

Extent of Rose Croix throughout the World

It is claimed that The Supreme Council, the governing body who control the Accepted Rite were constituted in 1786 by Fredrick the Great under a Patent issued by Dr Robert Crucifix. Since then over 1180 Chapters have been formed in 52 Districts within England and Wales and 26 Countries throughout the world. The Order has its headquarters at 10 Duke Street, St. James, London.

District of West Cheshire

In 2005 the District of Cheshire was split into two Districts, East and West Cheshire. Each is now controlled by its own Inspector General assisted administratively by a District Recorder.

West Cheshire has 16 Chapters located at nine different Masonic Centres throughout the District. Some meet in the afternoon, others in the evening. All follow with a Festive Board designed to be a meal of celebration and enjoyment.

The District holds an Evensong Service once per year incorporating afternoon tea. It also boasts a spectacular Higher Degrees Luncheon, which by tradition is held in a different location every year and hosted by one of the sixteen Chapters.

For Further Information Contact:
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18th Degree Regalia

West Cheshire Chapters

Chapter	No.	Meeting Place
Stanhope	75	Queen Street
Birkenhead	150	Clifton Road
Pharus	158	Wallasey
St. Werburgh	220	Queen Street
St. Hilary	365	Clifton Road
Good Companions	445	Queen Street
The Wirral	757	Oliver Street
Leicester Warren	808	Ellesmere Port
St. James Priory	896	Clifton Road
Pelican	927	Hartford
City of Chester	945	Christleton
St. Plegmund	990	Ellesmere Port
St. Ethelbert	1028	Wallasey
De La Hoghe	1089	Neston
Christleton	1130	Christleton
Tarporley	1156	Tarporley

District Of West Cheshire



The Rose Croix Of Heredom

What a Candidate for the Rose Croix Degree should know

The purpose of this leaflet is to advise aspiring members of the Order what the Supreme Council considers a member of the Craft should know before his name is submitted to a Rose Croix Chapter as a possible candidate for Perfection.

The Rose Croix of Heredom

The Rose Croix degree is one of the degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, an Order of Freemasonry as old as the Craft itself. The Rose Croix degree is in fact the 18th of 33 degrees of the Rite. In the ceremony of joining a Rose Croix Chapter, a Brother is “Perfected” as a Prince Rose Croix of Heredom. In England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland this degree is specifically Christian.

Our Order is governed by “The Supreme Council 33^o for England and Wales and its Districts Overseas” Full details of the requirements for membership of the Order are set-out in the Rules of the Supreme Council advice and can be obtained from a Recorder of a Chapter.

Essentially:

A candidate must have been a Master Mason for at least one full year and be in good standing with the Craft before he can be elected to the Order.

He must have received his three degrees in a Lodge or Lodges under the United Grand Lodge of England unless otherwise authorised in the Rules of the Supreme Council.

He must profess the Trinitarian Faith. He will be required to sign a declaration to this effect.

Candidates should apply for membership of a Chapter near to their home or to their place of work.

As in other Masonic Orders a member of the Chapter will be invited to progress through a number of Offices in succession before attaining the Chair as Most Wise Sovereign. The learning requirements of these offices are minimal. The ritual of the Chair requires more work but is usually shared throughout the year. It is not necessary to have been Worshipful Master of a Craft Lodge before becoming a Sovereign. Some of the names of the Officers in a Chapter, for example, Captain of the Guard, are reminders of former times when the Rose Croix degree was worked by the Knights Templar.

The Degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Rite

The First three degrees are deemed to be equivalent to the first three degrees of the Craft. The Intermediate degrees, the 4th to the 17th are conferred on a Candidate by name just before the ceremony of the 18th degree; these degrees continue the stories of the Hiram legend.

The 18th degree of the Rose Croix of Heredom is the last of the degrees of the Rite that can be conferred by a Chapter. Subsequent degrees are conferred by the Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors at the Headquarters of the Order known as the “Grand East”. The 30th degree is conferred on a Most Wise Sovereign providing he completes certain criteria and has been a member of the Order for at least three years. The 19th to 29th degrees are conferred by name.

Promotion to the Higher Degrees 31, 32 and 33 is strictly limited to senior members.

The Ceremony

The VSL used in the ceremony is the Bible. The ritual is a metaphor based on the first verse of St. John’s Gospel (at which the Bible is opened for most of the time) extolling the principles of Christianity. Almost every line of the ritual is either taken as a direct quotation of a Masonic allusion to verses of the New Testament, culminating in Christ’s words to the Disciples in St. John 13.34

The scriptural references tend to be tantalisingly brief, forever offering new insight for Christian Freemasonry. The last part of the ceremony incorporates a “secular feast of fraternal rejoicing” whose origins pre-date even Christianity.

Regalia

The regalia required initially would be the collar and jewel pictured overleaf. The significance of the symbols used in the design are explained during the ceremony. Many years ago members also wore a colourful apron, examples of which can still be seen in some Chapters.

Dress worn is usually a dark suit and “sober” tie with white collar. Some Princes wear Masonic Morning dress but the wearing of a black tie is forbidden, this is a degree of rejoicing rather than mourning.

The Higher Degrees have different collars or sashes.