

Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons West Yorkshire

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Dear Brethren,

I have never before had to write to you at such a sad and difficult time. Many of us are separated from our loved ones and our lives are on hold. This includes our Freemasonry, where all Masonic gatherings, including all our planned Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodge meetings and Social Events, will not now take place for the next four months.

During this time, my overriding concern is the welfare and health of our Brethren and their families, many of whom are vulnerable, isolated or alone. Many of them, particularly our older brethren, also rely on their Masonic friendships, meetings, Social events and Festive Boards for their wellbeing. It is a way of life. Unfortunately all of this will now cease for them over the coming months and some of them will inevitably become unwell. Our younger Brethren may also experience hardship through loss of income and need our help.

For these reason we are immediately strengthening our existing Almoner Network across the Province and will be writing personally to all brethren in the groups most at risk, informing them who to contact if they need help. We will also ensure that our older brethren are contacted regularly by telephone throughout this difficult period.

A weekly bulletin will also be issued in conjunction with the Craft and Chapter Provinces to keep everyone informed of what is happening locally and other advice and information will be posted on our web sites.

As Mark Masons and Royal Ark Mariners we are already a very close family, and as in all families we need to support each other. So please also help out where you can within your own Lodges, to make sure contact is kept and that food rations and medication for those self-isolating or in need is maintained.

We will get through this, but in the meantime keep following government advice, keep in contact with one another, but most of all let's take care of everyone and keep safe.

 