

**Provincial Grand Charity Steward**  
**Report for Provincial Grand Lodge – November 2024**

As the saying goes – time fly’s, and I can’t believe it’s twelve months since I was appointed as our Provincial Grand Charity Steward. It has been a busy but enjoyable year and let me take this opportunity to thank all those I work alongside for their hard work and support; it has been very much appreciated. Furthermore, I must take this opportunity to thank my predecessor WBro Bob Findley for his work and commitment to what is a demanding role.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve the Province as your Charity Steward over the last year and I was delighted to learn how that time has been extended over the forthcoming year too.

There is much for us to do over the coming months and my determination to fulfil my responsibilities remain as resolute as ever.

My primary focus will remain upon our 2026 Festival and working towards achieving our £2.4M target, something that is equally challenging and achievable.

We will reach, and ideally surpass our target in a number of ways, the most effective of which is without doubt through personal giving. Each and every one of us are members of “Team Charity” from the Provincial Grand Master to the newly Initiated Entered Apprentice and I encourage everyone to consider committing to making a regular donation. I appreciate making regular donations isn’t always the most convenient way for some Brethren and let me assure you how your intermittent contributions are of equal importance. We are all ambassadors for our charitable work and I’m sure we are all proud of our historical and ongoing desire to help others in their hour of need.

Of course, other fundraising avenues are hugely important to us too, and I have found it personally rewarding to help organise and deliver events enjoyed by our wider Masonic family and personal friends. Each one has been an opportunity to promote the values and benefits of Freemasonry and of course they make a significant addition to our overall fundraising. Additionally, they reinforce our bond of friendship and camaraderie and are a great avenue for attracting future Freemasons too. Furthermore, it would be remiss of me not to mention those brilliant individuals who take on personal fundraising challenges. There are far too many to mention and I applaud and congratulate each and every one of you on your remarkable commitment and dedication, your efforts have been inspirational to us all.

Our six Area Charity Stewards are a central point of contact with responsibility for driving charitable work forward at an Area level and for supporting Lodge / Chapter Charity Stewards in their area of expertise. It has been a pleasure to work alongside all those involved within our organisational structures and I place on record my thanks to all those I

work closely with - without your continued help and support little of our achievements would be realised. Our programme of regular meetings over the coming year will continue and every opportunity to build and develop our strong ethos of charitable giving will be grasped with enthusiasm and determination.

Our work stretches beyond fundraising and I welcomed the introduction of the third pillar which is, in a nutshell, community engagement and volunteering - something I believe sits naturally and comfortably with us as Freemasons. Many of our Brethren give up our time freely for the benefit of others and that is commendable. We have started to capture a record of our community involvement and it is humbling to note just how many hours are spent helping others.

Over the last year I have had the pleasure of arranging visits to a number of charities who have received grants from either our own East Lancashire Masonic Charity (ELMC) or the Masonic Charities Foundation (MCF) and it is always heartwarming to witness firsthand how the monies we raise is put to such good use. I am proud to be a small part of such a wonderful brotherhood and force for good, a feeling I'm sure is shared universally.

Speaking of the MCF, I have developed a sound working relationship with those representatives I have met through training courses and business meetings and their guidance has been very helpful to me over the past year.

In summary, I thank those who have put their trust in me and all those I have worked with over the last year. It has been a rewarding and enjoyable year as your Provincial Grand Charity Steward and I look forward to meeting whatever challenges the forthcoming year may bring as our collective work continues.

WBro John Taylor  
Provincial Grand Charity Steward