

Discover Freemasonry

INTEGRITY
FRIENDSHIP
RESPECT
SERVICE



DISTRICT GRAND LODGE
OF SOUTH AFRICA, EASTERN DIVISION

What are your guiding principles?

Freemasons use four important guiding principles to help define their path through life: integrity, friendship, respect and service.

In today's world filled with uncertainty, these principles ring as true as they have at any point in the organisation's history.

One of the oldest social and charitable organisations in the world, Freemasonry's roots lie in the traditions of the medieval stonemasons who built our cathedrals and castles.



"Whilst I have only had the honour of being a Freemason for a year, I'm humbled to have found the intimacy and warmth of our brotherhood, an experience truly unlike anywhere else."

CHRIS

ALBANY LODGE,
GRAHAMSTOWN

Membership is open to people from all backgrounds and the organisation's aim is to empower members to be the best they can be – it's about building character, supporting members as individuals, and helping them make a positive contribution to society.

"Freemasonry is so much more than a hobby, it's a way of life. Its core values guide me daily."

ROWAN
ST. FRANCIS LODGE,
HUMANSDORP



Freemasonry provides a structure for members to come together under these common goals, enabling people to make new friendships, develop themselves and make valuable contributions to charitable causes.

■ INTEGRITY:



Building good people

Rather than working on buildings like the masons of old, today's Freemasons focus on building themselves as people of integrity, and membership provides the structure to help achieve that goal.



"By being around just and upright people who apply the teachings of Freemasonry to their daily lives, you naturally follow their example, and learn to also apply those teachings to become a man of integrity."

IAN
ZETLAND LODGE,
FORT BEAUFORT



"You try to build yourself into a better human being, into somebody who doesn't necessarily take the easy way out or do easy things, but tries to do the right things."

PIETER
PORT ALFRED LODGE,
PORT ALFRED

At an individual level, being a Freemason gives members a sense of purpose, supporting and guiding them on their journey through life. Collectively, members are bonded through a sense of unity and equitability – principles fundamental to Freemasonry.

THE HISTORY OF THE HANDSHAKE

Historically, stonemasons travelled from place to place to secure work. At this time, handshakes were commonly used as a means for stonemasons to identify themselves, proving their level of experience and indicating what position they held. Today, in recognition of this practice, handshakes are used ceremonially as a way of identifying the various levels within Freemasonry.

FRIENDSHIP:

Building together



Friendship

One of the oldest social organisations in the world, Freemasonry is not defined by an ideology.

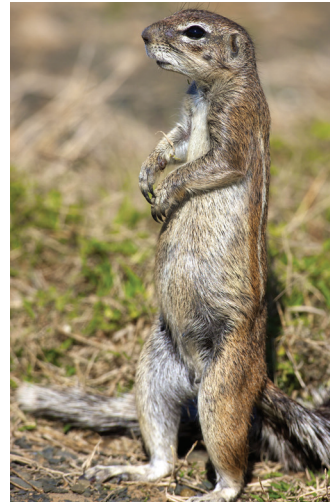
It is open to people from all religions and political persuasions, and provides the common foundation for friendships between members, many of which will last for life.



"Being a Freemason is a bit like having a second family. The shared experience of having gone through the same ceremonies creates a bond of mutual trust and friendship with all masons whether you know them or not, and many of my closest friends today are people I first met through Freemasonry."

CRAIG
BORDER KEI LODGE,
KING WILLIAM'S TOWN

Being a Freemason means something different to each person who joins, but whether looking to make acquaintances or develop their own potential, all members share a sense of togetherness that strengthens their ability to succeed and grow.



"The bond of friendship is stronger in Freemasonry than anywhere else I've ever experienced. I have a wider, more diverse circle of friends than I ever thought possible."

SHAUN
ST. PAULS LODGE,
ADELAIDE



BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS FOR LIFE

From university schemes, to new masons clubs, to special interest lodges, Freemasonry gives members many opportunities to make friends for life. Finding bonds with people who share common interests and meeting people from all different backgrounds are only some of the ways Freemasonry can help cultivate lasting friendships.

RESPECT:



Respect

Building unity

Our membership is drawn from communities across the country and the world. Freemasonry brings people together irrespective of their race, religion or any other perceived differences that can divide us as a society.

*"I love how inclusive
Freemasonry is.
We respect and
welcome men from
all walks of life,
no matter your
background, race,
religion or what
you do for a living.
You are assured a
warm welcome."*

ALEXANDER
BUFFALO LODGE,
EAST LONDON





“Through its ceremonies, Freemasonry allows me to reflect on myself and the principles I value in my life. My experiences in Freemasonry helps to encourage respect for others and integrity of actions in my day-to-day life.”

JAMES
FOREST LODGE,
ALEXANDRIA

Our members are proud to be Freemasons, and they are encouraged to talk openly about what the organisation does and what it means to be part of it.

FEMALE FREEMASONS

There are two female-only Grand Lodges, the Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons (HFAF) and the Order of Women Freemasons (OWF). The HFAF and OWF follow exactly the same ritual and wear the same regalia as male Freemasons – and they often work closely with community and charity projects.

Female Freemasons Annie Besant and Charlotte Despard were prominent figures in the push for universal suffrage in the early twentieth century. Besant was a British theosophist and women’s rights activist who also established the first UK lodge of the International Order of Co-Freemasonry (Le Droit Humain) in 1902. Despard, an Anglo-Irish suffragist, pacifist and novelist, was a founding member of various reformist organisations whose presence lives on today in the North London pub named in her honour.

SERVICE:



Service

Building compassion

Kindness and charitable giving are deeply ingrained within the principles of Freemasonry. The organisation provides a support structure that helps members make positive contributions to communities and worthwhile causes through fundraising events or volunteer work.



"Freemasonry encourages me to think about what charity really means to me and why it is important. Giving to charity through my individual lodges and the Masonic Charitable Foundation also gives me confidence that my donations go straight to the charities in full."

ISAAC

CHARLES EGAN LODGE,
UMTATA

Individuals can make an important contribution at local, national and global level by giving both their time and money. Thanks to their efforts, Freemasonry is one of the largest charitable givers in the country. Charity has always been a core principle of Freemasonry and we're proud of our 300-year history of helping those in need.



"Contributing at local charitable events makes me feel deeply connected to my community. When I stand back and see how Freemasonry contributes globally, the sense of pride I feel is incredible."

KOBUS
FRERE LODGE,
ALI WAL NORTH



FREEDOM OF THE CITY

In 1894, facing financial crisis, Manchester City Football Club was offered a helping hand by the Freemasons. In acknowledgement of the organisation's act of charity, the club adopted Masonic colours, giving them the light blue shirts that are so recognisable to football fans today.

Membership

The United Grand Lodge of England is our governing body. In total, we have more than 7,000 lodges spread across the four quarters of the globe.

Membership is open to any man over the age of 18 irrespective of their race or religion, and woman are invited to join one of two female-only Grand Lodges: The Order of Woman Freemasons and the Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons.

"I enjoy the seriousness of the ceremony but I also enjoy the after proceedings and the laughs we have."

STEVEN
GOODWILL
LODGE, PORT
ELIZABETH



Lodge meetings are typically held in two parts. The first involves more administrative procedures, such as proposing and balloting for new members and receiving news about charitable fundraising.

The second part focuses on ceremonies, which might relate to areas such as the admittance of new members or the installation of the Master of the lodge and his officers – a process made up of three degrees, or stages, each one marked by a special ceremony.

True to the sense of friendship and togetherness among Freemasons, meetings are also social events, providing an occasion for members to dine together.

Outside of the lodge, activities include community fundraising and volunteering activities as well as a varied programme of events where spouses, partners and families are welcome.



FINDING THE RIGHT FREEMASONRY FOR YOU

Freemasonry has a long and rich history in the Eastern Cape. There are lodges in the cities and several small towns. Each lodge has its own story and unique character, reflecting the principles and traditions of Freemasonry. A warm welcome awaits you in every one of them.

District Grand Lodge of South Africa, Eastern Division

The history of Freemasonry in South Africa can be traced back to the late 18th century, when the first lodge was founded in Cape Town.

The First lodge in the Eastern part of the Cape Colony was founded in 1828, following the influx of British immigrants to the Albany area. Freemasonry flourished, as more lodges were established in the newly formed towns and military outposts in the Colony and area which would become the Orange Free State.



*"Through participating
in lodge meetings, I
have gained confidence
to speak in front of
large audiences in my
professional life."*

KEVIN
FRONTIER LODGE,
QUEENSTOWN



"Although I never met my late grandfather, I was warmly welcomed into his lodge and now experience all that he enjoyed about Freemasonry."

LAWRENCE
MERIDIAN LODGE, CRADOCK

These lodges were administered either from Cape Town or London. The geographical distance posed challenges for communication and administration, and eventually in 1878, the District Grand Lodge of South Africa, Eastern Division was created. Adjustments have been made to the Masonic boundaries over the years and today, the District Grand Lodge administers lodges in the region that corresponds roughly to the current Eastern Cape province.





DISTRICT GRAND LODGE
OF SOUTH AFRICA, EASTERN DIVISION

Please contact us to find out more about Freemasonry or for
information on how to become a member.



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UNITED GRAND LODGE
OF ENGLAND

www.ugle.org.uk



Masonic
Charitable Foundation

www.mcf.org.uk