



To: All Royal Arch Companions



1. Message from MEGS, E Comp Jim Boughton

Twelve months ago, I wrote to you with an opening sentence of, "What happened to 2019, time flies when one is having fun".

Companions we all know what happened to 2020 and I feel sure that I can say 'we did not have fun!'

We battened down the hatches doing all that we could to stay safe whilst at the same time, in the true spirit of Freemasonry, reaching out in any way that was possible to support not only



our Brethren and Companions but also those in the community at large less fortunate than ourselves. I thank all those who have worked hard to maintain that bond of caring companionship not only within their Chapters but also within the Province.

Traditionally for peoples of many beliefs, both ancient and modern, this time of year leads to the contemplation of new life and with the recent roll out of a Covid-19 vaccination programme we can indeed begin to see light at the end of a very dark tunnel. A rebirth of our way of life, perhaps a new life that will differ slightly from the old, particularly for the more tactile among us, but none-the-less one where we can again meet in the happy companionship that is the Royal Arch.

Be patient. It will take time. Above all continue to stay safe. Stay in touch with each other and begin to prepare for that day when your Chapter can again meet and begin the process of sifting through the rubble, catching up for lost time and rebuilding 'that which was lost'.

As we approach the end of 2020 I pray that your Festive Season will be peaceful and, as far as you feel able, enjoyable and may the True and living God Most High be with you and your loved ones.

Take care and stay safe,

E Comp Jim Boughton

Most Excellent Grand Superintendent

2. Message from the Provincial Grand Almoner, E Comp Stuart Morgan

Regaining that which was lost

We are all responding to this COVID-19 pandemic differently. Some will be catching up with things that have been put off for too long, a garden project or decorating the front room. Some will rediscover the outdoors. Some will be finding new things to fill up their time. Each of us will have our own story to tell of our lock-down survival strategy and of time lost. How will we describe how we feel about being unable to meet in our Chapters?

Our response will be as unique as we are. There is no one-size-fit-all reason to being a Holy Royal Arch Companion. All of us though will be missing the companionship. It's enough that we are prevented from sitting with our friends. It's natural for our well-being to benefit from spending time together. Being prevented from doing so will inflict a feeling of isolation and loss for many of us. Left unchecked this can grow into a feeling of withdrawal. We can become detached from the world and find it difficult to 'get going'. These are uncharted waters for many of us.

Therefore, the Royal Arch response to the COVID-19 pandemic is every Companion's challenge. The Provincial Executive is dedicated to ensuring we maintain our good spirits for the inevitable resumption of our meetings. Our Almoners are very special people who encourage attendance to our meetings and work tirelessly to ensure Companions understand

DIARY DATES FOR
2020/2021



SGC ANNUAL INVESTITURE

Thursday 29th April 2021

Freemasons' Hall, London



ANNUAL PRINCIPALS &
SCRIBES E DINNER

Monday 24th May 2021

Corby Masonic Centre



GILDENBURG CHAPTER 2533

CENTENARY CONVOCATION

Tuesday 8th June 2021

Peterborough



PROVINCIAL GRAND
CHAPTER

Thursday 24th June 2021

Sheaf Close

the purpose of the Holy Royal Arch Degree. These are difficult tasks to perform when we are unable to meet. So that's where we each have a role to play.

If you are aware of a fellow Companion and friend who has unexpectedly gone quiet, then consider why. Perhaps just a phone call will do. If it is discovered he is feeling detached from his Chapter then let your Almoner know. He will decide, with you, how best to offer support. The Provincial Executive is also with you. When an Almoner asks for help, he will receive it without hesitation.

No Companion is alone. We are a fraternal organisation who look after each other. The news of a vaccine is encouraging. One day this pandemic will be behind us and we will come together in our Chapters as we have done before. Let's us all keep an eye on that happy day, when we will resume our Holy Royal Arch Chapter meetings and regain that which was lost.

E Comp Stuart Morgan

Provincial Grand Almoner

3. Message from the Learning & Development Officer

Solomon and its use in supporting Chapters (and Lodges) at a time of holding Zoom type meetings for members

Naturally, Solomon has played its part in such virtual on-line gatherings. To make hosting these virtual gatherings easier a new section in Solomon has been launched 'Online Masonic Gatherings', which can be found within Share and Encourage: Lodge Matters.

This new section is designed with Mentors, Presenters and Preceptors in mind, to provide content and material for virtual gatherings, so that everyone can make the most of these events.

In this section, have been placed a number of short presentations designed to fit with the time-scale of an online gathering; some complete with a short quiz, together with a number of themed and mixed quizzes; again, designed especially for use online.

This content is also intended to be mixed with other Papers and Nuggets across Solomon, providing a template to allow online gatherings to be customised to the audience and the time-scale available, making every presentation unique.

It is appreciated that several Chapters, Lodges and Groups have developed masonic quizzes to stimulate their members. Whilst developing new material from the centre, rather than reinvent the wheel, we would welcome sight of this additional material to be included and augment what Solomon has to offer. Please feel free to forward same for consideration to:

content.solomon@ugle.org.uk

E Comp Dr Christopher R Clark, PProvGReg

Provincial Learning & Development Officer

Solomon - Fostering Curiosity, Developing Understanding at <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk>

(If you have a colleague who does not receive this newsletter – just email it to him)



You can keep abreast of matters Royal Arch (and Craft) in the Province by signing-up to the Provincial website. Not already signed-up? Here is the web address you need:

[//www.northants-huntsmasons.org.uk](https://www.northants-huntsmasons.org.uk)

The next Royal Arch Newsletter will be published in February 2021

Copyright © 2020 All Rights Reserved