

- DEGREE OF ROYAL ARK MARINER -

At your advancement into Mark Masonry you were presented with the Book of Constitutions and Regulations. On looking through it you will have noticed that the Book has a section containing the Regulations for the Government of the Degree of Royal Ark Mariner.

As this joint Book of Constitutions and Regulations indicates the Royal Ark Mariners have long been closely associated with Mark Masonry.

The first authentic record of the degree appears in the minute of a meeting held in Bath in 1790, while numerous records exist throughout the country of 'elevations' since that date. This degree however was to experience great difficulties and it was many years before a serious revival of Ark Masonry took place, but in 1816 a Brother John F Dorrington awakened a renewed interest in the Degree when he became Grand Commander. It was this revival that eventually stimulated the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons to take decisive action by placing the degree under its protection.

A Grand Master's Royal Ark Council was formed to regulate the degree and the first original working under the new constitutions was effected in Mother Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No1 in 1872. Since then the fraternity have spread throughout the world.

The Degree of Royal Ark Mariner is worked in Royal Ark Mariner Lodges, but such Lodges are, and must be, attached to a Mark Master Masons Lodge.

The workings of the Degree commemorate the providence and mercy of God and relates to the legend of the Deluge: the subject matter being taken from the Volume of the Sacred Law is naturally both beautiful and instructive. By joining the Royal Ark Mariners which, as a Mark Master Mason, you are now entitled to do, you thereby make an important advance in Masonic knowledge. It is a step which is strongly recommended by the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and is encouraged by the Provincial Grand Master of this Province.

The members of this beautiful and friendly Degree wear a distinctive jewel with its ribbon representing the colours of the rainbow with their Mark Regalia. If you would like to join us or would appreciate further information, please feel free to approach these brethren, who will be delighted to assist you.