

Why should I join? There are many reasons which are often at different levels of importance to the individual Mason.

As outlined here exaltation provides a wonderful opportunity to enhance the understanding of ourselves. It provides an opportunity to meet new people and make new friends in Freemasonry; and it can also provide a gateway to other Masonic Orders and widen your enjoyment of Freemasonry beyond your mother Lodge.

Above all it is an Order to be enjoyed.

What Next?

Every Lodge will have a Royal Arch Representative who can help give you advice but there will always be many Brethren who will be eager to give advice and make necessary introductions.

Simply look for someone wearing one of these jewels shown overleaf, and they will be delighted to help.

Whenever you take the step we can promise you a warm welcome and a happy evening amongst friends.



Or contact the Provincial Scribe Ezra (the equivalent of the Provincial Secretary) at scribe@royal-arch.org.uk.

Provincial website:-

<http://www.royal-arch.org.uk/>

 Twitter:-

@WarksRoyalArch

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Warwickshire Royal Arch News



Warwickshire Provincial Grand Chapter



**'I want Exaltation to be an
aspiration for every
Freemason'**

E Comp Philip Hall

**A Message from E Comp Philip Hall
Most Excellent Grand Superintendent
Warwickshire**

Thank you for taking the time to read this brief introduction to the Holy Royal Arch.

Shortly after you took your obligation as an Initiate the Worshipful Master informed you that 'there are several degrees in Freemasonry, and peculiar secrets restricted to each'. Each of the three wonderful Craft degrees explores various stages of your life; your birth and infant nurture; your education and responsibilities to society; and finally, to contemplating your inevitable destiny. The third degree leaves you, however, with some unanswered questions. This is where the Holy Royal Arch steps in.

It may be that you have just been raised to the degree of a Master Mason; it may be that you may have been a Master Mason for some time; you may even have been through the Master's chair but whatever your experience we hope that this leaflet helps answer some of the questions that you will have about making your next most important step in Freemasonry into the beautiful and colourful Holy Royal Arch.

So, what is the Royal Arch?



In the degrees you received in the Craft you were taught that Freemasonry is a system of morality, based on a belief in The Great Architect of the Universe and promoting brotherly love, relief and truth as the rule for your journey through life. But the Ceremony of Raising implies that there is more to learn, urging us to think beyond our routine existence. The Royal Arch develops this theme and teaches us that the true secrets of a Freemason are to be found within ourselves.

Because the Royal Arch continues the themes which were revealed to you in the Craft it was once stated to be the completion of the Third Degree, indeed you may now hear it described as the 'fourth step'. But perhaps the best description is that it is the completion of your journey through 'pure

and ancient Masonry' and is undoubtedly a most rewarding and enlightening step for you to take.

What are the Royal Arch Ceremonies?

Apart from the annual Installation Ceremony there is only one ceremony which is called the 'Exaltation' of a new Companion. After the darkness of the Third Degree this is a colourful, enlightening, and memorable ceremony of profound significance and impact.

The story told contains some of the most delightful lines of Masonic ritual and concerns the re-building of the Temple after the exile of the Israelites in Babylon. The historic timeline is some 500 years after the building of King Solomon's Temple – the focus of the three Craft degrees.

Most Chapters hold three or four meetings a year and the annual subscription is generally much smaller than those of Craft Lodges. The meeting is followed by a convivial festive board.

The deeper meaning of the ceremony may take some time to understand, but from that dawning of understanding comes an inner awareness and self-knowledge from which we may all benefit deeply.