



Province of Yorkshire, West Riding.

As head of our Province, it is my pleasure to welcome you into our fraternity, your Lodge and our Province. You have joined an ancient and honorable society of men committed to uphold high standards of integrity and morals.

There are 7,000 Lodges with 200,000 members of United Grand Lodge. In this Province we have nearly 200 Lodges and 5,500 members.

Freemasons come from all walks of life. Brethren in our Lodges meet as equals, irrespective of faith, ethnic group or any position in civil society. We promote and celebrate diversity. Members value the spirit of fellowship, the opportunity to make new friends and to help our wider community.

Two essential elements of being a Freemason are fraternity and charity. As such, all Members, or their dependents, will be supported through times of financial or mental stress.

Freemasonry also donates £millions to national and local charities every year. All charitable funds are raised by voluntary donations from the Members on a “give what you can afford” basis.

When you are asked about Freemasonry by someone, who is not a Member, here are some comments to consider in response:

- ***“It’s fun! – we all thoroughly enjoy ourselves at our meeting and social events”***
- ***“Our philosophy? We try to make good men even better.”***
- ***“We treat everyone with respect.”***
- ***“It’s a way of life with high standards of personal integrity and behaviour.”***

If you want to know more about our history and our traditions, then I would recommend you start your own personal journey of self-discovery by exploring our Provincial website:

www.westridingfreemasons.info

In addition, make sure you have regular talks with your Mentor and other Brethren in the Lodge. Ask questions and someone will always give you an answer. Alternatively, you can access a wonderful world of Masonic learning on: <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk>



The extended family of Freemasonry is an important aspect of Masonic life and includes your family and friends. Please share your experiences with them and involve them in social events or even ask them to join your Lodge.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James H Newman".

James H Newman OBE

Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master

Province of Yorkshire, West Riding.