



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF CORNWALL

19 March 2020

Dear Brethren

Further to the Provincial Grand Secretary's letter notifying you of my decision to cancel the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting, the situation with regards to the Coronavirus pandemic has rapidly deteriorated.

As you know the Grand Master has taken the unprecedented decision to suspend all Lodge and Chapter meetings, but in the circumstances, this was inevitable and definitely the right move.

The Government's increasingly restrictive measures, culminating in the statement yesterday that all schools will close, demonstrates the seriousness of the situation.

As Freemasons, we are a naturally a very social body and the nature of the measures in force for the foreseeable future will, by their very intention, severely limit all social contact.

For a number of reasons, therefore, it is important that we ensure that our brethren and their families have as much support as they might need and we have the network and resources to do this.

This places great emphasis on the Lodge Almoners role, but as is often said, we are all Almoners. In this situation, we must take positive steps to keep in communication with all of our brethren and this can be done without direct contact by using telephone, email, text messaging, social media and even old-fashioned letters!

Support can extend to a number of different needs of our members, particularly the elderly or infirm who may not be able to get out for shopping or medical supplies and the very nature of isolation will inevitably lead to loneliness.

As we are in uncharted waters, I cannot say how long it will be before we can get back to our regular Freemasonry or how we will catch up on installation meetings, celebratory meetings, certificate presentations and of course the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting. However, I can assure you that I, together with my Provincial Executive are looking at all of our options and will keep you informed accordingly.

Meanwhile, please do not switch off from Freemasonry, as the increased amount of spare time available to you will give you a number of opportunities, such as learning new ritual, improving your Masonic knowledge through Solomon and perhaps devising innovative ways of raising funds for the 2024 Festival.

Brethren, I urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure that you and your families stay safe and well and to weather this storm.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

