



Grants to Worthy Causes 1965 – 2019

Charities Office
Mark Masons' Hall
86 St James's Street
LONDON
SW1A 1PL

<https://markmasonshall.org/charity>

A SHORT HISTORY

The Fund came into existence in 1868 on the suggestion of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Reverend George Raymond Portal, (in 1881; Canon Portal) who served in that Office for four years from 1869 - 1873. Reverend Portal strongly believed it vital for the Mark Degree to have ownership of a benevolent fund. The M.B.F. was established with the sole objective of providing immediate financial aid to eligible Mark Master Masons or their close family, who may be in distress. Significantly, it was to encourage all Brethren to practice the morals of donating freely and without hesitation. Portal considered this code of conduct would provide the Order with a clear and distinctive charitable motive, a noticeable purpose with which Mark Master Masons could readily identify. It was abhorrent to Reverend Portal for there to be any delay in supplying aid to those in need, thus the Latin dictum 'Bis dat qui cito dat' ('He gives twice who gives promptly' or 'A gift given without hesitation is as good as two gifts') became the guiding principle for the Mark Benevolent Fund, which continues to this very day.

FUNDRAISING AND THE ANNUAL FESTIVALS

M.B.F. funds come from Mark Master Masons, their family and their friends. Our main source of income comes from the Annual Festivals that have been held since 1869 and hosted by a difference Province in England or Wales. The host Province will have begun fundraising up to ten years prior to the event culminating in a grand festival banquet at which the results of the fundraising are revealed. The festival enables the Brethren from all Provinces to gather and socialise together, while helping the Festival Province celebrate their achievement.

GRANT MAKING

Many Mark Master Masons and their wives or widows benefit from the charity. Since 1868 the M.B.F. has awarded over £7m to those in distress and in need a helping hand.

Many worthy causes have been made over the years but some of the key ones are the £440,000 raised from the M.B.F. Charity Walk in 2017. This was awarded to the Blood Bike charities of England and Wales providing 16 Blood Bikes and 10 Blood Cars. A major grant of £3.4m was donated to St John Ambulance to provide a combination of 52 Ambulances, Treatment Centres and Support Vehicles. Many replacing the original fleet funded by the M.B.F. in 1999. A grant for £85,000 went to the Addenbrookes Charitable Trust for the purchase of a Laparoscopic Surgical Kit to help with keyhole surgery for over 100 new born babies each year.

Numerous smaller charities are also regularly considered such as the Children's Heart Unit Fund at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle where a grant of £7,625 was made to refurbish their Sensory Room. £2,295 was awarded to the Devonshire Court RMBI Home in Leicester for a specially designed ping pong table to help dementia patients and £3,780 for the Teesside Hospice for the purchase of 2 special turning Systems to assist with the tilting of patients preventing pressure ulcers. These are just a few examples of the many worthy charities we help every year.

Having recently celebrated our Sesquicentenary in 2018, it is vital to reflect on the dedication, work ethic and enthusiasm of Reverend Portal. Not only was he the founding father of the Mark Benevolent Fund but he was also its drive and inspiration. Undoubtedly, the M.B.F. has become what it is today due to his untiring endeavours and perseverance. Indeed, we thank him and the many thousands of Brethren whose involvement and hard work have helped mould the charity and ensured continuous growth and development.

2019

Chartwell Unit Maidstone Hospital	£13,479
Sussex Community Development Association	£11,398
17 th Tonbridge Scout and Guides Band	£4,688
Paul Sartori Hospice at Home	£3,900
Progressability.org	£20,456
Cherry Trees Respite Centre	£8,453
Kirkwood Hospice	£23,400
Talbot House Trust North East	£98,198
Martin House Hospice	£39,957
New Anglesey Hospice	£16,739
Great Marlow School Boat Club	£88,830
Lake District Mountain Search & Rescue	£71,765
Demelza Hospice Care for Children	£12,434
Community Link – Stafford and District	£45,950
My Life My Choice	£6,720
Yorkshire Air Ambulance	£32,093
EACH – The Nook	£52,893
Children’s Hospice South West	£36,362
Helford River Children’s Sailing Trust	£40,000
Friends and Families	£9,830
Lincolnshire Province Flood Relief	£25,000
District of Hong Kong – Duchess of Kent Children’s Hospital	£7,090
Association of Friends of Prince Michael of Kent Court	£36,850
Honeypot Children’s Charity	£45,000
Climbing Out	£14,980
Cornwall Partnership Foundation Trust – Sowenna Project	£8,000
Long Lane Junior Football Club	£60,450
Wolverhampton and District MS Therapy Centre	£3,900
Shelterbox – Cyclone Idia, Africa	£30,000
Garden House Hospice	£5,025
British Disabled Angling Association	£34,360
Oscar’s Happy Feet	£6,000
Southampton University Hospital	£200,000
Lifelites	£141,423
Kent Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre	£5,020
Hugh Sexey’s Hospital	£19,388
Special Olympics of Great Britain	£13,650
Cavalier Centre, Riding for the Disabled	£25,000
SERV Kent	£27,046
Samaritans of Blackburn	£45,000
	£1,390,727

2018

Tŷ Hafan	£9,990
CHUF	£7,625
Seashell Trust	£52,805
St John Ambulance & Sussex Province for Homeless	£68,000
Addenbrookes Charitable Trust	£85,000
Haven’s Hospice, Essex	£84,800
Barnstaple Municipal Charity, Devon	£10,000
Kingswood Trust, Wolverhampton	£20,000
London Wheelchair Rugby Club	£25,935
Willow Burn Hospice, Durham	£36,475
Shelterbox Indonesian Earthquake	£30,000
Devonshire Court RMBI Care Home, Leicester	£2,295
MBF Blood Bikes Project (21 grants date date)	£85,214

Ethos	£7,395
Shooting Star Chase	£22,000
BOLD, Bedfordshire	£25,000
Response Organisation	£30,100
MBF Blood Bikes Project	£259,725
Urology Charitable Fund – Portsmouth Hospital	£33,143
Dogs for Good - Lawson	£13,446
St Michael's Hospice	£10,100
Romania Orphanage	£10,000
Taxi Warm Clothing	£3,976
	£933,024

2017

Outward Bound Trust – Lake District	£34,680
St John Ambulance	£3,123,700
RNLI – Lytham St Anne's Shannon Appeal	£80,000
Chailey Heritage Foundation – The Dream Centre	£150,000
ShelterBox – Hurricanes Irma & Maria	£35,000
SERV Norfolk – Blood Car	£15,848
Derbyshire Blood Bikes (DBB) - Motorcycle	£17,500
Nottingham Mencap	£30,120
Bloodrun EVS - Motorcycle	£13,400
Merlin Centre - Cornwall	£43,791
Barnet, Enfield & Haringey Mental Health NHS	£5,035
Reading Association for the Blind	£50,592
St Oswald's Hospice – Northumberland	£107,628
Dogs for Good	£12,937
Royal Cornwall Hospital Stroke Unit	£17,137
	£3,737,368

2016

ShelterBox – Haiti Hurricane Relief	£31,500
Designability – Wizzybugs Kiddies Wheelchairs	£8,500
Mark District of Italy – Earthquake Relief	£25,000
Dreams & Wishes	£10,000
Pathway Workshop	£25,381
Chiltern Centre for the Disabled	£14,500
Special Olympics West Midlands Ski Group	£20,000
Martha's Dancing Heart	£5,000
Northumbria Blood Bikes	£18,000
Hope for Tomorrow - Advance on next units	£156,000
Hope for Tomorrow - Balance Essex (Unit 5)	£182,000
Flood Relief - Province of East Lancashire	£25,000
Flood Relief - Province of N & E Yorkshire	£25,000
Flood Relief - Province of West Yorkshire	£25,000
	£505,881

2015

Flood Relief - Province of Cumberland & Westmorland	£25,000
Myaware	£4,513
HFT - West Suffolk Vehicle (Unit 4)	£182,000
HFT - Support Vehicle - Somerset	£12,500
Thumbs Up Club	£4,460
Shelterbox - Nepal Earthquake	£29,500
Vanuatu Cyclone Appeal	£25,000
	£282,973

2014

Smile Support & Care	£119,000
Hope for Tomorrow - Swindon & N E Wilts (Unit 3)	£230,900
Hope for Tomorrow - Cornwall (Unit 2)	£260,000
Hope for Tomorrow - Advance on next unit	£78,000
Leicestershire Children's Holiday Centre	£25,164
Hop, Skip & Jump Foundation	£10,000
St Mary de Castro Church Spire Appeal	£2,500
OXFAM - Philippines Earthquake Appeal	£11,842
National Star Foundation	£150,000
Heel & Toe Children's Charity	£25,922
UCARE	£12,000
	£925,328

2013

Hope for Tomorrow - Lincolnshire (Unit 1)	£260,000
Shakespeare Hospice	£8,750
Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust	£50,000
William Wilberforce Trust	£27,500
ESAB	£20,000
Lifelites	£24,000
Baldwin Trust	£13,150
Acorns - Warwickshire Province	£10,000
	£413,400

2012

Hope for Tomorrow - Hampshire	£72,000
District of New Zealand - Christchurch Earthquake	£50,000
Smile Support & Care	£50,000
Rainbows Hospice	£45,000
Province of Dyfed	£5,000
Myriad Inc	£45,000
Reading Association for the Blind	£40,000
Special Olympics GB	£22,000
St Johns Hospice	£15,520
Sudbury Neighbourhood Centre	£40,000
Nottinghamshire Mark Prov Headway Project	£13,644
First Response	£20,000
The Oaks Secondary School, Spennymoor	£45,000
	£463,164

2011

Hope for Tomorrow - Wiltshire	£70,000
Primrose Hospice	£41,125
East Anglia Children's Hospice - Treehouse Appeal	£35,500
Llanelli Hospital Breast Unit	£60,000
Peterborough Cathedral Speaker Fund	£25,000
	£231,625

2010

Barts Cancer Hospital	£1,282,242
Wye Forest Dial-A-Ride	£40,000
Lifelites	£22,500
Great North Air Ambulance	£15,500
The Library of Freemasonry Charitable Trust	£68,000
Noah's Ark Trust	£15,500
	£1,443,742

2009

Bronglais Hospital	£4,000
Alzheimer's Society	£50,000
Shelterbox - Haiti Earthquake	£49,000
Peter Le Marchant Trust	£28,940
Motor Neurone Disease	£25,000
Kidderminster Hospital (Cancer R/C)	£10,000
Llandaff Cathedral Organ Appeal	£5,000
Riding for the Disabled – Cornwall	£5,000
Great Western Air Ambulance	£57,000
Special Olympics	£25,000
Lifeline for Vision and Health in Secunderabad	£25,000
Masonic Charity Clinic and Laboratory in Tiruchirapalli	£25,000
The Children's Fire and Burn Trust	£225,000
National Star College	£123,165
Midlands Air Ambulance	£75,000
Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen	£15,000
Sunfield Home	£15,000
	£762,105

2008

Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust	£28,200
National Talking Newspapers	£25,000
Maytree Respite Centre	£10,000
The Children's Fire and Burn Trust	£10,000
Trinity Hospice	£10,000
Guild of Church Musicians	£5,000
The Association of Friends of Devonshire Court	£42,000
The Queen Alexandra Hospital Home	£40,605
GB Skiing Team – Special Olympics	£20,000
CARIF Cancer Research Initiatives Foundation, Malaysia	£15,912
CARE	£7,000
RNLI – Tamar Lifeboat	£1,600,000
	£1,813,717

2007

Masonic Periodicals Digitisation Project	£20,000
Severn Area Rescue Association (SARA)	£85,000
The Victory Services Association	£30,000
Chesthelp Bournemouth	£5,000
Moorfields Eye Hospital	£96,720
St. John Council for Blaenau Gwent	£50,000
Bath Mind	£5,000
The Luton and Dunstable Hospital	£57,500
The Society for the Relief of Disabled Children (Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital, Hong Kong)	£30,000
China Coast Community	£3,300
The Royal Life Saving Society	£5,000
	£387,520

2006

The Maytree Respite Centre	£10,000
Deafness Research UK	£10,000
Ghurka Welfare Trust	£10,000
The Children's Trust	£5,000
TNAUK	£25,000
St. John's Hospice	£17,000
Trinity Hospice	£5,000
Guild of Church Musicians	£2,500

Multiple Sclerosis Resource Centre	£5,000
Moorfields Eye Hospital	£67,000
The Salvation Army	£80,000
St. Giles Organ Project	£5,000
The Queen Alexandra Hospital Home	£5,000
Contact the Elderly	£1,000
The Royal Life Saving Society	£5,000
Osteoporosis Society	£3,000,000
	£3,252,500

2005

Community Responder Partnerships	£5,000
National Association for Colitis & Crohn's Disease	£10,000
The Lisa May Memorial Fund	£6,000
Cornwall Reserve Group	£35,000
Leonard Cheshire	£15,500
Cancer Bridge	£5,000
Specialist Children's Burns Hospital	£10,000
Respiratory High Dependency	£6,000
Peace Child of Wales	£1,000
Buenos Aries British Hospital	£10,000
British and American Benevolent Ass. (Argentina)	£10,000
Queen Alexandra Hospital Home	£6,735
District Grand Lodge of the S & E Caribbean	£10,000
Nuthall and District First Response	£5,000
MOVE	£2,000
Tsunami Relief Appeal - Asia	£75,000
	£212,235

2004

West Middlesex University Hospital	£3,000
Defeating Deafness	£4,800
Velindre Hospital	£3,975
Gwynedd Hospital	£38,127
Pinderfields Hospital	£38,127
Barnet Hospital	£38,127
St. Andrews Hospital	£38,127
Prostate Cancer Care	£2,018,579
Alzheimers Society	£2,500
	£2,185,362

2003

St. James Restoration St. Helena	£5,000
Sargent Cancer Care for Children	£3,462
Zoe's Place	£5,000
Marie Curie Cancer Care	£1,000
St. Dunstons	£1,000
Chesthelp Centre, Bournemouth	£2,500
Addenbrooke's Hospital	£111,500
Matamaini Rehab Centre, Kenya	£10,000
	£139,462

2002

South Africa Salvation Army	£25,000
Peterborough Cathedral	£10,000
Alzheimer's Society	£5,000
Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother's Fund	£5,000
	£45,000

2001

Terrence Higgins Trust - Childcare Centre	£5,000
Gurkha Welfare Trust	£10,000
St. Johns Hospice	£10,000
Lister Hospital Stevenage Dept. Plastic Reconstructive Surgery	£10,000
Wiltshire Air Ambulance Appeal	£10,000
Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead (Renal Transplant Unit)	£29,500
Hampshire Bobby Trust	£10,000
St. John's Ambulance, Gibraltar	£10,000
Essex Air Ambulance	£10,000
Carlisle Cathedral	£15,500
St. John's Ambulance Jamaica	£10,000
Contact the Elderly	£10,000
Prostate Cancer Operations Equipment	£212,000
	£352,000

2000

St. John Ambulance	£2,000,000
A.I.A. Autism Research	£25,000
Jubilee Masters Nurses Training Scheme	£2,500
Muscular Dystrophy	£10,000
Winged Fellowship Trust	£2,500
Phoenix Lodge	£2,500
Nieu Buitenzorg	£5,000
The Flying Hospital	£24,155
St. Helena Masonic Hall	£2,500
St. Andrews Hospice	£5,500
	£2,079,655

1999

Grimsby Children's Hospice	£5,000
Rainbow Trust	£10,000
James House for Sick Children	£5,000
Defeating Deafness	£4,500
Trinity Hospice	£20,000
Mount Mawenzy Lodge	£2,500
St. Helena Lodge	£2,500
	£49,500

1998

British Retinitis Pigmentosa Society	£2,500
Macmillan Nurses - in memory of Mrs Margaret Craddock	£2,500
Abandoned and Destitute Children's Appeal Fund (India)	£2,500
Alzheimer's Disease Association	£5,000
	£12,500

1997

R.M.B.I. Prince Edward Duke of Kent Court Stisted	£250,000
Charities in India	£18,750
	£268,750

1996

Charing Cross Holiday Dialysis Trust £2,500

To Mark the life and work of Lady Stubbs, the Relief Fund
of the Arch Bishop of the West Indies arising from
Hurricane Luis

£5,000

Ghurka Welfare Association

£20,000

"Huize Let Ooster" in the District of the Netherlands
(Installation of Elevator)

£30,000

The Four District Grand Lodges of Northern India, Bombay,
Bengal and Madras

£8,000

£65,500

1994

Hospice Movement

£1,500,000

South West Hertfordshire Hospice Fund

£2,500

900th Anniversary Fund Brecon Cathedral

£2,500

£1,505,000

1993

Charing Cross Holiday Dialysis Trust

£2,500

Hearing Research Trust

£2,500

Mildmay Mission Hospital

£2,500

Paul O'Gorman Foundation for Children with Leukaemia

£2,500

The Queen Elizabeth Gates Appeal

£2,500

£12,500

1992

R.M.B.I Prince Michael of Kent Court, Watford

£275,000

£275,000

1991

Dorset Ashlar Trust Mark House

£100,000

Masonic Housing Association

£25,000

Berkshire and Oxfordshire Benevolent Ass.

£25,000

Trinity Hospice Centenary Appeal

£2,500

Mildmay Mission Hospital

£1,500

Cancer Research Oncology Dept. Manchester University

£1,500

The Children's Support Charity Fund

£250

£155,750

1990

Middlesex Retirement Homes

£25,000

Gloucester Cathedral Restoration Fund

£2,500

Action Research Multiple Sclerosis

£1,000

Hyperactive Children Group

£500

Mobility Trust

£250

£29,250

1988

Worcestershire Masonic Homes

£75,000

Flood Relief Disaster Fund Natal

£5,000

£80,000

1986

R.M.B.I. Exeter Home

£100,000

1985

Bolton Masonic Homes East Lancashire

£150,000

1983

R.M.B.I. Exeter Home	£150,000
Sri Lanka Relief Fund	£10,000
Gorsey Hey Masonic Hostel Cheshire	£5,000
	£165,000

1977

Queens Jubilee Appeal	£2,500
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1971

Modernisation Fund Royal Masonic Hospital	£500,000
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Pre Decimalisation**1970**

Hanney Masonic Residential Trust, West Lancs	£25,500
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1968

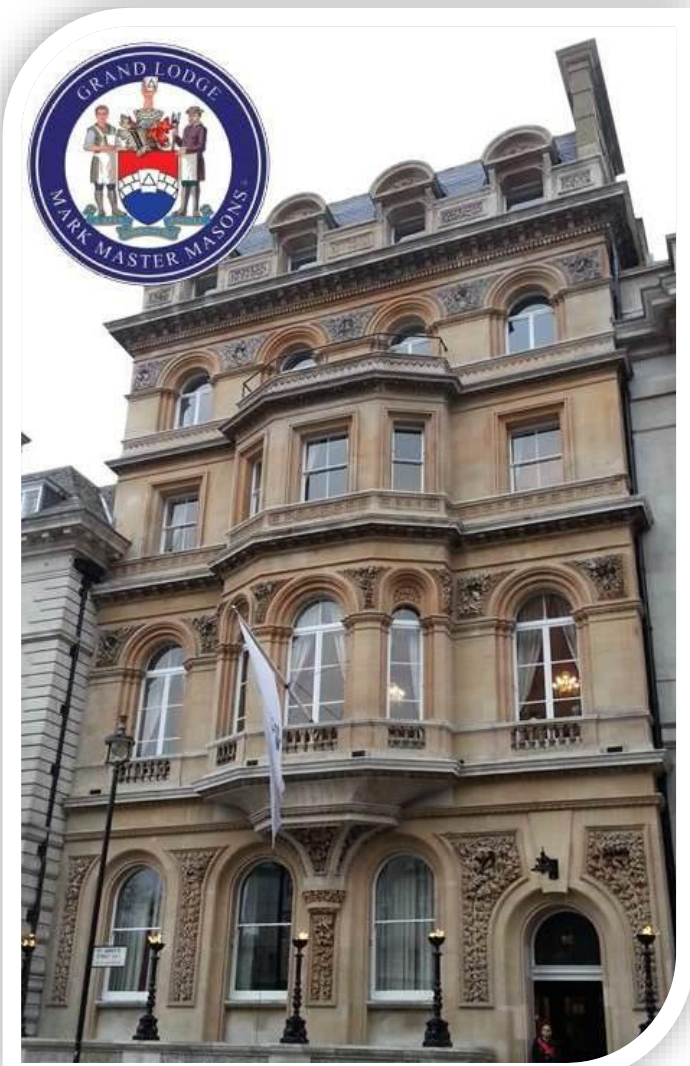
R.M.B.I. Lord Harris Court Sindlesham	£500,000
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1967

R.M.B.I. Furniture and equipment for the homes	£15,000
Royal Masonic Hospital equipment	£5,000
	£20,000

1965

R.M.B.I. Equipment for 3 New Masonic Homes	£15,000
R.M.T.G. New equipment for Science Building	£5,000
	£20,000



**Mark Masons'
Hall –
Home of the
Mark
Benevolent
Fund**



Revd Canon George Raymond Portal
1827 – 1889
Founder of the
Mark Benevolent Fund

Issued by the Charities Office
Mark Masons' Hall

Darren Coleman-Heald
Charities Manager
d.coleman@mmh.org.uk

Mark Benevolent Fund
(Registered Charity No. 207610)

Correct as at 14.10.2019