

## **PGM's ADDRESS 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2020**

*Well Brethren, today I should have been delivering an address to you at the Mark Provincial Meeting. Always an excellent occasion which many Mark Masons in the Province look forward to and enjoy.*

*Unfortunately, for reasons we are all aware of, that is not possible this year, so I have decided instead to post this 'Virtual Address' on the Provincial web site on the day the meeting should have taken place. I do hope that as you read it you are keeping safe and well and that you find it useful and informative.*

*I would have begun my Address by welcoming our Distinguished Guests, so instead let me start today by thanking the Heads of all the Masonic Orders in the Province who have come together so magnificently to lead us through these difficult times.*

*A joint approach with the Craft, the Royal Arch and all other Orders has enabled us to give you guidance and information without overpowering everyone with conflicting messages from many different sources. The joint Suspension Planning Group has done a marvellous job in co-ordinating those messages into a Weekly Bulletin and I thank Alan Oldfield and Fraser McPherson for the roles they are playing on that team.*

*Our usual Guests from other Provinces are, of course, absent today, but I assure you that I am still in touch with all the other Mark PGMs regularly by a weekly video link.*

*The outgoing Provincial Team had a very busy year, with Escorted Visits to Morley 1905, Castle 1257, Knaresborough Castle 768, Wharfedale 1027 and Integrity 110 Mark Lodges. Halifax 706 celebrated its Centenary and Lodge Banners were dedicated for Pudsey 658 and Hipperholme R.A.M. 715.*

*I thank the Provincial Officers of the Year for their magnificent support and only regret that I can't be with them to thank them all personally today.*

*Five Brethren also celebrated 50 years in our Orders during the year, Alan Hopwood of Prince Leopold 352, John Pringle of Legiolium 457, Brian Batty of Brighouse 753, Derrik Roberts of Gilkirke 812 and Sam Kilburn of Fearnley R.A.M. 58. My congratulations go to them all.*

*We also enjoyed a full Social program, despite the planned Christmas Ball being cancelled due to boiler failure at the Hotel and I thank Mick Ricketts and the Social Committee for all their hard work. Also John Whitworth and John Fitzpatrick for their Musical Evenings.*

*This year was going to be even busier than last before the current Masonic suspension was enforced. Many events scheduled to take place in the Spring and Summer have had to be postponed or cancelled, with those in the Autumn also in some doubt. Amongst the events most immediately affected are the*