

PROVINCE OF EAST LANCASHIRE
Prepared by the Education and Training Committee

A CANDIDATES GUIDE TO FREEMASONRY

We hope you will become a member of our lodge and, having been proposed for membership, it will be necessary for a ballot to be taken in lodge. If successful you will be initiated. There is nothing untoward in any of this; indeed every member of this lodge and every member of all lodges who follow the Regulations of the United Grand Lodge of England will have experienced all you are about to enjoy. Contrary to frivolous media comment and remarks of those who have no knowledge of Masonry, there is nothing sinister or unbecoming in our rituals. On the contrary, it is fair to say they are extremely enlightening and, we hope, thought provoking.

Should there be anything you require clarifying, you know that you can always turn to your proposer and/or seconder now and in the future. Indeed when you become a member of our lodge, every Brother will be only too delighted to assist and advise you so that you may enjoy and have a successful 'career' in Freemasonry.

You should, however, know that we have a Lodge Mentor whose specific role is to compliment that of your proposer and seconder in order to ensure that the early months of your involvement with our lodge are happy and successful. Hopefully this will leave you with anticipation for the future and remove any feelings of anxiety.

On the day of your initiation you will be given a Candidates Manual. It is intended to be 'user friendly', for your assistance for the months to come, to give you a better insight into the lodge and its workings and into Freemasonry in general and to assist you in your learning and making the path along which you have taken the first steps a thoroughly pleasurable journey.

Again, it is emphasised that we, in general, and especially your proposer, seconder and Lodge Mentor are here to ensure that your Masonic days are enjoyable and rewarding.

The lodge and your helpers

Your proposer and seconder, who are obviously well known to you, will be only too delighted to help and assist you in gaining Masonic knowledge and understanding once you have become a candidate. Before being initiated you will be informed of your initiation fees,

subscription requirements and any other financial commitments. Your proposer/seconders will be happy to discuss with your family any reservations they may have and will supply any information they may request.

In addition to the assistance provided by your proposer/seconders, our lodge Mentor will be there to ensure that your introduction into our lodge in particular and Freemasonry in general will be a happy and memorable experience for you.

Needless to say, every member will feel a sincere desire to help you, remembering how much they appreciated the support which they received when they were in the same position as yourself.

What a Candidate should know.

- 1. Masonry consists of a body of men, banded together to preserve the mysteries, privileges, customs and ceremonials handed down to them for the purpose of mutual intellect, social and moral improvement. Its members endeavour to cultivate and exhibit brotherly love, relief and truth (friendship, charity and integrity), not only to one another but, to the world at large.**
- 2. A basic condition of admission into, and membership of the Order, is a belief in a Supreme Being. This is essential and does not allow any compromise.**
- 3. Masonry recognises no distinction of religion and, whilst inculcating in each of its members a duty of loyalty and citizenship, it does not permit any of its members, either in lodge or in their capacity as Freemasons, to discuss theological or political questions in the lodge or at the social board.**
- 4. Masonry offers no pecuniary advantages, does not bind a Mason to deal with another or provide him with any support in the ordinary business relations of life.**
- 5. Masonry has certain Charities but it is not in any sense a benefit society. The Charities are solely for those who have been overtaken by misfortune, adversity or health problems.**
- 6. Masonry teaches that a man's first duty is to himself, his wife or partner, his family and his connections. No one should join the Order who cannot afford to pay the Initiation fees, the subscription to his lodge and make donations to the Masonic Charities, without detriment to the comfort and well being of those who have a claim on his support.**

7. **Therefore, everyone, offering himself as a candidate, should be well assured in his own mind that he;**
- Sincerely desires an intellectual and moral improvement in himself and his fellow creatures;
 - Is willing to devote part of his time, his means and his efforts, in the promotion of brotherly love, relief and truth;
 - Seeks no commercial, social or pecuniary advantages and
 - Is able to afford the necessary expenditure without detriment to himself or his connections.

*** * ***

NAME OF:

CANDIDATE.....

PROPOSER.....

SECONDER.....

MENTOR.....

Copies of this text can be obtained in leaflet form from the Secretary of the Provincial Education and Training Committee. Gordon Haworth, 124 Bolton Road, Chorley. PR7 3EZ. Tel:01257 262626

OCTOBER 2003.