



# PROVINCE OF EAST LANCASHIRE



7 January 2021

Dear Brethren and Companions,

First and most importantly I hope that you and your loved ones are safe and well and that you have managed to enjoy the Christmas and New Year period, even though it will have been very different from the family time that we are normally able to share.

Secondly, as we move into the New Year, I would like to pass on to you all the very best wishes of Ruth and myself, let us hope and pray that 2021 will be kinder to us all.

At the outset of the pandemic no one would have predicted that we would still be in this position. As a result of the most recent Government announcement it is obviously going to be some time before we can return to our meetings and share that wonderful fellowship that we all enjoy so much. Given the restrictions that are now in place it is difficult to estimate when such gatherings will again be possible. However, we must remain positive as that time will undoubtedly come and when it does, the Province will be ready; we will do all that we can to support you in that return to the "new normal".

I would like to place on record my thanks and appreciation for the work that you continue to undertake, both in your Lodges and Chapters, and in your local communities; the last few months have demonstrated in a practical way many of the values of Freemasonry which we as members take for granted, but which have enlightened and perhaps surprised some of the general public.

We have all become increasingly aware of how important that occasional telephone call is to a Brother or Companion that lives alone, or is shielding; maintaining group contact via Zoom; the value of providing provisions for local food banks or delivering groceries, medicines, or hot meals to the vulnerable; the supply of PPE to those in need; the difference that contributions from the ELMC Grants Committee or District Funds have made to local charities and good causes, during these difficult times; the fantastic volunteering activities of many of our Brethren across the length and breadth of the Province and not forgetting the contacts that have been made to Brethren and Companions who have attained personal landmarks such as Golden Jubilees, but who have not yet been able to celebrate their achievements. There are many other examples that could be quoted but these give a flavour of the fantastic care and commitment that has been demonstrated during these unprecedented times.

Brethren and Companions, even though we are going through a very difficult period it is a privilege to be your Provincial Grand Master / Most Excellent Grand Superintendent; I am in awe of your efforts. Thank you for all that you do.

Please continue to look after each other, take care and stay safe. With a careful adherence to the guidance and the assistance of the vaccine programme that is now rolling out we can see an end to this pandemic and the opportunity some time later in the year of being together again. I look forward to sharing your company in the not-too-distant future.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

RW Provincial Grand Master / ME Grand Superintendent

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