



## PROVINCE OF WEST LANCASHIRE

### **GUIDANCE FOR THOSE INQUIRING ABOUT FREEMASONRY FROM THE INTERNET**

*With an increasing number of inquiries reaching us via the internet, we have prepared this advice for potential candidates so they, and lodges, can better understand how to take things forward.*

-----

Thank you for your inquiry about becoming a Freemason. We are delighted that you are interested in joining us.

It is very important to understand that there is no 'central' joining system in Freemasonry. All Masons belong to their 'Lodge', which is a local group of men, comparatively autonomous, who share an outlook or approach to life and so bond together to make their Lodge work. There are four hundred Lodges in our Province alone.

Therefore, in any given locality, there is likely to be more than one Lodge, and in some places (such as the centre of Liverpool) many. It is essential, if he is to enjoy his Freemasonry, for a candidate to find the right Lodge for him: one where he feels at home and has things in common with the other members, and so wishes to contribute to its work. The regular day on which they meet (typically monthly except during the summer) may also be an important factor for you.

For a candidate to be elected as a member of a Lodge, at least two of its members must be prepared personally to propose the candidate for membership. It follows that they first of all must know the candidate sufficiently well to believe that he will fit into their particular Lodge. Ultimately all the members must vote formally on the suitability of the candidate before he can become a member.

It is therefore essential that both the Lodge and candidate take time to get to know each other, and to that end the Lodge would invite him, and his partner if he has one, to their social functions. This process can, and should, take some time. It is also likely that the candidate will be formally interviewed by a committee of the Lodge.

Now that we have received your request to be introduced to a Lodge or Lodges near you, we will pass your name on to one of them, initially, and they will be in touch with you. The more information about yourself you can provide for us, the better will we be able to find a Lodge in which you might settle down well, and enjoy your Masonic life.

For a variety of reasons, a particular Lodge might decline to take your interest in them further. Some Lodges are full: some have a particular age-range in mind; some only take candidates from time to time. That is entirely up to them.

We are very happy to continue to advise you on suitable Lodges, but the process of joining is in their hands. You may need to be patient, but we wish you every success, and will offer you every assistance, in finding the right Lodge for you.