



PROVINCE OF EAST LANCASHIRE



Provincial Circular No.199

13 March 2020

This Circular is being sent to ALL members equipped with email

Coronavirus Update

If you have not already received it, you will shortly receive an email from UGLE updating on their guidance concerning Coronavirus and the implications for Freemasonry.

The advice has been considered and, purely for the safety and welfare of our members, we have taken the difficult decision to **postpone** Provincial Grand Chapter on Thursday 19th March. I am sure this is a disappointment for many but equally, I am sure you will understand the basis for the decision and the justification for it.

We will rearrange this meeting at a point (hopefully) in the not too distant future. If you have booked in to dine, that booking remains valid. As and when a new date is announced, those who had booked in will automatically have a place for dining. If the revised date is no longer suitable, or for any other reason, we will of course refund the dining fee if so requested.

In respect of those being appointed to or promoted within Provincial Grand Chapter, those Honours are valid and effective from the 19th March. Acting Officers will be contacted separately concerning the collection of their jewels.

In addition, all those who would be expected to attend any Lodge or Chapter meetings, as part of a Deputation, will no longer do so; all 'team' events are therefore postponed until further notice. For Lodges and Chapters who were to host any celebrations or events, we will be in touch concerning each one. **PLEASE do not contact the Provincial Office to discuss them – we will contact you.**

The advice previously issued concerning the procedures for abandoning meetings is valid and should be followed. I have already received calls asking whether a Lodge/Chapter meeting should be held or not. That is a decision which can only be taken by the members of each Lodge or Chapter in consideration of those own circumstances and particularly, the members who will need to absent themselves. But common sense and a simple review of the age profile of our members surely tells you what we should all be doing without the need to ask anybody else. The welfare of our members is paramount.

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Administration:

This will clearly affect business continuity and the way in which we administer the Province. As of now, unless it has been specifically arranged, there will be no visitors to the Provincial Office, unless by prior appointment. That includes 'just dropping off paperwork.' Please respect this and our staff and volunteers.

There will be other implications for us in the coming weeks and months which still need to be worked through. Please bear with us and in the first instance, if you have any administrative queries, I would ask that they are emailed to the Secretariat.

Yours fraternally

Martin P Roche
Provincial Grand Secretary

Andrew Holland
Provincial Grand Scribe E