

My overriding concern still remains the welfare and health of our brethren and their families. To that end we have strengthened our Almoner Network by appointing two or more Area Almoners in each of the four I.M.A. areas. These Area Almoners will work with and liaise between the Provincial Grand Almoner and the Lodge Almoners as necessary, to make sure there are no gaps in our Almoner network.

We have also written personally to all brethren over 70 to inform them who to contact should they need help other than from their own Lodge Almoner.

The Provincial Almoner is working closely with the CHOICES Care and Support Officers and our own Welfare Officer to ensure that professional support and advice can be given when needed.

Brethren across the Province are being encouraged to keep in touch with each other, particularly with our older and more vulnerable members, many of whom may be isolated and alone. Many of them also rely on Freemasonry for their friendships, company and even for their meals. It is a way of life for them which has now been withdrawn. Pick up the phone and ring them.

The structure of the Mark Provincial web site www.westyorksmark.co.uk has also been changed to concentrate on supplying up to date information on the suspension, keeping us all in touch and focussing on the fun and enjoyment it is still possible for us to share as Mark Masons. It will be our main vehicle for communication over the next few months, so please visit it regularly and pass this message on to your Mark friends when you ring them. Also feed in your own stories so that they can be shared with others.

As mentioned earlier in this Address, you will also have seen the Weekly Suspension Bulletins, which are being issued every Monday morning by email to all Freemasons in the Province. Please make sure you read them, as they are designed to keep everyone informed of what is happening across all Orders locally during the suspension.

Brethren, I do hope that you have found this Address useful.

Our Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Freemasonry in the Province is still alive and well, despite our Lodges being closed. Our Mark family is still as close as it always was, despite us not meeting. And our Mark friendships are still as strong as ever, despite us not shaking hands.

We all leave our Mark on life, and when we get through this let it be said that we left our Mark well, and become even closer, from this period of being apart.

Keep safe, keep well and God bless you all.

Jim