

WHAT REGALIA DO ROYAL ARCH COMPANIONS WEAR?

The regalia worn by Companions of the Order consists of a white apron with red and blue edging, a red and blue sash



and a breast jewel with a ribbon coloured according to rank



Companion



Principal or Past
Principal



Provincial Grand
Rank

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?

Help and information can be obtained from the Royal Arch Representative within your lodge or contact the Provincial Scribe E on 0116 254 5325 (key option 6 then option 1)

or email: chapter@pglleics.co.uk

or write to: Provincial Scribe E, Freemasons Hall, 80 London Road, Leicester, LE2 0RA



ROYAL ARCH MASONRY



Noel Manby

The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent

“I would like to introduce you to Royal Arch Masonry – your next regular step as a Master Mason – and I do encourage you to take that step”.

WHY THE ROYAL ARCH DEGREE?

Because the Royal Arch is the culmination of a four stage journey through Pure Ancient Masonry. Having taken your third step and been Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason you are now eligible for your fourth step and can be Exalted into the Supreme Degree of the Holy Royal Arch.

WHY DOES THE ROYAL ARCH COMPLETE THE CRAFT DEGREES?

Craft masonry teaches us a moral code based upon the Five Points of Fellowship and the three great principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. A candidate proclaims from the outset a belief in a Supreme Being but the Craft does not explore this relationship.

In the Royal Arch we take our researches further by focusing on a man's spiritual well-being and his spiritual awareness of his God, his Supreme Being in whatever form that takes. Thus the Royal Arch leads us from the practical to the spiritual aspects of our earthly existence and the journey from the Third Degree in the Craft into the Royal Arch brings a happy conclusion to what would otherwise be an incomplete tragic story.

WHAT HAPPENS AT ROYAL ARCH MEETINGS?

These take a similar form to Craft meetings in that we open the "Chapter", approve minutes, present certificates, carry out elections, present reports, etc. However the main part of the meeting is the ceremony of Exaltation of a new candidate which takes the form of a play. This recounts the rebuilding of King Solomon's temple by the children of Israel on their return from their Babylonian captivity.

There are also associated lectures explaining the historical, symbolical and mystical knowledge of Royal Arch Masonry.

WHICH CHAPTER SHOULD I JOIN?

There is no hard or fast rule. Most Brethren prefer to join a Chapter associated with their Mother Lodge where they may be best known; others choose to broaden their Masonic circle by joining a Chapter at another centre.

Your Royal Arch Representative will be able to help but the choice is yours. Either way you will be sure of a warm welcome but be careful to consider the meeting and rehearsal dates to avoid clashes with your Craft commitments.

A full list of the 26 Chapters in the Province can be found in the Provincial Year Book or on the Provincial website: pglleics.org.uk/royalarch

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Subscriptions vary from Chapter to Chapter but as they only meet three or four times a year these costs are usually more modest than in Craft Masonry. There will be an Exaltation fee to pay on admission and new regalia to buy as in the Craft.

It is usual, but not compulsory, to dine after each meeting and dining costs are similar to the Craft and dependent on the centre being used.

Collections for charitable causes are a regular feature, but members contribute only what they can afford, without detriment to themselves or connections.