



# The Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire and Isle of Wight

R.W.Bro. Michael J. Wilks  
Provincial Grand Master

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My Dear Brethren,

On 7th February when I announced my retirement as your Provincial Grand Master, I believed that the building blocks were in place for a perfect handover to my chosen successor. I had taken a number of brethren into my confidence - my chosen successor of course, the dates had to work for him! The Rulers at Grand Lodge could not have been more supportive, and my ProvGDC of 10 years who had to be satisfied as to the logistics, including the venue for Jon's Installation.

I was happy to announce my retirement after 10 years, secure in the knowledge that all was in place for the future of the Province. I anticipated being able to spend the next three months thanking and paying tribute to the numerous brethren who had supported me along the way.

The 7th February now seems like a lifetime away! And the 21st May is upon us.

I cannot confine to a letter all that I wanted to say over a period of three months. I am very conscious of the enormous privilege of being able to look after our Province for the last 10 years. The support which I have received throughout has been immeasurable - so many brethren at all levels working for the cause and in their own way, providing an inspiration for me to continue on the path which I had set.

I thank all those brethren and I pray that this period of enforced reflection will not dampen anyone's enthusiasm for Freemasonry and all that it has to offer.

My successor will take over responsibility for the Province as planned on the 22nd May, and his designated Deputy, W Bro David Perkis, a Past APGM, will assume the work of Deputy PGM. Over the years, I have formed a great relationship with Jon and Dave - the Province could not be in better hands going forward. They will need the support of the Area teams and Visiting Officers, especially during the period of suspension of Freemasonry, to ensure that the light keeps burning in all our hearts until we can all meet again and resume where we left off. Please brethren, play your part - ensure that all brethren and their families are cared for during this very difficult period for the Craft. Keep in touch with each other. Follow the Guidance in the Provincial Grand Secretary's regular Bulletins.

Please stay safe brethren, take care, and may God bless you all.

Yours sincerely and fraternally