



# Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons West Yorkshire

Brethren

We have all heard that phrase used many times and perhaps we have used it ourselves. Never has that phrase had so much meaning that it has today, in Spring 2020.

The good news is that having made numerous phone calls during this lock down I can report from my own perspective and that of others making similar calls that the vast majority of our people, brethren and dependants alike are coping well with their situations and very few have been directly affected by the Covid 19 virus or its immediate repercussions. However understandably they are slowly becoming bored and fed up. That is where we come in.

Every one of us has had the normality of our lives removed and replaced with nothing. This will affect us all but it could affect the most isolated and lonely first. Our brethren for a host of reasons, pride and not wanting to be a burden amongst them, will not contact us and report a problem in a timely fashion. History tells us they will remain silent hoping it goes away and the problem will then develop and deteriorate.

**“We should not assume others are coping in the sometimes-difficult circumstances we are in, the most vulnerable are often the ones who are reluctant to ask for help”**

Whilst I would like to take the credit for this quote it does in fact come from our Pro Grand Master Most W Bro. Raymond Smith when talking recently about his T@3 initiative. When talking to others please don't accept it when they answer “fine” to being asked how they are. This is a stock reply we all use whether it is true or not. A meaningful conversation after being told they are fine is likely to reveal the veracity of what they have told you or not.

**“If you are behaving today as you were doing a week ago, you are not doing it right”**

Again, not my quote but one from the government one week into lockdown. How I interpret this for our means is that if you are making the same amount of calls to the same people as you were before this crisis, you are not doing it right.

I and others in the Province have hundreds of examples of the genuine appreciation that these phone calls bring and the amount of good they do. They are very much needed and could simply be a life saver. I have also been made aware of just how much a phone call from a person who does not normally call, has an added meaning and gives an even greater feeling of inclusion and not being forgotten.

In this unprecedented situation we must take the initiative on behalf of our members who we know will be reluctant to ask, show them that we care, make more calls and replace with your calls that social aspect to their lives which has been taken from them. Our members deserve no less. Please do something different.

In conclusion can I thank all those truly acting as Almoners for all the care and concern they are showing with their calls. I would also ask that whilst ever this crisis goes on our response on behalf of our members will be in the true traditions of Mark masonry in demonstrating our generosity of our care, our compassion and our time.

Best wishes to all. Take care. Keep safe.

WE ARE ALL ALMONERS

W.Bro. Paul Leach  
Provincial Grand Almoner