



To: All Royal Arch Companions



1. MEGS' Seasonal Musings 2021



This time last year we faced a curtailment of our usual Christmas Festivities with family, yet prospects for the New Year and beyond appeared hopeful with the development of a vaccine. Indeed, things did improve and we saw the resumption of Masonic activity with the season 2021/22 underway in early September.

Understandably the return to meetings was a cautious affair with the hope that confidence would grow as time passed enabling us to return to pre-Covid attendance numbers or indeed even improve on them. Unfortunately, new strains appeared over the horizon as the theory of evolution played itself out at micro level, with the result that confidence did not grow and many companions remained understandably cautious. Meetings did go ahead and I am grateful to all those who 'mucked-in' to enable convocations to proceed. I fear that we are not yet out of the woods and that we are going to have to endure the consequences of this pesky Covid for some time to come.

Each must determine for himself as to whether or not he feels comfortable attending convocations.

However, let us not be downhearted. Things are better than last year and indeed will improve as time goes by, of that I am confident. As the address to the Initiate says "step boldly forward on this great highway of Masonry with a smile on your lips and a song in your heart". If you are able and feel confident in attending convocations, continue to work with your fellow companions to enable our Chapters to ride out storm Covid. Continue to remain in touch with each other, keeping that spirit of fraternal companionship alive, watching out for those who are yet to return.

In the meantime, I wish you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas and may the True and Living God Most High be with you and your loved ones.

2. PSA Testing Programme

213 Brethren and Companions attended the first of the three PSA testing sessions held at Sheaf Close on Saturday 27th November 2021. Eleven of those who attended received a "Red Letter" indicating that they should contact their GP as a matter of urgency. A further 6 received an "Amber Letter" indicating that they should contact their GP.

Details of the second testing session, to be held at the Ellindon Centre, Peterborough, on Saturday 5th February 2022 have already been issued to those Brethren and Companions in that catchment area. E Comp Mike Green, PGStB, PProvGChStwd said "Prostate Cancer is the most common cancer in men in the UK. It is also one of the deadliest. We would urge every Companion and Brother to have a test when offered in their area."

Companions, please take advantage of this important joint Craft and Royal Arch initiative. It has already alerted a significant number of our members to the need to take further action.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

PSA TESTING

Saturday 5th February 2022
Peterborough Masonic Centre



PSA TESTING

Saturday 2nd April 2022
Corby Masonic Centre



SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER ANNUAL CONVOCATION AND IINVESTITURE

Thursday 28th April 2022
Freemasons' Hall, London



GILDENBURG CHAPTER 2533 CENTENTARY MEETING

Tuesday 10th May 2022
Peterborough Masonic Centre

3. Message from the Learning & Development Officer

Dear Companions – **Solomon – the beginning, the ending, and again a new beginning!**

SOLOMON - FOSTERING CURIOSITY, DEVELOPING UNDERSTANDING

We have recently seen some light with the beginning and return to our work in the Royal Arch as this new masonic season began - with much relief to be back again in full operation but with concerns, in many respects, as to how will it all work again and how will we all cope with our various forms of ritual after such a long time away. The ending of restrictions, which we hope will not return, have seen a steady yet cautious return by Companions to our RA Convocations, with much enthusiasm to get going again after our enforced 'rest'.

For many, we have not yet seen the full return to involvement and participation, but 2022 will surely bring a 'new-beginning' to our **Supreme Order** with new developments and useful material to look forward to in the New Year.

At **Supreme Grand Chapter** in late November an early outline was given in a presentation of the **new RA Pathway**, due to be called 'Archway', with much more in the way of guidance, support, and encouragement for us all and especially our new Exaltees as they enter and progress from the Craft and into Chapter.

In 2022 we will soon have the concept of the candidate entering Freemasonry and progressing along the Craft 'Pathway' and through the three initial stages or steps of that Journey in to **Pure Antient Masonry** (*reference the Preliminary Declaration in the Book of Constitutions*) and then going through the 'Archway' to receive the delights and light of that fourth stage or step, namely **Royal Arch Companionship**.

From this 'Archway' project we will all hopefully see the Craft and the Royal Arch working even closer together to achieve that 'Pathway-to-Archway-of-enhanced-personal-and-masonic-development'.

In parallel with the 'Archway' project we will also see further support from within Solomon with the publication of an extensive amount of material in **Solomon** for the new 'Onboarding' section for Companions in the RA. This section in Solomon should be ready early in the New Year and will mirror and reflect the existing and relatively new sections for those newly made Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts and Master Masons.

In each of these sections, the individual new to that part of his Journey; those more experienced; and especially the Mentors and Preceptors – in fact us all! – will find an extensive array of material to help everyone personally, as well as the others we encourage to complete that 'Four-Stage' masonic journey towards the **Royal Arch** – namely the completion of that journey through the 'Archway' and into the delights and light of the **Royal Arch**.

During the Christmas period when you have had enough of the Festive cheer and New Year celebrations why not set aside some time to explore the various sections of **Solomon**?

The front page of **Solomon** has been redesigned slightly to make to material even easier to use and explore.

For those not yet registered with Solomon just go to <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk> and on the front page is a section entitled 'Getting Started with Solomon'. In there you will find all the guidance you will need to register and gain access to **Solomon**.

Then for those who want to explore the material in Solomon (once registered and logged-in) scroll down the first page and in the middle, you will find an all-embracing link entitled 'All Modules'. From here you will be able to search and explore the extent of the material available. If now you click-on and explore within the 'Seek and Learn' section you will be able to consider all the 'Onboarding' material for Entered Apprentices, Fellow Craft and Master Masons, and before we see the material, which will be hosted soon, for **Companions in the Royal Arch**. So happy searching and exploring Solomon over the next few weeks and months.

May the Christmas season be a happy and restful time for us all – free from the worries of covid – and may the New Year bring to us all a time of enjoyment and further delight in all our work in this **Supreme Order of the Royal Arch**.

All the above – and much more - can be found from accessing **Solomon - Fostering Curiosity, Developing Understanding** at: <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk>

E Comp Dr Christopher R Clark, PGStB
Provincial Learning & Development Officer

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



PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER

Thursday 23rd June 2022

Northampton Masonic Centre

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 March 2022

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