

**PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF DURHAM
BENEVOLENT FUND**

**REPORT OF THE BENEVOLENT COMMITTEE
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

Our 2029 Festival Team have continued with their impressive momentum throughout the year, and we are confident that their coordinated efforts will give us a financial end result in 2029 of which we can all be very proud.

The income which would normally accrue to our Benevolent fund from Lodge donations and other fundraising activities, continues to be directed towards our 2029 Festival account, with the only significant income stream for the Durham MBF being from our investment in the M&G Charifund Investment Trust. During the period our investment fund increased in value by £7,606 (2.6%) and yielded dividend income of £18,298 (6.7%)

However, our overall funds have reduced by almost £24,000 as a direct result of two significant 'one off' grants :-

Firstly, £21,464.68 to the Mark Benevolent Fund. This amount was the accumulated funds donated by our lodges to the Durham MBF since 2016, which have been applied against Lodge 2029 Festival totals and deposited with the MBF.

Secondly, a subscription of £7,630 to the Grand Masters Keystone Fund for our Province.

These are in addition to the more normal grants to worthy causes and to our brethren and their dependents :-

£6,000.00 – Mark Province of Oxfordshire 2025 Festival,

£2,000.00 - Royal and Select Masters 150th Anniversary appeal,

£1,417.25 – Distributed to local worthy causes, and

£2,200.00 – In the form of emergency grants to our brethren or dependents.

It is proposed to make the following donation :-

£6,000 to the Mark Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight towards their 2026 Festival.

Our charity remains in a very healthy position and I have no reason to believe that this will not continue going forward.

Brethren, we have a wonderful network of Almoners, Benevolent Representatives, Liaison Officers and Caring Committee Members all working hard to ensure that no brother or dependent relative is left in distressed circumstances, as well as assisting in the community wherever possible. We thank them all and I commend this Report to you.

W.Bro Ronald Trevor Lynn P.G.J.D.
Deputy Provincial Grand Master,
Chairman