

If a Brother is a present or past District, Provincial or Grand Officer, or a holder of Metropolitan, London or Overseas Grand Rank in the Royal Arch Order the ribbon is tri-coloured - dark blue, crimson and light blue.



Incidentally, in the District of Cyprus, it is the policy for present or past District Officers and Grand Officers to wear only the Royal Arch Chapter jewel.

Masonic Charity Jewels

The Steward's Jewel.



In the English Provinces the four main Masonic Charities of the English Craft - The Grand Charity, The Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys, the Royal Masonic Benevolent Fund, and the New Masonic Samaritan Fund, are supported by 'Festivals'. A 'Festival' is simply a festive occasion, usually a dinner, which marks the culmination of a money raising period by a Province, usually every 10 to 12 years, in support of one of the Masonic Charities.

When the Festival is announced the Provincial Grand Master will pledge a target sum for the Province to raise. The actual sum achieved is announced at the Festival. All Brethren, as well as members of their families and their friends who have subscribed at least the qualifying fee, may serve as Stewards, wear the Charity Jewel and attend the Festival. There is a wide variety of designs and each has to be approved before it can be issued and worn. The Jewels are worn during the period leading up to the Festival and during the year of the Festival.



District of Cyprus Mentoring Programme

A series of Fact Sheets for a
Fellow Craft

FC 11
Masonic Breast Jewels



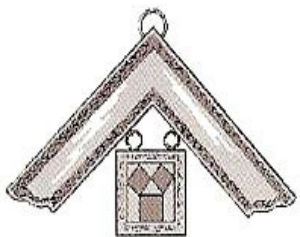
Making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge

Masonic Breast Jewels

When you look around at the Brethren in their various regalia in the Lodge, you will notice that many of them are wearing what appear to be medals on the left breast of their jackets. In Freemasonry these are not known as 'medals' but are referred to as Breast Jewels. There are an enormous variety of designs and a variety of reasons why they are worn and what they signify. Note that only Jewels allowed or approved by the Grand Master can be worn at a Masonic meeting. In this fact sheet we will be exploring the Breast Jewels you may see today in a Private Lodge working under the English Constitution.

Breast Jewels of the Lodge

The Past Master's Jewel.



It is common practice for Lodges to present the Immediate Past Master of the Lodge with a Breast Jewel at the termination of his year in Office as a token of appreciation for the manner in which he has conducted the affairs of the Lodge during his Mastership. The actual Jewel is the part which has the square and the diagram of the 47th proposition of the 1st Book of Euclid

(Pythagoras' Theorem) engraven on a silver plate, pendant within it. It will be suspended on a ribbon upon which you will find all manner of Lodge Crests, names, coats of arms etc.

These Jewels have been produced for many years and you will find some of the older ones are even 18ct gold. Sometimes you will find that Lodges recycle their old Past Masters' Jewels by, in effect, loaning the Jewel to the Brother to wear all the time it is appropriate for him to do so.

The Centenary Jewel.

When a Lodge has been able to show that it has been working, without interruption, for one hundred years a petition may be submitted to the United Grand Lodge of England for permission to wear a Centenary Jewel of the approved pattern. Once the permission has been given, all Master Masons who are subscribing members of the Lodge are qualified to wear the Lodge Centenary Jewel. Many Lodges have now had two hundred years of uninterrupted working and to commemorate this they may petition the United Grand Lodge of England for permission for their subscribing members who are Master Masons to wear a Bi-centenary Bar to their Centenary Jewel as shown here.



Breast Jewels of the Royal Arch Chapter

The Jewel of the Order.



You will find that closely associated with English Craft Freemasonry is another Order titled the Royal Arch Masons of England. The ritual it contains follows on from Craft Masonry and, indeed, forms the completion of a Craft Mason's Third Degree. When a Brother becomes a member of the Royal Arch Chapter he is 'rewarded' with this Royal Arch Breast Jewel pendant from a narrow white ribbon. It is part of the regalia of a Royal Arch Mason and it is proper to wear it in a Craft Lodge.

The colour of the ribbon varies with the rank of the Brother in the Royal Arch Order. When a Royal Arch Mason becomes one of the Three Principals of his Royal Arch Chapter the ribbon from which the Jewel is suspended changes from white to red. A Brother wearing a Royal Arch Jewel with a red ribbon is therefore one of the Three Principals of his Royal Arch Chapter or a Past Principal.