

Freemasonry Faq?

What is Freemasonry?

Freemasonry may be briefly described as being a society of men concerned with moral and spiritual values, based on integrity, kindness, honesty and fairness.

What can it offer that is different?

Whilst it seeks to improve moral standards of men in society; is inclusive of race, creed and colour; raises money to distribute to good causes; encourages social interaction and support for the wider community, it has to be said that these aims are not unique to Freemasonry. But it does have something which, in fact, is unique, – an initiatory system of self-improvement for its members through active involvement in which they are guided towards this aim by direct experience.

It is a long-established system created by people who well understood what they were about. Self-development occurs not only through initiation but by moving through the Lodge system and delivering the ritual [see below]. Through this direct experience Freemasonry can deliver what no other organisation can offer, – self-development not linked to the materialistic world or its often superficial goals. It offers opportunities to help the wider community and, indeed, enjoyment and brotherhood.

What happens at your meetings?

Freemasons are taught the moral and spiritual values through participation in two-part plays (referred to as “degree ceremonies”) and are encouraged to conduct themselves in society based on the principles they are taught. The words and actions – “ritual” – are learned by heart. This constitutes the major part of a typical meeting, after which we dine together on the Masonic Centre premises.

Who are your members?

The membership of Dofra, or in fact any, Lodge consists of men, usually aged 21 and upwards, of many diverse ethnic backgrounds, faiths, professions and walks of life. Belief in a Supreme Being is an essential qualification to becoming a Freemason. At our meetings all men meet as equals, regardless of their position in society.

Religion and Politics

Freemasons do not discuss religion or politics at meetings. What individual members believe is strictly personal and forms no part of what we do.

Why do people become Freemasons?

Every Freemason will have his own reasons for joining, but it's important to stress that nobody should expect preferential treatment or personal gain from doing so. This is emphasised repeatedly to each prospective candidate during the joining process. The structure and working of the lodge and the sequence of ceremonial events, which are usually followed by social gatherings, offer members a framework for companionship, teamwork, character development and enjoyment of shared experiences.

What are the costs?

All lodges vary, but each member of Dofra Lodge must pay a fixed annual subscription fee. There is a small one-off Initiation fee payable on joining the lodge as a candidate. Dining after each meeting is very reasonably priced; strictly speaking, this is optional, but recommended as it's a valuable part of the Masonic experience. In addition, Freemasons are encouraged to donate to charity, but only within their individual means and without detriment to family and personal commitments, which should always take priority.

If you are interested in finding out more about the costs please contact the secretary who can give you a breakdown of the fixed and variable costs that are likely should you chose to join our specific Lodge.

How Many meetings do we have?

Each lodge is different but in Dofra, which is typical we hold six actual Lodge meetings a year. They run from October through to March. Craft Freemasonry typically avoid meetings during the spring through summer months to allow Brethren to enjoy the lighter nights and better weather with their friends and families. There are Lodges who meet during the normally 'closed' season if you wish to continue your masonry – you are not limited to joining only one Lodge and many Brethren are members of more than one Lodge and many take up some of the many side orders.