



# PROVINCE OF EAST LANCASHIRE



To: Lodge Secretaries / Chapter Scribes E  
cc: Cabinet Members [Craft & RA]  
District Officers

24 March 2021

Dear Brethren and Companions,

As we approach one of the holiest parts of the year for the three Abrahamic Faiths, our Jewish, Christian and Muslim Brethren, are getting ready to celebrate Passover, Easter and Ramadan.

It is timely to reflect that, once again, these very important Festivals will be celebrated without the customary family and friends get together which categorise these most important of days. Seder nights, Good Friday, Easter Sunday and the Iftar meal, all so seminal to these three faiths, will once again be denied the vibrancy which we are used to.

We have spent 12 months virtually locked up, deprived of so much we hold so dear. Family, friends, loved ones and, of course, our fellow Brethren.

I have been a Freemason for 36 years and Lodge night was always anticipated with great expectation. The day and date was always ring-fenced on the calendar and the day itself always dawned with a frisson of excitement.

Travelling to the Meeting with fellow Freemasons. The Ceremony slaved over by the participants and the delights of the social board. All these simple pleasures like so much of regular life has been denied us for a whole year.

Will we return to our old ways of not smelling the roses so to speak? Will we appreciate life and the fellowship of our fraternity so much more once we are let out of this incarceration?

We are blessed that we belong to an organisation that put others above ourselves. Where decency, and courtesy are a byword. Society has had a figurative jolt to the body, and whole sections of society have learnt and practiced the values, we as Freemasons, have espoused for centuries.

Where Freemasons lead, others follow.

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We can only hope and pray that these holydays will be the last ones we are compelled to celebrate on our own. That come the autumn and winter, we will be able to come together and hold our Meetings as we are used to doing and celebrate our Festivals in the manner we have enjoyed for centuries if not millennia.

On behalf of the Chaplaincy, we wish all our Jewish, Christian and Muslim Brethren a very meaningful Passover, Easter and Ramadan.

Yours Sincerely and Fraternally,

WBro Russell Conn

Provincial Grand Chaplain