

ALLIED MASONIC DEGREE

Worked in five degrees which can be worked in any sequence. Each candidate must be a Master Mason, Mark Master Mason and Royal Arch Companion.

THE OPERATIVES

Each Assemblage includes the Stone Yard and Lodge for each degree of which there are seven. Membership is restricted to freemasons who are Master masons, Mark Master Masons and Royal Arch Masons in good standing.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE (ROSE CROIX)

A Christian Order which seeks the Perfection of Christian Virtues in Faith Hope and Charity. A candidate must be a Master Mason under the UGLE for a full year.

RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE

A Christian Order which relates the story of the conversion of Constantine the Great after his taking control of Rome. A candidate must be a Master Mason and a Royal Arch Mason.

ROYAL ORDER OF SCOTLAND

Comprises two degrees. Membership comes from being a Master mason for at least five years and prefers candidates who are members of at least four orders beyond the craft.

SOCIETAS ROSICRUCIANA IN ANGLIA

Given its present form in 1865 after the discovery of manuscripts in the archive of Grand Lodge. Open only to Master Masons who proclaim a belief in the Christian Tri-Unity.

ORDER OF ERI

Follows on from SRIA and open only to invited members who have attained the Fifth degree



Other Orders in the Masonic Family

For circulation to every lodge

Information on questions you did not like to ask.

If you thumb through your Year Book and whilst chatting over a drink or at table after your Lodge meetings, you will have heard and may be curious about various 'other orders' or 'side degrees'. Some of the other Orders (which are administered separately) undertake work in Herefordshire and nearby Provinces. Their titles and links to the Craft are shown on the diagram inside.

You will see that often it is necessary to progress through one to reach another. No Craft mason is under any obligation to join any of them; they all, of course, call for commitment of time and finance, but if you are interested and would like further information, read the introductory pages to the relevant section in your Year Book or consult the Provincial Grand Secretary.

The United Grand Lodge of England administers Craft Freemasonry consisting of three degrees plus the Holy Royal Arch.

ROYAL ARCH

The Order of the Holy Royal Arch is the climax of Pure and Antient Freemasonry. The impressive ceremony of exultation reconstructs the period after the destruction of King Solomon’s Temple in 598BC, by the forces of King Nebuchadnezzar, and the building of the subsequent Temple.

As the order is part of ‘pure and ancient masonry’ (note change of spelling) it should not be viewed as an optional extra but rather as the only opportunity for a master mason to proceed to the completion of their basic Masonic knowledge. The Holy Royal Arch is more commonly known as ‘Chapter’, for as Craft masons meet in a Lodge, so Royal Arch masons meet in a Chapter and are known as companions.

Master Masons of four weeks and upwards are eligible to be exalted into Royal Arch Masonry by joining a Chapter of which there are presently 30 in this Province of ‘Gloucestershire and Herefordshire’.

Most of the other Orders are administered from Mark Masons’ Hall in St. James’s, London. (For fuller information contact the P G Secretary.)

MARK MASONRY

The degree of Mark Master Mason is open to all master masons. The ceremony, in which a brother is ‘advanced’, can be said to comprise two degrees; the first part in which he is acknowledged as a Mark Man and then the second where he becomes a Mark Master Mason.

The Mark referred to in its title takes its name from the mark or symbol with which the stonemason identified his work and can still be found in many cathedrals and important buildings.

ROYAL ARK MARINERS

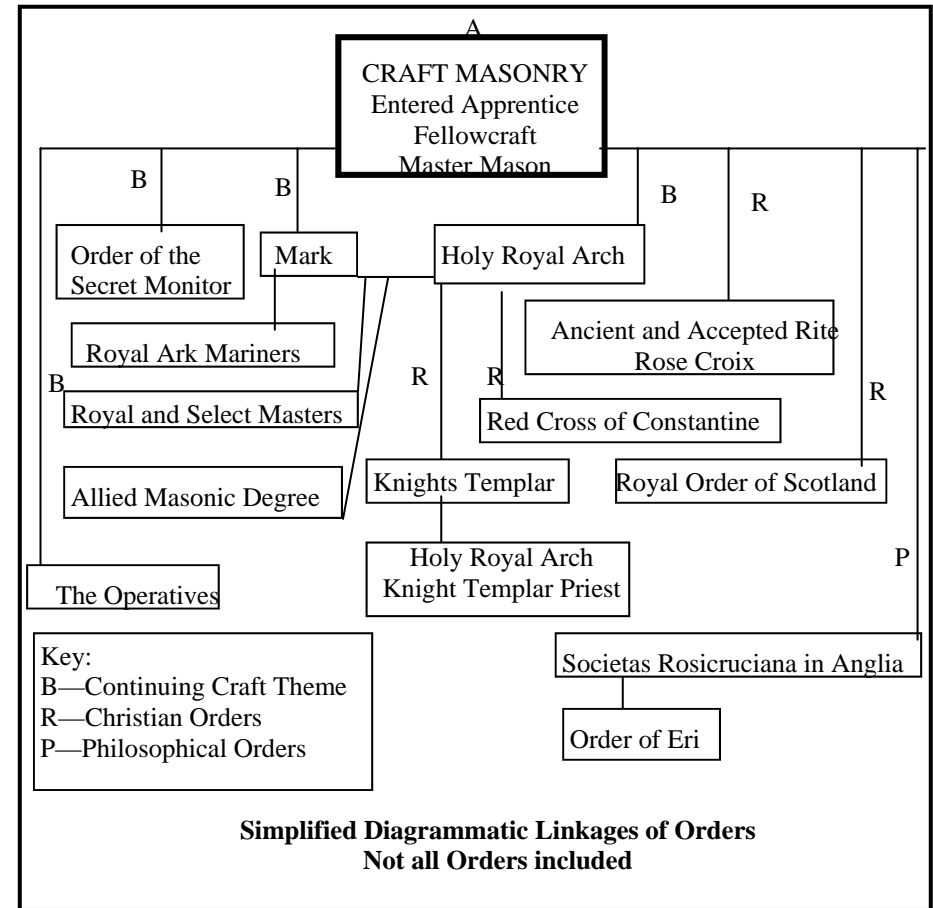
Lodges are attached to Mark Lodges assuming their name and number and to be a member you have to have been advanced as a Mark Master Mason. There the similarity ends. The story relates to the building and voyage of Noah’s Ark and the Great Flood.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR AND THE KNIGHTS OF MALTA

A Christian Order which relates the Knights trials in the area of the Mediterranean islands, for a period of about five hundred years. A candidate must be a Master Mason and a Royal Arch Mason.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR PRIESTS

A Christian Order relating the history of Priests of the Knights Templar. Candidates are invited to join and must be an Installed master and subscribing member of a Lodge, a subscribing Royal Arch Mason, a subscribing Knight Templar and a belief in the Christian Trinity.



SECRET MONITOR

Founded on the friendship of David and Jonathan as related in Samuel I. A candidate must be a Master Mason.

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

Relates how a well known Master Mason intrudes into the vault where the three Grand Masters are meeting and the consequences of his intrusion. Members of all faiths are eligible but must be a qualified Master Mason, Royal Arch Mason and a Mark Master Mason.