



Sussex Freemasons - West Group

'The West Wing'
(Bognor, Chichester, Clapham, Littlehampton,
Midhurst, Pulborough, Steyning and Worthing)

'The West Wing' Learning and Development Team.

'The West Wing'



Masons Notebook

January '26

Issue 17



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Introduction.

An opportunity to make your own collection of 'Masonic Gems' that will enhance your knowledge of the ritual and its meaning.

Every month you will receive some 'Masonic Gems' that will build into an amazing notebook that will last a lifetime.

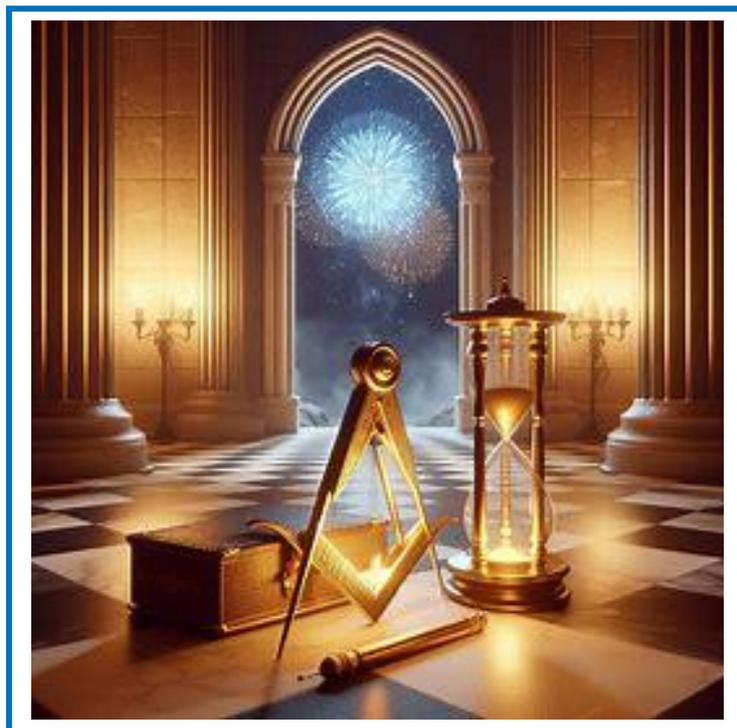
The 'Gems' are sourced from a variety of authors that will give you, the learner, a balanced outlook on Masonic ritual and symbolism.

Start your collection and your journey today.

The 'West Wing' Learning and Development Team.



**Wishing all our readers a happy and
prosperous New Year**





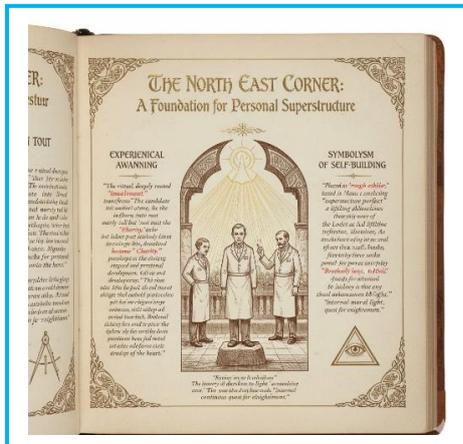
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'The West Wing' Learning and Development Team.

The West Wing' Lodge of Instruction.

The North East Corner.



In the teaching profession there is a phrase, "Tell me I will forget, show me I will remember, involve me and I will understand."

There is no better institution than Freemasonry that understands this phrase more. All our allegories (stories), are playlets which involve the student (the candidate), taking a major role in the telling of a story which teaches some form of personal development. The ritual of the 'North East Corner' is one such powerful piece of teaching.

Let us examine that piece of ritual more closely.

The lesson on Charity.

Lesson / Tutorial Aim & Objectives

Explore the ritual of the North East Corner

By the end of this lesson/tutorial you will be able to:

- Understand the ritual of the North East Corner.
- Reflect upon the virtues of Charity.
- Follow the writings of the Rev. Neville Barker-Cryer.



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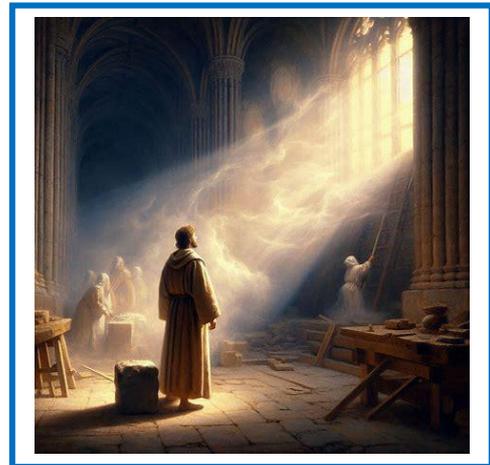
'The West Wing' Learning and Development Team.

Ritual.

It is customary, at the erection of all stately and superb edifices, to lay the first or foundation stone at the North East Corner of the building. You, being newly admitted into Freemasonry, are placed at the North East part of the Lodge figuratively to represent that stone, and from the foundations laid this evening may you raise a superstructure perfect in its parts and honourable to the builder

Freemasonry became popular in the 17th Century because it was a society of equals, signified by the wearing of the white apron by all its members. A place where honourable men of different religions and political differences could meet together as brothers.

The newly obligated Mason is placed with his feet in the form of a square to represent the foundation stone, in this instance a rough ashlar, an example of which is on the JW's pedestal. In the early ceremonies the rough ashlar would be placed at the candidate's feet. In the NE because in all medieval churches this was the situation of the Easter sepulchre, the symbolic tomb of Christ, and as Reverend Neville Barker Cryer explains in his book 'What do you know about the ritual?' "from where the first light of Easter came the promise of God's love and care." This seems appropriate for this lesson on charity and brotherly love.



Having been conducted from the West and darkness, to the East in search of light, we find ourselves at a point where the first rays of the morning sun shines through ready to guide us for the rest of the day and through every day thereafter.



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In order to reach this position in the Lodge you have undergone a series of examinations by senior brethren. You have "searched for and found" Freemasonry.

You have "asked and it has been given". You have "knocked and it has been opened unto you". You could have failed on any of these three stages. So your 'external' appearance is that of a just and upright man. An "Entered Apprentice". One who has yet to be guided and tested on his "internal" moral values, the skill sets that will be set by the Master and which you could still fail if the desire to learn is not there. What you have to learn will become apparent in discussions with senior brethren and your mentors.

Ritual.

In a society so widely extended as Freemasonry, the branches of which are spread over the four quarters of the globe, it cannot be denied that we have many members of rank and opulence; neither can it be concealed that among the thousands that range under its banners, there are some who perhaps from circumstances of unavoidable calamity and misfortune, are reduced To the lowest ebb of poverty and distress. On their behalf it is our usual custom to awaken the feelings of every new made Brother by such a claim on his charity as his circumstances in life may fairly warrant. Whatever, therefore, you feel disposed to give, you will deposit with the JD; it will be thankfully received and faithfully applied.



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On every continent around the world you will find a Freemason's Lodge. Such is the influence of its message of equality - "Brotherly love, relief and truth". From aristocracy to the working classes the moment you set foot inside your Lodge there is no social status, you are all equal.

Rudyard Kipling in his poem, 'Mother Lodge', explains it wonderfully when he writes about his Lodge in

India:

'Outside - "Sergeant! Sir! Salute! Salaam!"
Inside - "Brother" an' it doesn't do no 'arm,
We met upon the level an' we parted on the square,
An' I was Junior Deacon in my Mother Lodge out there!

Ritual.

You now stand, to all external appearance, a just and upright Mason and I give it in strong terms of recommendation ever to continue and act as such. Indeed, I shall immediately proceed to put your principles in some measure to the test, by calling upon you to exercise that virtue which may justly be denominated the distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart - I mean Charity. I need not here dilate upon its excellences; no doubt it has often been felt and practiced by you. Suffice it to say, it has the approbation of heaven and earth, and like its sister, Mercy, blesses him who gives as well as him who receives.

With such a membership it is natural that some may fall upon hard times through accident, illness, economic collapse or world catastrophes, none of us are really safe. It is important, therefore, that we acknowledge this fact and embrace the opportunity to help those who are less fortunate, it could quite easily be you.



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What does it feel like to have nothing? To have everything taken from you. To be in despair not knowing when the next wage will come in to put food on the table and a roof over your family's head. In a somewhat dramatic way you are temporarily placed in that position and in true teaching fashion - "involve me and I will understand".

Ritual.

"Have you anything to give in the cause of Charity?"

"Were you deprived of everything v..l..e previously to entering the Lodge?"

"If you had not been so deprived would you give freely?"

"WM, our new-made Brother affirms that he was deprived of everything v..l..e previously to entering the Lodge or he would give freely."

Questions from the JD and his acknowledgement to the WM. It is the pause between the first and second question that a reality of the situation becomes apparent. More so, perhaps, for those who in society have wanted for nothing and for the first time having to think about it. Stripping away all the social and economic trappings and exposing the man, his character and his beliefs. A man wearing that white apron the same as every other man in that room who has been through the same experience. It is an experience that unites us as equals and bonds us as brothers.



Ritual.

I congratulate you on the honourable sentiments by which you are actuated; likewise on the inability which in the present instance preclude you from



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gratifying them. Believe me, this trial was not made with a view to sport with your feelings. It was done for three especial reasons:

It is here that the WM explains why you had to go through that learning experience

Ritual.

First, as I have already premised, to put your principles to the test:

When you went through the interview process the brethren would have brought to your attention the fact that we are, in part, a charity fund raising institution. So it is important that the brethren see that you are charitable person.

Ritual

Secondly, to evince the Brethren that you had neither m..y nor m..c substance about you, for if you had, the ceremony thus far, must have been repeated

Such is the importance that you enter Freemasonry with only the "tongue of good report" as your qualification. You cannot buy your entrance or force your way in. It is about who you are as a man and your desire to improve as a Mason, for "All men are created equal" (Thomas Jefferson, 1776)



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Ritual.

And thirdly, as a warning to your heart, that should you at any future period meet a Brother in distressed circumstances who might solicit your assistance, you will remember the peculiar moment you were received into Freemasonry, poor and penniless, and cheerfully embrace the opportunity of practicing that virtue you have professed to admire.

For a brief moment you had an experience of what it could be like to have nothing but your reputation as a good man. Remember that experience as it is one every Freemason has gone through. It is something we share in common and bonds us as brothers.



Remember - **Brotherly love, relief and truth.**

W. Bro. Stephen J. Goulding. ProvSGD, SLGCR.

'The West Wing' Learning and Development Lead

Article published in The Square Magazine 05/22

Video & Article

www.thesquaremagazine.com/mag/article/202201the-north-east-corner/

For an analysis of this lesson/tutorial go to the Learning and Development page of the West Group Web Site www.wgsm.co.uk under the heading "West Group Lodge of Instruction" - Lesson 5.



A more in depth analysis of this tutorial can be found in the Lodge of Instruction section of the L&D page on the West Group web site.

www.wgsm.co.uk



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Questions

Q. Why is the candidate placed in the North East part of the Lodge?

A. It is the point where the first rays of the morning sun shines through. In medieval churches this was the situation of the Easter Sepulchre, the tomb of Christ, from where the first light of Easter comes the promise of God's love and care. (Rev. Neville Barker Cryer)

Q. Why is the candidate's feet placed in the form of a square?

A. To figuratively represent the foundation stone. In this instance the 'rough ashlar'.

Q. What is the distinguishing feature of a Freemasons heart?

A. Charity.

Q. What do the knocks represent?

A. Ask and it shall be given. Seek and you shall find. Knock and the door will be opened unto you. (Matthew 7:7)

Q. What are the three Grand Principles on which the Order is founded?

A. Brotherly love, relief and truth.

A. Complete the following: 'Tell me I will forget, show me I will remember, involve me I will

A. Understand.



Reflection

Charitable actions are not only financial.

Reflect upon other methods of being charitable.



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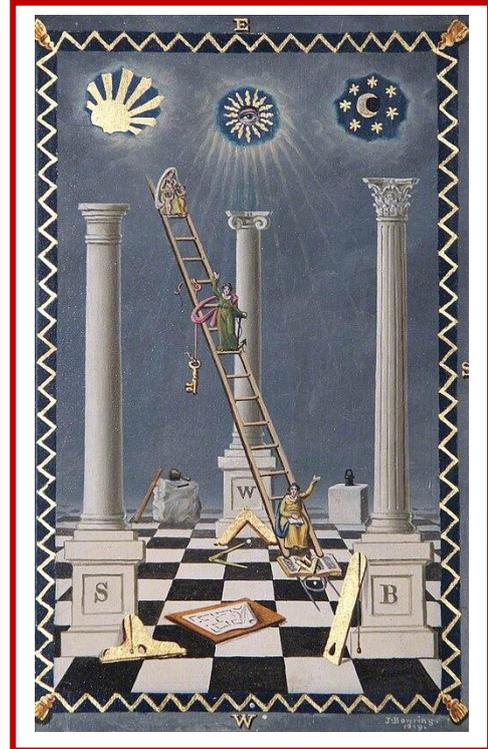
Royal Arch Corner

One Journey One Organisation

A new addition to this magazine is the Royal Arch Corner. It will feature an aspect of the Royal Arch each month.

We are going to start off this new topic with a quiz. On the right is the Bowring First Degree Tracing Board. Examine it and identify how many points on the Tracing Board relate to the Royal Arch.

Answers next month.



Lodge of Instruction / Chapter of Improvement Education.

Make your Lodges of Instruction and Chapters of Improvement an enjoyable place of education. It is important to rehearse the ritual in order to make our ceremonies a joy to watch, encouraging retention of our members. It is equally important that we use our ritual for the purpose it was intended. To EDUCATE. To teach good men to be better men - to be FREEMASONS.

"One to whom the burdened heart may pour forth their sorrow, to whom the distressed may prefer their suit, whose hand is guided by justice and whose heart is expanded by benevolence." (Address to the Master)

In the West Group Web Page (www.wgsm.co.uk) under the tag L&D you will find material you can use to assist in educating the membership. Please make 2026 a year of education.



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Learning and Development

Workshops and Seminars

2026

Brethren, the purpose of Freemasonry is **"to Instruct"**. (William Preston)

"Instruct Who?" - "Instruct good men how to be Freemasons."

- **Standards and Performance Workshop** for ALL Lodge officers.
Charmandean Centre, Worthing. 7th February, 2026.
- **Mentors Workshop.**
Pulborough, 2nd May, 2026.
- **Royal Arch Seminar** for RA Reps. Mentors and all those brethren interested in joining the Royal Arch.
Pulborough .24th January, 2026.
Charmandean. 28th March, 2026.
- **Chichester Chapter of Improvement .**
For ALL RA Masons.
Chichester. Commencing 17th January, 2026.

To Enrol on any of the above please contact:

W. Bro. Stephen J. Goulding. ProvSGD, SLGCR.

Email: stevegoulding@sussexmasons.org.uk



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Cornerstone (Miscellaneous bits)

Learning Programs:

'The West Wing' Learning and Development Program.

Freemasonry is a Lifestyle Choice. Learn more through your Lodge Mentor, the West Group web page or the L & D Team.

Solomon <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/>

Mentors Notes: <https://www.thesquaremagazine.com/mentorsnotes/>

West Group Web Page: <https://www.wgsm.org.uk>

ONLINE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT



Start your journey
<https://solomon.ugle.org.uk>

mentor's notes



self paced guided learning

the **SQUARE**
ACADEMY



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Learning and Development Web Page.

ALL West Group Masons and particularly Lodge and Personal Mentors please note - Contents of the Learning and Development (L&D) section of the West Group Web Page. (www.wgsm.co.uk). EXPLORE!!

Contents.

Solomon and Mentors Notes Courses on:

- The Entered Apprentice Program.
 - The Fellowcraft Program.
 - The Master Mason Program.
 - The Royal Arch Program.

The West Wing Learning and Development (Video) program.

Royal Arch Representatives Program.

'The West Wing' Masons Notebooks.

Lodge and Personal Mentors Program.

The West Wing Lodge of Instruction Program.

The West Wing Chapter of Improvement Program.

"Ask and will be given. Seek and ye shall find. Knock and the door shall be opened unto you," Mathew 7:7

You have knocked on the door of Freemasonry, open it and see the wonders it possesses.

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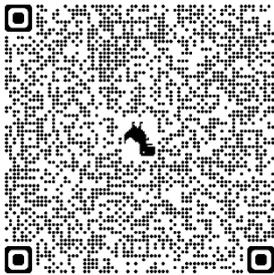
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Facebook.

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<https://www.facebook.com/share/Tx388jyGJiYKfd4q/?mibextid=K35XfP>

West Sussex Light Blues Club



<https://www.westsussexlbc.org/>

Are you a new Mason in the West Group of Sussex? Click on the QR Code and enjoy your journey into an exciting aspect of Freemasonry.

Membership Benefits

- Monthly Social Events Across The Province
- Curated masonic events, just for club members
- Learn more about the craft in a relaxed setting
- Access to a private Facebook page & WhatsApp group
- Socialise with & meet likeminded Freemasons in your area
- Future planned benefits including a masonic passport, lapel pins, a role within the club and more...



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The Royal Arch Chapter of Improvement in Chichester.

A different approach to teaching the mysteries of the Royal Arch has been adopted in the Chichester Chapter of Improvement. It combines education of both the philosophical meaning and the personal development application of the ritual alongside traditional teaching methods of the Royal Arch ceremonies.

"Tell me I will forget. Show me I will remember.

Involve me I will understand".

Part 1 Royal Arch Course

Saturday, 17th January, 2026 10am – 12 noon

Chichester Masonic Hall, 7 South Pallant, Chichester,
PO19 1SY

Prospectus

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Opening and Closing the Chapter | Saturday, 17 th January, 2026 |
| 2. The Platonic Solids | Saturday, 21 st February, 2026 |
| 3. The Sojourners Journey | Saturday, 21 st March, 2026 |
| 4. The Vaulted Chamber | Saturday, 25 th April, 2026 |

To Enrol or if you would like a prospectus please contact the Chichester Chapter of Improvement Secretary Ex. Comp. Stephen J. Goulding, SLGCR:

.Email: stevegoulding@sussexmasons.org.uk



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Sussex Royal Arch Masonry launches new BLOG

<https://www.sussexroyalarch.co.uk>



The **BLOG** is a standalone communication platform which operates separately but in conjunction with the Sussex Royal Arch Website. The **BLOG** is *updated daily* and is easily accessible, simply visit <https://www.sussexroyalarch.co.uk>

A One Journey – One Organisation BLOG



Conveying information about

Royal Arch Masonry and how to join.

Future *Exaltation and Installation Ceremonies* taking place local to you.

Royal Arch Events taking place in Sussex Chapters and beyond.

Royal Arch Articles and *Announcement's*.

Membership and Mentoring.



Archway Support

UGLE- Solomon Royal Arch Virtual Learning Platform Guidance



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West Wing News

As we all know WBro Craig Brawley received a very well deserved promotion to Provincial Grand Mentor in October and has been very active in his new role! This left a vacancy in the West Group as our Attraction Lead and I am delighted to share that **WBro Mark Williams** has been appointed to this position. Mark will be leading our digital campaign via Facebook advertising which continues to attract new Initiates. If your Lodge is looking to attract new blood Mark would be keen to hear from your Secretary.



Littlehampton Masonic Center Twixmas social.

Relaxing after a successful day chatting over tea and coffee and Mince pies. Many tours of the lodge and its History to visitors both masonic, families and locals... a great day. Not there? See

you next year 🍷🍷🌲 thanks to Howard lodge of Brotherly Love 56 for hosting it....Happy New Year all



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Actions Not Words.

Another fantastic Community Engagement event at The Charmandean!

The last monthly UKHarvest 'Community Food Hub' of 2025. Food that would otherwise have gone to waste was distributed to those less fortunate than

ourselves. Great work again by the Charmandean Team led by Trevor England. A range of support services were also in attendance including; the NHS, LEAP, West Sussex Mind, Meals on Wheels etc

Also great to have the Provincial Grand Mentor **Craig Brawley** dropping in to experience a 'Community Food Hub'



NEW ANNOUNCEMENT

We are proud to announce that on behalf of **Sussex Freemasons**, we have recently awarded

£60,000
to **Amaze**

in support of the Amazing Futures programme

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Steve Lewis, on behalf of the West Group, gave a talk to the Bognor Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club about Freemasonry and the Armed Forces. I was kindly invited along by **WBro Graham Jones** of Pagham Lodge.

It was a really good morning. The members were engaged and asked plenty of questions, and it was clear we share a lot of the same values and interests. A big thank you to

everyone at the Breakfast Club for the warm welcome, and to WBro Graham Jones for the invitation.

Sara received some Christmas presents and a cheque for £250 from us all. She has asked to thank you all and wish you all a very Merry Christmas. She will use the money to buy a new TV and would like to pass on her old one which is still in good working order. Sometimes it re-sets the channels and Sara has to play with the remote which is difficult with her fingers. So if you have a home for her old TV please contact **Jason McCreannney**.



Watch this Space.

Any Brother wishing development in any area of Craft or Royal Arch Masonry that we have not covered please let us know. We will try to put a learning plan together for you.

'The West Wing' L & D Team

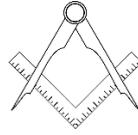
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If you are not willing to
learn no one can help
you.

If you are determined
to learn, no one can stop
you.

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Notes.