



Here's what some of our members say....

"The ceremony, whilst rich, thought provoking and based on actual historical events, is shared out between the members. The ambience within a chapter is more relaxed than in a craft lodge. It is generally accepted as the 'Thinking Man's Freemasonry' yet is not unduly demanding on one's time commitment or pocket."

*"The support, encouragement and friendship of other **Freemasons** close to **me** allowed me to learn more as a companion as they were prepared to discuss and explain to me the significance of what went on and helped me through the offices along the journey."*

*"The Royal Arch gave me the opportunity to quickly become fully involved in another Masonic body and take part in interesting and colourful ceremonies. It seemed less hierarchical than my mother lodge and I felt that my opinion and contribution was more appreciated. It tied up the loose ends left behind by the **Craft** story and had a much more uplifting conclusion."*

"I value and enjoy the Royal Arch because it upgrades and enhances the Solomonic story started in Craft."



For further information please speak to your lodge Royal Arch contact, your group's Royal Arch lead or contact Mike Threlfall who is one of the Province's Assistants to the Provincial Grand Principals by email: mikethrelfall@me.com



PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER
OF WEST LANCASHIRE

The Royal Arch:

What am I missing on my
Masonic Journey?



Why is the Royal Arch for
YOU?

What is the Royal Arch?

The Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch, often referred to as 'chapter', is the progression of a journey upon which every Mason starts out at his Initiation.

Long ago, the Royal Arch ceremonies would have been worked in every Craft lodge, like yours, because it was claimed to be the 'completion' of the third degree. It is now more often described as a completion of a journey through 'Pure, Antient Masonry', forming a seamless thread which goes back to a brother's first night in Masonry.

Many have found the Royal Arch to be a most rewarding and enlightening step for every master Mason to take. *Why?* It is the logical step to take after your third degree, perhaps when you have got to grips with the Craft degrees and what they teach. *Why?* Because, whilst the Craft degrees are compelling and full of valuable life-lessons, it only takes a Mason so far? Again, *Why?* Do you not think that there are gaps in Craft Masonry after the third degree? Do you ever wonder why the third degree ends in death, with no resolution or hope? What do you think are meant by 'substituted secrets'? ***Do you want to know more ?***, because there is so much more to know? And the Royal Arch is that step of further discovery.



Why Me?

The Royal Arch takes the master Mason further into a bigger story which began with King Solomon in the Craft and guides him to continue his Masonic journey in different directions, by the retelling of dynamic stories and all within a drama of deeper meaning. It could be said to be the 'Indiana Jones experience in Freemasonry'!

Yes, it has a keenly religious and spiritual dimension, which is very uplifting. **Yes**, it also has some wonderful ritual to hear and learn which is very inspiring and rewarding. **Yes**, it is very different from the Craft degrees, but wonderfully so. It offers a new perspective on what it is to be a Freemason, in which you will meet new friends and fulfil new roles.

You may have seen and wondered where the colourful regalia comes from, whilst in your Masonic Hall. In the Royal Arch ceremonies, a companion experiences a spectacular and special moment, when he emerges from the darkness of the third degree and into a true and great light in Masonry, which is revealed to him for the first time in a new and unexpected way. It is reflected in the layout of the chapter room and in the fine regalia of its members, the companions. The artefacts, robes, regalia and ritual of the Royal Arch provide a rich canvas against which the Mason takes another step along the journey of knowledge, wisdom even, and a process of self-reflection with a clear spiritual focus and promise.

When and Where?

When to join? When you feel ready for more! Ask members of your lodge for advice and guidance. There will be a Royal Arch contact nominated to answer such queries and give you the best possible start to what might be the best decision you will ever make in Freemasonry. After joining you will soon appreciate the close ties between the Royal Arch and the Craft, and, as others have found, it will enrich your understanding and appreciation of the Craft as you gain experience and enjoyment in this delightful and inspiring degree.

Royal Arch chapters meet fewer times than Craft lodges, usually three or four times a year, which is reflected in the significantly lower fees asked of its members. You will meet new friends and see people you already know in different roles, which will surely raise your estimation of those brethren and provide you with fine role models.

Give it some careful thought and ask some questions of the right people. Be prepared for some surprises and to be embraced into a whole new adventure. And who knows, a new world of interest may open up for you! The Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch.

