



PROVINCE OF EAST LANCASHIRE



11 November 2020

Dear Brethren and Companions,

It is a little while since I was in touch but as we are now into the second national lockdown and a further suspension of Masonic Meetings I want to reiterate the good wishes of Ruth and myself to you and all your loved ones. It is our sincere wish that you are looking after each other in these troubled and unprecedented times.

The 19th November would have been the date of our Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge and the rearranged meeting of Provincial Grand Chapter. It will come as no surprise to you that, due to the current restrictions placed on our country as a consequence of the pandemic, they will not be taking place. At the time of writing, I am unable to say when these Meetings will be rescheduled for. That will be a function of local and national guidance from HM Government and under advisement from UGLE. As soon as we have clarity on this, a Provincial Circular will be issued.

Despite not having the opportunity to meet and celebrate the Appointments and Promotions of our Brethren and Companions and our achievements as a Province, we have much to be proud of and look forward to. I have, therefore, still prepared the addresses I would have delivered to you at both of our Annual Meetings. I felt it was important that my messages still needed to be communicated to you all. With that in mind, both will be published separately on the 19th November and made available on our website and on social media. At the same time, a message of congratulations to all those that have received preferment will be issued by my two Deputies.

From an administrative point of view, as with our postponed Royal Arch Meeting date of 19th March, the new ranks of those who were to be Appointed or Promoted in Provincial Grand Lodge will take effect from the 19th November and I offer my sincere congratulations to all of the recipients.

It is imperative, at this time, that you stay in touch with all of your members within all of your Lodges and Chapters. Our Province is still working hard to support you and the overwhelming good work being done by East Lancashire Freemasons to benefit our communities is something to be rightly proud of. Freemasonry in this great Province has never been on hold due to this pandemic and never will be. Please take the time to find out from our website, from social media and from our newsletters, what is being done in your name and with the assistance of our own ELMC and through the generous support of the MCF.

Brethren and Companions – hold your nerve! Not physically meeting, at this time, does not devalue you as a Freemason. Our unique status as such, does not begin and end when we enter and leave our Meeting places. I have no doubt that we will get back to Meeting again. Despite this temporary ‘new normal’ of Freemasonry, I am certain that it will be just that, temporary.

Keep well, keep safe, be kind and keep in touch.

Sir David Trippier, RD, JP, DL
Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master
Most Excellent Grand Superintendent

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