



MCF Almoner's Briefing – March 2021

Welcome to the latest Almoner's Briefing produced by the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) and shared by your Metropolitan/Provincial Grand Almoner. Your role within freemasonry may feel different since lodges were first prevented from meeting in 2020 but your support remains critical to the welfare of those within your masonic community.

Tell a member of your lodge today about the MCF and you will be giving somebody you know a precious gift. With lodges meeting 'online' and few opportunities for social interaction, problems can remain hidden behind closed doors. Even if it isn't possible to speak to everyone in your lodge, take the time to remind them of the help available if they are struggling financially or are waiting for medical care. Let them know that they can turn to you and the MCF for support. The MCF's latest video is the perfect readymade tool to help you get the message out – www.mcf.org.uk/2021/01/tell-your-family

There is support for you during these unpredictable times. Your Metropolitan/Provincial Grand Almoner (MetGA/PGA) can guide you if you identify a particularly complex or unusual case of need or if you are unsure of the next steps to take. In addition, the MCF has produced a series of factsheets containing general information on topics ranging from redundancy to bereavement. These can be found on your section of the MCF website – www.mcf.org.uk/resources/almoner-resources

Why not share the following information with your lodge members? You could include it in an email it or use it as part of your update at a lodge video meeting:

Did you know that the Masonic Charitable Foundation is here to support Freemasons and their families when life takes an unexpected turn for the worse? The Foundation offers a wide range of grants and support services for financial, health, family and care-related needs. Funded entirely by Freemasons, the MCF aims to build better lives by encouraging opportunity, promoting independence, and improving wellbeing. Visit the website for more information - www.mcf.org.uk

Please direct potential applicants to the MCF's Enquiries Team on 0800 035 60 90 (calls are free), or by email to help@mcf.org.uk for advice on starting an application and to learn more about the eligibility criteria (teams continue to work from home so response times to telephone, post and email enquiries may be a little longer than usual).

You matter to us too. Remember that above all, you must take care of your own health and wellbeing. Without your support the MCF would be unable to support the many cases of need and to promote its vital services. If you are struggling you must not be afraid to seek help from members of

your lodge, a friend or family member. Please let somebody know how you are feeling and don't suffer in silence.

Getting help for somebody is simple and can be done by contacting the MCF's Enquiries Team on freephone 0800 035 60 90 or emailing help@mcf.org.uk or alternatively, by contacting your MetGA/PGA.

If you found this useful, why not sign-up to receive the MCF's e-newsletter. You will be one of the first people to receive the latest news about the work of the MCF which may be of additional interest to you as almoner (and you will get a free MCF lapel pin!). Sign-up at www.mcf.org.uk/sign-up

Disclaimer: this information does not constitute legal advice and, while care has been taken to ensure that the information is accurate, up to date and useful, the MCF will not accept any legal liability in relation to the content.