

## How to Join

The basic criteria are:

- Have a personal belief in a Supreme Being (the definition of a Supreme Being is a personal matter for each individual)
- Not have a criminal record
- Be of good character

There are many misconceptions related to becoming a Freemason, the most common one is that

“you have to be invited”

That is certainly not true, in fact you have to want to join. Historically, before we became as geographically mobile as we are today, members of a community would probably know someone who was a Freemason, and when they wished to join a Lodge the process was relatively simple, provided that the basic criteria were met.

These days, men interested in joining may not know of a Freemason that lives in their community. If you don't know a Freemason, then make contact with us at the email address below.

When approached we endeavor to introduce that person to local members who would then invite them, often with their partners, to social events until they were better known to the Lodge members.

Should they still desire to join, they would be proposed and seconded, and after a successful ballot in the Lodge, would be Initiated as a member.

E-mail [outreach@pglm.org.uk](mailto:outreach@pglm.org.uk) if you want to know more.



### Middlesex Freemasons

Provincial Grand Lodge of Middlesex  
Provincial Office  
Cole Court, 148 London Road  
Twickenham  
Middlesex TW1 1HD

Phone: 020 8891 3300

E-mail: [outreach@pglm.org.uk](mailto:outreach@pglm.org.uk)

[www.pglm.org.uk](http://www.pglm.org.uk)

### United Grand Lodge of England



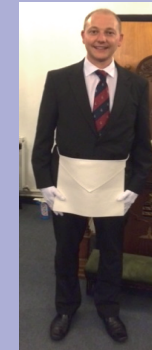
[www.ugle.org.uk](http://www.ugle.org.uk)

### The Grand Charity

[www.grandcharity.org](http://www.grandcharity.org)

All about  
Freemasons

Interested ?



[www.pglm.org.uk](http://www.pglm.org.uk)



## Interested?



### Charity

Charity and benevolence are a basic teaching of Freemasonry. Members have always been involved in charitable activities.

There are a number of Masonic charities actively involved in the community for the care of young people, orphans, the sick, the aged, medical research and services and those affected by natural disaster. Money is raised through National, Provincial and Lodge level initiatives.

A small portion of a member's contribution is paid through the annual membership fee, directly to The Grand Charity.

Other contributions are entirely voluntary, members are constantly reminded that whatever they contribute must be "without detriment to his family"

### How often do Lodges meet?

In Middlesex, Lodges generally meet formally 4-5 times a year. The majority of Lodges meet on weekday evenings between September and May, starting around 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm.

Some Lodges meet on Saturday evenings and a few meet in the daytime.

Additionally, most Lodges hold more informal classes of instruction weekly or fortnightly during the same period, they normally meet around 7.30 pm.

### What does it cost?

There is an annual membership fee which varies from Lodge to Lodge but is currently around £200-£260 and this figure will mostly include dining costs.

There is an initial joining fee to cover administration costs.

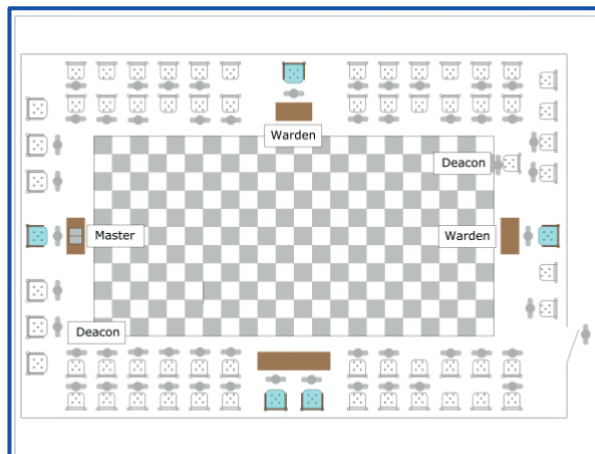
Aside from a small portion of the annual membership fee, Charitable donations are an individual choice.

### What goes on in a Lodge?

Lodge meetings are in two parts, the first being the meeting itself and the second being the "Festive Board".

At the meeting; - Lodge business is transacted; Degrees are conferred on Candidates, and every year a new Master of the Lodge is installed. The meeting usually lasts around 1½ — 2 hours.

After the meeting itself, members would normally adjourn for refreshments for a short period, before dining together at "the Festive Board", which generally consists of a three course meal and a few traditional formalities.



### What is a Lodge?

The word "Lodge" to Freemasons means both a group of Masons meeting in a place and the room or building in which they meet.

Masonic buildings are also sometimes called "temples".

While there is some variation in detail, Lodge rooms today are generally set up similar to the diagram above.

### What is the process?

There are three basic degrees (stages) in Freemasonry, Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason.

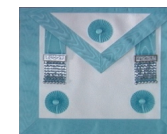
This is much the same as the system employed by the traditional stone masons, where the apprentice stone mason would progress through stages of learning until he became a fully qualified craftsman.



Entered  
Apprentice's  
Apron



Fellowcraft's  
Apron



Master  
Mason's  
Apron

### Is Freemasonry a secret society?

Freemasonry is certainly not a secret society but, in common with most organisations, it does regard some aspects of its activities as confidential.

If Freemasonry is a secret society, it's the worst-kept secret in the world!

### Those 'Secrets'

Developed long before our modern day modes of communication, and before City and Guilds certificates, these signs and passwords are still used by Freemasons to identify one another and to establish their degree or level of attainment in Freemasonry.

Today, these modes of recognition are used solely as a ceremonial means of demonstrating that one is a Freemason when in Lodge meetings, or when visiting a Lodge where one is not known.

**They are not used outside the Lodge meeting.**