



# PROVINCE OF EAST LANCASHIRE



## EL Festival 2026 - Frequently asked Questions

If the answer to your question isn't on this page, then, in the first instance, contact your Lodge or Chapter Festival Representative who should endeavour to find the answer. You can also contact us, the Appeal Committee, [HERE](#) and we will respond within 24 hours. We will also add your question and answer to this FAQ document.

### What is a Masonic Festival Appeal?

A Festival Appeal is a major fund-raising project, spread over a number of years and run by a Masonic Province, to benefit the Masonic Charitable Foundation. The Festival refers also to the celebration at the culmination of our fund-raising period where both Officers of UGLE and MCF join us.

### What does the Masonic Charitable Foundation do?

The Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) is Freemasonry's central Masonic Grant Giving Charity and operates Nationally, Provincially and at a local community level.

The MCF is one of the largest grant-making charities in the country and it helps thousands of people every year. The MCF awards millions of pounds each year to local and national charities and other vital services that are making a significant difference to those in the wider community. It builds better lives by enabling opportunity, advancing healthcare and education, and promoting independence for Freemasons, their families and the wider community. The MCF provides life-changing support through a combination of advice, practical assistance and financial grants.

### Who can benefit from the MCF?

See [Get Support - The Masonic Charitable Foundation \(mcf.org.uk\)](#)

### Why is East Lancashire running a Festival?

Masonic Provinces run Festivals in rotation on an eleven- year cycle. Our last Festival was in 2015 and raised just over £2.7m for The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. It is now our turn again. At any one time there can be up to 24 Provinces in Festival!

### What do I get out of the East Lancashire Festival?

You will be helping the MCF maintain funding streams, so they are available for others and in case you, your family or other dependants, need help. It is one of the Fundamental Principles, to which we agreed when we became a Freemason; that we help our Brother Masons and their dependants receive care and attention, should they need it and should they need help to receive it. That's the formal bit. Beyond that we hope all within the Province will have get enjoyment and fun engaging with organised fundraising events, which we hope will include not only you, but also your family and friends.



## **How will the Festival be organised?**

The Provincial Grand Master has set up a separate **Festival Appeal Committee** under the chairmanship of WBro Chad A Northcott, PSGD, PAPGM, to manage the Festival. Each District team will be fully engaged with the Festival, under the leadership of their Assistant Provincial Grand Masters and continued management by their District Chairman. The District Charity Stewards become the **District Festival Managers** and they will be the conduit of information between the **Lodge and Chapter Charity Stewards** and the **Provincial Festival Representative** (Provincial Grand Charity Steward). Each Lodge and Chapter has been asked to appoint their own Festival Representative from their membership, who can concentrate on promoting the Festival from within. In most cases we expect this will be the Lodge or Chapter Charity Steward.

## **What is the Provincial Target?**

The Provincial Grand Master has set an overall target for the Festival of £2.4 M.

## **What do you want from me?**

For all the Brethren / Companions from within the Province to support the Festival, ideally by making a financial commitment by Regular Payment Promise (the average expectation is £10 per month for the duration of the Festival) and to get involved with the Festival's events and activities through your Lodge, Chapter and at Area, District or Provincial level. We only ask people to give as much as their means sensibly allow without detriment to themselves or their connections!

## **How can I give to the Festival?**

The best method of donating is by completing a regular payment promise for the term of the Festival (60 months), and a Gift Aid declaration which, if you are a UK taxpayer, will currently enhance your donation by at least 25%. These donations will receive an attractive rate of interest through the Relief Chest Scheme which will be credited in the name of the donor and of the Lodge or Chapter which the donor has nominated. Personal donations can also be Gift Aided, assuming the donor is a UK taxpayer. Assistance to obtain and complete forms for all donation methods can be obtained from your Lodge or Chapter Festival Representative. See: [Festivals - The Masonic Charitable Foundation \(mcf.org.uk\)](http://Festivals - The Masonic Charitable Foundation (mcf.org.uk)).

## **I have seen Gift Aid envelopes used in Lodges, how do we use them?**

By completing a Gift Aid envelope when undertaking a charity collection, a UK tax paying donor's contribution is currently enhanced by 25%. Gift Aid envelopes can be used for collections and events but not for raffles. The legal side is complex – see: [Chapter 3: Gift Aid - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://Chapter 3: Gift Aid - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk))

You can obtain Gift Aid envelopes for the Festival from your District Festival Manager or from Hewlett Court or the Provincial Secretariat.

**Will there be a Festival Jewel and if so, what is the qualification for obtaining one?**

The minimum payment to the Festival to qualify as a Steward and to qualify to receive a Festival Jewel is £240. This will also entitle the donor to attend the Festival Event in 2026. Jewels will become available in January 2022. We will write to all those entitled to honorifics and post their jewels to them. **There is a time lag of up to 4 weeks from you making your donation to the relevant information reaching the Province in order for us to contact you.** Jewels and honorific bars will be provided free of charge.



**What other honorifics are there?**

|              | Brother | Lodge | Chapter | Lady |
|--------------|---------|-------|---------|------|
| STEWARD      | 240     |       |         | 120  |
| VICE PATRON  | 480     | 1500  | 750     | 240  |
| PATRON       | 720     | 3000  | 1500    | 360  |
| GRAND PATRON | 1200    | 4500  | 2250    | 600  |

**Will there be a Festival tie?**

Yes, and other items of merchandise which will be available for sale during the period of the Festival. This will be through the District Festival Manager and the Provincial Web Shop. Ties and pocket squares will be available in early 2022, and communications will go out to you in due course regarding these.

**Will Ladies be required to qualify as Stewards of the Festival, and wear the Festival Jewel, in order to attend the Festival Banquet?**

No. They will receive a jewel, but will be under no obligation to wear it. A thank you for their contribution.

**I am a member of more than one Lodge / Chapter in the Province, how will my contributions be recognised?**

When making a donation a donor may nominate only one Lodge / Chapter per donation; he decides to which Lodge / Chapter that individual contribution is to be credited. However, the sum of all his contributions to all his nominated Lodges / Chapters will count towards his personal contribution total, as will any Gift Aid Envelope payments he makes, provided they are completed regularly.