



Sussex Freemasons - West Group  
The West Wing  
(Beginn, Chichester, Clapham, Littlehampton,  
Midhurst, Pulborough, Steyning and Worthing)

The West Wing Learning and Development Team

# *'The West Wing'*



# *Masons Notebook*

May, '26

Issue 21

## The West Wing Learning and Development Team

### 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.

## The West Wing Learning and Development Team

### Lesson 9

### The Immoveable Jewels

#### Lesson Aim

To examine the symbolism of the  
Immoveable Jewels.

#### Lesson Objectives.

By the end of this lesson the students will be able to :

- Identify the 'Immoveable Jewels in a Lodge room.
- Examine the period of Enlightenment in European history and its relevance to masonic ritual.
- Moralise upon the 'immoveable jewels'..

The Rough Ashlar, the Smooth Ashlar and the Tracing Boards are the three Immoveable Jewels in a UGLE Lodge, so let us examine them.

A **Jewel**, as described by Dictionary.com is:

- a cut and polished precious stone; gem.
- a precious possession.
- a person or thing that is treasured, esteemed, or indispensable.

In Masonic terms a "jewel" is not merely a precious thing, but specifically an emblem of moral truth or a badge of office that conveys authority and duty.

The Rough Ashlar, Smooth Ashlar and Tracing Boards (or Trestles) are considered 'immoveable' because they stay in place within the Lodge. In America they are considered as the 'Moveable Jewels'.



## The West Wing Learning and Development Team

The **Rough Ashlar** represents the newly initiated Freemason. The rough stone taken from the quarry, solid in character but rough around the edges. Using the working tools of an apprentice the stone is measured, the rough edges knocked off by the gavel and further smoothed by the chisel. In times gone by the rough ashlar is placed between the feet of an initiate in the North East Corner, his feet forming a square. The first or foundation stone

### What do these rough edges on the ashlar represent?

When masonic ritual was revised and written in the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century it was during the age of 'Enlightenment'(1685-1815). A time of religious tolerance and scientific revolution. It reshaped religion by applying rationalism and empiricism to faith emphasizing tolerance and reducing church power. It promoted a 'natural religion' which focused on morality over rigid doctrine. It saw God as a '**rational designer**' who created the world but does not interfere.

It aligned with Plato in his writings (*The Republic*) who's moral doctrine is virtue-based which focused on the highest form of human goodness by cultivating a virtuous soul. He followed Socrates in believing virtue is knowledge and wrongdoing arises from ignorance not intent.

The seven virtues that we acknowledge in our Lodges are:

- **The Four Cardinal Virtues** (Prudence, Temperance, Fortitude, Justice) and are pre-Christian Greek philosophy from Plato. They were later adopted by Church fathers like Ambrose and Augustine.
- **The Three Theological Virtues** (Faith, Hope, Charity) are distinctly Christian, derived directly from St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians.

Masonry utilizes these two distinct sets physically in the Lodge: The Theological virtues on Jacob's Ladder (via the 1st Degree Tracing Board) and the Cardinal virtues represented by the tassels at the corners of the Lodge carpet.

With these virtues as a guide to being a moral man, a Freemason, what we are trimming from the rough ashlar are those vices of: rashness or recklessness;

## The West Wing Learning and Development Team

gluttony or greed; cowardness or apathy; corruption or dishonesty; scepticism or distrust; dread or fear; unkindness or indifference.

### Seven 'Masonic' Virtues:



**Prudence** - Behaviour that is careful and avoids risks.

**Temperance** - Control of behaviour such as not drinking or eating too much.

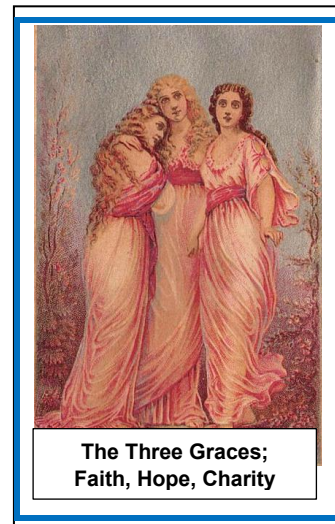
**Fortitude** - Courage over a long period.

**Justice** - Fairness in the way people are dealt with.

**Faith** - Great trust or confidence in something or someone.

**Hope** - To want something to happen or to be true and usually have a good reason to think that it might.

**Charity** - The quality of being kind to people and not judging them in a severe way - help given freely to people who are in need.



The Three Graces;  
Faith, Hope, Charity

The **Smooth Ashlar** is considered as the final product. A stone or Freemason that is polished, that is precious and an indispensable part of the building, the community. It signifies a Freemason in his autumn years having spent his time trying to be the very best he can be. A man who *"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)

A man who has tried his best to be virtuous, complying, the best he can, to the seven masonic virtues. A man who has acknowledged and practiced the benefits of education as explained in the Second Degree, the Trivium and Quadrivium

## The West Wing Learning and Development Team

(the seven liberal arts and sciences). Using his 'chisel' to great benefit for lifelong learning. (Note the value of the number 'seven'.)

The **Tracing (Trestle) Boards** are considered the floorplans of our work in each of the degrees, including the Royal Arch. The 'Great Architect of the Universe' has set out in the 'Volume of the Sacred Law' (VSL) a plan for virtuous living. In Biblical times Moses was given a plan for a virtuous life when he brought down from the foot of mount Horeb in the wilderness of Sinai the tablets containing the Ten Commandments.



There is a phrase in teaching that says " Tell me I will forget. Show me I will remember. Involve me and I will understand", This takes in the three learning

preferences - Audio, Visual and Kinesthetic. The ritual perfectly applies these phrases to Masonic teachings. The images on the Tracing Boards are a visual explanation of the allegory of the degree and its moral teachings. This applies the teaching theory of 'show' and 'tell'. As a candidate is escorted around the Lodge he is being 'involved' in the ritual

The ritual was written at a time of 'Enlightenment' (1685-1815). The three concepts were the use of reason, the scientific method and progress. Enlightenment thinkers believed they could help create better societies and better people. The Freemasons ideology of the time was 'Enlightenment, Scientific Revolution and Tolerance' and not Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. It was the chase of knowledge and personal growth which we still promote in our Lodges today.

### Conclusion.

William Preston stated that "the purpose of Freemasonry is to instruct". The 'Immoveable Jewels' are indispensable aids to teaching. Teaching the values and principles of virtuous living and lifelong learning. Freemasonry.

W. Bro. Stephen J. Goulding. ProvSGD, SLGCR.  
The West Wing Learning and Development Lead.

## Royal Arch Corner.

### **Cyrus the Great.**

Being a member of **Cyrus Chapter No. 38** and having a fascination, not only for the Royal Arch, but also for history and particularly the origin of the name of my Chapter, I went on a short journey of discovery which opened up an amazing legend that is *Cyrus the Great*. A story that not only has a similarity to *Moses* but can be said to be a significant factor in the genesis of the Royal Arch allegory.

**Prophecy made by Isaiah** of King *Cyrus* (700 to 680 BCE) over a hundred years before his birth.

*Isa 44:28:*

*That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.*

*Isa 45:1:*

*Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;*

Born between 590-580 BCE in Persia, his mother being *Mandane of Media*, the daughter of king *Astyages*, and his father a prince called *Cambyses* who later became king *Cambyses I* of *Ashan*, the baby *Cyrus* was given to a shepherd to be raised. The reason was his grandfather, king *Astyages*, had a dream that his grandson would overthrow him. He therefore ordered the baby to be slain. King *Astyages's* chief advisor was ordered to kill the baby but could not carry out the order.

Some 500 years earlier, around 1300 BCE, *Moses* was placed in a basket on the river *Nile* to save him from *Pharaoh's* decree requiring all new born Hebrew boys to be drowned.

## The West Wing Learning and Development Team

### Comparison Moses to Cyrus:

Moses was a prophet and deliverer from bondage, while Cyrus was the Persian king and benevolent conqueror who acted as a later deliverer.

Cyrus is often viewed as a successor to the liberation initiated by Moses, fulfilling prophecies by allowing the Jews to return to the land promised to them through Moses.

By the age of 10 Cyrus was showing some outstanding leadership qualities. He was discovered by Astyages and despite his dream allowed Cyrus to live. Upon reaching manhood Cyrus revolted against his grandfather. The king marched against the rebel Cyrus, but the king's army deserted him and surrendered to Cyrus in 550BCE.

With his now established army Cyrus marched against the Ionian Greek cities, conquered them and then moved onto Babylonia. In October, 539BCE, the greatest city in the then known world, Babylon, fell to the Persians

Cyrus went on to found the Achaemenian Empire which was centred on Persia stretching from the Aegean Sea eastwards to the Indus River. The greatest empire of its time.

Cyrus is remembered as a tolerant and ideal monarch who was called the father of his people by the ancient Persians. In the bible he is the liberator of the Jews who were captive in Babylon.

It is in Babylon, according to the Bible (Ezra 1:1-4), that he is famous for freeing the Jewish captives and allowing them to return home and build a Temple. As a result of his actions the Jews called him a 'Messiah' meaning 'anointed one'.

### **Ezra 1:1-4**

***“1 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfil the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing:***

***2 “This is what Cyrus king of Persia says:***

***“The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. <sup>3</sup> Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with***

## The West Wing Learning and Development Team

*them. 4 And in any locality where survivors may now be living, the people are to provide them with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem.”*

In the Quran Cyrus is interpreted as “Dhul-Qarnayn” (a two horned persona) uniting the Median and Persian empires (two horns). In the book of Daniel he is depicted as a ram with two horns. Dhul-Qarnayn is described as conquering to the ends of the then known world, from the rising to the setting sun.

It is said, by the writer **Herodotus**, that Cyrus was killed in battle against the Massagetae led by Queen Tomyris around 530 BCE in eastern Iran. The queen sought revenge for her son’s death, who had allegedly committed suicide, by having Cyrus’s head dipped into a barrel of blood. However, **Xenophon** states in his writings that Cyrus died peacefully at his capital.

### The Cyrus Cylinder.

This 6<sup>th</sup> Century archaeological artifact records Cyrus's victory over Babylon. It is considered a pioneering document of religious tolerance and human rights, detailing the restoration of temples, return of deported peoples and peaceful establishment of Persian rule in Babylon. It is now in the British Museum.

### Legacy

The foundational part of Cyrus's legacy is his religious policies and respect for local traditions. **A liberator of the oppressed and a tolerance of different religions.**

Ex. Comp. **Stephen J. Goulding. SLGCR.**

Cyrus Chapter No. 38.

## The West Wing Learning and Development Team

### Help us help you.

The Purpose of Freemasonry, Brethren, is 'to instruct'. (William Preston).

If you would like a specific Masonic educational subject to be covered please contact the Learning and Development Team.

#### Contact details:

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

Email: [stevegoulding@sussexmasons.org.uk](mailto:stevegoulding@sussexmasons.org.uk)



**L&D Team**

**Fred Biggs,  
Steve Goulding,  
Barry Smith**

## The West Wing Learning and Development Team

### Cornerstone (Miscellaneous bits)

#### Learning Programs:

#### 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](http://www.wgsm.co.uk)).**

**Members: PW 357Steps?!? L&D Tag**

### Contents.

Solomon and Mentors Notes Courses on:

- The Entered Apprentice Program.
  - The Fellowcraft Program.
  - The Master Mason Program.
  - The Holy 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

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

## The West Wing Learning and Development Team

### 'The West Wing' Learning and Development Programs.

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



The West Group  
Web Page  
[www.wgsm.org.uk](http://www.wgsm.org.uk)

'The West Wing' Learning and Development Team.

#### Facebook.

Sussex Freemasons - West Group - 'The West Wing'

<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...



## The West Wing Learning and Development Team



## The Chichester Royal Arch Chapter of Improvement

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 2 Royal Arch Course

#### Historical, Symbolical & Historical Lectures

**16<sup>th</sup> April – Historical Lecture**

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

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](mailto:stevegoulding@sussexmasons.org.uk)

## The West Wing Learning and Development Team



### 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*

The West Wing Learning and Development Team

## West Group Notices

# FREE PUBLIC PROSTATE SCREENING

& DIABETES SCREENING SERVICE



Sponsored by Sussex  
Mark Masons

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2026**  
**Chichester Masonic Hall, 7 S Pallant,**  
**Chichester PO19 1SY**



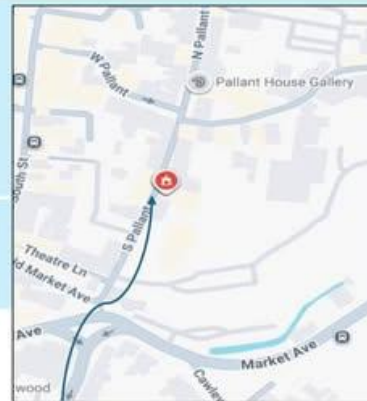
Who's at higher risk

- Family History of Breast, Ovarian or Prostate Cancer
  - Slow or difficulty Urinating
  - African Caribbean Heritage

**If your 45-80 and want a  
 Prostate Screening - PSA test  
 must be Booked Online  
 (link below)**

[PSA Testing & Events – PCaSO](#)

**Diabetes Test  
 Walk in on the day**



**Chichester Masonic Hall**  
**Provided by the PCaSO**  
**Reg'd charity 1170536**  
<https://pcaso.org>

**For more information  
 contact:**

John Hickman  
[john.hickman9@sky.com](mailto:john.hickman9@sky.com)



Sussex Freemasons - West Group  
[www.wgsm.co.uk](http://www.wgsm.co.uk)  
 'The West Wing'  
 (Bognor, Chichester, Clapham, Littlehampton,  
 Midhurst, Pulborough, Steyning and Worthing)

**Sponsored by**  
**Sussex Mark Master Masons**  
<https://sussexmark.org.uk>

Early Detection and Diagnosis saves lives!



Sussex Freemasons - West Group  
The West Wing  
(Brighton, Chichester, Clapham, Littlehampton,  
Midhurst, Pulborough, Steyning and Worthing)

The West Wing Learning and Development Team

CHICHESTER MASONIC CENTRE

# Black Tie Dinner & Dance

*A glamorous evening of dining, dancing & celebration*

In aid of the Building Fund


SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2026

**Arrival 6:15pm • Dinner 7:00pm**

Carriages at 10:45pm

 Luxury three-course dinner with menu choices

 Live music & dancing with **The Vincents**

 Elegant charity raffle in aid of the Centre Building Fund

 Wives, partners & non-masonic guests warmly welcome

## £47 per person

RESERVE YOUR PLACES

[bes.squareevents.org](https://bes.squareevents.org)

Black tie • ballroom glamour • tables available for groups



Sussex Freemasons - West Group  
 The West Wing  
 (Brighton, Chichester, Clapham, Littlehampton,  
 Midhurst, Pulborough, Steyning and Worthing)

## The West Wing Learning and Development Team

— YOU'RE INVITED —

# LODGE OPEN DAY



**HOWARD LODGE OF BROTHERLY LOVE**  
 — EST. 1736 —  
 TRADITION. INTEGRITY. FRIENDSHIP.

COME IN. LOOK AROUND.  
 SEE WHAT FREEMASONRY IS REALLY ABOUT.



**OPEN DOORS**  
 Step inside our historic lodge and experience the warmth of true brotherhood.



**MEET THE MEMBERS**  
 Chat with our members and learn why Freemasonry is as relevant today as it's ever been.



**LEARN & DISCOVER**  
 Find out what we do, what we stand for, and how we make a difference.



**ALL WELCOME**  
 Whether you're curious, considering joining, or simply want to know more – you're welcome here.





**OPEN DAY**  
 COME ALONG AND SEE  
 WHAT FREEMASONRY IS ALL ABOUT.

📅 DATE: SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026  
 🕒 TIME: 10AM TO 3PM  
 📍 LOCATION: MASONIC HALL,  
 CHURCH STREET, BN17 5EN

**“NOT ALL WHO KNOCK ARE LOST.”**

FOR MORE INFORMATION | 📞 07974441352 | ✉️ [jwb1352@gmail.com](mailto:jwb1352@gmail.com)

The West Wing Learning and Development Team

## Actions Not Words.



On Saturday 13th June a team of West Group Freemasons are participating in the 'Moonlight Walk' to raise funds for St Wilfrid's. Send me a message if you would like to join the team or you may wish to contribute a few £ via the link below.

**The team so far is;**

Merrick & Natalie Eames; Stephen & Jemena Way (Marshalls) Gary West; Barry Smith; Phill & Emma Sanders; John & Lis Spence.

Link:

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/john-spence-4?newPage=true&fbclid=IwY2xjawRqIhIeHRuA2FlbQlXMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzIxNzI4MjAwODkyAAEelTC4dc7O52aSjllwEYqrZymPTX6qvblblcoQJMuPhxNqC0NFv254YTDtg\\_aem\\_5pE1GzNPkFFRJqs1v8LUyQ](https://www.justgiving.com/page/john-spence-4?newPage=true&fbclid=IwY2xjawRqIhIeHRuA2FlbQlXMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzIxNzI4MjAwODkyAAEelTC4dc7O52aSjllwEYqrZymPTX6qvblblcoQJMuPhxNqC0NFv254YTDtg_aem_5pE1GzNPkFFRJqs1v8LUyQ)



Five members of the West Group generously gave their time to act as Marshals on behalf of Stonepillow during their charity walk from Chichester to Bognor Regis.

Stonepillow is a local charity dedicated to supporting people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, providing accommodation, outreach services, and vital support to help individuals rebuild their lives and achieve

independence.

W. Bro. Paul McQuaid, W. Bro. Gary West, Bro. James Bailey, W. Bro. Stephen Way, and W. Bro. Simon Fyfe were stationed at various points along the 8-mile route, directing entrants and ensuring the smooth running of the event.

At present, funds raised are in the region of £6,000, with that figure expected to rise as further donations are received.

## The West Wing Learning and Development Team

Around 18 months ago, W. Bro Ron Hurstwaite of Gordon Lodge, which meets in Bognor, suffered a heart attack and was admitted to St Richard's Hospital for urgent care. Following a successful operation, Ron began his recovery under the guidance of the hospital's dedicated rehabilitation team, who supported him through the crucial stages of regaining his strength and confidence. Deeply impressed by the care and commitment shown by the team, Ron was inspired to give something back. Determined to help others facing similar challenges, he set his sights on becoming a volunteer within the very department that had supported him.



### 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.

**Tell me I will forget**  
**Show Me I will remember**  
**Involve me I will understand**

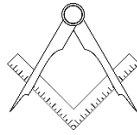
'The West Wing' L & D Team

Enquiries: [stevegoulding@sussexmasons.org.uk](mailto:stevegoulding@sussexmasons.org.uk)



Sussex Freemasons - West Group  
The West Wing  
(Brighton, Chichester, Clapham, Littlehampton,  
Midhurst, Pulborough, Steyning and Worthing)

## The West Wing Learning and Development Team



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

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

'The West Wing' L & D Team.



Sussex Freemasons - West Group  
The West Wing  
(Bognor, Chichester, Clapham, Littlehampton,  
Midhurst, Pulborough, Steyning and Worthing)

# The West Wing Learning and Development Team Notes.