



A Brief Introduction to The Rose Croix

The Ancient and Accepted Rite is a Christian Order comprising of 33 degrees. In England, the Order is more popularly known as the Rose Croix. Membership implies a desire for further advancement in Masonic knowledge and the constituent degrees amplify the teachings of Craft Masonry within a Christian context. For this reason, all candidates wishing to join Rose Croix are required to profess the Trinitarian Christian faith.

Rose Croix acknowledges the authority of the United Grand Lodge of England over the three degrees of Craft Freemasonry and accepts the three degrees of Craft Masonry as equivalents of the first three degrees of this rite. The ceremony of admission into Rose Croix is known as the 'Perfection'. A candidate for Perfection must: (a) have been a Master Mason for at least one full year; (b) be of good standing in the Craft and (c) have received his three Craft degrees under the auspices of the United Grand Lodge of England.

In the ceremony of Perfection, the 4th to the 17th degrees, known as the 'Intermediate Degrees', are conferred by name only, and the 18th degree is worked in full. A member of a Rose Croix Chapter, can in time, be expected to be invited to progress through the offices culminating in 'the chair', as in other Masonic Orders. The learning requirements of these offices are minimal but, as might be expected, the ritual from the chair needs more effort, although the work can be shared so as to minimize the demands of the Office.

Brethren meeting the criteria mentioned above are cordially invited to consider becoming members of the Rose Croix. There are 3 very good Chapters meeting within the boundaries of the Lancaster and District Group of Craft Lodges. The oldest is Philips Chapter No 52, which was consecrated in 1874 and meets in Lancaster M.H. on the last Tuesday in September, November, January and March. Morecambe Chapter No 313, which meets in Morecambe M.H. on the Fourth Friday in October, November, January and March and Garstang Chapter No 993, which meets in Garstang M.H. on the last Thursday in August, Second Tuesday in January and the First Wednesday in June. Regalia is minimal and comprises of a very attractive Collar and Jewel, neither gloves or black tie are worn at the meetings. The Annual subscription varies slightly from Chapter to Chapter but is around a modest £20 per annum (plus an initial fee for Perfection).

Further information about the Order can be obtained from the District Recorder: Ill Bro. Peter Mason 31° (01524 811244).