

# THE PORTSMOUTH LODGE NO 487

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## Almoner Report – January 2026

**Bro Wardens, Distinguished Brethren, Brethren All,**

Can I First start by welcoming everyone back from the Christmas Break, and I hope you all had a happy and joyous time with your friends, family over the festive period.

During this Christmas period i manage to see, speak to, and deliver, a gift, card and cake to five of our eight widows. These being, Mary Foster, Gillian Dollery, Heather Webb, Pamela Bethall, and some lady called Chris Manson. It was lovely to catch up with them all, and be able to wish them festive greetings, and deliver something to them on behalf of the lodge, and to show that we are still thinking of them all, especially over the Christmas period. Out of these Five, I've had Three cards of thanks back, and they wish everyone in the Portsmouth lodge all the very best for 2026.

As well as these, our previous Almoner, W.Bro Bob Blackman, also paid a visit to Peggy Malthouse and Ruth Green (who i also had a thankyou card from), and a visit is still yet to be made to Cathy Waterer, which either myself or Bob will do in the coming weeks. I've attached a picture of the cards we've received back, so you all can look at your own leisure.

Just before Christmas I spoke with Howard Bownes, and although Howard was in good health, he is still looking after his good lady Dot who needs full time care and is a full-time job. I said we all would love to see him at one of our meetings in the not-too-distant future and offered help with any Assistance that he may need. He wished everyone well, and i passed on our love from all at 487.

I spoke with Bob Blackman yesterday (13/1/26) who informed me that he has unfortunately been in hospital, but now back home and making a slow recovery. I wished him well on behalf of all the members of 487 and again offered assistance with anything that he may need.

W Bro Chris Ford informed me, that Bro Robin Ford has now been diagnosed with Prostate Cancer and will be monitored every 6 months, and I'm sure I speak on behalf of us all when I say we wish him a speedy recovery. W.Bro Roger Barnard has had his second bit of treatment, which unfortunately has had some side effects, but still managing to do the essential things. I passed on everyone's love and expressed our hopes that he will be back with us all in the not-too-distant future.

Brethren, can I just remind you all, that the Almoners Role, along with many other Roles in the Chapter, isn't the responsibility of just one person. As with the Almoner's role specifically, I rely on your assistance by informing that either yourself, or another companion of our lodge maybe not feeling well, or could just do with a call to see if they are ok, and if you keep me updated on things like this, I will try my best to do all I can to help, and if I can't help directly, I may be able to call on someone that can. So, remember Brethren, I'm only a call/text or email away.

And lastly Brethren, I just want to remind you all, that the MCF runs the Counselling Careline which has specialist counsellors for anyone struggling to cope emotionally. Additional Counselling sessions can be provided, if necessary, face to face, rather than on the telephone. This is a free service and requires no form filling or application. To get started, all you have to do is ring the MCF Freephone enquiry line (0800 035 60 90) and ask to access the counselling service. The person on the other end of the phone won't ask you what you want to discuss – they will simply confirm your masonic connection and then put you in touch with us.

That concludes my Almoners Report, and I wish you all well.

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