



**Mark Masonry**  
**The Provincial Grand Lodge**  
**of**  
**Worcestershire**



# **The Fourth** **Regular Step**

**An introduction for Craft Masons**



**Including the**  
**Royal Ark Mariner**  
**Degree**

## Have you considered taking The Fourth Regular Step?

The Book of Constitutions tells us that Antient Masonry consists of three degrees and including the Holy Royal Arch.

This is a somewhat strange statement bearing in mind that prior to the union of the Two Grand Lodges in 1813, a form of Mark Degree was extensively worked both in London and the Provinces. Indeed there is clear evidence that the degree was worked in 1756 and there exists a document in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham the last page of which is dated 1756 and reads, "There being met part of the body of the Lodge they taking in their serious consideration that no member of the said Lodge Shall be made a Mark Mason without paying the fee of one Scots Mark.....".

Nevertheless in England, the Mark Degree is a separate entity with its own Grand Lodge, which was founded on 23rd June 1856. The first Grand Master was The Rt.Hon. The Lord Leigh, who was at that time the Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire Craft Lodges. In other Constitutions throughout the World the Mark is part of either Craft or Royal Arch Masonry, and a candidate may be given the Mark Degree as soon as he has become a Master Mason, either in the Craft Lodge or in the Royal Arch Chapter as a preliminary degree.

The Mark Degree is one of hope and encouragement and the ritual is built on a single verse from Psalm 118 "The stone which the builders rejected has become the head stone of the corner." It deals with the building of King Solomon's Temple and the various Craftsman employed, but its real message is one of contemplation of human strength and weakness. The Degree contains many messages for the discerning man and illustrates that the wisest of men can be mistaken, that the experts are often wrong, that the weakest often display perseverance far better than the strongest, that the insignificant has a potential for distinction and that we all have a part to play in the Building of Life.

It is for each to put his own interpretation on the message which the degree proclaims, but there is a clear encouragement that no man is beyond redemption, and the possibility of distinction is always within our power. Whatever one's religion there is a clear message of hope and for the Christian, Peter, in the Book of Acts, states of Jesus, "This is the stone which was set at naught by you builders, which is become the Head of the Corner".

Finally the Degree reminds us that when all the wisest and cleverest of men were gathered together Only One looked towards the West and saw a sun-beam strike the roof of the Temple. The Degree represents the everyday life of each one of us, for the stone hewn from virgin rock depicts us all on our journey through life. Its final recognition as perfection, should be the guide to our conduct through life that "we may be found worthy".

The purpose of this letter is to draw your attention to the existence of the **Mark Degree** and to invite you to consider seriously "**Taking the Forth Regular Step**". There are 24 Mark Lodges in the Province of Worcestershire and 16 Royal Ark Mariner Lodges, all of which would welcome you into Membership.

*The above was reproduced by kind permission of RWBro. Canon A Webb GMRAC (Honoris Causa), Past Provincial Grand Master.*

**If** you have found the above article interesting and worthy of further consideration, please turn over and read on.

**Also**, if you think other members of the Craft known to you might be interested, don't hesitate to show this paper to them.

The Mark Province of Worcestershire  
has Lodges meeting at:

Kings Heath  
Stourbridge  
Bromsgrove  
Dudley  
Worcester  
Malvern  
Northfield  
Halesowen  
Kidderminster  
Evesham  
Redditch  
Tenbury Wells  
Stourport

If you are interested in joining a Lodge of  
very enthusiastic and friendly Masons, please  
contact me, Brother

.....  
On..... And I will supply  
an application form on the completion of  
which we can set the the wheels in motion for  
an early entrance into one of the most enjoy-  
able areas of Freemasonry :-

**Mark Masonry**  
**“The Friendly Degree”**

Or contact may be made with :-  
**The Provincial Grand Secretary,**  
**Brian Scoffield**

[secretary@worcestershiremarkpgl.org.uk](mailto:secretary@worcestershiremarkpgl.org.uk)

01886 832583



## **The Royal Ark Mariner Degree**

Although a separate order, this degree comes under the jurisdiction of the Mark Degree and you must be a Mark Mason before you can be considered for membership. It is a beautiful degree in its own right and you would be expected at a reasonable stage to progress to this degree

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Mark Masonry  
The  
Friendly Degree

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