

Provincial Grand Lodge on Mark Master Masons of Monmouthshire



Provincial Grand Master

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Mark Brethren of Monmouthshire,

I bring you sincere Christmas greetings from my vantage point up here on the hill in Torfaen. It's been an extraordinary year for us all, both personally and masonically with highs, lows and surprises along the way. 2021 has promised much by showing us the way back from these difficult times, but, just as we thought we had turned the corner, another obstacle has come along to beset us. The Province has reawakened itself and you, the membership, have kept faith by attending meetings and once again breathing life back into Mark Masonry. I want to acknowledge this while recognising and thanking each and every one of you for hanging in there.

At this moment in time we are unsure of what the New Year is going to bring us. The new variant has given us some cause for alarm and we see the Welsh Government responding cautiously. I await further notification from Mark Masons Hall on these matters but as in all things we will proceed cautiously. In this spirit I am informing the province that I have decided not to travel to Spain in February due to the restrictions in foreign travel and covid testing. Things are still too uncertain. Let us await better times before stepping out.

As I review the year past I reflect on the remarkable, the unexpected, the uplifting and the sad. A year of conflicting emotions. There have been the frustrations of lockdown and suspension, the lifting of suspension, the anxieties for the health and welfare of family and friends, the sadness on hearing of the illnesses of others yet being unable to visit or actively assist. Our grief on hearing of the passing of those dear to us; but also our joy on hearing of those recovering their health as well those honoured with Provincial and Grand Lodge appointments.

It is very important that I acknowledge the extensive "behind the scenes" work and intervention of Lodge Almoners, who, during this extensive period of masonic abeyance, have performed their duties in an exemplary manner throughout. I know that we have appreciated their ongoing commitment to their task. Then there is the Provincial executive, who have been involved in all kinds of work behind the scenes. Decisions have to be made...the work still goes on. Our Provincial Treasurer, Charity Steward and his assistant have been constantly on call and involved. Of course, our Provincial Almoner has led from the front and has been in regular contact with me throughout, I couldn't have done without him. Welcome back to us, old friends!

There has been plenty of good advice along the way in all manner of things. Our Provincial Secretary, our Deputy Provincial Grand Master and the Past Provincial Grand Master all have stood alongside me during this time.

As I think of the Province I see faces, the faces of my friends and Brothers from each and every Lodge, you who make things happen who bring things together with humour and generosity of spirit. Brethren, you are the lifeblood of Monmouthshire. I wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and a brighter and more hopeful New Year. Keep yourselves and your loved ones safe. Please feel free to contact me if you so wish and I look forward to being together with you as soon as we are able.

My best seasonal regards,

David R Powell, PGM