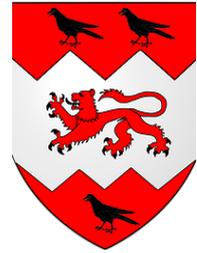




The Masonic Order of Athelstan

Provincial Grand Court of South Rheged



Provincial Grand Almoner

W. Bro. Dennis Slights KCM

The Grand High Almoner

The Masonic Order of Athelstan

D John Forster
60 Dunelt Road
Blackpool
Lancashire
FY1 6LT

Tel: 01253 343895
E Mail: d_forster1@sky.com

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Dear Sir and Brother,

This is the Provincial Almoner's report for South Rheged, dealing with the month of October.

It is with a heavy heart, that once again, it is my sad duty to inform you that we have lost a Brother Court Master Mason, this month, due to the Covid-19 virus, the brother was a founder member of Five Boroughs Court No 55, and held the office of Treasurer, he was very active in a number of Orders, extremely well liked, and will sadly missed.

The Brother Almoner, who is now recovering from the Covid-19 virus, is getting better, all be it very slowly and has had a negative test for the virus. His wife, I'm pleased to say, is recovering well, as far as I'm aware we have no Court Master Masons in hospital at this time, with the virus.

There are, of course, a number of our brethren with ongoing medical problems, one very active Brother has had to have part of his lung removed, and after several weeks in hospital is now at home recovering, and very pleased to be back home in his own bed. His Court Almoner has done a splendid job keeping all the members on his Court informed of his progress.

One worrying development is that we now have a Court Brother suffering with depression, he is dealing with it in his own way, fortunately his Court Almoner is a Group Care Officer and part of the Craft Provincial Care Team, so, he is being closely monitored.

The Almoners of South Rheged continue to keep me apprised of any developments in their Courts, their reports give me a great picture of the health and welfare of all the members of the Province. I cannot praise too highly the work the Almoners are doing and their persistence in making sure that ever brother is contacted, with any relative information been passed on to me. Month on month I have been able to follow the progress of our members, like the Brother who had his leg amputated and how well he has dealt with

it, or the brother who is having to wait patiently for a hernia operation and many more notes on our Brethren and their families.

I am more than happy that all our Court Master Masons are being contacted and helped by their Almoners and when any problem has been identified it has been dealt with in the appropriate manner.

The majority of our Province has been in "Tier 3" for some time and now with the new "Lockdown" looming, our Almoners will again be in the forefront of the care and contact of the members, so I was very pleased the Most Worshipful Grand Master, at the Virtual Grand Court made special mention of the work they have and are continuing to do.

To conclude, some of the more elderly are being very cautious over the upswing in the virus infections, so, I'm sure the members will be sticking to the self-isolation, taking the current situation in their stride, all, of course, miss the comradeship of meeting their brothers face to face, but there seems to be a strong atmosphere of friendship and a bond of cordiality amongst the brethren when I contact them, I am sure all do appreciate the efforts being made by the Almoners, the Province of South Rheged is still in good heart and looking forward to start meeting again whenever possible.

I do hope this report proves satisfactory to you.

Best regards

D. John Forster.

Provincial Almoner.