



Middlesex Cares



Dear Brethren of the Province of Middlesex,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Paresh Pandya, and I am excited to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Coordinator for the Physical Wellbeing pillar within our province.

In my role, I am committed to ensuring that every member is aware of the invaluable support provided by the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF). The MCF offers a wide range of assistance, from financial aid to health-related support, designed to help those in distress or in need. It is important to understand that this assistance is based on individual circumstances through means testing, rather than entitlement.



Key Offerings of the MCF:

- **Financial Support:** - Providing grants and assistance to those facing financial difficulties.
- **Health & Care:** - Supporting brethren and their families with medical expenses and health care.
- **Family & Education:** - Offering grants for education and family support.
- **Wellbeing & Pastoral Care:** - Ensuring overall wellbeing through emotional and psychological support.
- **Talent Aid:-** Education of children, assisting ongoing costs eg. music, drama, sports etc.

To provide a clearer understanding of what the MCF does, please take a moment to watch this video clip (*click on the button below*):



Who are we?

Everything you need to know about your eligibility



Have you ever wanted to reach out to us for support but were unsure if you were eligible? We support Freemasons and people with a strong family connection to a Freemason. But what does this mean exactly?

The qualifying Freemason

To be eligible, the Freemason must be, or have been, a member of a Lodge regulated by the United Grand Lodge of England. The Freemason does not need to be a currently subscribing member, but they must have joined before the need arose.

Please note that if the Freemason's membership is inactive, there is a time limit after which an application may not be accepted.

Eligible family members

Whether you're married, divorced, or widowed, a child, a step-child, grandchild or step-grandchild of a Freemason, we may be able to offer you support. We understand that not all families look the same, so we are happy to consider other relations if they can demonstrate that a Freemason has provided them with significant financial or physical support.

Drop in income

To receive support, you must be able to demonstrate that you have experienced a drop in income which means you are unable to meet daily living costs, or that an unforeseen change in your circumstances, including mental and physical health, has affected your usual income.

If you are in need of support but are feeling overwhelmed by the application process, our incredible Enquiries team is here to help.

You can call them on **0800 035 60 90** or email them at **help@mcf.org.uk**. If you are eligible for support, a Visiting Volunteer or a member of the Advice and Support team can contact you to help fill out any forms.

"After I contacted the MCF, a Visiting Volunteer came to my home to help me to fill out my application forms, making the whole process much easier! When the help came through, it felt like a godsend. I was able to catch up with bills and focus on my physical health and the wellbeing of my family."
– Mohammed

Check your eligibility

Not sure if we can help?
Use our online eligibility checker.

Answer a few basic questions about your circumstances and the type of help you are looking for to find out if we may be able to help.



To find out more scan the QR code or visit:

mcf.org.uk/eligibility-BL13

Upcoming Almoners Seminar & Training Sessions

To further enhance our collective understanding and ability to utilise the MCF's offerings, we are pleased to announce a series of Almoners Seminar and training sessions. These sessions are open not only to current Almoners but also to brethren interested in becoming Almoners.

Proposed Months:

- November 2024
- December 2024
- January 2024

We will be hosting these sessions on **Saturdays** as **half-day events starting at 10 AM**. Coffee and lunch will be arranged for all attendees. The venues for these sessions will be:

- **Harrow Masonic Centre (HDMC)**
- **Twickenham Masonic Centre, Cole Court (TDMC)**

To ensure we accommodate as many brethren as possible, we kindly ask you to **register your interest** by filling out the registration form linked below. Your input will help us in selecting the most convenient dates and venues.

The sessions will include:

- Overview of MCF/the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution (RMBI) services and eligibility criteria. (Guest Speakers)
- Interactive Q&A sessions with guest speakers from MCF and the RMBI
- Role & Duties of an Almoner - Almoners Handbook
- Workshops on effective communication and outreach strategies
- Middlesex Visiting Volunteers - the process, how it operates.

At the end of the seminar, attendees will receive:

- An Almoners pack
- A certificate confirming successful completion of the Almoners course

Please take a moment to register your interest by completing the form below:

REGISTRATION

This form will collect your contact details and your interest in attending the seminar.

I encourage all Lodge Secretaries, Visiting Officers, current Almoners, and potential Almoners to participate in these sessions to enhance our network of support and ensure that every brother in need receives the assistance they deserve.

Your engagement and proactive participation are crucial to the success of these initiatives. Together, we can create a strong support system within our province, demonstrating that Middlesex truly cares for each of its members.

I look forward to meeting you all and working together to promote the physical wellbeing of our brethren. Should you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Fraternally,



Paresh Pandya

Middlesex Cares: Physical Wellbeing Lead

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