

Discover Freemasonry in Norfolk

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.



"The friendship, the camaraderie and the sense of belonging I have felt since joining are incredible. I just wish I had done it years ago."

LEE
NORFOLK BROADS
LODGE
WROXHAM

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.

“Freemasonry mixes people from every corner of life, it's given me the tools to learn from my new found friendships, creating strong foundations and morals for me to live my life by.”

RICHARD
UNANIMITY LODGE
NORTH WALSHAM



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.



"Being amongst honourable people, which Freemasonry allows, teaches us all the value of integrity. The bond we have, and honesty we share, reminds us of the importance of this virtue and how we apply it to our daily lives to become integral pillars to each other and our own communities."

CHRIS
EAST NORFOLK LODGE
GREAT YARMOUTH



“At an individual level, being a Freemason individually gives me an enormous amount of pride and self-achievement, I encourage and support my brothers through the dark days and happy times. Together we are one wherever and whomever the brother may be and jointly we achieve great things every day.”

MICK
BRECKLAND LODGE
THETFORD

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.



"In the early stages of my Masonic journey I have already noticed the camaraderie of the fellow masons. It's not a token gesture but a genuine expression of friendship. As a new member you are never left alone at a meeting. Someone always notices you, comes over and immediately introduces themselves thus laying the foundations of a new friendship."

STEPHEN
NORFOLK FARMERS LODGE
FAKENHAM

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.



“Wherever you are, in your own lodge or visiting another, you are surrounded by men of similar principles and virtues to your own; your Brothers. There is always a strong feeling of fraternity, friendship and support wherever you are or whatever you are doing in Freemasonry, which I am sure is totally unsurpassed elsewhere in our society.”

NEIL
MONTGOMERIE LODGE
DISS

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.

“Our meetings give the opportunity to meet with brethren from all age groups and a vast range of backgrounds and professions, all united by their membership of and belief in Freemasonry.”

DANNY

LODGE OF

UNITED FRIENDS
GREAT YARMOUTH





“Through its ceremonies Freemasonry brings us all together, regardless of background, profession or beliefs. If you listen and take heed the ceremonies also impart wisdom, providing a moral approach to life by encouraging kindness and compassion for the less fortunate, while pointing out the importance of family and charity.”

STEPHEN
RICHARD GURNEY LODGE
WYMONDHAM

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.

We enjoy a great relationship with them as of course we are united by the same principles. Many of Norfolk’s Lady Freemasons are the partners of our members, bringing family ties to our support of each other.

For further information about female Freemasonry, visit the links below:

The Order of Women’s Freemasons (OWF) www.owf.org.uk
The Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons (HFAF)
www.hfaf.org

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 membership encourages me and helps me in supporting charity, both by small financial inputs at our meetings and by more practical hands-on support where its needed. It's great knowing that my contributions are managed so effectively by the Masonic Charitable Foundation."

GARY
BISHOP HERBERT LODGE
DRAYTON

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.



“My Freemasonry has opened up links to my local community I never knew existed. It feels great to be able to help and support and to have fun while I’m doing it.”

BEN
LENNE LODGE, KING’S LYNN

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic Norfolk’s Freemasons have worked to ensure that help has been provided where and when it was needed. From food parcels for those that are struggling, to funding shelter for the homeless, the provision of Personal Protective Equipment for front line workers and the funding of vital antibody test equipment at the University of East Anglia, we have provided support across Norfolk where it was needed most.

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.

"Freemasonry gently pushes me and encourages me to achieve things I never thought I could do, always supported by my Brothers."

STEVE
FRANCIS OF
LORRAINE LODGE
NORWICH



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

Norfolk has over 70 Lodges meeting at locations all across the Province. Working with the Provincial Membership Team, we can help you to find a Lodge that would best suit your personal needs around location, meeting times and character of the Lodge. The Membership Team can be contacted via: www.norfolkfreemasons.org.uk

Discover Norfolk's Masonic Heritage

Norfolk boasts a long masonic history, dating back to 1736 when Union Lodge, our oldest Lodge was first consecrated. Union Lodge still meets today at Norwich, carrying on the rich traditions of Norfolk Freemasonry.

Originally, Freemasons Lodges would have met in rooms at local pubs and coffee houses. We can now boast bespoke Centres at locations all across Norfolk. Some of our Lodges though retain a little of this heritage as they still meet in local Village Halls and Church Halls, setting up the room each time a meeting is held.



“From Palladianism to the Vernacular, our masonic centres reflect the diversity of our members. One thing you can be sure of whatever the style is a warm welcome.”

TRACY

ST. WINNOLD LODGE
DOWNHAM MARKET



"I really enjoyed the Museum. Discovering a hidden gem of impressive collections and displays spanning over 275 years in Norfolk's colourful history of Freemasonry."

BRIAN
CABELL LODGE
NORWICH

Our Centre at Norwich, also the administrative base for the Province, includes the museum of Norfolk Freemasonry. Open to the public with free admission, the museum gives an insight into the history of the Province and includes exhibitions highlighting particular aspects of Norfolk Freemasonry and its Lodges.

You can find further information about the museum, including opening times and current exhibits at:
www.facebook.com/NorfolkMuseumOfFreemasonry

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE

The Province's showcase meeting is our annual Provincial Grand Lodge meeting where members from every Norfolk Lodge come together in a celebration of the Province and its members. We also invite our friends from other Provinces to join us for this very special day. The size and scale of this meeting means it is not possible to hold it in one of our centres, so it meets at The Halls in Norwich, providing one of the most spectacular settings for any meeting of Freemasons, anywhere in the world.



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UNITED GRAND LODGE
OF ENGLAND

www.ugle.org.uk



MUSEUM OF
FREEMASONRY

www.museumfreemasonry.org.uk



Masonic
Charitable Foundation

www.mcf.org.uk

 [UnitedGrandLodgeofEngland](https://www.facebook.com/UnitedGrandLodgeofEngland)

 [@UGLE_GrandLodge](https://twitter.com/UGLE_GrandLodge)

 [@unitedgrandlodgeofengland](https://www.instagram.com/unitedgrandlodgeofengland)

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To find out more about Freemasonry or for information on how to become a member, visit us at www.ugle.org.uk