

Masonic Samaritan Fund



HEREFORDSHIRE
FESTIVAL



FAQs

Frequently asked questions

Since the commencement of our 2020 Festival in June 2015, a number of questions have been raised with regards to what a Masonic Festival is, who benefits from the money raised and how individuals can best support it.

To help in clarifying these points, this booklet brings together the answers to some of the most frequently asked questions. I do hope that you will find it useful, but if you have a question that is not covered herein, please don't hesitate to contact myself or a member of the 2020 Festival Appeal Committee.

**WBro Michael Holland, PAGDC
Chairman, 2020 Festival Appeal Committee**

What is a Masonic Festival?

A Festival is a major fundraising appeal held by a Masonic Province to support the work of the central Masonic Charities (the Masonic Charitable Foundation, The Freemasons' Grand Charity, the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys, the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution or the Masonic Samaritan Fund).

The Festival is a partnership between the Province and the Masonic charity being supported, the aim of which is to raise funds.

The Festival also provides an opportunity to increase awareness of the charity's work and the support it provides to Freemasons, their families and the wider community.

Provinces under UGLE take part in the Masonic Festival system. Each Province typically holds a Festival once every 11 years following a five, six or seven year appeal.

On the front cover



“There are no words to express how much your support means to us as a family.”

Jack has a progressive neuromuscular condition which causes muscle weakness. It is a life limiting condition with an average life expectancy of between 40 and 50 years. Jack will eventually lose his ability to walk. There is no known cure.

The Masonic Samaritan Fund have provided a specialist hydrobath to ease Jack's pain.

Jack's mother, Rachel, says: “We would like to take this opportunity to thank the MSF, not only for all the support you have given us as a family, but also the support that you as a charity have given to so many.”

On the front cover

Which charity is The 2020 Herefordshire Festival raising funds for?

The Festival is raising funds for the Masonic Samaritan Fund (MSF) which provides health and care grants for applicants to receive treatment and care without undue delay or expense. Freemasons and their wives, partners, widows or other dependents can apply for a grant if they:

- have a diagnosed health or care need;
- are faced with a wait for NHS treatment, usually of over 12 weeks;
- and are unable to easily afford their own private care.

“I think I went into shock when I found out I was going blind.”

Due to the postcode lottery, the injections that could save Irene's eyesight were not available where she lived.

Then, a family friend put her in touch with the MSF who provided the injections very quickly. If she hadn't had the treatment, she would now be blind.



Without the MSF and the support of the Freemasons, my whole life would have changed. I can still knit and sew, and I am so happy to be able to continue to work in my garden. Thank you very very much for your kindness.”



How does the MSF help the wider community?

The MSF also funds medical research into improving the diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of illnesses and disabilities that affect the wider community.

Recently, the MSF awarded £1.125 million to such projects. The charity invited Freemasons to nominate medical research studies as part of the £1 million Silver Jubilee Research Fund, which was created in order to celebrate 25 years of generous donations from the Masonic community.

The 13 charities to receive funding were:

- Alzheimer's Research UK | £100,000
- Brain Research Trust | £86,000
- UCL Cancer Institute Research Trust | £100,000
- British Heart Foundation | £100,000
- Anthony Nolan Trust | £92,000
- Parkinson's UK | £90,000
- Tenovus Cancer Care | £89,000
- Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research | £94,000
- Yorkshire Cancer Research | £73,000
- Diabetes UK | £55,000
- Macular Society | £100,000

Tenovus Cancer Care £89,000

The Masonic Samaritan Fund awarded £89,000 to Wales' leading cancer charity to help fund a ground-breaking new research project.

The research will look into the use of immunotherapy treatment to help cancer patients.

This treatment could act as an alternative to surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy by helping the immune system to correctly identify and then attack individual tumour cells. This would reduce the need for invasive treatments.

Tenovus Cancer Care's project is one of thirteen medical research studies supported by the MSF's Silver Jubilee Research Fund. The project received funding as a result of a poll of local Freemasons, including those from Herefordshire.



With this magnificent support from the Masonic community, we'll be able to fund work into one of the most promising areas of cancer research."

**Clare Gallie, Director of
Income Generation**

What is the period of The 2020 Festival?

It was launched in June 2015 and it is to run for five years ending in June 2020.

Does my Lodge have a target?

Yes, Lodges are encouraged to attain a level of achievement based on the number of members. These are called Honorific levels and are: Vice Patron, Patron and Grand Patron. It is hoped that all Lodges will reach one of these levels to ensure that we make our target as a Province.

How do I find out what my Lodge target it?

The Charity Steward of your Lodge has been given the Lodge target and what the Honorific levels for the Lodge are.



What is the target for the 2020 Festival?

The PGM has announced that the target to be raised within the Province without external contributions is **£300,000**.



How will Lodges know how much they have donated?

The Provincial Grand Charity Steward will be sent a report at regular intervals during the Festival showing individual and Lodge contributions to the date of the report. He will then advise the Lodge Charity Stewards of their Lodge's contribution to date only.

How can I find out how much I have donated?

If you contact the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, he will be able to advise you of your overall contribution. However, you will be notified in writing as you achieve the individual Honorific levels outlined on the next page of this booklet.

Are there personal targets?

No. It is up to each person to decide what they can afford to give. However, there are individual Honorific levels which can be aimed for and these are as follows:



An individual qualifies to purchase a Festival Jewel for £15 as soon as he has pledged to donate £250. Recognition of achieving the other levels will be acknowledged by means of Certificates which will be issued to Brethren once they have pledged the amount applicable to each Honorific mentioned.

Why should I purchase a Festival Jewel?

We hope that everyone will wear the Festival Jewel with pride to demonstrate their support for the Province and the Festival in general, as well as for the MSF and the good work that it does.

How do I best contribute towards the Festival?

Ideally, most members will sign up for a regular contribution by means of a direct debit to be made on a regular basis over the entire period of the Festival. Your Lodge Charity Steward will have the forms to enable you to do this. There are also white envelopes available for contributions to be made at Lodge meetings or at any other Festival related collections. It is also possible to make one off or regular donations by cash or cheque should that be your preference. If you are a UK taxpayer, your donations should qualify for Gift Aid.

What is Gift Aid?

When a UK tax payer makes a donation under a Gift Aid declaration, using any of the above methods, the MSF will reclaim the tax paid



on that donation from the UK government. The amount reclaimed will be credited to the donor and his Lodge. Currently the income tax reclaimed will be 25p in every £1 donated.

Can the proceeds of a raffle be donated under Gift Aid declarations?

No, proceeds from raffles, auctions or sales of merchandise etc. do not qualify.

Does the overall target figure include the Gift Aid tax credit?

Yes it does, as do Lodge targets. However, it is hoped that everyone will see this as an added bonus towards the Festival and that they will strive to meet targets without taking this into consideration.

If I participate in a sponsored event, can I arrange for contributions to be made online?

Yes, the best way to do this is to set up a sponsorship/contribution page using the everydayhero.com website. This will allow you to include the Herefordshire Festival Relief Chest number which is E0146 and your Lodge Number so that all money is appropriated accordingly. Should you need help with this, the Provincial Communication Officer and Webmaster will be pleased to help and can be contacted on email via:

pco@herefordshiremasons.org.uk

Will the money I raise for a sponsored event go towards Honoric levels?

The money contributed by individuals towards your sponsorship will go towards their individual Honoric levels. The overall sum raised for the specific event can be credited to your Lodge's total and thus towards the Lodge's Honoric level.

How am I kept informed about Festival related activities and events?

There is a link to Festival related information on the Provincial website **herefordshiremasons.org.uk** that can be accessed by clicking on the Festival logo, or directly at: **herefordshiremasons.org.uk/2020festival**

There is also a newsletter that you should receive directly from the MSF which will provide information related to the Festival's progress and associated news and events.

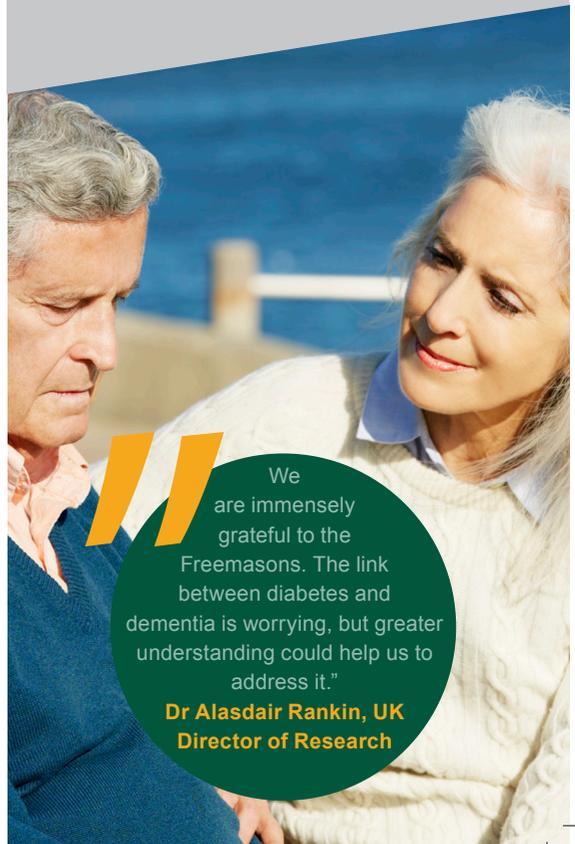


Diabetes UK

£55,000

The MSF awarded £55,000 to fund research at King's College London into the link between diabetes and dementia.

The grant was awarded after the Freemasons of Herefordshire nominated Diabetes UK to receive the award.



We are immensely grateful to the Freemasons. The link between diabetes and dementia is worrying, but greater understanding could help us to address it."

**Dr Alasdair Rankin, UK
Director of Research**



www.herefordshiremasons/2020festival

Any other questions?

Firstly ask your Lodge Charity Steward. If he is not able to answer a specific question, he will contact the Provincial Grand Charity Steward and/or the Festival Appeal Committee to seek an answer.



Registered Charity
No. 1130424