



REPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND ALMONER FOR THE YEAR ENDING 14 JULY 2020

RW Provincial Grand Master and Brethren,

Unfortunately, my Report always begins tinged with sadness as we must reflect on Members who are now serving in a Higher Office and those left behind.

“Let us pause for a moment to remember them”

We as Almoners cannot function without the assistance of others. We rely on them to bring any matter which is considered noteworthy to our attention, which we will consider, and disseminate, always bearing in mind the vagaries of the General Data Protection Regulations.

I have always found that if you act honestly and in good faith you have nothing to fear.

We must always be mindful of obtaining the **necessary consents** from those concerned but should never be put off by those who are at the outset appear to be reluctant to avail themselves of our services.

Sometimes I am told that “You have more important people to deal with than me”. Entirely wrong; As far as I am concerned all those who need my services are equally important.

All members and their spouses/partners **MUST** take advantage of the free services offered by the National Health Service to test for hidden ailments such as Cancer which can be latent.

The **MCF** and the **MBF** are good places of contact and I would encourage Members to seek out the services they offer in a number of areas. Their assistance is only a simple phone call away.

My old favourite always deserves a mention; that is maintaining contact with others by telephone. It is very important as those who are less fortunate than us, and who live alone, look forward to hearing a familiar voice on the other end. I have always found such contact is appreciated, which is most satisfying.

We need to remember that it may be, and all too often is, the only contact they may have had with the outside world for a few days/weeks/ or even sadly months. This is very important especially when a Brother resides some distance away and all too often tends to be forgotten.....Not on my watch!

Those in need can sometimes be assisted by a Petition. Although these can appear to be intrusive, all the information obtained is treated confidentiality. Mark Masons Hall is always very helpful.

Brethren who have not availed themselves of the services of the internet should not be disadvantaged by not receiving Reports or other correspondence. The employment of the Post office should be utilised.

I wince a little at Meetings when I hear an Almoner Report which starts with “I have heard nothing so everything must be alright”. Such comments are outdated and meaningless as there are very few occasions when this is true. In fact, it is to the contrary as there is always something to report - even good news however trivial it may appear.

I hope that you and your families manage to swerve the dreaded virus, and in this uncertain climate we can, should and **MUST** all “act” as Almoners. **Keep safe and well.**

VW Bro Norwell Roberts *QPM PGJO*
Provincial Grand Almoner