



PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF SOMERSET

HOLY ROYAL ARCH REPRESENTATIVES GUIDE

Craft & HRA Representative Co-ordinator – E Comp Neil Hurcum

email: craft-coord@somersetroyalarch.org

Introduction

Thank you for taking on the role as your Lodge's Holy Royal Arch Representative, a role I hope that you will find both interesting and rewarding as you engage, encourage, enthuse and follow the progress of your Craft Brethren in completing their journey in Pure Antient Freemasonry.

Previously the HRA Representative received little guidance or support, which is why we have published this short guide to help you in your role, and to encourage a greater visibility of the Holy Royal Arch in your Craft Lodge.

Your Lodge Secretary will have received from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset the enclosed letters (Appendix 1 & 2) which you may have already seen, if not they are here for your reference. They explain how the role is viewed by both Orders.

Our role is to engage with the Master Mason, enthuse him to consider that there is more to learn and to discover that which was lost, and to encourage eventual progression to him completing his journey in Pure Antient Freemasonry.

“No Mason should be joining other orders without first completing their journey in Pure Antient Masonry by becoming a member of the Holy Royal Arch”

25 APRIL 2019

AN ADDRESS BY THE ME FIRST GRAND PRINCIPAL HRH THE DUKE OF KENT

I know many of you are very experienced Freemasons and the Province appreciates very much your continued enthusiasm and help in promoting the Royal Arch throughout Somerset. With your assistance and with greater visibility in our Craft Lodges we can encourage the awareness of Brethren into taking the next step.

This guide will also help the less experienced of you with all the tools you require to provide your Lodge with the necessary information concerning the Royal Arch, including the “Complete your Journey” leaflet, letter to present after a Grand Lodge Certificate, and various “nuggets” which it is hoped you will be able to use more and more frequently in Open Lodge as we progress.

The enclosed nuggets are basic suggestions to give you an opportunity when time allows to “fly the Royal Arch flag”, this list is not exhaustive, if you are aware that your Lodge has a short meeting and with the Lodges permission longer talks/presentations are available, Province is here to assist.

Again, thank you for taking on this role and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Fraternal Best Wishes

Neil

Neil Hurcum

Craft & HRA Representative Co-ordinator.

“Engage, Encourage, Enthuse”

Dealing with Objections

There are a variety of reasons which may be given for not wishing to be exalted in the Royal Arch.

Listen sympathetically and try to deal with the objection.

Common Objections / Questions

Why should I join the Royal Arch?

By joining the Royal Arch, you are completing your journey in Pure Antient Freemasonry which began when you were Initiated.

The declaration clarifies how the Royal Arch should be described. It is NOT the completion of the Third Degree. It is a continuation of a" that has been taught in the three Degrees preceding it.

The ceremony of Exaltation itself, which is one of the most beautiful, colourful and thought provoking in Freemasonry and in which the genuine secrets, that were lost and substituted during the Master Masons' degree, are revealed.

If pure Antient Freemasonry were considered to be a four-act play, Craft Freemasonry as practised in the Lodge covers the first three acts while Royal Arch Freemasonry as practised in the Chapter covers the fourth act and completes the journey of self-knowledge and self-discovery. Other Orders can be considered to be additional story lines that examine different aspects of this journey and which can be joined according to interest and inclination.

Can I join other Orders without being in the Royal Arch?

Some, but several of the other Degrees and Orders are only open to those who come with the further knowledge of Royal Arch.

Isn't it a very religious Christian Order?

No, it is open to all faiths, and is no more "religious" than the Craft, It provides a spiritual dimension at which the Craft ceremonies can only hint, leading on naturally to consider what happens after the event to vividly re-enacted in the ceremony of Raising.

I am progressing through the offices of Craft and I understand there is a lot of ritual to learn?

Within the last few years Supreme Grand Chapter has authorised a revised Ritual which lends itself to the work being shared by a number of Companions. Many Chapters have adopted the revised workings and are sharing the ritual amongst a number of Companions, resulting in less pressure on the individual.

Is it expensive?

As Chapters tend to meet only 3 or 4 times a year the costs involved with membership are much reduced compared with the Craft.

"Engage, Encourage, Enthuse"

Nuggets from Solomon

First Degree

Brethren, today you have witnessed an Initiation Ceremony. Masonically speaking, the first side of a square. The Second and Third Degrees follow in due time, but in order to complete the square, a fourth side is required. This is the Supreme Degree of the Royal Arch. It is achieved only by joining the Chapter. If you have not yet completed your Masonic Square, it is recommended that you do so.

Second Degree

Brethren, when you completed the Ceremony of your Initiation, you were informed you had begun your Masonic journey on the first side of a square. In the Second Degree, you were passed through a figurative right angle to the second side of that figure. As Fellow Crafts you have reached the half-way point: The Third Degree is yet to come, and then the Royal Arch Chapter forms the completion of the square, and I exhort all who have not yet become members to do so.

Third Degree

Brethren, at the conclusion of the Third Degree you have completed three sides of the figurative square which defines your Masonic career. You are well instructed in the duties you owe to God, to your neighbour and to yourselves. But there is more to learn; the story is not yet finished. A full month must elapse before a new Master Mason qualifies to become a Companion of the Royal Arch Chapter, and Brethren are advised to consider this significant move. And at that time, you will be conducted through the final stage and welcomed into the Supreme Degree, the completion of the Square.

“Engage, Encourage, Enthuse”

HRA Rep Nugget for use after Ceremony of Raising

Brother congratulations on tonight having been Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason, although it is still new in your mind you have been informed tonight that by the untimely death of our Master, Hiram Abiff, the genuine secrets of a Master Mason were lost.

You are now in possession of those substituted secrets.

The Royal Arch Exaltation ceremony restores the genuine secrets to you. It is not simply a “side degree” but is the final step by which every Master Mason should complete his knowledge of pure Antient Masonry.

After a period of 4 weeks as a Master Mason, you will be eligible for Exaltation and I as your Holy Royal Arch Representative can advise and assist in the completion of your Journey when the time is right for you and look forward to the day when you become a Companion of the Order.

Nugget for use on Craft Provincial Fraternal Visits.

It is no secret that there is an unbreakable bond between the Craft and the Royal Arch and that the Craft recognises the Royal Arch as the climax and completion of every Mason’s journey through Pure Antient Freemasonry.

What that means is that everything that you do in Freemasonry is built on the solid foundation of the Craft together with the Royal Arch.

The Book of Constitutions records that, in 1813, the United Grand Lodge of England’s preliminary declaration was ‘pure Antient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, viz., those of the entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch’.

This declaration still stands today over 200 years later as the first statement in the General Rules and Regulations for the Government of the Craft. It is the only other Order referred to in those regulations and cements the importance of the Royal Arch in every Mason’s life.

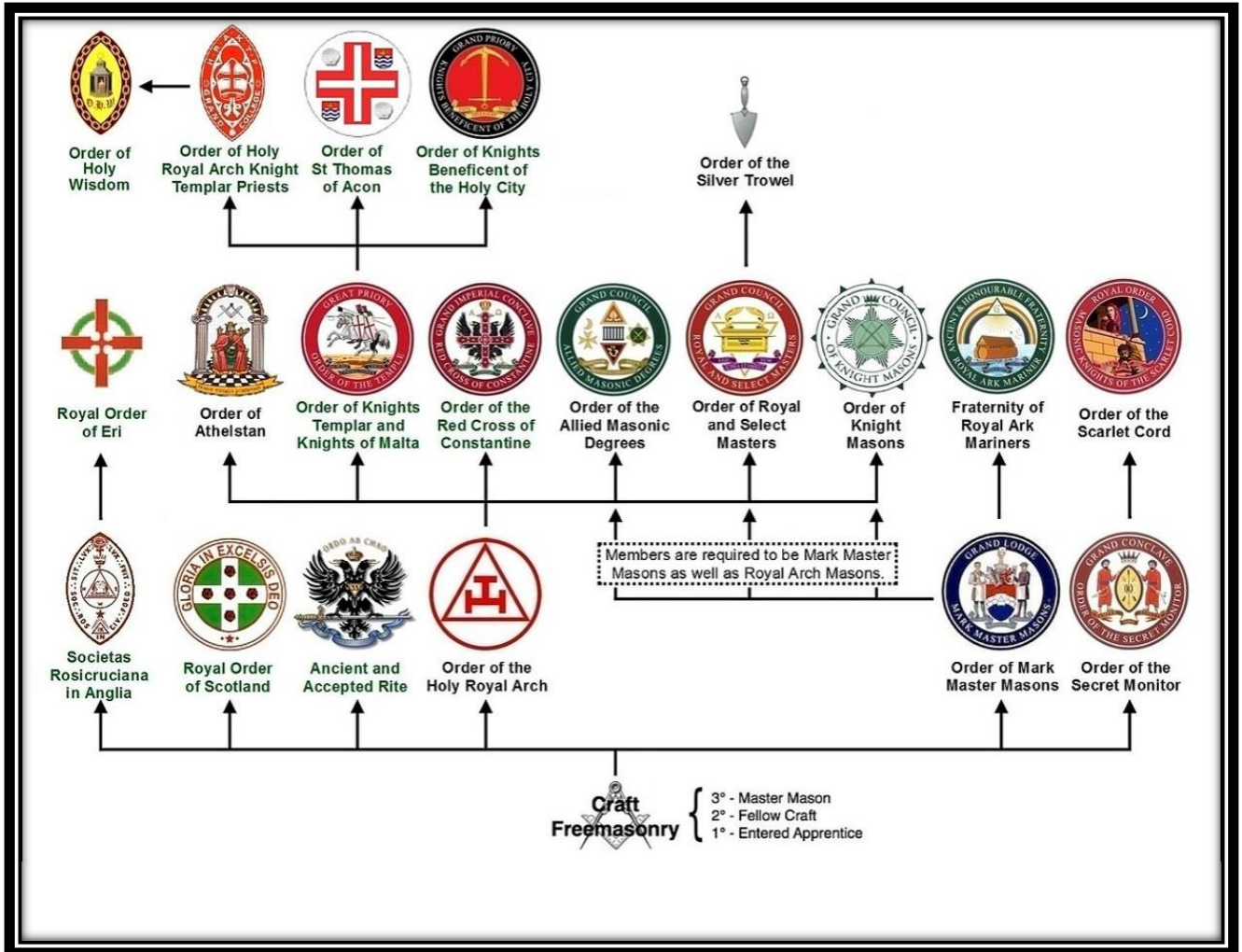
A Master Mason of 4 weeks and upwards is eligible to join and complete their journey in Pure Antient Freemasonry.

Source – Solomon.

“Engage, Encourage, Enthuse”

Pathway in the Progressive Orders.

Diagram showing which Orders require membership of the Holy Royal Arch as a pre-requisite to joining.



“Engage, Encourage, Enthuse”

Appendix 1



Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset

To: Lodge Secretaries

Royal Arch Representatives

Many of us were blissfully unaware when we were initiated, or even when we were raised, that the Holy Royal Arch is inextricably linked with Craft Masonry.

Individually we have all been presented with a copy of the Book of Constitutions. The Preliminary Declaration describes 'Pure Antient Masonry' as consisting of three degrees; the three Craft degrees with which we are all familiar 'and no more'. It then describes the Master Mason's degree as including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch.

The very close affinity between the two Orders has for many years resulted in the presence of a Royal Arch representative in our Lodges. In a few cases the representative scheme has not achieved everything expected from it. In order to address this issue a Working Group consisting of Brethren and Companions of this Province have undertaken a review to address how matters might be improved and have made the following recommendations:

- The Royal Arch (RA) Executive in consultation with the Lodge should have an input in the appointment of the RA representative, and the appointment should ideally be for a term of up to 5 years rather than an annual appointment. Therefore, the RA would like to agree the appointment with the Lodge.
- The Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent's joint letter should be presented to all Master Masons in Open Lodge and whenever possible by the RA representative. Ideally this should be at the same time that they receive their Grand Lodge Certificate.
- From the outset, applicants and new members should be made aware that there are four steps in Pure Antient Masonry and that the natural next step should be to complete those steps.
- RA representatives to be invited to give a short presentation once a year to their Lodge or Lodge of Instruction so the newer Brethren are better informed about the Order.
- The name and contact details of the RA representative to be recorded on the Lodge summons.
- If and when appropriate the RA representative could be invited to give a report during the meeting under a specific agenda item or Any Other Masonic Business.

Brethren, the Craft and Royal Arch in our Province of Somerset continue to enjoy the affinity of Pure Antient Masonry and together with the Grand Superintendent and our respective Executives I fully support and endorse the recommendations made by the Working Group.

In order for the Royal Arch representative scheme to be successful I trust you will give the aforementioned recommendations your full attention and support.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

David Medlock

David J Medlock

Provincial Grand Master

Appendix 2



Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset Provincial Grand Chapter of Somerset



The role of Royal Arch Representatives in Craft Lodges.

Whilst this is not a formal office defined in the Book of Constitutions it is nevertheless a role strongly endorsed by both Grand Lodge and Supreme Grand Chapter. The role has been in use in Somerset for many years and each Lodge is expected to make an appointment at the Installation meeting.

1. Selection of Representatives

The selection of a Representative should be based on the following considerations:

- a. He is able and willing to undertake the role and responsibilities
- b. He is a subscribing member of a regular practising Somerset Royal Arch Chapter
- c. He is considered suitable by Provincial Grand Chapter
- d. Ideally will not have held the office for more than five years

Rank and age are not primary considerations in selecting the representative.

2. Key elements of the role

- a. A key focus of the role is the recruitment and retention of new Royal Arch members.
- b. Brief the Lodge Committee on his role and activities. Endeavour to encourage more visibility of Royal Arch membership on the Lodge Summons, (i.e. inclusion of RA ranks, Chapter numbers, name and contact details for RA Rep. *etc.*)
- c. In simple terms be able to explain to Members the role and relevance of the Holy Royal Arch and its relationship to the Craft.
- d. At least twice a year report, as a formal item of lodge business, on Royal Arch matters. To include Local, Provincial and National Royal Arch news.
- e. Provide gentle, but timely, encouragement and persuasion for all prospective Exaltees. Advise on the most suitable chapter for his interests and needs. Arrange an introduction and potential proposer and seconder where required.
- f. Be approachable and conversant with the Royal Arch, able to offer advice and help. Willingly deal with questions and concerns of any potential Exaltees. Provide sources for further information: - 'Why Join...' leaflet and guidance on Solomon.
- g. Present the joint PGM/MEGS letter to new Master Masons in open Lodge.

3. Other aspects

The Representative should insure he wears his RA jewel at all Craft Lodges, but more particularly at the Lodge where he has been appointed.

Representatives will be provided with an information pack containing, job description/role, copies of the joint PGM/MEGS letter to give to newly made MMs, RA form P's, Provincial information leaflets on Royal Arch; guidance on what to say at Lodge meetings; a draft of a letter to be sent as a follow up to all potential candidates.

Training and mentoring support will be provided by the Royal Arch Team.

"Engage, Encourage, Enthuse"

Appendix 3



Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset Provincial Grand Chapter of Somerset



NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF ROYAL ARCH REPRESENTATIVES IN CRAFT LODGES

The role of a Royal Arch Representative (RAR) in a Craft Lodge is important. He provides a vital and essential link between the Craft Lodge to which he is appointed and the Royal Arch Province. He will therefore be able to identify the Brethren in the Craft Lodge who have yet to become Royal Arch Companions, and whom he considers to be suitable candidates.

Whilst a Brother may join the Royal Arch 28 days after becoming a Master Mason, it is recommended that a Brother should consider joining within 18-24 months of becoming a Craft Master Mason.

The RAR should get to know potential candidates with a view to ascertaining their likes and dislikes, and interests. It is important to try and ensure that the candidate is recommended to join a Royal Arch Chapter where there are Companions with whom he is likely to be compatible. It is desirable (but not essential) that the candidate should be recommended to join a Chapter that meets at a different venue to his Craft Lodge. This will give him an opportunity to become acquainted with a different Masonic Centre, and to get to know and befriend Masons other than those with whom he is in regular contact in his Craft Lodge.

In encouraging a brother to join the Royal Arch you may consider it prudent to:

- Keep a supply of the Pamphlet so that you can go through it with him.
- Inform him that the Royal Arch provides what is omitted from the Craft Degrees. The first or Holy Lodge of the Tabernacle is mentioned in the first degree Tracing Board and is described in the Book of Exodus. The second or Sacred Lodge of King Solomon's Temple forms the very essence of the ritual of the three Craft degrees and there are numerous references to its building in the Books of Kings, Chronicles and Samuel. However, despite its destruction and subsequent rebuilding being narrated in the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah, there is no mention of this in the Craft degrees. **However, this story forms the basis of the Royal Arch ceremony.**
- Point out to him that in the Craft degrees a Brother takes three steps, which invite him to consider birth, life and death. This is clearly meant to be a journey of self-discovery and the three degrees concentrate on our mortal existence. However, in the Charge after Initiation the Candidate's attention is drawn to his duties to God as well as his relationship with his fellow man.
- Ask him to consider the significance of the steps in the third degree. Why after stepping over the grave and leaving death behind him, does the Candidate then take four steps beyond the grave, and where do they lead? Maybe the answer is the Holy Royal Arch being the completion of pure and ancient Freemasonry?
- Draw his attention to the fact that in the third degree the Candidate is invited in darkness and gloom to contemplate death almost as finality. Surely, the requirement for a Brother to believe in a Supreme Being is anomalous if the final lesson in Masonry really is simply how to die? He is also told that he has a hope of: '... a reunion with the former Companions of his toil.' You should ask him when, how and where he thinks he can enjoy that reunion, and with whom? This is the first time he hears the term 'Companions' – you should also ask him, who he thinks these Companions are, if they are not members of the Royal Arch?

- Remind him that the new Master Mason is informed that the genuine secrets are lost and that he can only use substituted ones ‘... until time or circumstances should restore the genuine; However, he is given a clue that the genuine secrets might be found – in time. The Royal Arch offers him the opportunity to find those genuine secrets.
- Inquire if he knows why a Man, a Lion, an Ox and an Eagle are featured on the seal of Grand Lodge.
- If he asks “Why the Royal Arch rather than one of the other degrees?” then turn the question on its head by asking him: "What is the only other Order mentioned in the Preliminary Declaration of the Book of Constitutions?"
- Inform him that the Royal Arch invites a Brother to absorb all that the Craft has imparted and to extend the knowledge gained by attempting to grasp the infinite wisdom of the Almighty. Through its companionship it offers those still in the darkness of their third degree, a special joy that is beyond compare.
- Sum up by telling him that the Royal Arch moves a Brother from the finite to the infinite; from his relationship with his fellow men to an understanding of God; from death and darkness to light and hope; and from the mortal to the spiritual. For the first time it enables him to view his Masonry from the standpoint of eternity.

Supporting Prospective Exaltees:

- Talk to every Master Mason privately at some stage after a Grand Lodge Certificate is presented, making sure that each is in possession of the Tri-fold leaflet, but only on a ‘for interest’ basis so as not to be seen to be pressing too hard at this stage.
- Follow up at the most appropriate time for that individual, without undue pressure.
- Get a feel for that individual and think about the Chapter most appropriate for him – not necessarily the Lodge RA Rep.’s own Chapter.
- Consider that individual’s current Masonic commitments, Lodge and LOI meeting days, then suggest a Chapter or Centre that is most convenient or accommodating to his place of work and/or domestic location.
- Make him aware of the additional meetings and potential costs he will be involved with.
- After Exaltation, take the time to explain what the ceremony was all about, and arrange for him to visit (preferably accompanied) another Chapter to witness an Exaltation ceremony.
- Encourage him to attend the Provincial Annual Convocation.

Continue the contact.

“Engage, Encourage, Enthuse”

Appendix 4

Letter for Presentation by HRA Rep following a Grand Lodge Certificate

Please ask the Worshipful Master's permission, prior to the meeting that you would wish to present this letter immediately after the Certificate Presentation

Copies can be downloaded from the HRA website under Resource



Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset
Provincial Grand Chapter of Somerset



Dear Brother,

The Supreme Degree of the Holy Royal Arch

Now that you have obtained the status of Master Mason and been presented with your Grand Lodge Certificate, we offer you our warm congratulations and best wishes. We hope that you will soon discover and long enjoy the wider masonic privileges and pleasures open to you as a Master Mason.

When presented with your Grand Lodge Certificate you were reminded that your personal journey through 'Pure Antient Masonry' in the English Constitution is completed by Exaltation into the Holy Royal Arch.

The Holy Royal Arch is the natural progressive step from the Master Masons Degree and offers a firm foundation on which to base your future masonic progress. We therefore recommend that you seriously consider doing so as soon as your personal circumstances permit and certainly before you consider joining any of the many other Masonic Orders to which you may be invited. It is however important to take time to settle into your Craft Lodge before taking on further masonic commitments.

Each Lodge has a Royal Arch Representative who will offer you further guidance and information. For more information, there is a full listing of all Holy Royal Arch Chapters within The Somerset Masonic Reference Book or you can visit the Official Somerset Provincial Grand Chapter Website at www.somersetroyalarch.org

In due time we look forward to welcoming you as a Companion at a Somerset Royal Arch Chapter.

With good wishes for your continued enjoyment of masonry.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

David Medlock

David J Medlock
Provincial Grand Master

Barry Woodside

Barry K Woodside
Grand Superintendent

"Engage, Encourage, Enthuse"

Appendix 5



Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset Provincial Grand Chapter of Somerset



Dear Brother

I note that whilst you became a Master Mason some time ago, you are not a member of the Royal Arch. I ask you to consider joining the Royal Arch and completing your journey in Pure Antient Masonry.

You may ask why should you join the Royal Arch?

For many years, the Royal Arch was simplistically described as the completion of the Master Mason's degree. You will recall that when you were raised to the third degree you were informed that, as a result of the death of Hiram Abiff, certain substituted secrets were adopted '... until time or circumstances should restore the genuine'. These are symbolically regained during the Royal Arch ceremony.

In reality the true secrets of Masonry are much more profound and for the discerning Freemason are only to be found within himself. They are the inner spiritual meaning of his existence, the true knowledge of himself – the so called 'Ancient Mysteries'. These are that body of knowledge, which is as old as time, but difficult to attain as it is just beyond the threshold of our general awareness and consciousness. They encompass those spiritual values that act as a bridge between our worldly existence and eternity, and in Masonic terms can only be attained by exaltation into the Royal Arch. They premise the existence of a Supreme Being and support the view that a consideration of the Deity should be included in all human endeavours. To achieve our potential each one of us must look to incorporate these great truths into our lives. They should be seen as a beacon enticing us towards the light and the reason why those Brethren still in the darkness of their third degree should look to explore beyond its apparent gloom and take the supreme and final step in Pure Antient Freemasonry by joining the Royal Arch.

In short, the Royal Arch provides a spiritual dimension to Masonry and invites the enquiring and thoughtful man to consider the teachings of the Craft in the light of eternity. Please ask me as your Lodge Royal Arch Representative for additional information on this fascinating order.

I hope that it will not be too long before you have been rewarded with a Royal Arch breast jewel as it inevitably brings a greater insight into Freemasonry.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

Royal Arch Representative

Appendix 6

“Printed versions are available and should be displayed in your Masonic Hall”

The Holy Royal Arch in Somerset

There are 28 chapters in Somerset meeting at all the major centres and halls in the Province.

The ruler is called the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent and he is supported by a Deputy, 2nd and 3rd Provincial Grand Principals as co-rulers, along with a Provincial Executive of the usual officers, Scribe Ezra (Secretary), Treasurer, Director of Ceremonies etc.

The members are known as Companions, and each Chapter is ruled by 3 Principals named after the principal characters in the story of the rebuilding of King Solomon's Temple.

Chapter meetings, called “Convocations” are usually 3 or 4 times a year, and the costs attributed are therefore less than your Craft Lodge.

Supreme Grand Chapter

The ultimate ruling body is Supreme Grand Chapter based at Freemasons' Hall in London.

Not only does it share the building with Grand Lodge it also shares many of its Rulers, the Grand Master, HRH the Duke of Kent is also the 1st Grand Principal, and the Grand Secretary is also the Grand Scribe Ezra.

What is the Holy Royal Arch ?

The Supreme Degree of the Holy Royal Arch, usually referred to as “Chapter” is the completion of every Mason's journey from Initiation to Exaltation and as such is an essential part of basic Freemasonry.

The Book of Constitutions states that “pure Antient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellowcraft and the Master Mason including the degree of the Holy Royal Arch”

Why should I join ?

On being raised to the Third Degree you were informed that the genuine secrets of a Master Mason were lost, and that you were in possession of certain substituted secrets.

The Royal Arch Exaltation ceremony restores the genuine secrets to you. It is not simply a “side degree” but is the final step by which every Master Mason should complete his knowledge of pure Antient Masonry.

The teachings of the Royal Arch completes those begun in the Craft degrees, by showing us how the true secrets of a Mason are found within ourselves and within our relationship with our Creator, thus providing a spiritual dimension to Freemasonry.

The next step ?

Speak with your proposer or seconder they should be able to help you.

If not, contact your Lodges' Holy Royal Arch representative.

His details should be on your Craft Lodge summons, he is well versed in all Royal Arch matters and will be able to discuss a Chapter that meets your needs.

Look at the Somerset Masonic Reference book for details of all the Chapters in the Province or the Somerset website.

<https://www.somersetroyalarch.org>

We look forward to welcoming you as a Companion of the Order.



Provincial Grand Chapter of Somerset

The Holy Royal Arch

From Initiation to Exaltation

***Complete
Your
Journey***



Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset

Who can join ?

All Master Masons are eligible four weeks after being Raised to the Third Degree.

When should I join?

When a Mason is entirely comfortable with his Craft Masonry.

The interval between becoming a Master Mason and his exaltation into a Royal Arch Chapter is, however, a matter for each individual and will largely depend on his circumstances and readiness for learning.

How can I join ?

If your Proposer or Secunder cannot help then each Craft Lodge has an officer called a Holy Royal Arch Representative, his role is to inform and advise the Lodge and its members on all aspects of the Holy Royal Arch. He can discuss a suitable Chapter to join that will suit your needs, and if necessary arrange the necessary introductions.

All Chapters are attached to a Lodge and will use its number, though not all Lodges have a Chapter therefore the membership will include Masons from different Lodges thus extending the circle of your Masonic friends.

As with all Masonry don't overstretch yourself check meeting dates, etc to avoid any clashes with your Craft commitments.

Regalia



Your Regalia consists of three items; an apron, sash and breast jewel, all of distinctive design.

The jewel is suspended from a Different coloured ribbon depending on the Companions status within the Order.



The breast jewel is worn by all Masons who are members of the Royal Arch at their Craft meetings to show evidence to the brethren of their membership of the Royal Arch. It is the only non Craft jewel permitted emphasising the indissoluble link between the Craft and the Royal Arch.

Approaching a member wearing his Chapter jewel may be a good starting point for you to begin the discussion that will enable you to complete your Journey.

“Engage, Encourage, Enthuse”



PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF SOMERSET

The following pages contain printable versions of the Appendices 1, 4 and 5



Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset

To: Lodge Secretaries

Royal Arch Representatives

Many of us were blissfully unaware when we were initiated, or even when we were raised, that the Holy Royal Arch is inextricably linked with Craft Masonry.

Individually we have all been presented with a copy of the Book of Constitutions. The Preliminary Declaration describes 'Pure Antient Masonry' as consisting of three degrees; the three Craft degrees with which we are all familiar 'and no more'. It then describes the Master Mason's degree as including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch.

The very close affinity between the two Orders has for many years resulted in the presence of a Royal Arch representative in our Lodges. In a few cases the representative scheme has not achieved everything expected from it. In order to address this issue a Working Group consisting of Brethren and Companions of this Province have undertaken a review to address how matters might be improved and have made the following recommendations:

- The Royal Arch (RA) Executive in consultation with the Lodge should have an input in the appointment of the RA representative, and the appointment should ideally be for a term of up to 5 years rather than an annual appointment. Therefore, the RA would like to agree the appointment with the Lodge.
- The Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent's joint letter should be presented to all Master Masons in Open Lodge and whenever possible by the RA representative. Ideally this should be at the same time that they receive their Grand Lodge Certificate.
- From the outset, applicants and new members should be made aware that there are four steps in Pure Antient Masonry and that the natural next step should be to complete those steps.
- RA representatives to be invited to give a short presentation once a year to their Lodge or Lodge of Instruction so the newer Brethren are better informed about the Order.
- The name and contact details of the RA representative to be recorded on the Lodge summons.
- If and when appropriate the RA representative could be invited to give a report during the meeting under a specific agenda item or Any Other Masonic Business.

Brethren, the Craft and Royal Arch in our Province of Somerset continue to enjoy the affinity of Pure Antient Masonry and together with the Grand Superintendent and our respective Executives I fully support and endorse the recommendations made by the Working Group.

In order for the Royal Arch representative scheme to be successful I trust you will give the aforementioned recommendations your full attention and support.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

David Medlock

David J Medlock
Provincial Grand Master



Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset
Provincial Grand Chapter of Somerset



Dear Brother,

The Supreme Degree of the Holy Royal Arch

Now that you have obtained the status of Master Mason and been presented with your Grand Lodge Certificate, we offer you our warm congratulations and best wishes. We hope that you will soon discover and long enjoy the wider masonic privileges and pleasures open to you as a Master Mason.

When presented with your Grand Lodge Certificate you were reminded that your personal journey through 'Pure Antient Masonry' in the English Constitution is completed by Exaltation into the Holy Royal Arch.

The Holy Royal Arch is the natural progressive step from the Master Masons Degree and offers a firm foundation on which to base your future masonic progress. We therefore recommend that you seriously consider doing so as soon as your personal circumstances permit and certainly before you consider joining any of the many other Masonic Orders to which you may be invited. It is however important to take time to settle into your Craft Lodge before taking on further masonic commitments.

Each Lodge has a Royal Arch Representative who will offer you further guidance and information. For more information, there is a full listing of all Holy Royal Arch Chapters within The Somerset Masonic Reference Book or you can visit the Official Somerset Provincial Grand Chapter Website at www.somersetroyalarch.org

In due time we look forward to welcoming you as a Companion at a Somerset Royal Arch Chapter.

With good wishes for your continued enjoyment of masonry.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

David Medlock

David J Medlock
Provincial Grand Master

Barry Woodside

Barry K Woodside
Grand Superintendent



Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset
Provincial Grand Chapter of Somerset



Dear Brother,

I note that whilst you became a Master Mason some time ago, you are not a member of the Royal Arch. I ask you to consider joining the Royal Arch and completing your journey in Pure Antient Masonry.

You may ask why should you join the Royal Arch?

For many years, the Royal Arch was simplistically described as the completion of the Master Mason's degree. You will recall that when you were raised to the third degree you were informed that, as a result of the death of Hiram Abiff, certain substituted secrets were adopted '... until time or circumstances should restore the genuine'. These are symbolically regained during the Royal Arch ceremony.

In reality the true secrets of Masonry are much more profound and for the discerning Freemason are only to be found within himself. They are the inner spiritual meaning of his existence, the true knowledge of himself – the so called 'Ancient Mysteries'. These are that body of knowledge, which is as old as time, but difficult to attain as it is just beyond the threshold of our general awareness and consciousness. They encompass those spiritual values that act as a bridge between our worldly existence and eternity, and in Masonic terms can only be attained by exaltation into the Royal Arch. They premise the existence of a Supreme Being and support the view that a consideration of the Deity should be included in all human endeavours. To achieve our potential each one of us must look to incorporate these great truths into our lives. They should be seen as a beacon enticing us towards the light and the reason why those Brethren still in the darkness of their third degree should look to explore beyond its apparent gloom and take the supreme and final step in Pure Antient Freemasonry by joining the Royal Arch.

In short, the Royal Arch provides a spiritual dimension to Masonry and invites the enquiring and thoughtful man to consider the teachings of the Craft in the light of eternity. Please ask me as your Lodge Royal Arch Representative for additional information on this fascinating order.

I hope that it will not be too long before you have been rewarded with a Royal Arch breast jewel as it inevitably brings a greater insight into Freemasonry.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

Royal Arch Representative