

Report of the Provincial Grand Charity Steward To Provincial Grand Lodge on 10th June 2023

It is a pleasure to report that the Mark Master Masons of Worcestershire have again been true to their calling and have generously supported charitable efforts throughout the Province in this past year, despite the prevailing economic conditions.

Individual Lodges have made continued and even greater efforts this year to contribute to The RW Provincial Grand Master's Charity of the year in additions to the numerous calls for their own favoured charities. I thank them all for their support.

I look forward to continue to work with you all in the future.

The Province is pleased to report the following charitable activity in the past year:

Donations given:

We received one application for aid directly in the past year which we have been pleased to support:

The Province was pleased to make a donation of £ 1,000 to The Motor Neurone Disease Association via the Craft Lodge of our PDepPGM VW Bro Jeff Whiteley and their Ladies Night held at the Stourport Manor Hotel. The evening raised some £5,000 for that worthy cause and this was donated in memory of our Past Provincial Almoner WBro Dr. Charles Gwynn. Many congratulations to Jeff and his lodge for that wonderful event which a number of members attended.

The Emily Jordan Foundation:

As announced at the last Annual General Meeting, the RW Provincial Grand Master's charity of the year this year has been The Emily Jordan Foundation. I am absolutely delighted to report that the Province and its Lodges have donated the sum of £7,000 to this worthy cause, which has been very gratefully received by this local charity.

The CEO of that charity, Ruth Krivosic, has been invited to attend two events during the course of the Masonic year and has given very well received presentations of the work of that charity and we have had the opportunity to meet some of the service users of their services. I have been lucky enough to attend at their premises in Kidderminster and have been able to witness the good work going on there first hand. I was very impressed with the extremely supportive atmosphere generated in their work and we wish them continued success in their efforts.

I have received several messages of thanks from Ms. Krivosic for our contributions, which have been very warmly received and have been faithfully applied. Hopefully our individual Lodges will feel the continued desire to assist this worthy local charity even after the formal year of support from the Province is concluded.

Places of Worship:

As has been the practice for several years, applications were invited from the Brethren of the Province to nominate their local Place of Worship for a grant.

This appeal was well received and as a result 9 places of worship were duly nominated. On this occasion the Provincial Executive agreed that 7 local churches should be supported this year worthy and therefore the following Places of Worship will all receive a grant of £250 :-

- St John in Bedwardine, Worcester
- St Peter's Church, Lapal. Halesowen
- St Mary's, Stone, Nr. Kidderminster
- St George's Kidderminster
- St Saviour's Church, Hagley
- Upton Parish Church
- Holy Trinity Church, Wordsley

As always, I thank all members of the Province for their support in this important event in our Mark Provincial calendar.

Bonus Ball Lottery:

The monthly Bonus Ball Lottery scheme has continued throughout and as always allows us to finance many of the donations noted above. To those Brethren and their connections who received prizes in the past year, many congratulations. I hope you enjoyed them? But of course a large thank you to everyone who regularly contributes to this effort. Thank you for your ongoing support.

We can always work with further members. The requirements are that you place a stake for each monthly draw at either £3, £4 or £5. If your nominated number is lucky enough to be the winner, you received 10x your stake as your prize. For further details and to sign-up, please contact The Provincial Grand Charity Steward.

Amazon Smile:

Unfortunately, Amazon has elected to discontinue this scheme during the past months and therefore shopping with Amazon no longer directly supports our Province. However, my thanks to all those who did register for this scheme - the Province did thereby benefit from a number of donations from Amazon during the course of the scheme.

Once again, the charitable heart of our Province continued to beat loudly during this year and your support is as always, greatly appreciated.

Mark John Winfield, *P.G.Stwd.*, Provincial Grand Charity Steward