

### *Who are these men?*

They are men from all walks of life. This is one of the great delights of your membership. You will sit at Lodge meetings and find yourself in conversation with men from all trades, professions, the armed forces, the police forces, firemen, politicians, the clergy, etc., irrespective of race or religious creed; men with whom you would never otherwise have had the pleasure of their company. As *The Charges of a Free-Mason* put it “... masonry is the centre of union between good men and true, and the happy means of conciliating friendship amongst those who must otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance”. You will find that their friendship and conversations will enrich your life enormously.

Another interesting aspect of Freemasonry is the fact that very often members of different professions form their ‘own’ Lodges. For example, you will find old school Lodges, university Lodges, Lodges of policemen, bankers, lawyers, musicians, Boy Scouts, entertainers, etc. Of course times change and Lodges have to change accordingly. Many Lodges have started out as, for example, military lodges. When the military moves on the Lodge is left behind and the ‘requirement’ that candidates should, say, be Royal Marines is dropped with the effect that after a while none of the members are Royal Marines.

You now have the opportunity to visit many different Lodges, both at home and abroad, and to enjoy their individual characteristics. *If you wish to visit Lodges abroad do make sure that the Lodge you wish to visit is in a Constitution recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England.* You can do this by asking your Lodge Secretary to make the necessary enquiries.



## District of Cyprus Mentoring Programme

### A series of Fact Sheets for an Entered Apprentice

## EA 01 What is a Masonic Lodge?

# Making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge

## What is a Masonic Lodge?

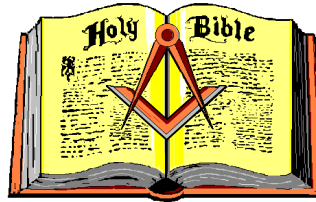
### What have I joined?

You have joined a Masonic Lodge which is the gateway to all the privileges of Freemasonry. Each Masonic Lodge is a grouping of men gathering together for a common purpose. The common purpose is to practice Freemasonry. The members, termed Brethren (as Brothers in the Brotherhood of Freemasonry):

- share a common belief in a Supreme Being,
- share the same morality, and
- are bonded together by the shared experience of their initiation.

### A belief in a Supreme Being.

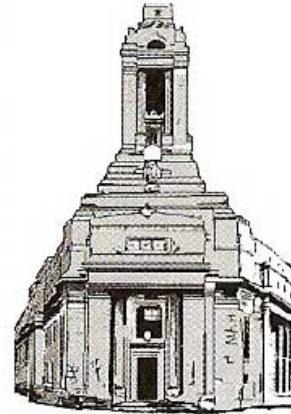
In *The Charges of a Free-Mason* Freemasons are charged “to believe in the glorious architect of heaven and earth, and practice the sacred duties of morality”. Our obligations are taken on the open book of our religion, whatever it might be, the Bible for Jews and Christians, the Koran for Muslims, the Granth Sahib for Sikhs, etc.



**Morality** - not that morality which changes from one generation to another but the morality first identified by Plato consisting of prudence, temperance, fortitude and justice. As set out in the Charge after Initiation. ‘As an individual, let me recommend the practice of every domestic as well as public virtue; let Prudence direct you, Temperance chasten you, Fortitude support you, and Justice be the guide of all your actions.’

**The shared experience of Initiation.** All Freemasons have passed through a similar ceremony of Initiation, including the Most Worshipful the Grand Master. It is a shared experience which bonds Freemasons together in a unique way, a way which has stood the test of time.

## How does a group of men become a Masonic Lodge?



Freemasons' Hall,  
Gt. Queen St., London

Essentially they must be authorised by a lawful, duly recognised regular Grand Lodge to hold a Lodge. In England and Wales (and The District of Cyprus) the authorisation is the Warrant of Constitution from the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE). The Warrant is presented to the Master following the Consecration of a new Lodge.

The United Grand Lodge of England would not have issued the Warrant, and indeed would require its return, if:

1. A belief in the Great Architect of the Universe and His revealed will were not an essential qualification for membership;
2. All Initiates did not take their Obligation on or in full view of the Volume of the Sacred Law, by which is meant the revelation from above which is binding on the conscience of the particular individual who is being initiated;
3. The membership were not composed exclusively of men;
4. The three Great Lights of Freemasonry (namely the Volume of the Sacred Law, the Square and Compasses) were not exhibited when the Lodge is at work;
5. The discussion of religion and politics within the Lodge were not strictly prohibited, and
6. The principles of the Antient Landmarks, customs and usages of the Craft were not strictly observed,

A Lodge must have five or more subscribing members. All Lodges are scheduled to meet regularly on set days of the year. Note that a Regular Lodge meeting cannot be cancelled or adjourned.