

## Calling all Mark Master Masons

If you, or any of your Mark Brethren are not already members of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner why not consider becoming one?

Any Brother you spot in your Mark Lodge wearing the distinctive 'rainbow' ribbon on his breast jewel will be only too happy to supply you with more information about our fascinating and lovely Degree. Alternatively you can get in touch with the Mark Provincial Grand Secretary, the Secretary of your Mark Lodge or the Scribe of your local Royal Ark Mariner Lodge whose details you'll find listed in the Provincial Year Book and Directory.

There are sixteen Mark Lodges in this Province to which are attached or 'moored' ten Royal Ark Mariner Lodges. These Royal Ark Mariner Lodges always bear the same number of the Mark Lodge to which they are moored and usually the same name, but not always! Most Lodges meet three or four times a year and the ceremony of 'Elevation' when a Brother becomes a Royal Ark Mariner lasts about forty five minutes.

The details of all meetings, venues and lists of members can be found in the Provincial Year Book and Directory.

Why not have a look at our Provincial website for more details at  
[www.leicrutlandmarkmasons.org](http://www.leicrutlandmarkmasons.org)



R. W. Bro. Phillip J. Mann, R.A.M.G.R.  
**Provincial Grand Master**  
Leicestershire & Rutland

For more information please contact:

W. Bro. Peter Gibson-Leitch, Prov.R.A.M.G.R.  
**Provincial Grand Secretary**

Mobile 07799 871167  
[provsec@leicrutlandmarkmasons.org](mailto:provsec@leicrutlandmarkmasons.org)

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## THE ANCIENT AND HONOURABLE FRATERNITY OF ROYAL ARK MARINER



### Are you a Mark Master Mason?

If you are, why not join our beautiful and colourful Degree and enjoy the warmth of our friendship and discover what the story of Noah and the Great Flood can teach you as you progress on your Masonic journey

## **The Royal Ark Mariner Degree**

The Degree of Royal Ark Mariner is closely linked with, although completely separate from, the Mark Degree and is governed by the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. A Mark Provincial Grand Master, his Deputy and Provincial Executive preside over, and are responsible for the Royal Ark Mariner Lodges in their Province.

Whilst the precise origins of the Royal Ark Mariner degree are unknown, it is known to be around two hundred years old, and in chronological terms precedes the Mark Degree by hundreds of years, and as its name suggests, has a nautical flavour taking for its setting the circumstances leading up to the Great Flood and the steps taken by Noah to build the Ark by which mankind was preserved from perishing in the 'Universal Deluge'.

During the ceremony of Elevation analogies are drawn between the dangers of the flood and the dangers of life, and by symbolising Wisdom, Strength and Beauty we are reminded of the providence of and mercy of God and how we should strive to reach the Ark, the haven of rest, just as did Noah's family and the other occupants of the Ark in the Biblical tales of the deluge.

The tracing board of the Degree is unusual in that it displays symbols of many of the other Orders in Masonry.

## **Royal Ark Mariner Regalia**

The regalia comprises an apron which features a rainbow border and rosettes. The breast jewel is of a dove bearing an olive branch suspended from a rainbow attached to a rainbow coloured ribbon. Commanders and Past Commanders (who are the equivalent of Masters and Past Masters in the Mark) exchange the rosettes on the aprons for silver triangles.



Commanders and Past Commanders also wear a different breast jewel of a triangle surmounted by the letter N for Noah. Provincial Officers in addition wear a collarette from which is suspended a silver Ark. Grand Officers exchange the silver Ark for a gold one.



## **Our Mark Provincial Grand Lodge**

The Mark Province of Leicestershire & Rutland (which originally up until 1894 also incorporated Northamptonshire and Derbyshire) was constituted under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters in 1858 and is one of the oldest on the roll of Mark Grand Lodge which itself had only come into being in 1856.

The Degree is now the third largest in English Masonry.

The first two Lodges in the Province were consecrated in 1858 and one other has Time Immemorial status. In total there are sixteen Mark Lodges that meet across the Province in Leicester, Loughborough, Hinckley, Coalville, Syston, Melton Mowbray, Lutterworth, Market Harborough, Uppingham and Ashby-de-la-Zouch. A number of these also host Royal Ark Mariner Lodges, of which the oldest was consecrated in 1882.

The Mark Degree also has its own Charity, the Mark Benevolent Fund, and this has been very successful in raising money for a number of good causes nationally. Locally the Leicestershire and Rutland Mark Benevolent Fund and the Provincial Grand Master's Discretionary Fund also give money to many local charities and supports members and their families and can respond rapidly to requests for help.