

# THE PORTSMOUTH LODGE NO 487

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## Almoner Report – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

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

I've had an email back from another one of our Widows, Peggy Malthouse which reads :-

To the Almoner Gareth Manson and members of Portsmouth Lodge 487 my grateful thanks for your generous gift and best wishes, I miss Derek very much and after 70 years together have many happy memories. God Bless you all.

Peggy

Thank you, Gareth, for all your help and look forward to seeing you soon.

I have replied to Peggy, wishing her all the very best for 2026 and that we all wish her well.

The Funeral of W.Bro Danny Letzer's dad, and Bro Joshua's and Bobby's Grandad took place at the Oaks in Havant on Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> January. Although he wasn't a mason, a few from 487 went along to support Danny, Josh, Bobby and the family during this sad time. They should be extremely proud of themselves for organising such a lovely service to remember and celebrate his life.

Our secretary W.Bro Bob Cullen went into hospital at the beginning of the month to have a Basel Carcinoma removed. Thankfully this was non-malignant and has been told to rest and will hopefully make a speedy recovery. I wished him well from all at the lodge.

I spoke with W.Bro Bob Blackman on Saturday who informed me he was going back into hospital today (3/2/26) for a pacemaker to be fitted. I will speak with him again after the op and give you all an update, but I wished him well from all at 487, and offered any assistance he may need, which he was very thankful of and apologies for his absence at tonight's meeting and wishes us well. I informed him he will be in our thoughts, along with the other brethren that will be unavoidably absent at the February meeting and will raise a glass when the hands hit the square.

Myself and W.Bro Wayne went to see W.Bro Chris Russell and his lovely wife Carol last Saturday. It was lovely to see them both and Chris looked well. Although tired at times he was in good spirits and made us both chuckle. He said he would love for a few of the old faces to pop by and see him if, and when they get the time. Carol and Chris will make you feel very welcome.

I also want to take this opportunity to apologise to those brethren that I've not been in contact with recently. Unfortunately, I've been busy with work, having to be re-certified in Liverpool and been on holiday in New York. I will make sure I will contact a few of you in the next coming weeks for a chat and I will update the rest of the brethren accordingly.

And lastly brethren, if you know anyone, that may need a helping hand, someone to talk to, or even just a general chit chat, please let me know, and I will do my best to help.

**W.Bro Gareth Manson  
Lodge Almoner**