



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF UPHOLDERS

UPHOLDERS' EASTER GREETINGS APRIL 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER, ANTHONY DEMBY

The old saying "may you live in interesting times" has never been truer. Although there is much to be gloomy about, we are in the season of Spring, where trees are budding and flowers blooming. After a very wet winter it has stopped raining and the sun is shining adding to the wonder of nature.

Our Company was founded in 1360 not long after the Black Death, it has survived the Great Fire of London and the Blitz. We endured and prospered then and we shall do so today. One of the great strengths of our Company is its fellowship so please do what you can to help your fellow liverymen.

I hope all of you stay safe. Hope does triumph fear.



Wild Daffodils, Pyrton Church, Oxfordshire

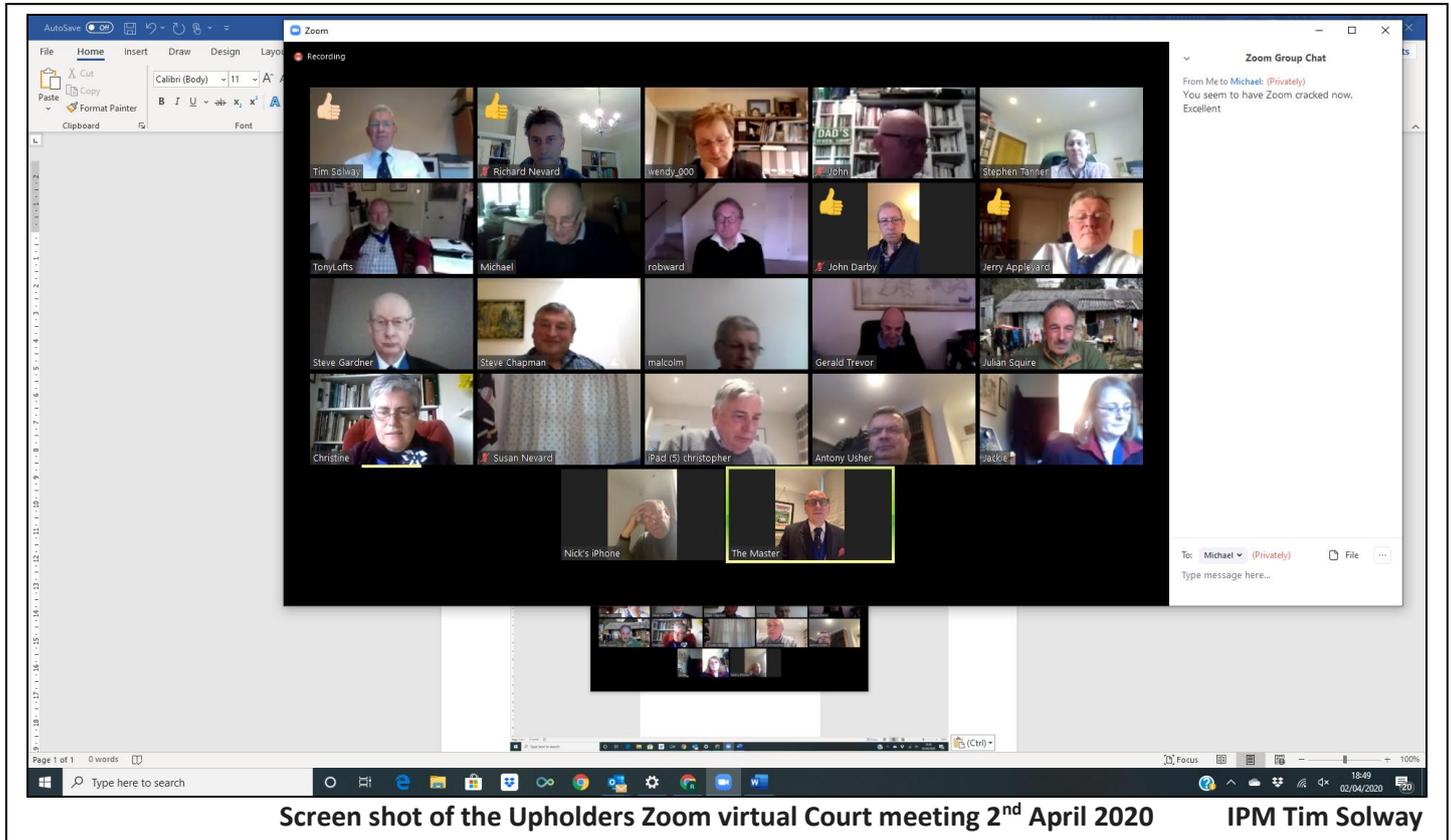
Court Asst. C M Booth

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN, REVD. CAROLINE CLARKE

The Christian 'wilderness' season of Lent this year has coincided with the isolation and uncertainty imposed on us by the Coronavirus. We are now in Holy Week: on Maundy Thursday we remember Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane that he might be spared the suffering he was about to endure on the cross; on Good Friday we remember his cry, echoing the words of Psalm 22, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'. Jesus entered our world, and experienced human pain, suffering, loss, and death. Because of that, we know we can believe in a God who understands what we experience in difficult times. Then on Easter Day we remember and celebrate the wonder and joy of Jesus' resurrection to new life – the disciples knew his living presence with them. Love had conquered death. The Christian faith doesn't give us answers or explanations for what we're going through at the moment, but it does bring us hope – that however dark things may be, the difficult times will come to an end, and there is light and life ahead of us. 'Perfect Love', St John tells us, 'casts out fear'. I pray that through the coming weeks you may know the love of God protecting you from fear and anxiety and giving you hope. Hear the words of the risen Jesus to his disciples: "Peace be with you." Amen



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Screen shot of the Upholders Zoom virtual Court meeting 2nd April 2020

IPM Tim Solway

From Tim Solway, Immediate Past Master & Chair Marketing and Communications Committee

May I congratulate The Master for re-starting our Upholders Company during this time of national crisis. In addition, may I thank The Master, on behalf of the company, for stepping in to continue his duties as our Master for a further six months. To date we have had two Covid19 "virtual" meetings during March and on the 2nd of April we held our first "virtual" Upholders Court Meeting with 22 participants. Be confident that your Upholders company is operating despite the government restrictions.

One of our livery objectives is one of fellowship. In these Covid times our gatherings have been curtailed so we must now consider how we can keep in touch with one another. We do not know when we will be able to meet up again to give each other a warm handshake and a friendly hug, so please stay in contact with each other by using our "Upholders Livery Directory" to stay in contact by e-mail, phone, whatsapp or Zoom. Go on give an Upholder a call! Our Clerk, supported by members of our livery will be contacting members who may be experiencing ill-health or the effects of old age and isolation.

I can tell you that Upbraid will be published in early May and this will cover the activities of our Company over these past 12 months.

More than ever we are resolute in keeping our company operating, setting our fears aside to support everyone and to share with you our hopes and plans for the future.

Please stay safe and keep well. Happy Easter.

www.upholders.co.uk

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