



Masonic
Charitable Foundation



EAST LANCASHIRE 2026 FESTIVAL APPEAL



Supporting your masonic charity



Brethren and companions – it is now our opportunity to give something back!

The East Lancashire 2026 Festival will now be the central focus of this Province for the next five years, and I am certain that our events and fundraising activities will bring us closer together; we will work hard, enjoy ourselves, involve our families and have fun. But above all, we must never forget the personal stories of all those people our funds are helping. The Provincial Rulers, Appeal Committee and District Teams will unite to make it work but none of this will be possible without your support and that of the brethren and companions of this great Province and their families.

The most effective way of raising funds is through regular payment promises and the sooner we can encourage brethren to 'sign up' and support, the more chance we have of working towards the Provincial target – which I have set at **£2.4 million**. The average donation we are asking for is £10 per month for the

Provincial message

VWBro John Farrington
PGSwdB
Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge

five years of fundraising. Some will be able to give more, some less, and I would not ask anyone to consider giving any sum unless it is totally affordable.

There will be many messages, but what sits solidly in my mind, is that during the 2019/20 financial year, the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF, the Freemasons' charity) spent almost £650,000 supporting East Lancashire Freemasons and their dependents who were in need. This also included providing support to local charities in East Lancashire, and COVID-19-related work within the Province, such as looking after young carers, the homeless, victims of domestic abuse, those suffering with poor mental health and providing food and PPE where it was needed. Brethren and companions – it is now our opportunity to give something back!

My sincere wish is that each of us, in our own way, will offer our full support to the Festival and continue to demonstrate that great virtue which is the distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart.

Why should I support the East Lancashire 2026 Festival Appeal?

The MCF is your charity

Freemasonry has a long and proud history of charitable giving, which continues today through the work of the MCF.

The MCF builds better lives by encouraging opportunity, promoting independence and improving wellbeing for Freemasons, their families and the wider community.

The MCF relies on the masonic community to identify those in need and to provide the generous donations that fund their entire work.

Every year the MCF supports

5,000 members of the masonic community at a cost of over **£15 million**

Hundreds of charities with grants totalling **£5.5 million**



By donating to the MCF you could...

- Help families make ends meet when times get tough
- Give greater independence to people with disabilities
- Give young people the opportunity to succeed in their education
- Provide high-quality care for older, disabled or seriously ill people
- Fund life-saving and life-changing medical treatment
- Tackle social isolation and loneliness
- Advance ground-breaking medical research



Support in East Lancashire

OVER THE PAST YEAR* THE MCF HAS GIVEN

110

GRANTS TO SUPPORT THE MASONIC COMMUNITY TOTALLING

£357,861

32

LOCAL CHARITIES RECEIVED SUPPORT, WITH GRANTS TOTALLING

£283,020



THE 2015 EAST LANCASHIRE FESTIVAL APPEAL RAISED

£2,591,613 **FOR THE**

Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution Care Company

WHICH PROVIDED LATER LIFE CARE FOR MEMBERS OF THE MASONIC AND WIDER COMMUNITY.

* Financial year 2020/21

**IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR,
THE MCF GAVE...**



£243,275

TO HELP COVER HOUSEHOLD LIVING COSTS



£37,119

TO SUPPORT HEALTH AND WELLBEING



£77,387

**TO SUPPORT THE EDUCATION OF
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**...TO COMMUNITIES ACROSS
EAST LANCASHIRE, AS WELL AS**



19 GRANTS

**TO CHARITIES BECAUSE OF
COVID-19 AND**



11 PEOPLE

ACCESSED OUR COUNSELLING SERVICE

* Financial year 2020/21



When Mark's wife, Jacqui, was involved in a car accident which left her with serious brain injuries, their lives and the lives of their two daughters, Ella and Grace were changed forever.



I'm not someone who would usually ask for help, but when I finally contacted my lodge Almoner, he was already waiting for me.

I told him what had happened, and that my family were now facing severe financial difficulties as a result. We put together an application, and the MCF soon came back with a grant to help me cover the cost of our bills.

"Now, we receive costs towards our travel so that we are able to visit Jacqui regularly. We go every week, and it's particularly important for the girls. Visiting will always be an emotional struggle, but I have got good friends to support me and my family.

"The support from the MCF has been ten out of ten, there is no shadow of a doubt. I feel like they've got my back and my daughters' backs. It's not just the money, it's the sense of family."



After a premature birth, Ted developed cerebral palsy and his mobility is severely affected. His mother, Sally, turned to the MCF for help with Ted's walking.



I got in touch with the MCF, and they helped us fund an Upsee mobility harness, which allows for assisted walking. This means Ted is able to enjoy the great outdoors!

"Now, Ted is able to do so much more than he could before. He can join in with his brother when they run around the garden, and loves chasing Alex around their grandparents' house!

"The boys love holding hands with each other and cuddling – it's moments like these that make having twins really special. The MCF's support has really given Ted a sense of independence, which is really important for a growing child. We are all so thankful."



How can I get involved with the East Lancashire Festival Appeal?

By taking these three easy steps, you can make a huge difference to the East Lancashire 2026 Festival Appeal and the people we support:

- 1 Donate**
- 2 Fundraise**
- 3 Spread the word**

1 Donate

There are lots of different ways you can donate to the East Lancashire 2026 Festival Appeal, whether it's a one-off donation or a long-term commitment.

Donate online

Make a single donation or set up a regular donation:

 fundraising.mcf.org.uk/Festival-E0026

Donate over the phone

To set up a regular donation:

 **020 3146 3345**

To make a single donation by debit or credit card:

 **020 3146 3346**

Donate by text

Donate £5 by texting **ELANCS26** to:

 **70500**

Use Gift Aid envelopes

The MCF can supply Gift Aid envelopes for alms collections, festive boards and other occasions; use of the envelopes will boost eligible donations by 25 per cent.


Envelopes can be obtained from the Provincial office:

 **01706 833170**

Get in touch

For further guidance on how to donate, get in touch with the Relief Chest team:

 reliefchest@mcf.org.uk


 **020 3146 3352**

Use paper forms

You can complete the form at the back of this booklet, or download the donation form that's right for you from the MCF website:

 mcf.org.uk/donate-eastlancashire-2026

Completed forms and Gift Aid envelopes should be returned to:

 **Relief Chest Scheme
Masonic Charitable
Foundation,
60 Great Queen Street,
London WC2B 5AZ**

Donate using a QR code

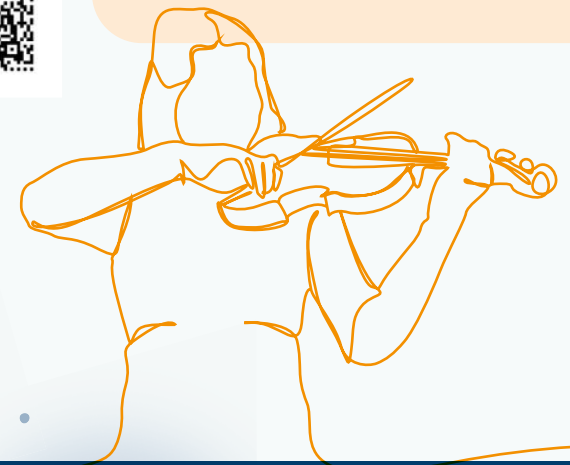
Scan this QR code with your phone to make a donation



Message from the Royal Arch

This Festival is just as important for the Holy Royal Arch as it is for the Craft. The generosity of our companions and their commitment to charity is well established. I know that the companions of East Lancashire will commit to supporting the Festival, and do all that we can to ensure it is a success and something for all of us to be proud of.

EComp Martin P Roche,
PGSwdB, Deputy Grand
Superintendent



2 Fundraise

Social or sponsored events will raise vital funds for the Festival and it is important that each lodge gives careful consideration to planning and holding one or more events each year.

Make it fun

There are many ways of taking part to raise money. You could arrange a quiz night or special dinner, take part in a daring challenge or sign up for a sponsored event – whatever you do, make it fun!

Make it easy

Setting up an online fundraising page takes just a few minutes and is an easy way for your friends and family to sponsor you. All the donations will go directly into the Festival Relief Chest, saving you time and helping you focus on your fundraising.

Sharing your page through social media or email is a great way to build momentum and keep your friends up to date.

Visit the MCF website to create your own online fundraising page:

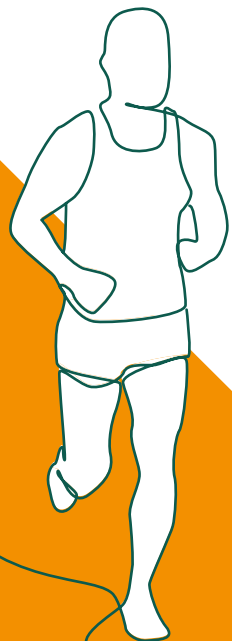
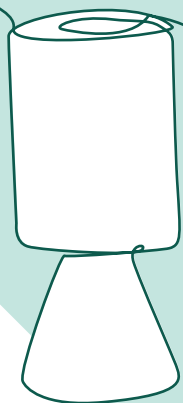
 mcf.org.uk/festival

The MCF's sponsorship and Gift Aid forms make it easy to collect donations both in person and online.

Visit the MCF website and download the donation forms you need to start fundraising:

 mcf.org.uk/festival

 **020 3146 3333**



giftaid it

Make it worth more

If you are a UK taxpayer, the MCF can reclaim an extra 25p for every £1 you give. It won't cost you any extra – all you have to do is make a Gift Aid declaration.

You can find out more about Gift Aid on the Relief Chest Scheme resources page:

 mcf.org.uk/reliefchest/resources

Make it MCF

From running tops and water bottles, to keyrings and coasters, the MCF has a wide range of branded merchandise that will help you to get in the fundraising spirit and spread the word.

Contact us to get inspired:

 communications@mcf.org.uk



3 Spread the word!

The 2026 Festival Appeal is not just a chance to raise vital funds for the MCF; it is also an opportunity to educate every member in East Lancashire about the support available and the work carried out in your area, so that if anyone ever finds themselves in need, they know that they can approach the MCF.

To find out more about the MCF's impact in your area visit:

 mcf.org.uk/impact/our-work-in-your-community/

Get online

Keep up to date with all the latest MCF news by subscribing to their newsletter or following them on social media. Comment on stories and share them with friends and family to spread the word.

 mcf.org.uk/sign-up

 @themcf

 @Masonic_Charity

 @masonic_charity

 /MasonicCharitableFoundation



The Direct Debit Guarantee

- This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit The Grand Charity of the United Grand Lodge of England will notify you ten working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request The Grand Charity of the United Grand Lodge of England to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by The Grand Charity of the United Grand Lodge of England or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society. If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when The Grand Charity of the United Grand Lodge of England asks you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

Honorifics

Individual honorifics

The Province of East Lancashire wishes to acknowledge the generosity of its members by issuing festival jewels to all qualifying brethren. The Province fully understands that it may not be within every brother's means to qualify for the various honorifics and greatly appreciates all donations made.

Brother

Steward – £240
Vice Patron – £480
Patron – £720
Grand Patron – £1,200

Chapter

Vice Patron – £750
Patron – £1,500
Grand Patron – £2,250

Lady

Steward – £120
Vice Patron – £240
Patron – £360
Grand Patron – £600

Lodge honorifics

A series of honorifics have been set to acknowledge and celebrate lodge financial achievements. Certificates will be awarded to lodges that donate or promise to donate at the following level:

Vice Patron – £1,500

Patron – £3,000

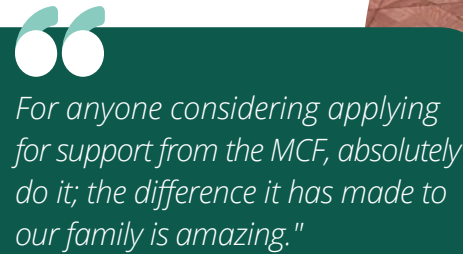
Grand Patron – £4,500



Mary's son, Henry, started ballroom and Latin dancing classes when he was eight, but soon had to seek support from the MCF in order for him to continue his passion.

"We struggled on with visa bills, working overtime, and petrol costs for travel to Henry's classes and competitions. I looked at our family finances and worried that we might not financially manage to keep this up until he's 16," says Mary.

To read more personal stories about the impact that the MCF has made to people's lives, visit:



Henry (16) and his dance partner,
Freja (16) – winners of the Under 21
British Champion title in October 2021

<p>The Freemasons' Grand Charity</p> <p>(Registered Charity No. 281942)</p> <p>Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and send to: The Freemasons' Grand Charity, 60 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AZ</p> <p>Name and full postal address of your bank or building society</p>	<p>Instruction to your bank to pay by</p>										
<p>To: The Manager</p>	<p>Bank/Building Society</p>										
<p>Address</p>	<p>Postcode</p>										
<p>Name(s) of Account holder(s)</p>											
<p>Bank/Building Society Account Number</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 30px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> </td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> </td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> </td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> </td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> </td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> </td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> </td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> </td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> </td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> </td> </tr> </table>											
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<p>Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account</p>											

Bank/Building Society																													
Direct Debit																													
Service user number										Reference number																			
9					2					6					0					9					6				
Instruction to your bank or building society										Please pay The Grand Charity of the United Grand Lodge of England Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with The Grand Charity of the United Grand Lodge of England and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.																			
Signature(s)																													
Date : □□ / □□ / □□																													

Regular

Donations into the Relief Chest of the

East Lancashire Relief Chest 2026

I promise to pay you the actual sum of

£

•

every

Month

Year

3 months

6 months

Payments are to start on

1

1

/

/

(This date must be at least two months after the date that you sign the form)

and are to continue for a period of

three

four

five

or

years thereafter, or until my death, whichever is earlier

Please allocate this Regular Donation to:

Lodge/

Chapter name

Lodge/

Chapter No.

Relief Chest No.

E0026

East Lancashire Relief Chest 2026

Single Donations into the Relief Chest of the East Lancashire Festival 2026

Please tick one or more of the following as applicable:

<input type="checkbox"/>	I enclose a cheque payable to Relief Chest
	for the sum of £ .
<input type="checkbox"/>	I made a donation of £ .
	on or about the / /

Please allocate this Single Donation to:

Lodge/ Chapter name	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Lodge/ Chapter No.	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> E0026

East Lancashire Festival 2026

Gift Aid

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

If you are a UK tax payer, under the Government's Gift Aid Scheme, the Relief Chest Scheme (The Grand Charity Registered Charity Number 281942) can reclaim the tax you have already paid on your donation and add it to the value of your gift.

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year.

DECLARATION

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the relevant box(es) below.

☐ on this donation only

1. Want to cancel this declaration
2. Change your name or your home address
3. No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.



/

/

Date: _____

Personal Details:

Please enter your name and address IN FULL using BLOCK CAPITALS:

☐ Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Dr ☐ Other (.....)

Title:

Surname:

Forename(s):

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Signature

Support for Freemasons and their families

The MCF can provide a wide range of help and support for financial, health, family and care-related needs including:

Daily living costs

- Household arrears
- Support for rent and security deposit
- Emergency household repairs
- Boiler replacement
- White goods and furnishings
- Funeral costs
- Childcare costs

Health, care and wellbeing

- Initial consultations
- Investigative tests and scans
- Surgery
- Physiotherapy
- Manual therapy
- Speech therapy
- Occupational therapy assessments
- Mobility equipment
- Home adaptations
- Motability vehicle support
- Dental work
- Mental health support
- Short breaks for carers

Children, young people and education

- Computer equipment
- Educational assessments
- School fees – in exceptional circumstances
- Higher education
- Apprenticeships
- Childcare costs
- Support for exceptional talent

The above are not exhaustive lists of support available, and all support is considered on a case-by-case basis.

Can the MCF help you?

For advice about the support available, eligibility and how to apply, speak to your lodge Almoner or contact the MCF enquiries team today:

0800 035 60 90

help@mcf.org.uk

mcf.org.uk



Relief Chest Scheme Masonic Charitable Foundation, 60 Great Queen Street London WC2B 5AZ
Telephone: 020 3146 3352 Email: reliefchest@mcf.org.uk Web: www.mcf.org.uk/reliefchest



East Lancashire Festival 2026 Relief Chest No: E0026 Regular & Single Donation Form



Important Notes

1. This form contains a Single/Regular Donation, Gift Aid Declaration a Direct Debit Mandate and Guarantee. Please complete the relevant parts and pass it to your Relief Chest Representative.
2. All donations for the Relief Chest under a Regular Donation have to be made by Direct Debit from a Bank or Building Society account in the United Kingdom. Bank Standing orders, cash and cheques cannot be accepted for a Regular Donation. The charity is authorised to collect only the fixed amount specified on your form. The charity guarantees that it will make no other collections. Should it do so in error, a full and immediate refund will be made. To allow for both the charity and your Bank to process Direct Debits, this form must be received in the Relief Chest Scheme Office at least two months before the first payment is due.
3. You must complete a separate form for each Relief Chest if you wish to support more than one.
4. Please notify us if you change your name, address or Bank/Building Society details.

5. Tax cannot be reclaimed unless the relevant box(es) of the Gift Aid Declaration overleaf are ticked.

6. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

For further information on Gift Aid, please visit www.hmrc.gov.uk

Why not increase your donation by letting us reclaim your tax?

If you Gift Aid your donation, we can reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 you give.

giftaid it

Oral Gift Aid Declaration

For use by Relief Chest Representative only.

If the donor has completed this form overleaf please leave this section blank. If you have been unable to obtain the donor's signature you can ask them if they are willing to make a Gift Aid Declaration and then tell us if they agree. We do not require the donor's signature. We will simply confirm the details to the donor in writing. Please fill in the donor's full name and address, post code and Lodge/Chest information on the other side of this form and sign the declaration below.

I confirm that the person named overleaf told me on _____ (date) that he/she wished all qualifying donations made to the Relief Chest Scheme (The Grand Charity Registered Charity Number 281942) in the last four years and all donations made in the future to be treated as Gift Aid until otherwise notified. If a valid Gift Aid Declaration from this donor is not already held, The Relief Chest office will confirm in writing to him/her.

Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) - Privacy Notice

The Relief Chest Scheme is committed to protecting your personal information. The scheme is fully compliant with DPA and UK GDPR legislation when handling your personal data. Our legal basis for collecting, processing and sharing personal information as set out in our Privacy Policy is based on the legitimate interest of the Relief Chest Scheme.

To find out more about how we handle, share and store your personal information and how to amend or request a copy of any personal information we hold about you, please visit <https://mcf.org.uk/policies/privacy/relief-chest-privacy-policy/>

Signature _____

Date _____

Building better lives

60 Great Queen Street | London | WC2B 5AZ

Tel: 020 3146 3333 | info@mcf.org.uk

mcf.org.uk

Charity number 1164703. Company number 09751836.

Keep up to date with all the latest East Lancashire
2026 Festival Appeal news:

-  eastlancashirefreemasons.org
-  mcf.org.uk/festivals-eastlancashire2026
-  [@pglel](https://www.facebook.com/pglel)
-  [@pglel](https://twitter.com/pglel)
-  [@pglel](https://www.instagram.com/pglel)

