



Sussex Freemasons - West Group

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

The West Wing Learning and Development Team.

The West Wing'



Masons Notebook



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

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.



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

L&D Editorial

At the joining of the Ancients and the Moderns in 1813 to form the United Grand Lodge of England the ritual had to be reconciled. The Lodge of Promulgation took on this task and a second Lodge was created, the Lodge of Reconciliation, to assist the mammoth task of spreading the reconciled version to Lodges under the English Constitution.

The Rev. W. Bro. Samuel Hemming, who was WM of the Lodge of Reconciliation 1813-1816, visited Chichester in 1815 to demonstrate this reconciled ritual to Chichester Lodges. Hence the Lodge of Friendship and the Lodge of Harmony who later united in 1828 to form the Lodge of Union had this ritual some years before the Emulation Lodge of Instruction was formed in 1823.

The ritual of the Lodge of Union No. 38 states when opening the Lodge and the VSL:

"IPM, from the front of the WM pedestal, opens the VSL and arranges Square and Compasses. VSL to be placed so that the WM can read it: points of the Compasses are directed to the WMarms of the Square, angle towards WM."

And so we have this demise when visiting Lodges, which way the VSL should face? According to the Rev. W. Bro. Samuel Hemming, 1815, the WM is the person who moralises upon and instructs the scriptures. It is not for the candidate to read. Over to you brethren for discussion.

Credit to W. Bro. Hugh O'Neill for his research and contribution.



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

The West Wing Learning and Development Team.

Lesson 12 -

Lesson Aim

Opening the VSL in the First Degree

Lesson Objectives.

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

State the reason the VSL is opened at Psalm 133 in the First Degree.

Analyse and explain verses 1-3 and their masonic application

Analyse and explain the Book of Ruth and its Masonic relevance.

Psalm 133 and the Book of Ruth

An Educational Lecture for a Lodge of Instruction

Introduction

Among the many symbols encountered by a candidate in the First Degree, one of the least discussed—but perhaps most profound—is the opening of the Volume of the Sacred Law at **Psalm 133**. Many brethren notice the page, few ask why it is there, and fewer still appreciate the depth of its symbolism.

Similarly, the **Book of Ruth**, although not explicitly featured in the ritual of the Entered Apprentice Degree, occupies an important place within Masonic symbolism because it introduces Boaz, one of the names associated with the pillars at the Porchway of King Solomon's Temple. Yet Ruth's story is far richer than simply explaining the origin of a name.



Viewed from the WM



Sussex Freemasons - West Group

'The West Wing'

(Bognor, Chichester, Clapham, Littlehampton,
Midhurst, Pulborough, Steyning and Worthing)

The West Wing Learning and Development Team.

This lecture examines both Psalm 133 and the Book of Ruth, distinguishing between historical evidence, Masonic tradition, and symbolic interpretation.

Part I – Why Psalm 133?

Historical Background

The custom of opening the Bible to Psalm 133 is primarily associated with the **United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE)** and many constitutions derived from English practice, including numerous lodges throughout the Commonwealth.

Historically Documented Facts

There is no evidence that the earliest speculative lodges of the early eighteenth century consistently opened the Bible at Psalm 133.

The earliest rituals following the formation of the Premier Grand Lodge in 1717 show considerable variation.

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, ritual gradually became standardized.

By the Victorian period, opening the Bible at Psalm 133 in the First Degree had become well established within English working.

Therefore, this practice is best understood as a **later ritual development** rather than an inheritance from operative stonemasons.



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

The West Wing Learning and Development Team.

Psalm 133 (King James Version)

1. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!
2. It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;
3. As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

Only three verses.

Yet every word carries symbolic weight.

Verse One

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

This is perhaps the single verse most frequently associated with Freemasonry.

Notice the emphasis. Not simply "brethren." Not merely "together." But dwelling together in unity.

Freemasonry is not merely an organisation.

It is intended to become a society in which men of different:

- religions
- occupations
- politics
- social classes
- cultures

meet "on the level."





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

The West Wing Learning and Development Team.

The Lodge becomes a place where external distinctions disappear. Unity does not mean uniformity. Each brother remains an individual. Rather, unity means harmony despite differences.

This is one of the greatest lessons of the First Degree.

Symbolic Interpretation

The candidate enters the Lodge as an individual. He leaves having become part of a brotherhood.

Psalm 133 reminds us that Masonry succeeds only when personal ambition gives way to collective harmony.

Verse Two

"It is like the precious ointment..."

Historically this refers to the consecration of Aaron as High Priest.

Historical Meaning

The sacred oil represented divine appointment.

It separated ordinary service from sacred service.

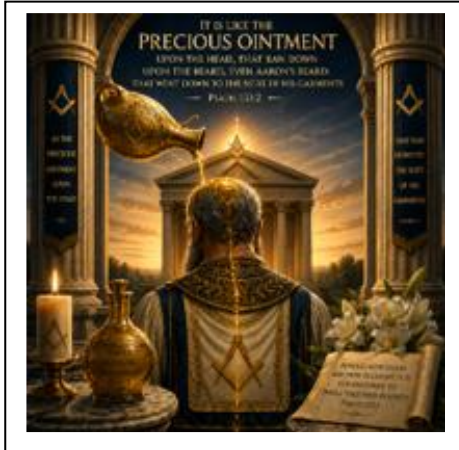


Sussex Freemasons - West Group

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

The West Wing Learning and Development Team.

Masonic Interpretation



Freemasonry does not claim priestly authority. Instead, the oil symbolises something different. Harmony spreads. Like oil flowing from Aaron's head, Brotherly Love flows from one Mason to another.

Notice the imagery. The oil begins at the head. It descends naturally. Unity begins with example. The Worshipful Master cannot command harmony. He demonstrates it. The officers imitate it. The brethren share it.

Harmony spreads downward—not through authority—but through example.

Verse Three

"The dew of Hermon..."

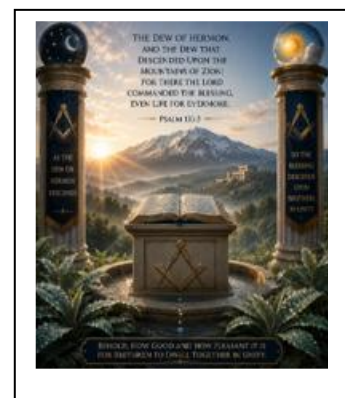
Mount Hermon lies far to the north of Jerusalem. Its dew nourished the surrounding land. Without it, the region became barren.

Symbolically

Harmony nourishes the Lodge.

Without harmony: ritual becomes mechanical, charity becomes obligation, friendship becomes formality.

With harmony: the Lodge flourishes. Exactly as dew quietly sustains life, Brotherly Love quietly sustains Freemasonry.





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

The West Wing Learning and Development Team.

Why Psalm 133 for an Entered Apprentice?

The Entered Apprentice has not yet learned the complexities of Masonic philosophy. Instead he receives one simple lesson:

Before learning secrets...

before studying symbols...

before seeking knowledge...

learn to live peacefully with your brethren.

Everything else rests upon that foundation.

Part II – The Book of Ruth

Many Masons associate Ruth only with Boaz.

This overlooks one of Scripture's most remarkable moral narratives.

Historical Background

The Book of Ruth probably describes events during the period of the Judges.

It tells the story of: Naomi, her Moabite daughter-in-law Ruth and the wealthy landowner Boaz.

Ultimately their family line leads to King David.



The West Wing Learning and Development Team.

Ruth's Character



Ruth was not an Israelite. She came from Moab. Yet she became one of the greatest examples of loyalty in biblical literature. Her words remain among the most beautiful expressions of fidelity ever written.

"Whither thou goest, I will go..."

Her commitment was voluntary. She expected nothing in return. This echoes one of

Masonry's central ideals: true service without expectation of reward.

Naomi

Naomi represents wisdom gained through suffering. Having lost husband and sons, she returns home with almost nothing. Yet she still guides Ruth with kindness and practical wisdom.

In Masonic terms, experience becomes instruction. Older brethren guide newer brethren. Knowledge is transmitted through example.

Boaz

Boaz is introduced as: wealthy, respected, just, merciful, honest, compassionate.

He follows the law. Yet he exceeds it through generosity. He instructs his servants: leave extra grain for Ruth. Not because she deserves charity. But because compassion exceeds mere justice.

This distinction lies at the heart of Masonic charity.



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

The West Wing Learning and Development Team.

Gleaning

Perhaps no image in Ruth carries greater symbolic power. Ancient law required landowners not to harvest every corner of their fields. The poor could gather what remained.

This practice was called gleaning.

Masonic Symbolism

Every Mason labours in the quarry of life. None gathers every lesson. None harvests perfect wisdom.

Each generation leaves knowledge for those who follow. Every brother gleans from: older brethren, past Masters, tradition, history, experience.

Learning is never complete.

Labour

The First Degree repeatedly teaches the dignity of labour. Ruth embodies this principle. She does not ask for favour. She works. Her reward follows effort.

Freemasonry likewise teaches that moral improvement cannot be inherited. It must be earned.

Loyalty

Perhaps Ruth's greatest lesson is steadfastness. She remains faithful: to Naomi, to her promises, to her work, to her faith.

Such fidelity mirrors the constancy expected of every Mason.



Sussex Freemasons - West Group

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

The West Wing Learning and Development Team.

Humility

Boaz possesses wealth. Ruth possesses none. Yet both display humility.

True greatness is measured not by possessions, but by conduct.

Boaz and the Pillars

Within Masonic symbolism, Boaz becomes associated with one of the two great pillars at the entrance to Solomon's Temple.

Historically, the biblical account simply records the pillar's name (1 Kings 7:21), while the Book of Ruth introduces us to Boaz the man, whose character gives symbolic depth to that name.

Although Scripture does not explicitly connect the pillar to Boaz himself, Masonic tradition has long viewed the name as evocative of qualities embodied by Boaz: strength expressed through justice, generosity, and moral stability. This is therefore a **symbolic interpretation**, not a historical assertion.

Part III - The Relationship Between Psalm 133 and Ruth

At first glance, these passages appear unrelated. One is a Psalm. The other a historical narrative. Yet together they present the moral architecture of the First Degree.





Sussex Freemasons - West Group

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

The West Wing Learning and Development Team.

Psalm 133	Book of Ruth
Unity	Loyalty
Harmony	Fidelity
Brotherhood	Compassion
Peace	Labour
Blessing	Service
Shared purpose	Individual virtue

Psalm 133 describes how brethren should live together. Ruth demonstrates how one worthy person actually lives. One provides the ideal. The other provides the example.

Lessons for the Entered Apprentice

The First Degree is not primarily about acquiring knowledge. It is about becoming the kind of man who deserves knowledge.

Psalm 133 teaches:

- harmony
- equality
- mutual respect

Ruth teaches:

- integrity
- humility
- diligence
- kindness
- steadfastness

Together they describe the moral character expected of every Freemason.



The West Wing Learning and Development Team.

Historical Summary

It is important to distinguish between different levels of interpretation:

Historically Documented Facts

- Opening the Bible at Psalm 133 became established in English Craft ritual during the nineteenth century.
- Psalm 133 is a biblical hymn celebrating unity among brethren.
- The Book of Ruth recounts the story of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz during the period of the Judges.
- Boaz is an ancestor of King David.

Accepted Masonic Tradition

- Psalm 133 is regarded as the scriptural foundation for Brotherly Love and harmony within the Lodge.
- The character of Boaz informs Masonic reflection on the pillar bearing his name.
- Ruth is valued as an exemplar of fidelity, labour, and moral virtue.

Symbolic Interpretation

- The flowing oil of Psalm 133 represents the spread of harmony through the Lodge.
- The dew of Hermon symbolizes the quiet, life-giving influence of Brotherly Love.
- Gleaning in Ruth represents the lifelong pursuit of knowledge and wisdom.
- Boaz symbolizes strength tempered by compassion, offering a model for Masonic conduct.

Conclusion

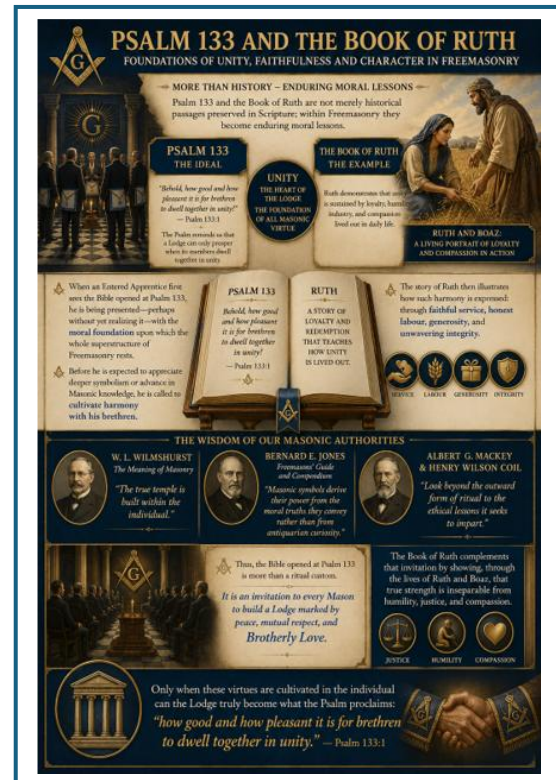
Psalm 133 and the Book of Ruth are not merely historical passages preserved in Scripture; within Freemasonry they become enduring moral lessons. The Psalm reminds us that a Lodge can only prosper when its members dwell together in



The West Wing Learning and Development Team.

unity. Ruth demonstrates that unity is sustained by loyalty, humility, industry, and compassion lived out in daily life.

When an Entered Apprentice first sees the Bible opened at Psalm 133, he is being presented—perhaps without yet realizing it—with the moral foundation upon which the whole superstructure of Freemasonry rests. Before he is expected to appreciate deeper symbolism or advance in Masonic knowledge, he is called to cultivate harmony with his brethren. The story of Ruth then illustrates how such harmony is expressed: through faithful service, honest labour, generosity, and unwavering integrity.



As W. L. Wilmshurst observed in *The Meaning of Masonry*, the true temple is built within the individual. Bernard E. Jones, in *Freemasons' Guide and Compendium*, emphasizes that Masonic symbols derive their power from the moral truths they convey rather than from antiquarian curiosity. Albert G. Mackey and Henry Wilson Coil likewise encourage us to look beyond the outward form of ritual to the ethical lessons it seeks to impart.

Thus, the Bible opened at Psalm 133 is more than a ritual custom. It is an invitation to every Mason to build a Lodge marked by peace, mutual respect, and Brotherly Love. The Book of Ruth complements that invitation by showing, through the lives of Ruth and Boaz, that true strength is inseparable from humility, justice, and compassion.

Only when these virtues are cultivated in the individual can the Lodge truly become what the Psalm proclaims: **"how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."**

'The West Wing' Learning and Development Team.



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

The West Wing Learning and Development Team.

Opening the Volume of the Sacred Law.

First Degree

Psalm 133

(A reading from Ruth 2: 19-20 First mentions BOAZ)

Second Degree

Amos 7: 7-8

Third Degree

Ecclesiastics 12: 1-7

RA

Open Chapter

Haggai 2: 1-9

Other RA readings:

- Ezra 3-6 - rebuilding of the Temple.
- Ezra 7 - the return under Ezra.
- Nehemiah 2-4 - rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.
- Haggai 1-2 - exhortation to rebuild the Temple.
- Zechariah 4 - the vision of the golden candlestick, sometimes referenced in Royal Arch symbolism.



Sussex Freemasons - West Group

'The West Wing'

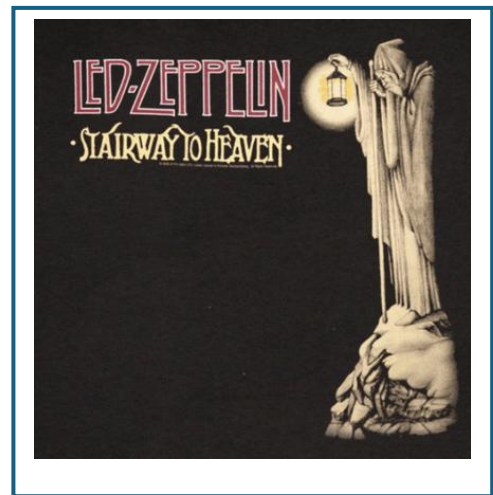
(Bognor, Chichester, Clapham, Littlehampton,
Midhurst, Pulborough, Steyning and Worthing)

The West Wing Learning and Development Team.

Royal Arch Corner

Led Zeppelin - '*Stairway to Heaven*' and the Masonic Journey: Jacob's Ladder to the Royal Arch

Brethren and Companions, I have just been listening to Led Zeppelin's '*Stairway to heaven*' performed in 2012 by the Wilson sisters at the Kennedy Centre as a tribute to one of my favourite bands. Whilst listening I couldn't get the image of the First Degree Tracing Board out of my mind. So let us consider '*Stairway to Heaven*' not as a coded Masonic work, but as a poetic meditation on the universal human search for meaning. Whether or not it is my intention to make any esoteric parallels is ultimately beside the point. Like many great works of art, its symbolism invites reflection that resonates with themes long familiar to Freemasonry.



One of the most striking parallels is the image of ascent. In the Masonic tradition, Jacob's Ladder represents the soul's progressive journey toward the Divine. Rooted in the biblical vision of Jacob's dream, the ladder stretches from earth to heaven, reminding us that spiritual growth is achieved through perseverance, virtue, and grace. Likewise, the song's central image of a "stairway" evokes a path that leads upward, suggesting that the true destination is not merely a place but a transformed state of being.

The Mistaken Beginning

The song opens with the image of someone who believes that fulfilment can be obtained through acquisition and outward success. A Mason immediately recognizes this as the condition of the uninitiated mind—the belief that happiness lies in external possessions rather than internal refinement.



Sussex Freemasons - West Group

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

The West Wing Learning and Development Team.



The Entered Apprentice begins his journey with similar misconceptions. He arrives in darkness, not because he lacks intelligence, but because he has yet to distinguish between temporal wealth and eternal values. Freemasonry teaches that the finest treasures cannot be purchased; they are earned through discipline, integrity, and self-knowledge.

The first rung of Jacob's Ladder is therefore not achievement but humility.

Faith, Hope, and Charity

Jacob's Ladder is traditionally adorned with the theological virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity.

Faith is the confidence that there is meaning beyond what the eye can see.

Hope sustains the seeker through uncertainty and discouragement.

Charity, the greatest of the three, transforms knowledge into compassionate action.

Throughout the song, the traveller gradually discovers that appearances are often deceptive. This mirrors the Mason's realization that each degree reveals only part of the truth. Every ascent uncovers another lesson, another challenge, another opportunity for moral growth.

The Journey Through the Craft Degrees

The Entered Apprentice learns obedience, discipline, and the foundations of moral architecture.

The Fellow Craft expands his understanding through the liberal arts and sciences. Here the climb becomes intellectual as well as spiritual. The Mason discovers that knowledge alone is insufficient unless united with wisdom.

The Master Mason confronts mortality itself. Symbolically, the old self must die before a renewed understanding can emerge. The climb now becomes inward rather than outward.



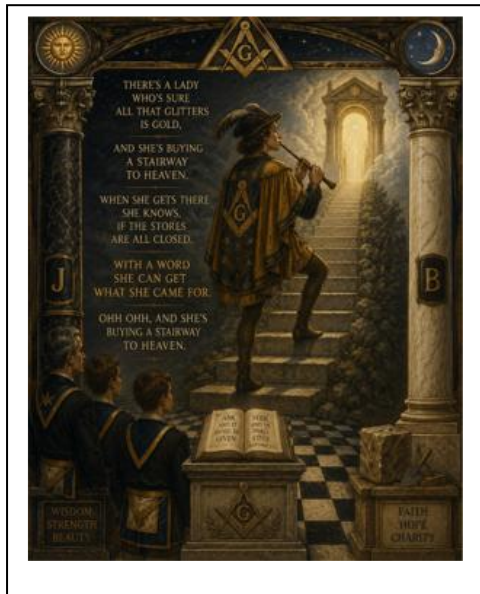
Sussex Freemasons - West Group

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

The West Wing Learning and Development Team.

The song similarly suggests moments of uncertainty, questioning, and awakening. Progress is portrayed not as effortless but as requiring discernment and the willingness to change one's course.

The Piper as a Symbol



One intriguing image is the piper.

Rather than assigning a single meaning, we may view the piper as an archetypal guide—a symbol of that mysterious call which invites every seeker to begin the journey toward higher understanding.

Within Masonic symbolism, this may represent conscience, divine providence, the inner voice of wisdom, or the continual call to pursue Light.

Every Mason eventually discovers that the true guide is not another man, but the Divine spark that awakens the soul.

Choice and Free Will

Freemasonry never compels belief. It invites each candidate to walk willingly.

Likewise, the song repeatedly suggests that one's direction depends upon personal choice. The road is not fixed; one's destination depends upon the decisions made along the journey.

Jacob's Ladder is climbed one rung at a time. No one is carried upward. Every ascent requires effort, reflection, and moral improvement.

The Royal Arch: Recovery Rather Than Arrival

For the Royal Arch Mason, the journey reaches one of its most profound symbolic moments.



The West Wing Learning and Development Team.



The Royal Arch is not simply a higher degree—it represents the recovery of what had been lost. Truth, long concealed, is rediscovered through faithful labour, perseverance, and humility.

This is why Jacob's Ladder is such an appropriate image. Its summit is not merely heaven in an abstract sense, but the restoration of right relationship between humanity and the Divine.



Viewed through this lens, the stairway becomes more than a path upward. It symbolizes the lifelong pursuit of Light—a journey culminating in deeper understanding rather than final certainty.

The Royal Arch reminds us that every discovery opens the door to greater mysteries. The true initiate never claims to possess all truth; he becomes ever more devoted to seeking it.

A Shared Lesson

Both *Stairway to Heaven* and the allegory of Jacob's Ladder encourage us to look beyond appearances. They suggest that worldly success alone cannot satisfy the deepest longings of the human spirit.

Freemasonry teaches that every stone must be shaped before it can become part of the spiritual temple. The climb is therefore one of character as much as knowledge.

The Royal Arch crowns that labour by reminding the seeker that truth is not manufactured but recovered—that the Light sought from the beginning has always existed, waiting to be discovered by those willing to ascend with Faith, sustained by Hope, and perfected through Charity.

Whether contemplated in sacred Scripture, Masonic allegory, or poetic song, the image of ascending toward the Light remains one of humanity's most enduring symbols. It reminds every Mason that the greatest temple is built not with hands, but within the heart of the faithful seeker.

'The West Wing' Learning and Development Team.



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

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).

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

Contents.

Solomon and Mentors Notes Courses Programmes:

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

The West Wing Learning and Development (Video) programme.

Royal Arch Representatives.

'The West Wing' Masons Notebooks.

Lodge and Personal Mentors Programme.

The West Wing Lodge of Instruction.

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



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' Learning and Development Programmes.

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

'The West Wing' Learning and Development Team.

Facebook.

Sussex Freemasons - West Group - 'The West Wing'

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



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

The West Wing Learning and Development Team.

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...

Bro Matt Prior has decided to step down as Chairman of the West Group Light Blues Club. We thank Matt for his energy and enthusiasm during his time at the helm. The reins have now been taken up by former Deputy Chairman Bro **Lewis Strötten** (Pictured above). We wish Lewis every success as our new WGLBC chairman.

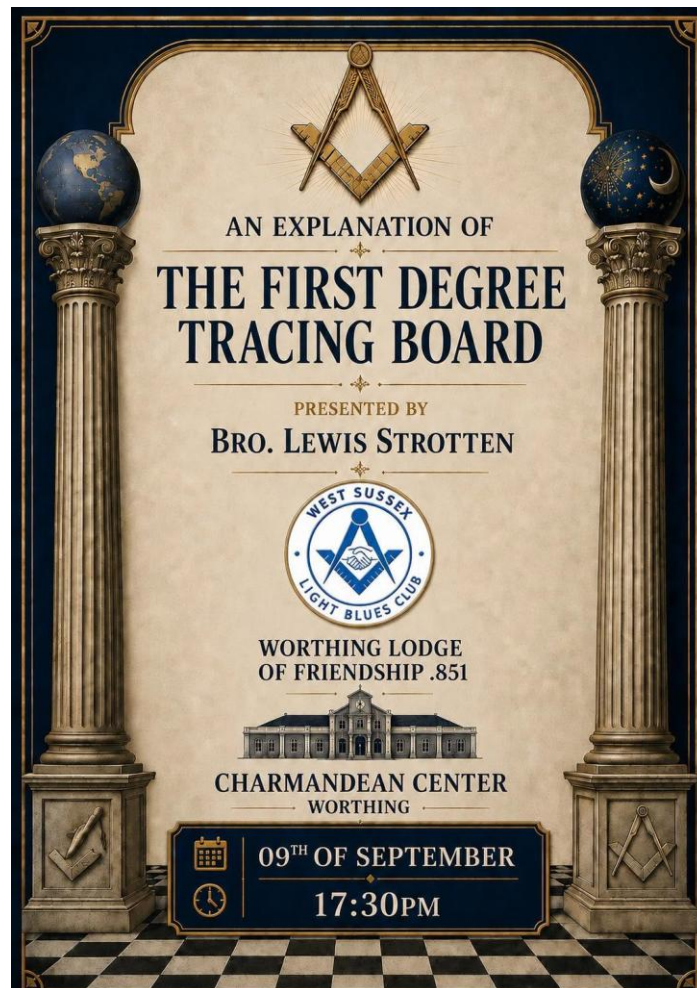
Lewis is looking for a Deputy Chairman and a Social Media Officer. If interested please contact him.



Sussex Freemasons - West Group

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

The West Wing Learning and Development Team.



Brethren all,

Do you often wonder what the significance of the 1st° tracing board is? Or would you like to learn more about it?

If so, then come and witness a rarely presented piece of ritual. The explanation of the 1st° tracing board is a lecture that is not to be missed, especially if you are a light blue mason looking to expand your knowledge.

To book in and receive a summons (when it's ready and available) email:
Secretary851@gmail.com

There will be a festive board afterwards, which will be held at the Charmandean. Price is £29.00 and booking will open closer to the time. Dress code is the usual Dark Suits - Provincial or Black Ties - White Shirt- apron & White Gloves.



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

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

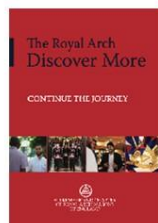
Royal Arch Masonry and how to join.

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



Sussex Freemasons - West Group

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

The West Wing Learning and Development Team.

Actions Not Words.



The annual **Pagham Lodge** BBQ took place hosted by W Bro Lee Meyer and organised by the festival committee. Great company and lots of Masonic and non-Masonic friends joined us. The WM certainly enjoyed the bouncy castle!!

On Saturday 18th July '26 the annual Broadwater Carnival took place where the Charmandean and Worthing Masons had a stand to raise our profile and attract some potential candidates.



Silverstone on the big screen at West Park Bognor. Well done Classic Motoring Lodge No 10004 for supporting the Bognor Motor Gala

24 of the Gordon Centre ladies fellowship gathered with 4 lodge Almoners for a cream tea, cabaret and bingo at the local RAFA club. A great fun afternoon that was enjoyed by all.





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

The West Wing Learning and Development Team.



Pagham Lodge Summer School of Instruction

A sincere thank you to all the Brethren who attended the Summer School of Instruction at The Gordon Centre

We were delighted to welcome 20 Brethren for what proved to be a thoroughly enjoyable, informative and educational evening exploring

the principles and traditions of Pure and Ancient Freemasonry.

Our thanks go to **W Bro Steve Goulding** for delivering an engaging and thought-provoking programme.

The excellent attendance, lively discussion and shared enthusiasm for Masonic knowledge made the evening a great success and demonstrated the value of coming together to learn from one another.



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

The West Wing Learning and Development Team.

West Group Notices

Scout Community Project: Volunteers Needed

As part of our Scouts Community project, members of the West Group are invited to help with Scout projects in the name of Sussex Masons.

One such project is a Scout Group in Worthing looking for help digging a 3m x 13.6m hole for an extension. If anyone is able and willing to help, and happy for publicity around supporting Sussex Masons and The Scouts, please contact **Steve Lewis** who will provide further details.



2nd Durrington
Sea Scouts



Join **Gordon Lodge** on the 4th September with their Oktoberfest theme meeting. Six EA will demonstrate advanced knowledge in the first degree during the meeting. A fully grown horse will be in the house, a Grand Officer will be wearing his best lederhosen and much more.

Book in by emailing 1726secretary@gmail.com



Sussex Freemasons - West Group

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

The West Wing Learning and Development Team.

EMERGENCY MEETING!

★ IMPORTANT: YOUR ATTENDANCE IS REQUESTED ★

★ UPCOMING ★
★ **INITIATION** ★

— THURSDAY —
13TH
— AUGUST —

📍 **THE GORDON CENTRE**
BOGNOR REGIS LODGE 6295

🕒 **STARTING AT 6PM**
PROMPT

FOLLOWED BY
Good Old
SEASIDE
Fish & Chips!

LET'S COME TOGETHER,
See you there!



Sussex Freemasons - West Group

'The West Wing'

(Bognor, 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**

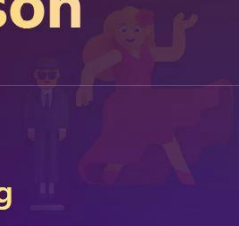
 Elegant charity raffle in aid of the Centre Building Fund

 Wives, partners & non-masonic guests warmly welcome

£47 per person

RESERVE YOUR PLACES

bes.squareevents.org



Black tie • ballroom glamour • tables available for groups



Sussex Freemasons - West Group

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

The West Wing Learning and Development Team.

DOES YOUR LODGE NEED NEW MEMBERS?

The West Group is running targeted **Facebook advertising campaigns** to help Lodges attract new members.

OVER THE PAST MONTH:

 8 LODGES HAVE PARTICIPATED	 ONLY £50 PER LODGE	 TYPICAL CAMPAIGN LENGTH: 7 DAYS	 LEADS GENERATED: 13 AVERAGE PER LODGE
---	---	--	---

 Campaigns are professionally managed and targeted to reach suitable local individuals who have expressed an interest in Freemasonry.


INTERESTED?
GET IN TOUCH

Your Secretary and Membership Officer have the details, but for more information please contact:

MARK WILLIAMS
WEST GROUP ATTRACTION LEAD

✉ markwilliams@sussexmasons.org.uk



Reaching local people. Building stronger Lodges.



BUILDING THE FUTURE OF FREEMASONRY IN SUSSEX
One conversation at a time.



SUPPORTING
LODGES



ATTRACTING
CANDIDATES



GROW
MEMBERS

August '26

Issue 24



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

The West Wing Learning and Development Team.

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

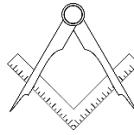


Sussex Freemasons - West Group

'The West Wing'

(Bognor, 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.