

THE PORTSMOUTH LODGE NO 487

Almoner
W.bro Gareth Manson
4 Latimer Court
Portsmouth
Hampshire PO3 5UW
Tel: 07545 572383
E-mail:
manson5ur@yahoo.co.uk



Almoner Report – December 2025

Bro Wardens, Distinguished Brethren, Brethren All,

My Almoners Report this evening is very short, and normally that would be a good thing as it means I've not been notified as much as usual for Brethren or their families being ill, or in need of any assistance, which is great news.

Sadly though, my short report, is far from sweet I'm afraid.

I will start with WBro Bob Blackman, and the little bit of good news I have. I'm pleased to say that he has finally had his hip operation, and all went well, and he's very pleased with the results. He is back mobile, and with barely any pain, and in his words, he feels like a new man! which is great to hear. He is still waiting on a date for his pace maker though, and I will update you all once he has received this, and its been fitted etc.

Now unfortunately on to the not so good news.

I've heard from our membership officer, WBro Roger Barnard who has informed me of some very sad news, and that he has received the results back from his scans that he had done recently, and unfortunately, he will need to be undergoing some chemotherapy over the next few weeks. He had his first bout yesterday, to which I'm happy to say he has not had any adverse side effects, but due to having this so close to our meeting, he is unfortunately unable to join us tonight, but he passes on his apologies and wishes everyone season greetings. And I'm sure I speak for everyone when I return those greetings, and we will all be thinking of him over the festive period, and I'm sure he would love to hear from you too, so why not give him a call!! .

I've also been made aware of the passing of our DC Wbro Danny's dad, who is also Bro Josh and Bro Bobby's Grandad, and even though he wasn't a mason, it is still the dad of three of our valued brothers, and for those who have been through this difficult time, know how hard it hits! so again, I'm sure I say this on behalf of all the brethren of 487, and that we are thinking of them, and their family at this sad and difficult time, and I'm sure a text or a call from you letting them know your there for them, will be gratefully received.

Now as its that time of year, with the very kind help of our previous Almoner wbro Bob Blackman, we will be paying visits to all the widowers in the coming days, and we will be giving them a small gift, card and cake, to remind them we are thinking of them, always there for them throughout the year, and if there is anything they may need, don't hesitate give me a call, and i will assist them as much as i can. I will update you all once this has been done and include it in my report in January too.

And lastly Brethren, echoing on my report last month, please remember, that this time of year isn't as magical and as joyous for some people, as it is for us, and it is at this time of year when your brotherly love may be most needed, so, if there is any brother that you know that may be

feeling lonely this Christmas, then why not give them a call, ask them out for a meet up, or pop round to see them, as this small token gesture could mean the whole world to them!

Also, don't forget about yourself too brethren! and if there is anything you may need, or know of a brother in our lodge that might need some help or support, please don't hesitate to contact me and i will do all I can to help to the best of my ability.

And one last thing before i go, please can I take this opportunity to wish you all, and your Familes, a Very merry Christmas and Prosperous new year, and i look forward to seeing you all again in 2026.

W.Bro Gareth Manson
Lodge Almoner