations
can still make a real difference
particularly as we can get Gift Aid.
You pay £10/month the Festival gets
£12.50**





The Province is twice blessed this year.
Not only are we in Festival, but we are also in our bicentenary year.
Many of our fun events celebrate both.

**BI-CENTENARY
CELEBRATION
DINNER
TIE & TINSEL 2025**

NOVEMBER
SATURDAY 29 6pm - 12am

BLACK TIE **JERSEY COASTERS** **£50**
BACK BY **POPULAR** **PER PERSON***
DEMAND

Cloister Suite, Holiday Inn, Bolton BL1 2EW

BOOK YOUR TICKETS
USING THE QR CODE OR
[CLICK HERE](#)

**East Lancashire Bicentenary
CHRISTMAS
FAIR**

Sunday 7th December 2025
2pm–5pm

£1 ENTRY CHILDREN FREE **VARIETY OF STALLS** **FREE PARKING AT CANON LEWIS HALL**

SANTA'S GROTTO 2–4PM
FOOD & REFRESHMENTS
GRAND RAFFLE – TO BE DRAWN AT 4PM
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
AND MORE...

**Hewlett Court, Newcombe Road,
Holcombe Brook, Bury BLO 9XJ**
01204 886 552
All proceeds to the EL Festival 2026

**Festival
Train**

**01
11
25**

**Quiz
3x course Meal
Raffle**

£45pp
Normal price £72 pp!

Journey across the East Lancashire Railway by Diesel Electric or Steam train*

**Departing from
Bury Station, Bolton St,
Bury BL9 0EY at 1pm on
1st November 2025!**

*Type of train dependant on the day.

**180 seats available,
first-come basis.
Payment must be made
to secure seats on the
train.**

**Book your place today
on the PGLEL website –
Upcoming Events**





Kevin Rawcliffe – 3 X 10Km runs in aid of the 2026 Festival

Festival 2026, Festival upcoming events

KEVIN'S FUNDRAISER FOR MCF EAST LANCASHIRE FESTIVAL

1



Completed 1 Hour & 31 Minutes

SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER
2024

2



East Lancashire Hospice 10k
Sunday 19th January 2025

SUNDAY 19TH JANUARY 2025

3



SUNDAY 7TH
DECEMBER 2025



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Those exalted 40, 30, 20 and 10 years ago.

Congratulations to all those celebrating 40 and 10 years in the Royal Arch between 21/03/2025 and 10/10/2025

40 YEARS

Christopher Graham Adamson	07 October 1985
Michael Abraham Bernstein	02 October 1985
Christopher John Ogden	01 July 1985
Ian Robert Bronks	02 May 1985
Norman Cope	19 September 1985

30 YEARS

John Walter Taylor	27 March 1995
Nigel Paul Bird	05 June 1995
David Dunn	28 September 1995
Thomas Hugh Forrest	21 September 1995
Martin Gilbert	09 October 1995
Paul Aspinall	07-Jun-95

20 YEARS

Gordon Leslie Cox	26 April 2005
Alan Brown	22 September 2005
Steven Francis Holmes	13 April 2005
John Edward Green	17 October 2005

10 YEARS

Edward William Beaman	13 May 2015
John Martin Gee	19 May 2015
Alan Peter Holderness	02 October 2015
Martin Francis Holland	01 October 2015





Chapter 44 in Copenhagen

Some 10-15 years ago The Chapter of Friendship being numbered 44 and home to the East Lancashire Royal Arch Presentation Team was asked to exalt masons from the Grand Lodge of Denmark. With the appropriate permissions, the Chapter did just that.

The enthusiasm these Companions had for the Royal Arch led to the Grand Master of the Danish Order of Freemasons granting permission to consecrate Royal Arch Chapters in Denmark. With support from the Provincial Grand Chapter of Hertfordshire, Chapters were established and administered to meet the requirements of the United Grand Lodge of England. This ultimately led to the consecration of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Denmark (DSGC) in 2023, in Copenhagen, with Jonathan Spence, our Pro First Grand Principal presiding. Members of Chapter 44 were present at the consecration and have been invited back to Denmark for subsequent DSGC meetings.

Meanwhile Danish Companions, some very senior in Danish Royal Arch Freemasonry, remain members of Chapter 44 and regularly attend our October meeting.

This year 6 English C44 members attended DSGC, but because of our Danish Companions many more C44 members were present to witness the new 1st Grand Principal being Invested.

The picture below is interesting. The back row consists of 8 members of C44. The Companion on the right is the Grand Sword Bearer of DSGC, and his son-in-law on the left lives in Denmark but his only Chapter membership is C44. At the centre of the front row is the GM and 1st Grand Principal of the Danish Order of Freemasons whilst the 2 people on his left, the Pro 1st Grand Principal and 2nd Grand Principal are also members of C44.





We were royally entertained in wonderful surroundings. Although the ceremony was conducted in Danish it so closely followed our ceremonies it was easy to keep up.



The Grand Lodge and Chapter Room, Copenhagen, Denmark

During the ceremony, each Chapter gave a report, made possible by Danish Royal Arch Freemasonry being still in its infancy, the 1st Grand Principal was invested, and a wonderful lecture was given in Danish, but with handout translations in English, German and French because of the range of distinguished guests from around Europe (including the PGM of Hertfordshire)

The lecture was given by a young man, Comp. Ronni Holm Hansen, Principal Sojourner, Ravenscroft Chapter nr. 2303. It was so interesting and pertinent I will be sharing it with you in the next Newsletter





Red Table - Presentation Paper:

Introduction and Aims

Good Evening Brethren and welcome to this particular Red Table event which is taking place at [] Chapter No. [].

Those of you with a keen eye will notice that the name is very familiar.

Often a Chapter is closely allied to a specific Craft Lodge from which it takes both its name and number.

One of the conditions used to be that Royal Arch Chapters had to be attached to a specific Lodge.

This requirement no longer applies.

If a Lodge to which a Chapter is attached closes, the Chapter can transfer to another Lodge or retain its name and number and work independently.

About Me and Aims of the Evening

Those of you that know me will know me as WBro [] but here I am known as Comp [].

We are all Companions (Companions comes from two Latin terms meaning together' and 'bread' so the meaning is 'Companions share their meals with one another'.

The Royal Arch Companions also have to work together and this is shown in the Exaltation Ceremony when a Brother enters the Order.

The Aim of this evening is to whet your appetite a little about the Royal Arch by explaining the history and how it is closely linked to the Craft, to explain the major players and then to take questions, which we will do at the end and outside the Chapter.

So What Is It All About?

If you remember back to your three Craft ceremonies.

The Entered Apprentice deals with a rebirth, the Fellow craft Degree looks at the way you live your life, your morals and the way you act with your fellow man through the principles of Integrity, Friendship, Respect and Service.

The Third Degree then makes you reflect on your own mortality, your inevitable destiny and the fragility of life.





Sound Advice From a Past Deputy Grand Superintendent

In the Royal Arch, we are invited to reflect and contemplate on our own spiritual well-being - our relationship with God in whatever form our Supreme Being presents himself to us.

The Royal Arch creates a different set of challenges for most Masons in that it presents the final instalment of our Masonic journey based in a later time, complete with new characters and crammed with interesting new facts, terms and expressions. It is also framed within a Chapter filled with colourful banners, ensigns, objects and symbols. All of which represents a quantum leap in Masonic knowledge. Yet most Chapters only meet four times a year and some less.

It was often said that the Royal Arch was the completion of a Masons journey and was sometimes referred to as the 'the fourth degree' as the story told here follows on from where it left off in your Third Degree.

In the Third Degree we are shown how the true secrets of a Master Mason are lost due to the untimely death of our Master Hiram Abiff as he was murdered by three ruffians. So we are told we are to use substituted secrets.

The Royal Arch teaches us those true secrets through the next stage in the story, the outline of which is.....

The Story

Imagine we are now 500 years after the dedication of Solomon's Temple. King Solomon has long since died. Jerusalem has since been attacked by the Babylonians, the city and its once magnificent temple have been destroyed and its inhabitants taken into captivity into Babylon where they have remained for 70 years.

The Babylonians themselves have been defeated by Cyrus the King of Persia. Cyrus has recently issued a decree allowing the descendants of the Hebrew exiles to return to their native land where they can begin to rebuild the Temple in dedication of their God.

In the Ceremony of Exaltation, you are one of those exiles returning and you are seeking work in helping to rebuild the Temple. You are accompanied by Sojourners or journeyman builders.

This ceremony is interesting in that it actually takes place in four different locations as the story unfolds.

The Chapter room and the furniture you see represent the building site of the second King Solomon's Temple and with the help of the Sojourners, your fellow





Sound Advice From a Past Deputy Grand Superintendent

workers, it is here through this ceremony that you will discover the true secrets of a Master Mason.

This Brethren, is as far as I can go at this point!

The Characters

Brethren, as you look around you will see the Chapter is laid out very differently to the way you are accustomed in your Lodge, the players are different and the way we are dressed is much more colourful.

I would now like to introduce you to the main players in this story, but would first point out that.

In a Craft Lodge there are three principal officers, the Master and the Senior and Junior Wardens, with the Master in overall control.

In a Royal Arch Chapter there are also three principal officers, the difference being that there is no one officer with overall control and that they work as a team.

The three Principal Companions are Zerubbabel (1st Principal), Haggai (2nd Principal) and Joshua (3rd Principal).

Zerubbabel was appointed Prince of the People and governor of Judah, Haggai the Prophet and Joshua the High Priest

They work closely together throughout the Exaltation Ceremony and at all other proceedings in the Chapter.

Cyrus thought that he would be better served by the Jews with them working willingly in their own country, than by trying to control them in prisons in Babylon. He also knew that they would think God had influenced his mind to release them.

He therefore felt that they would be more controlled and wouldn't come back at him because of his good deed.

In fact, the work began, but Cyrus died before his promise could be fulfilled and his successor, Cambyses, stopped the work.

Darius, who succeeded Cambyses, agreed to complete the work.

Accordingly, Zerubbabel accompanied by Joshua the Priest, returned to Jerusalem to carry out the undertaking; the Jews; being comforted and encouraged by Haggai the Prophet.





Accordingly, as a matter of history, Zerubbabel, Joshua and Haggai were associated only at the time of the resumption of work under Darius, and not in the days of Cyrus a hundred years earlier.

So who are the Officers of a Royal Arch Chapter?

Officers to read their own explanation of their respective roles:

Zerubbabel

I represent Zerubbabel, meaning Son of Babylon, was one of King Darius's bodyguards. Darius gave his bodyguards a test of wisdom and was so impressed with Zerubbabel he said he could have anything he wished.

Instead of jewels and material goods, he asked that Darius fulfil a decree from his predecessor in allowing the Jews to return to Israel to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.

Darius granted his request and made him Prince of the People

Haggai

I represent Haggai, who was a prophet at the time of Zerubbabel and in 520 BC he urged the Jews to rebuild the temple, foretelling of its future glory, saying that as long as God's house is not rebuilt, the life of the Jews would be tainted, but that divine blessing would reward their renewed zeal and that they and Zerubbabel would receive divine blessing. Work on the temple was resumed three weeks later.

Joshua

I represent Joshua, who was also born during the captivity of Babylon. He was a Levite appointed by Hezekiah to distribute offerings in the priestly cities and became the first High Priest after the return under Zerubbabel. He was the son of Josedech also a high priest and grandson of Seriah, who was the high priest at the time of the 1st Temple. Joshua was the ancestor of fourteen future High Priests.

Ezra and Nehemiah

I represent Ezra, who went to Jerusalem in 457 BC to carry offerings for the service of the Temple and re-established the laws of Moses, before returning home to Babylon, only to return again thirteen years later, becoming actively engaged with Nehemiah in carrying out important works, before returning back to Babylon, where he died.





Sound Advice From a Past Deputy Grand Superintendent

I represent Nehemiah, who was a noble in the service of the King of Persia and was sent to Jerusalem in 445BC, as Governor, to protect the welfare of the Children of Israel and to organise the rebuilding of the city walls and fortification of that desolate city. With the aid of Ezra, Nehemiah took a census of the people, had the Law publicly read, celebrated the Feast of the Tabernacle and re-instated the Day of Atonement. He too returned home to die in Persia.

Narrator resumes:

The Sojourners

As we have already seen, you join with three fellow journeymen or Sojourners who are also seeking work on the new Temple at Jerusalem.

You four work as a team and ultimately it is you who makes the discovery of the secrets lost in the Craft Third Degree.

The Chapter Itself

We have already said that the Chapter represents the building site and as you can see there are various tools and building materials to help you in your undertaking.

You will also notice a number of banners on three sides of the Chapter.

These banners represent the 12 tribes of Israel, the descendants of the twelve sons of Jacob.

The four principal banners sit at each side of the Triple Tau and represent the four leading tribes of Israel: -

Judah, represented by a Lion;

Ephraim represented by an Ox;

Reuben, represented by a Man; and

Dan represented by an Eagle.

I've just mentioned the Triple Tau, Our symbol and worn on our jewels and aprons probably came into the Royal Arch in the first decade of the 19th century.

It's origin as far as the Royal Arch is concerned centres on fusing the letter 'T' onto the letter 'H', forming what looks like the three capital 'T's', or Tau Crosses, the lower part of each tail meeting at a central point; signifying Templum Hierosolyma; the Temple of Jerusalem.





Sound Advice From a Past Deputy Grand Superintendent

When you join the Royal Arch, you will see that the number three is very significant to the workings of the Chapter....enough said for now!

Regalia

You will notice that the regalia we wear is very similar. The aprons and jewels only vary in subtle colours.

Closing

That Brethren is almost the end of the presentation. I hope I have fulfilled my Principal aim, that of whetting your appetite leaving you with something to think about without giving too much away about what is a most wonderful ceremony of Exaltation.

Brethren, the Book of Constitutions tell us that pure antient Freemasonry consists of three degrees and no more, viz, the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft and the Master Mason, **including** the Supreme Order of the Royal Arch.

In recent years there has been a move for the Craft and the Royal Arch to “work seamlessly together” and the profile of the Royal Arch has been raised considerably - you are all familiar with the now often used phrase –

"One Journey, One Organisation"

The Duke of Kent is the head of both the Craft and the Royal Arch from UGLE in London and our own Provincial Grand Master is also our Most Excellent Grand Superintendent heading up both in the Province, thus emphasising that closeness and the strength of the bond between the two Orders.

Joining the Royal Arch should be a natural step for a Craft Mason and one that he takes when the time is right for him and before joining any other Order – of which we are supportive.

In fact, at the Pro Grand Master, RT WBro Jonathan Spence's Business Meeting held in Autumn 23, the Pro Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons stated the importance he placed on joining the Royal Arch when he said....."The Royal Arch should not be considered a means to an end but an integral part of the Brethren and Companions' understanding of the route their Masonic journey should take – again first and foremost the Three Degrees including the Royal Arch."

One final thing to mention in closing, is that if you are thinking of joining other orders in the future such as the Knights Templar or the Rose Croix to name a





Sound Advice From a Past Deputy Grand Superintendent

couple, then of course that is your choice to make. However please consider that membership of the Royal Arch should be your primary and most logical next step, before joining any other order, so that your journey from the Third Degree is completed.

You need to join when you are ready and you will encounter Brethren (or Companions) you may already be acquainted with in the Craft, they will just look a little more colourful!

E.Comp H Basger



Modern day Royal Arch Tracing Board



Cana Chapter Tracing Board is one of several 18th century Royal Arch Tracing Boards still in existence

<https://www.eastlancashirefreemasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Lancashire-PGMs.pdf>

