

Dear Brethren,

As 2021 draws to a close and the weather outside is as damp as our spirits, I can at least take pleasure in sending you all a message for Christmas and a short review of the Provincial year.

The three months since I was Installed as your Provincial Grand Master have been extremely busy but hugely enjoyable. We have had the Mark Grand Ranks investiture where we saw W Bro Guy Barlow and W Bro Neil Coleman receive their first appointments to Mark Grand Rank, and well-deserved promotions for W Bros Huw Hopkin and John Nixon; the Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank investiture to see W Bro Neil Coleman (again) receive his appointment to Grand Rank; we have Consecrated a new Provincial Banner and held Installations, Advancements and Elevations right across the Province. The most pleasing part of all this was to be in your company again and to see the enjoyment that your return to Mark Masonry was clearly bringing to you all.

Having got off to such a promising start, I was very disappointed to have to postpone the Reception and Dinner which we usually hold in January. However, I am quite convinced that the New Year will see new restrictions brought in and, rather than end up having to cancel or postpone at the last minute, I thought it better to take the initiative and move it to April when, God willing, we will all be able to enjoy the happy vibe which always accompanies this popular event. Fiona and I look forward to seeing as many of you as feel able to come, along with your wives, partners and guests.

Having acknowledged that we are likely to start 2022 with further restrictions in place, I am hopeful (one has to be!) that these will be temporary and that we will be able to return to some sort of normality – albeit, in all probability, somewhat different from the pre-pandemic landscape we all remember. I have to hope that, although we are clearly not out of the woods yet, the end is perhaps in sight. I therefore look forward to 2022 with optimism and excitement and I hope that you do too.

In preparation for the coming year, I hope that you are all able to spend time with your families, recharge your batteries and then take on 2022 with the joy and enthusiasm that I know you all have for our wonderful degree.

I close by sending you and your families every good wish for a happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year. May the Great Overseer and Supreme Commander of the Universe have you in His special keeping, until we meet again in His Most Holy Name.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

*Graham*

RW Bro Graham Seeman, Provincial Grand Master