



Provincial Grand Chapter of Somerset

Royal Arch Chapter Provincial Fraternal Visits.

These are essentially “low key” visits. They present an opportunity for Provincial Officers to visit Chapters other than their own, to enjoy the ceremony of another Chapter and the company of the companions at the festive board. All members of the visiting team will pay their own dining fee. The benefit to the host Chapter will be an increase in the number of Companions attending.

Provincial Officers will not be expected to take part in the ceremony unless the Chapter cannot fill the offices with their own Companions. In this case any work undertaken should have been previously agreed with the Provincial Deputy GDC.

Note for RA PFV's 2026 going forward – The Membership Challenge continues. The visiting Principal will during the second rising or at the Festive Board give a brief update on:

- How the Chapter and the Province are progressing.
- An insight into “Building Together” – AI powered toolbox for Chapters and Lodges that will enable them to secure a future as a viable entity.
- A reminder that we are all Ambassadors for Freemasonry and that we all belong to One Journey and One Organisation.

Bookings are via the E Comp Angus Ross Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.

 a.rossno5@yahoo.co.uk

Organisation of RA Chapter Provincial Fraternal Visits.

The dates and principals for the visits will be organised by the DGS in conjunction with the organising of the Installation visits.

The convocation administration of every visit will be by the responsibility of the Provincial Deputy Grand DC, and the use of Stewards to act as DCs is encouraged as it is in the Craft.

Team members will receive an email from the Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies pointing out where the dates for fraternal visits are located and requesting a response as to which visits they will support.

The dining arrangements for each visit will be coordinated (collection of dining fees etc) by one of the team attending.

Dates for this year are available here: <https://www.somersetfreemasons.org/royal-arch-installations/>

A copy of the summons should be sent to the Provincial Deputy GDC and the Provincial Assistant Scribe E.

 dgs@somersetroyalarch.org & asce@somersetroyalarch.org

Protocol for visits.

- The visiting Principal, Provincial Officers and GOs will be introduced into the Chapter by the Provincial Steward acting as DC, after the Chapter has been opened.
- The Chapter MEZ will proffer the visiting Principal the sceptre which will be politely returned. Companions will then take their seats in the Chapter.
- The visiting Principal will then address the members of the Chapter outlining the reasons for the visit and introducing the Provincial officers attending.
- It will be in order for the visiting Principal to present a GC certificate if requested to do so. Should the Chapter not have a ceremony the visiting Principal or a Companion may give a Solomon nugget or short presentation.
- The outgoing procession will be the responsibility of the Chapter DC.
- Festive Board - It is important the Chapters understand that the team should not all sit as a group but should be dispersed among the Chapter members. Officer matching would also be useful, ie Chapter Sojourners sat with

Ray Guthrie

MEGS

Updated January 2026