



PROVINCIAL PRIOR'S ADDRESS - 29 October 2020

Brother Knights

I am delighted to welcome you all to this Virtual Business Meeting of the Province. It is the first such occasion we have held but may not be the last! When I wrote my address to you all in June after the general suspension of Masonry had caused the abandonment of our Annual Meeting, I indicated that I had already decided to cancel today's Malta Meeting. I had hoped things would be improving by now but sadly they seem to be getting worse. The whole of Cheshire is restricted as is Merseyside and much of Manchester. North Wales has suspended all Masonic activity until further notice. In the circumstances I have sought, and received, permission from the Great Vice-Chancellor to suspend all KT physical meetings. This suspension will commence on 1st November and will continue in force until further notice. The practical effect will be that, having inserted the formal notice in the Minute Book, Registrars will not issue summonses and neither will they be required to abandon meetings. Preceptories are strongly advised to hold Virtual Business Meetings as appropriate to deal with such issues as accounts and elections so that, once activity is resumed, they will be able to start again with everything in order. Such meetings do need to follow the MMH Protocols and we will re-circulate these with the Notice. I am very grateful to all Preceptories who have tried to keep in touch with their members and keep them up to date with fast changing developments.

It is looking increasingly likely that there will be little, if any, KT activity before May or June 2021. As a consequence, those acting Officers I appointed in June, and appointed to their Malta ranks today, will have had no opportunity to attend Team or Provincial events. In line with a number of other Orders I am now considering whether it would be appropriate to invite the current Officers to remain in place for a further 12 months from June 2021. Some may, due to changes of circumstances, wish to decline and this is fine. Many Preceptories will not have a Past Preceptor eligible for promotion, but those that do should

Network House, St. Ives Way, Sandycroft, Deeside, CH5 2QS.

Mobile: 07999 022564
northwaleskt.co.uk

Fax: 01244 5353

Email: [vc@cheshireand-](mailto:vc@cheshireand-northwaleskt.co.uk)

submit details in the usual way. Any Preceptory that feels they have a Knight for whom special consideration might be given should write to me via the Provincial Vice-Chancellor. I will communicate my decision before the end of the year. Certain semi-permanent Provincial Officers will change this year due to retirements.

In June I mentioned the retirement after 13 years of faithful service of our Provincial Prelate E.Kt. Revd. Barry Jobber. Today is Barry's last official duty and we thank him for all he has done for us and wish him well for the future. E.Kt. David Dobbs now steps into some very big shoes.

I also mentioned the Grand Master's 20 4 2020 Appeal for the Eye Hospital. Currently some £35,000 has been donated. I encourage individual Knights who have not done so to consider this important effort. The Eye Hospital is working as near to normally as possible in the present epidemic. Wear your Swift Badges with pride when the occasion permits.

My plan to hand out Certificates to Knights appointed and promoted in June has clearly fallen by the wayside and I will now post them to you.

Finally, it is inevitable that some Knights will be considering their membership of the Order. We ask that Registrars, before processing Resignations, communicate with the Provincial Vice-Chancellor so that I might have the opportunity to talk to these Knights where appropriate.

I am going to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year, strange though this will be for most of us.

Keep safe and God Bless You All.