



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WORCESTERSHIRE

E.Comp. John M. Phenix
M.E. Grand Superintendent

R.W.Bro. Robert C. Vaughan
Provincial Grand Master

R.W.Bro. Eric J. Rymer
Provincial Grand Master

13th July 2020

Dear Brethren and Companions,

On 23 June the Prime Minister announced an easing of lockdown restrictions in England. These changes have now created the environment in which it is felt there is scope to make plans for a resumption of masonic activity. Accompanying this letter is a copy of the announcement of those plans which was released jointly by United Grand Lodge of England, Supreme Grand Chapter and Mark Grand Lodge. It confirms their decision that the General Suspension of masonic activity will expire on 17th July and sets out general guidance for the resumption of masonic meetings after that date. This is a significant and welcome step forward, but it is essential that you understand that any resumption of masonic meetings can only take place where Government restrictions permit and where meeting places have demonstrated that they are able to provide a Covid-19 secure environment.

Masonic meetings will not resume immediately as there will be much to do before that can happen. However, the ending of the General Suspension will provide all our Lodges and Chapters with the opportunity to begin meeting again when the conditions are right for them. It has been suggested to us that the resumption of masonic activity later this month maybe too soon, and we understand that many Brethren, particularly those in high risk categories, will not want to attend meetings again for some time. The announcement is certainly not a coercive move, but it is the first of many steps we must take before we are able to return to normality.

We are sure today's news will raise many questions in your mind which is why, later this week, we will be hopefully issuing a detailed guidance note accompanied by a comprehensive "Frequently Asked Questions" factsheet which will, we hope, address the concerns you may have. We have been greatly impressed by the way you have all responded to the challenges that Covid-19 has forced upon us. These unprecedented times have called for an unprecedented response and you should feel proud of the efforts you have made, not just to keep our masonic family together, but in reaching out to your local communities to help the vulnerable and disadvantaged in society. Returning to our masonic labours will not be easy nor will it happen quickly but it will certainly be worth the wait.

Yours sincerely & fraternally

John M. Phenix
Most Excellent Grand Superintendent

Robert C. Vaughan
Provincial Grand Master

Eric J. Rymer
Provincial Grand Master Mark

