



REPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND ALMONER FOR THE YEAR ENDING 13 JULY 2021

RW Provincial Grand Master and Brethren,

I commence my report in memory of those of our number who prematurely ascended to take their place with the Great Overseer of the Universe due in no small part to the incidence of the dastardly Coronavirus Pandemic, as well as others whom we ought of necessity to remember. May they ALL Rest in Peace!!!

Last year during that difficult and dark time many of us exercised that spirit which binds us all together as decent men. Subsequently as Masons we exercised that willingness to help others and to walk that extra mile in order to do so.

I am often told "You have more important people to deal with than me". Entirely wrong. All those who avail themselves of my services are equally important, always remembering **to obtain the necessary consents.**

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 MBF also provide good services. I would encourage all Members and their families to seek out the varied services they offer including their Counselling services. Their assistance is only a simple phone call away.

It is of the utmost importance to maintain contact with others by telephone remembering that there are some who are less fortunate than us and who live alone. They look forward to hearing a familiar and friendly voice on the other end of the telephone. I have always found such contact is appreciated, which is most satisfying.

We all need to remember that it may be, and all too often is, the only contact they many have had with the outside world for a few days or at worst weeks. This is also important especially when a Brother resides some distance away and may be unable to attend the Lodge regularly. He can often tend to be forgotten....."Not on my watch".

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.

When giving advice I am always mindful that the easiest advice may not necessarily be the best advice.

Those in need can sometimes be assisted by Petitions. Although these can appear to be intrusive, all the information obtained is treated in confidence. I have found that the Staff at Mark Masons Hall are also very helpful.

Sorry to bang on about this, but I wince a little at Meetings when I hear "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 **with the necessary consents**; no matter however trivial it may appear.

It would be entirely remiss of me if I did not publicly thank those who took the trouble to enquire about my welfare as sometimes it can be forgotten that an Almoner invariably keeps his illnesses to himself. I am of the opinion that any of my ailments will **always** pale into insignificance when compared to that suffered by others who sometimes pay the ultimate price. My job is "easy" as all I do is to contact and report on others in my charge as an Almoner.

I hope that you and your families managed to swerve the dreaded virus, and in this uncertain climate we **can, should** and **MUST** always continue to "act" as Almoners. **Keep safe and well.**

VW Bro Norwell Roberts *QPM* PGJO
Provincial Grand Almoner