



# Provincial Grand Chapter of Somerset

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Grand Superintendent

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Dear *Companions*

Further to the Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra's correspondence notifying you of my decision to postpone the Provincial Grand Chapter Convocation, the situation regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is proving to be far more challenging than we had ever anticipated.

You will all be aware that the MW Grand Master and First Grand Principal, HRH The Duke of Kent, *KG* has taken the unprecedented decision to suspend all Lodge and Chapter meetings within England and Wales for a period of four months, which under the circumstances was inevitable and very much the right decision.

The daily and ever increasing restrictive measures that are being imposed by Her Majesty's Government only prove to demonstrate the seriousness of the situation, and as such it is incumbent upon us all not to lose sight of our core values and principles, Brotherly love (friendship), relief (charity) and truth (integrity), but more importantly our love for each other and to our neighbours at large. This will inevitably place greater emphasis on the Chapter Almoners and their role, but I urge you all in these uncertain and trying times to play your part and take positive steps by assisting the Almoners to keep in contact with all of our Brethren and Companions either by telephone, email, text messaging or social media.

Support can extend to a number of differing options, particularly to our elderly or infirm members who may not be able to get out for shopping or medical supplies, not forgetting that the very nature of their isolation will inevitably lead to possible depression and loneliness.

We are clearly in uncharted waters with no clear indication as to how long this current situation will last or how we will catch up on lost Installations, Chapter Convocations not forgetting the Provincial Grand Chapter Convocation, however, you can be assured that both I and the Provincial Executive will be looking at all our options and you will be kept advised accordingly.

Finally, Companions I urge you all to take all necessary steps to ensure that both you, your families and loved ones, heed all the advice you've been given, stay safe and well; and together I am confident we will weather this particular storm.

With very best wishes  
Yours sincerely and fraternally

*Barry*

Barry K Woodside  
Grand Superintendent in and over the Province of Somerset.