

The Senior Warden. The Senior Warden is placed in the West. His symbolic duty is to mark the setting sun, to close the Lodge on the Worshipful Master's command after having seen that every Brother has had his due. His jewel is a level which, being an emblem of equality, symbolically points out the equal measures he is bound to pursue in conjunction with the Worshipful Master in the well ruling and governing of the Lodge. He has a gavel as an emblem of power which he uses to assist the Worshipful Master in preserving order in the Lodge. He also has a column which he places erect when the Lodge is opened to point out to the Brethren that the Lodge is engaged in Masonic business.



The Worshipful Master. The Worshipful Master is placed in the East. He is one of the three Officers elected by the Brethren to serve in that office for a year (the other two being the Treasurer and, sometimes, the Tyler). His jewel is a square, which is an implement with which to try the rude and prove the perfect mass, and it inculcates the purest principles of piety and virtue. The Master's duties are to rule and direct his Lodge, to enforce obedience to the Rules and Regulations of the Institution, not to suffer or permit any deviation from the established landmarks of the Order, not to administer, or cause to be administered, any rite or ceremony which is contrary to, or subversive of, the Institution and to maintain and uphold, pure and unsullied, the principles and tenets of the Craft. It is indeed a heavy responsibility but the immense pleasure which a Brother gains from being Master of his Lodge is such that it cannot easily or adequately be described!



District of Cyprus Mentoring Programme

A series of Fact Sheets for a
Fellow Craft

FC 03
The "Progressive" Officers
of the Lodge

Making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge

What is meant by 'progressive'?

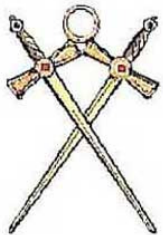
The Officers of the Lodge can be divided into three different categories; those who are progressing to the Master's Chair, those who administer the affairs of the Lodge and those who look after the ceremonial of the Lodge.

In this fact sheet we look at those Officers who are progressing to the Master's Chair. It is not necessary to occupy all of these offices in order to be eligible for election to the Master's Chair but there is considerable merit in doing so as it provides valuable experience which cannot be taught. The candidate for the Master's Chair must, however, have served the office of Senior or Junior Warden for a year.

The order of progression is Steward > Inner Guard > Junior Deacon > Senior Deacon > Junior Warden > Senior Warden > Worshipful Master



The Steward. The Steward's jewel is a cornucopia between the legs of a pair of compasses extended. His duties are to introduce visitors and see they are properly accommodated, to assist in the collection of dues and subscriptions, to keep an eye on Lodge expenses at the time of refreshment, to see that the tables are properly furnished, that every Brother is suitably provided for and generally to assist the Deacons and other Officers in performing their respective duties.



The Inner Guard. The Inner Guard's place is within the entrance of the Lodge and his jewel is that of two swords in saltire. His duty is to report to the Master when Brethren claim admission, to admit Masons on proof, receive the Candidates in due form, and obey the commands of the Junior Warden. It is the first of the 'progressive' offices which leads to the Master's Chair.



The Junior Deacon. His jewel is a dove bearing an olive branch. His place is at the right of the Senior Warden. His symbolic duty is to carry all messages and communications of the Worshipful Master from the Senior to the Junior Warden and to see that the same are punctually obeyed. In practice, his duty is to attend on candidates during the ceremony of Initiation and to assist the Senior Deacon during the ceremonies of Passing and Raising. He has a wand of office, usually topped by a copy of the jewel of his office.

The Senior Deacon. The Senior Deacon has a jewel similar to that of the Junior Deacon. His place is at or near to the right of the Worshipful Master. His symbolic duty is to bear all messages and commands from the Worshipful Master to the Senior Warden and await the return of the Junior Deacon. From a practical point of view his duty is to attend on candidates during the ceremonies of Passing and Raising and to assist the Junior Deacon during the ceremony of Initiation. He has a wand of office, usually topped by a copy of the jewel of his office.



The Junior Warden. The Junior Warden is placed in the South. His symbolic duty is to mark the sun at its meridian, to call the Brethren from labour to refreshment and from refreshment to labour, that profit and pleasure may be the result. His jewel is the plumb rule, an emblem of uprightness. Symbolically it points out the integrity of the measures he is bound to pursue in conjunction with the Worshipful Master and the Senior Warden in the well ruling and governing of the Lodge, particularly in the examination of visitors, lest through his neglect any unqualified person should gain admission to our assemblies and the Brethren be thereby innocently led to violate their Obligation. He has a gavel as an emblem of power which he uses to assist the Worshipful Master and Senior Warden in preserving order in the Lodge. He also has a column of office which he places horizontal when the Lodge is open for business and erect when the Lodge is called from labour to refreshment.