



# Somerset Provincial Grand Lodge

## News update - Christmas 2020



### **Christmas message from the PGM, R.W.Bro David Medlock**

Seasons greetings to all the brethren of Somerset and their families. This year has certainly been the most extraordinary time for us all and I am sure the sooner it is over the better. However, there are plus's that we have gained from the last eight months.

Consultations and meetings by zoom have become acceptable, less travel has in turn saved a great deal of time and energy.

Care homes are now seen as being as important as the NHS.

For those of us who have the good fortune to enjoy a strong support network of family and friends, the worse we can complain about is the lack of holidays and contact with distant relatives and friends. However, there are many who are far worse off and without the support of their communities would have nowhere to turn to for their necessities.

Today I spent several hours with the team providing [Square Meals to those in need](#) within Bath and North East Somerset and visited the local food bank. The food bank was a hive of volunteer activity which supports hundreds of local families. Time and again this year, I have been impressed by the way Lodges and brethren across the Province have stepped up to the plate and provided much needed help, both practical and financial to those less fortunate than ourselves. Most recently your fantastic response to our Poppy appeal in raising over £12,000 for the Royal British Legion (see item below). Your efforts make me both proud and humbled to be your Provincial Grand Master.

Brethren think positive and celebrate what we have and spare a thought for those who are not so lucky.

On behalf of Jacky and myself have a Happy Christmas and I really really look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

### **This weeks Solomon presentation**

This weeks presentation from our Provincial Mentor, Richard Parrish, is called '[Life in Biblical Times](#)'. It is the 6th in the series 'Life and Times of King

Solomon' and examines life in Palestine during a remarkable period in it's history.

For more information contact [Richard by email](#)

Why not start or renew your own Masonic researches by exploring the [Solomon web site](#) yourself?



## £12,376 gift to the Royal British Legion

On Friday 18th December a presentation was made to the RBL Dunkirk Memorial House Care Home at Taunton. Covid restrictions limited numbers and meant that the presentation had to take place outside. The home kindly erected a gazebo for us which was just as well because the weather was atrocious! The money was raised by Somerset Freemasons with donations from Lodges across the Province plus the Somerset Masonic Charity and Masonic Charitable Foundation.

[Full details on the Provincial website.](#)

## Lifelites - Charlton Farm Childrens Hospice

Lifelites began in 1999 as a Masonic millennium project. It is now an independently registered charity, raising all its own funds, but it has maintained firm roots as one of the Masonic family of charities and is supported by many Freemasons and Lodges. For more Information see [Lifelites web site](#).



## Help for Weston super Mare foodbank

Brethren of the Weston Lodges rallied to an appeal by Stuart Boyd of Tivoli Lodge to help the local food bank when he discovered they were running out of custard! Help also came from the Brethren (or more likely the Ladies!) of Winscombe Lodge in Yatton who produced lovely individual children's goody bags. [Read more](#)

## The Masonic Charitable Foundation

Listen to this short [Christmas message](#) from Les Hutchinson, Chief Executive of the Masonic Charitable Foundation. Les describes how the MCF's £2M Covid relief package has been distributed and gives an idea of how many people it has helped.



## Greetings from the Provincial Grand Chaplain, W.Bro Bob Moore



I am writing to wish you well at this festive season. I am mindful in doing so that our membership covers all the different religions, and that as Provincial Grand Chaplain my concern for the spiritual life of the Province must embrace all faiths.

Most of the major religions have festivals at this time of the year, and most of these are associated with light, as, of course, is Masonry itself. May I therefore wish you all both joy and light in these difficult and dark times. May God, by whatever name you know him, be with you and all those you love, and may the new year bring the blessings of happiness, health and hope.

## Why is my Lodge never mentioned in the news letter?

Although normal Lodge meetings can't happen at the moment there is still an awful lot going on across the Province. If your Lodge has been involved in local community support, raising money for local causes or has a brother who going that extra mile to make someone's life a little easier, let us know the details we and will try to make sure it appears here.

The Province has a communications team whose sole purpose is to let you and the outside world know what is going on in the Province of Somerset.

If you have a story to share or need help to tell it, contact your local [Area Communications officer](#).

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