

Mark Benevolent Fund

Grants to Worthy Causes 1965 – 2018



Charities Office
Mark Masons' Hall
86 St James's Street
LONDON
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<https://markmasonshall.org>

A SHORT HISTORY

This year's festival is rather special as it commemorates 150 years since Reverend George Raymond Portal (Canonised in 1881) founded the Mark Benevolent Fund. 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 the Order continues to this very day.

THE ANNUAL FESTIVALS

Each year a different Province in England or Wales hosts the Mark Benevolent Fund festival, and that Province will have begun fundraising up to ten years prior to the event. A grand festival banquet is arranged at the culmination of the fundraising at which the results are revealed. The festival enables the Brethren and their family and friends from all Provinces to congregate and socialise together, while helping the Festival Province celebrate their achievement.

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF THE M.B.F.

To mark the occasion of the Fund's Sesquicentenary, the Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund pledged £2.6 million to the Hope for Tomorrow charity, for the purchase of up to ten mobile chemotherapy units for the use of the NHS in rural locations throughout the UK.

In addition to the Mark Benevolent Fund celebrating their Sesquicentenary, it is vital to reflect on 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 has helped mould the charity and ensured continuous growth and development.

SOME KEY GRANTS

Dogs for Good

The Mark Benevolent Fund, in conjunction with the Province of London, has sponsored a new puppy through the Dogs for Good charity. His name is Lawson and he was born on 4 December 2017.

Lawson is named after R.W.Bro. Michael Lawson, P.G.S.W., a long-standing Trustee of the Mark Benevolent Fund, who sadly passed away in October last year. The new puppy is already to undertaking his two-year training plan. The total cost for this is £13,446. The Province of London have made a very generous contribution of £3,000 towards the project. Michael Lawson was an avid and dedicated fan of his dogs and this project seemed a fitting legacy in his memory. This is the second puppy to be sponsored by the M.B.F. Our first puppy, Suzie, is now 18 months old and heading towards the completing of her training.

Funding for Blood Bikes charities across England and Wales

The Mark Benevolent Fund became aware of the role of blood bike charities in January 2016 when an application was received by the Worthy Causes Committee from Northumbria Blood Bikes. Subsequent applications then followed as word spread about the work of the M.B.F.

Most blood bike charities come under the umbrella of the Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes (itself a registered charity) who acts as a representative body for blood bike groups. Their aim is to assist in the promotion of public health through voluntary support of hospital services. The charity provides out of hours transportation services for local NHS sites in the movement of blood and human tissue. Other organisations can also benefit from the work they do, all free of charge thus reducing the strain on NHS funding.

In May 2017 the Mark Benevolent Fund Charity Walk took place encompassing all Royal Parks in central London along the seven-mile route of The Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Walk. The event was embraced by hundreds of Mark Master Masons, their friends and families, and raised an astounding £437,934. The Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund wanted to give something back to the Brethren in the Provinces who had given so generously and a decision was taken to invite all blood bike charities in England and Wales to apply for funding for a new vehicle. Mark Provinces covering the majority of England and Wales are serviced by these charities and all that applied received a new vehicle. To date the M.B.F. has sponsored 16 Blood Bikes and 10 Blood Cars.

The M.B.F. renews its partnership with St John Ambulance

The M.B.F. has donated £3.2 million to St John Ambulance to fund a combination of 52 ambulances, treatment centres and support vehicles throughout England, Wales and the Islands. This exciting project will be fully rolled out by December of this very busy year for the M.B.F.

Our partnership with this organisation highlights the M.B.F.'s continuing commitment to supporting projects with a wider community impact. Our previous collaboration with St John Ambulance was to celebrate the Millennium in 2000. Each Province in England and Wales was allocated an ambulance using a grant of £2 million. These ambulances, although coming to the end of their life in the UK, will be refurbished and sent off to countries far and wide to continue their life saving services.

2018

MBF Blood Bikes Project (21 grants date date)	£85,214
Transhouse	£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
	£500,009

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 (1 of 4)	£25,000
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
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
	£3,568,577

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
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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
Gorse Hey Masonic Hostel Cheshire	£5,000

	£165,000
1977	
Queens Jubilee Appeal	£2,500
1971	
Modernisation Fund Royal Masonic Hospital	£500,000

Pre Decimalisation**1970**

Hanney Masonic Residential Trust, West Lancs £25,500

1968

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

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 of Science Building £5,000

£20,000



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

Issued by the Charities Office
Mark Masons' Hall

Darren Coleman-Heald
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Mark Benevolent Fund
(Registered Charity No. 207610)

Correct as at 22.09.2018