

# MEMBERSHIP:

Freemasons are the type of people who like to live morally, are good citizens, treasure traditional and family values and desire to make a difference in the world by supporting their communities and through charity. Membership is open to all men



Sir David Trippier  
Provincial Grand Master

regardless of religion, political persuasion, career, wealth or social position. In fact the only qualifications for membership are being of good reputation and having a belief in a Supreme Being.

**You will** be joining an organisation that, through its commitment to personal development and the understanding of morality through the Lodge ritual, distinguishes itself from nearly all other social groups in Britain. Beyond this, every Freemason will tell a different story about what matters most to them out of the social, caring, charitable, traditional and other activities.

**You, with support from and for your family,** will be joining a respected voluntary organisation whose ideals could and should be embraced by

all those who believe in tolerance, kindness and integrity, in a world today which badly needs tolerance, kindness and integrity so very much.



# DISCOVER MORE:

Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet and we hope it has offered an interesting introduction to Freemasonry in East Lancashire.

There is more information about Freemasonry and membership on our website:

[www.pglel.co.uk](http://www.pglel.co.uk)

There are Masonic Halls across East Lancashire from Clitheroe and Colne in the North to Salford, Manchester and Audenshaw in the South, from Blackburn and Bolton in the West to Todmorden and Mossley in the East. Come and visit to find out more; we will be pleased to see you.

For General Enquiries about Freemasonry and membership in the Province contact:

**The Provincial Membership Officer**

**Henry Bentwood**

Freemasons' Hall

Bridge Street, Manchester. M3 3BT

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**LOCAL CONTACT:**

# FREEMASONRY

in

# East Lancashire



AN INTRODUCTION  
TO MEMBERSHIP



# About Freemasons

When you become a Freemason you are joining a worldwide fraternity with millions of members. We meet together in Lodges and one of the joys of Freemasonry is visiting other Lodges in your local town or area, or in just about every major town or city in England. In fact there are Lodges throughout the United Kingdom and many other countries across the globe.

Wherever one chooses to visit, Freemasons can be sure of a genuine and warm welcome from their fellow members and, as part of the Masonic community, you will always find access to new friends should you move, relocate or are working away from home.

Freemasonry provides its members with countless opportunities to make new friends from all walks of life, all sharing a desire to enjoy their membership and a desire to help others. At a local level you will find many social events such as dining nights, Ladies evenings, garden parties, golf, ladies luncheon clubs & tea afternoons, sportsman's dinners and wine tasting evenings. Many Lodges arrange weekends or days away. Regional events include annual balls, caravan and car rallies, clay pigeon shoots and so on. All members of the family and our friends are actively encouraged to take part.



# Inside the Lodge

Freemasonry has its origins in antiquity and probably descended from the masons who built the cathedrals in the middle ages. As we know it today, Freemasonry began in England in 1717 (almost 300 years ago). The masons' guilds accepted good men who were not members of the mason's craft and within the Lodge ritual was developed.

Ritual is in fact a series of plays based on moral codes and lessons taken from many cultures and civilizations. It is rich in symbolism, regalia, music and ceremonial work and its purpose is to help men to understand themselves and the world in which they live. We learn how to develop better relationships with others and can become better fathers, husbands, colleagues, friends and citizens.

After the Lodge meeting (which lasts for up to an hour) we usually dine together in a formal or informal setting, normally enjoying a meal or buffet with the opportunity to socialise with other members and guests. Most Lodges meet between 4 and 8 times per year in the evening, between September and May. There may be committee and ritual rehearsal meetings in between.

Many are able to improve their social, organizational and administrative skills, and gain in self confidence as they become more involved within the Lodge. There is an amazing sense of accomplishment when you have done your part. Lodge work is dramatic, entertaining, sometimes challenging and can be serious, but it is always enjoyable.



# Charity and Care

From its earliest days Freemasonry has promoted charitable work; indeed fund raising and work for those less fortunate represents Freemasonry in action. Nationally, regionally and

locally we have well managed registered charities that support both Masonic and non-Masonic good causes. For example the Freemasons Grand Charity has given over £100M to other charities during the last 30 years (more than any other charity except the National Lottery). It supports every hospice in the country, as well as giving hundreds of thousands of pounds for disaster relief, medical research and for children's causes.

East Lancashire has its own Provincial Charity which has a community fund to support local charity work and provides funds to assist Masons or their dependents in distress.

The Lodges across the Province collectively give to help their local community, often donating at 'Giving Events' where thousands of pounds are given to the recipient charities. Many Masons are actively involved within these charities. Lodges and the Halls in which they meet frequently run fund raising events; what better way to raise money than whilst enjoying oneself with family and friends socially. The 'Feel Good' factor that comes with assisting those in need in a structured way really can't be quantified.

