

Rose Croix Chapters in East Kent.

82	Ethelbert	Canterbury
103	Hubert de Burgh	Dover
144	St Augustine	Gillingham(FR)
415	Thanet	Margate
444	Cornwallis	Gravesend
611	Belmont	Folkestone
657	Swale	Sittingbourne
677	Gravesend	Gravesend
786	St Bartholomew	Chatham (SG)
802	St Mary in Ashford	Ashford
803	Martello	Folkestone
834	Harmony Jubilee	Faversham
875	Ebbsfleet	Ramsgate
942	Belvidere	Chatham(SG)
1021	Eternal Wisdom	Sheerness
1029	St Margaret Rainham	Gillingham(FR)
1032	St Ithamar	Rochester
1045	Deal Castle	Deal
1065	Whitstable	Whitstable
1213	Sitis Pro Scientia (Sovereigns)	Dover



Supreme Council Headquarters
10 Duke Street St James's London

The District Of East Kent



*Rose Croix
Of
Heredom*

The Rose Croix Degree is one of the Degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, an Independent Order of Freemasonry as old as the Craft itself. Independent, in that it has its own governing body called The Supreme Council and its own Headquarters building referred to as the Grand East in Duke Street, St James's, in London. The Rose Croix degree is the 18th of the 33 degrees of the Rite, all of which are working degrees. With 33 degrees available the ritual reflects aspects of Craft, Royal Arch and many of the other Side Degrees in its workings. Chapters are however only permitted to perform the 18th Degree, the Perfection of Candidates, as well as the annual enthronement of the equivalent of the Master, referred to as the Most Wise Sovereign. There are over 50 Supreme Councils around the world and our Supreme Council is in amity with over 40. In England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland the order is specifically Christian.

Candidates for membership must be Master Masons of at least 12 months standing and profess a Trinitarian Christian Faith. There is no requirement to belong to any other order.

The first three degrees of the Order are deemed to be equivalent to the three degrees of Craft Masonry. The Intermediate degrees, from the 4th to the 17th inclusive, are conferred by name immediately before the 18th degree ceremony commences. One, or sometimes two, of these Intermediate Degrees are demonstrated each

year by the King Edward VII Chapter of Improvement. These Intermediate Degrees continue the teaching of Symbolic Masonry.

A member of a Chapter will be invited to progress through the offices of the Chapter. Having carried out all the duties in his year as a Most Wise Sovereign, he will be recommended for promotion to the 30th Degree. This ceremony is carried out at the Grand East and is performed by the nine members of the Supreme Council. Further meritorious service to the order may reward the Brother with further promotions to 31st and 32nd degree, again performed by the Supreme Council at Duke Street. Such further promotion is on a very limited and fixed allocation and not as in Craft Provinces with Provincial Promotions each year.

The ritual is performed in a sincere and particularly dignified manner, DC's do not generally carry wands and do not lead candidates by the arm. Use of gavels is limited and they are not used at all at the festive board. Much use is made of the court bow. Toasts at the festive board are few in number and responses are kept very short.

The ceremony of Perfection requires the use of three different rooms, or the same room dramatically changed in appearance three times. The VSL is the Bible. The ritual is metaphor based on the first verse of St. John's Gospel (at which the Bible is open for most of the time) extolling the principles of Christianity.

Almost every line is a direct quotation of, or Masonic allusion to, verses of the New Testament, culminating in the words of Christ to the Disciples in St John 13:34. The scriptural references tend to be tantalisingly brief, forever offering new insight for the Christian Freemason.

The last part of every meeting of the Chapter incorporates a 'secular feast of fraternal rejoicing' whose origins pre-date Christianity.

The Supreme Council delegates authority to the Districts through an Inspector General. He has an executive team of one other who is called the District Recorder. Most Districts of Rose Croix reflect the geographical boundaries of the Craft Provinces and that is the case in East Kent. The Inspector General for the District of East Kent is Very Illustrious Brother Tony Denne 33^o and there are 20 Chapters meeting in the District with over 650 members. At the time of this publication the District of East Kent is the equal 5th largest District in the Order in England and Wales.

For further information please contact the District Recorder, Illustrious Brother Roger Odd 31^o on 01233 713591

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