The Royal Arch
Discover More

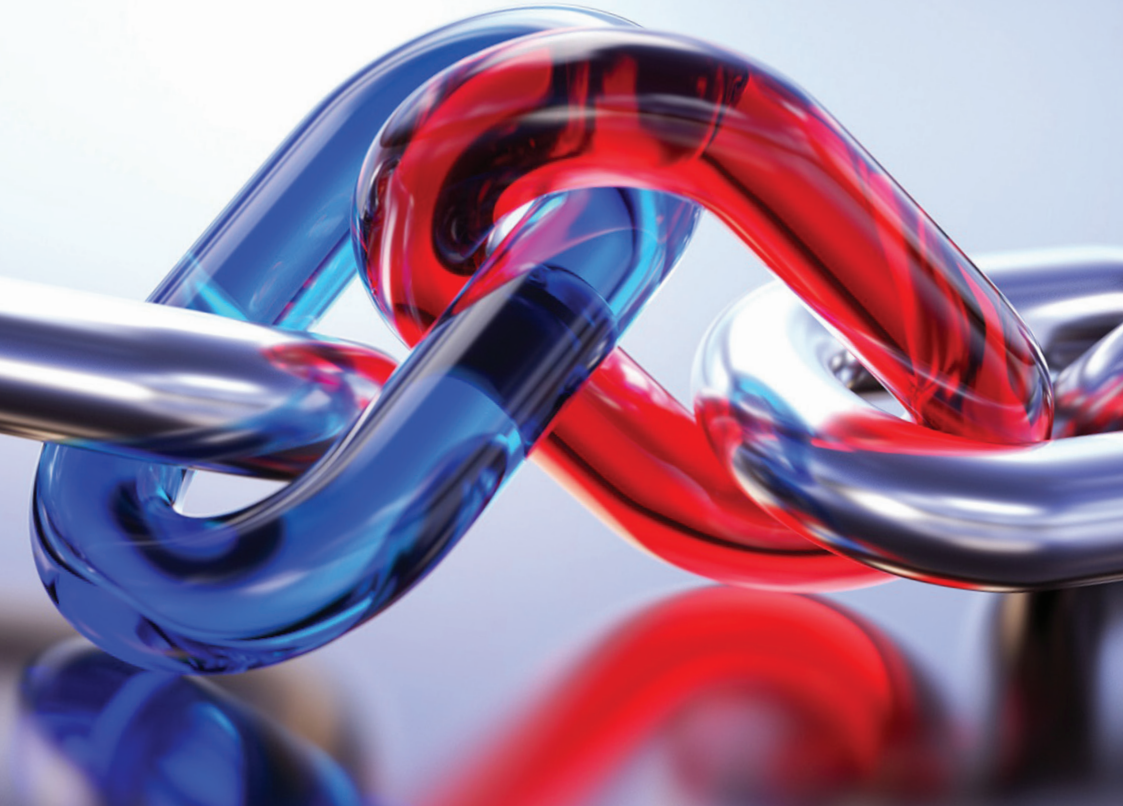
CONTINUE THE JOURNEY

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER
OF ESSEX

UNITED GRAND LODGE
OF ENGLAND

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER
OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS
OF ENGLAND

One Journey
One Organisation



From Initiation to Exaltation

Every Master Mason should aspire to continue their journey from Initiation in the Craft to Exaltation as a Companion in the Royal Arch.

When the Antient and Modern Grand Lodges came together to form the United Grand Lodge of England in 1813 they declared that 'Pure Antient Masonry' consists of three degrees—the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason *including the Royal Arch.*

This declaration still stands at the front of our Book of Constitutions and means there are four parts to a Freemason's journey. For historical reasons, the first three are governed by UGLE, while the Royal Arch is governed by the Supreme Grand Chapter of England—but in real terms we are one organisation.

Because of this link, our Grand Master automatically serves as the First Grand Principal in the Royal Arch, and many other senior roles are also shared.

This connection makes English Freemasonry unique around the world and represents an important part of our history and heritage.

Discover More

Whether you have just been Raised or have been a Master Mason for some time, you probably have questions, such as *what is next?, how do I discover the secrets that were lost?*, or even perhaps, *what does it all mean?*

You might also be wondering how to enjoy more of what Freemasonry has to offer and how to expand your social circle beyond that of your own Craft Lodge.

The Royal Arch provides answers to these questions and is where you will discover more.

Photo by Kenji Kudo

"When I joined the Royal Arch, I did so not because I was told that I should–it was because I thoroughly enjoyed my Freemasonry. I was keen to find out more and extend my knowledge of Freemasonry in general."

RICHARD
GRANITE CHAPTER NO. 2028, LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND

Continue the Journey

"What I love most about the Royal Arch is not just the beauty of the ritual, but its depth. I feel like every time I perform a different part of it, it unlocks something new and meaningful. I just know that for years and years to come I'll always be discovering new depths to the ceremonies."

GUR
BARNATO CHAPTER
NO. 2265, LONDON

When you become an Entered Apprentice Freemason, you are placed in the North-East corner of the Lodge to represent the foundation stone of a new building, and are encouraged to *raise a superstructure perfect in all its parts and honourable to the builder.*

Your Initiation is the beginning of a lifelong journey in which you discover more about who that builder is.

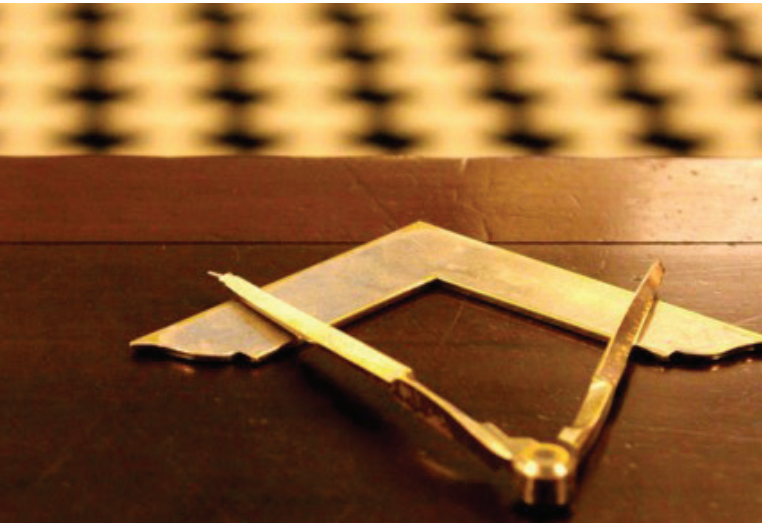
The degrees you pass through on this journey contain allegorical lessons that aim to help you live a better life in harmony with others, and serve as an example that benefits society. But even though the world has changed much since the Eighteenth Century when these allegories were first conceived, the principles involved are just as important now as they ever were.

Follow the Clues

By the time you become a Master Mason, you have learnt a lot on your masonic journey and made great progress. But you also learn that the journey is not finished because the genuine secrets of a Master Mason remain lost—this implies there is more to learn.

In the Royal Arch, you complete this journey and recover the true secrets of a Master Mason through a spectacular, colourful, and dramatic ceremony you will remember forever.

But the 'genuine secrets' you discover in the Royal Arch are not what you might think they are—they are even better.



"I joined the Royal Arch to complete the story which began in the Craft. I stayed for the deeply rich, atmosphere-laden ceremony."

PHIL
THAMES MARINER CHAPTER NO. 8628, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Enjoy Companionship

You also learn the important lessons of companionship and collaboration—just as the three original Grand Masters worked together to build King Solomon's Temple, everything in the Royal Arch is done as part of a team.

This emphasises the further friendship and companionship to be found within the Order, and the important value of working together in harmony with others.

"I can't tell a Brother when they will be ready for the Royal Arch, but I can tell them it is worth every minute that they spend talking to those who have already joined. I look forward to enjoying many more years on this journey with the fantastic new companions I will share it with."

SCOTT
HAMPDEN CHAPTER NO. 6483, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

In addition, what you learn as a Royal Arch Mason encourages you to act as an example to support and inspire others.

Discover Answers

If you have enjoyed the three Craft Degrees, then you will be pleased to know there is still more left to discover in the Royal Arch. You will not fail to be impressed by the splendour and drama in the Ceremony of Exaltation when you join—and you will learn more about the story behind the rebuilding of King Solomon's Temple.

You will also have a fantastic and enjoyable time on your journey—and make many new friends and Companions whilst doing so.

As the journey unfolds, you will start to understand Freemasonry in a whole new way—your understanding of the nature and duty of the 'builder' referred to at your Initiation will be clarified, and you will begin to understand how to build the superstructure that is 'perfect in all its parts'.

"The ceremony was absolutely brilliant—we couldn't ask for any more from those involved—it was a fantastic experience—we loved it."

ADAM & ARNOLD
TALKING TOGETHER IN A RECENT PODCAST ABOUT BEING EXALTED TOGETHER IN ROYAL CHESHIRE CHAPTER, NO. 89, CHESHIRE

Freemasonry in the Twenty-First Century

The journey through Pure Antient Masonry and the discoveries each person makes in the Royal Arch are very personal. But you will discover that, even today, these allegories still represent valuable lessons we can all learn from—and enjoy in the process.

By applying what we learn on this journey, we can indeed become *honourable to the builder* in a way that would still be recognisable to those who first developed these messages hundreds of years ago.

Aspire to discover more about Freemasonry, and more about yourself, by continuing your journey from Initiation to Exaltation in the Royal Arch.

The Next Chapter

What will I discover?

Answers	Follow the clues from the Third Degree to complete your journey in Pure Antient Masonry
Companionship	Work together with old friends and new Companions to build on the principles of the Craft
Splendour	Learn more about our history in a spectacular ceremony you will remember forever
Yourself	Uncover new perspectives that will support you in a personal journey of discovery

When can I join the Royal Arch?

You are eligible to join the Royal Arch four weeks after you have been made a Master Mason.

It was sometimes said in the past you should wait until you have gone through the Chair of your Lodge before joining—but this myth is based on outdated ideas, and on old rules that no longer apply.

The simple answer is that you should find the most suitable Chapter and join at a time that is right for you.

Just like in the Craft, there are many different Royal Arch Chapters, each with their own history and traditions, as well as many special interest Chapters.

So just ask your Lodge Royal Arch Representative for advice, or contact John Singh the Essex Provincial Royal Arch Membership Officer.(john.singh@EssexPGL.org.uk) Or just speak to anyone wearing a Royal Arch Jewel—they will be pleased to help you complete your journey.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF ESSEX

www.essexroyalarch.org.uk

for more information contact john.singh@EssexPGL.org.uk