

A man never stands so tall
as when he kneels to help a child

The  **20**
20 Festival

The 2020 Festival News

£1M Pledged

After only seven months since the launch of the Festival it is amazing to be able to report that £1m has already been pledged. It is also amazing that over £500,000 in cash has already been paid enabling the charity to put our donations to immediate use to help children.

Thank you ... a huge thanks to all those who have signed up ... but there is a long way to go.

Quite a lot of brethren obviously signed up soon after the launch resulting in this great early achievement. There is no target, other than for us to raise as much as we can for this great cause.

As at the end of October 2015 a total of 550 brethren had pledged enough to achieve an honorific. Given the numbers of members in Middlesex this has undoubtedly a long way to go. Have you donated yet?

Donating to the Festival is easy and there are a number of ways of doing it. Most set up a regular payment by direct debit with a monthly amount being deducted from their bank account each month for 5 years. This way you can achieve an honorific without paying out a large sum all at once. If you want to pay in one go or in lump sums from time to time this is possible too.

For more information about how to donate to the Festival and to achieve an honorific either:

- ask your Lodge or Chapter Charity Steward;
- look on the Festival website which can be accessed from the Provincial website with one click from the top of any page;
- email the Festival Committee festival@pglm.org.uk

Support the Festival and wear your Festival jewel



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Regular Donations to the Festival by Direct Debit can now be set up over the phone

A dedicated telephone line has been set up to facilitate Direct Debit donations, 020 7395 9313 open 9.30am – 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9.30am – 3.30pm on Fridays

You will be required to provide some personal information (Name, address, Lodge details) and your bank details (sort code, account number). You will also be asked details of the donation you would like to make (amount, frequency, duration) and when asked what Relief Chest should be credited, you should respond with The 2020 Festival E0142.

You will receive an acknowledgement of the donation and direct debit.

Recycle ink cartridges and mobile phones and support The 2020 Festival at the same time

Put those used ink cartridges and unwanted mobile phones to good use by dropping them into your Masonic Centre. They will then be reused, which is good for the environment, and also raise money for The 2020 Festival.

Any old mobile phones are wanted and HP, Canon, Dell and Lexmark ink jet cartridges. No toner cartridges or Epson ink jet cartridges can be accepted.

Put them in a bag, mark them, "Centre Charity Chairman" and hand them over the bar at any Middlesex Masonic Centre.

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The **2020** Festival

The 2020 Festival It's for our children

Graham is a Freemason, married to Michaela with 2 daughters, Anastazia (11) and Katerina (7). In 2012, Graham was made redundant after working for 32 years, most recently as a charity finance director. While unemployed, he worked hard to improve his CV, including completing some professional accounting qualifications, but as he began attending interviews he suffered a heart attack and subsequently had to have a series of heart operations. Michaela supported the family throughout, but unfortunately she too was made redundant in January 2015. The stressful period for the family was compounded by a number of bereavements, and Graham unsurprisingly started to suffer from depression. The family's finances were put under severe pressure.

It would not be unreasonable to believe that this series of misfortunes would have a detrimental effect on the emotional and psychological development of their children as they would surely miss out on many activities designed to improve and develop their characters and personality. But due to the immeasurable help of the RMTGB, both financially and in other ways, both children have had access to everything that they would have had, had Graham and Michaela been working.

Both girls enjoy very busy and active lives in and out of school. Anastazia attends dance and drama lessons and has performed in local pantomimes, and performed in a local production of The Wizard of Oz in June. She is doing exceptionally well at school, is on track to take her level 6 Maths and English this year and has secured one of only 24 places at a specialist school for the arts. She also plays tennis and in December 2014 she was one of two children from her tennis class chosen to play a televised exhibition match with Tim Henman and Heather Watson at the Royal Albert Hall. Katerina is also doing fantastically, especially at sport such as badminton, tennis and swimming, and also she was awarded the certificate for the best at Maths in her class for the year.

Graham and Michaela are very proud of what their children have achieved, and are so grateful for the help and assistance of the RMTGB. They don't just offer financial assistance, but are there to discuss problems, to empathise and to carefully consider what are the optimal solutions to the problems being experienced. If it wasn't for the help of the RMTGB, Anastazia and Katerina's story may have been rather different, and there is no way they could have pursued their interests.

This is what your contribution to The 2020 Festival will help achieve for others in need.

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