



UNITED GRAND LODGE  
OF ENGLAND



**Masonic**  
Charitable Foundation

## UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND AND MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION JOINT STATEMENT

19 March 2020

The Coronavirus outbreak is providing society with its most testing time since World War 2. Freemasons have always been guided by their four core values of Friendship, Integrity, Charity and Respect. During this crisis period it is more important than ever that we stand firmly by these principles, and that we're seen to stand by them. We must work together to help each other and the wider community.

In response to the pandemic, the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) and the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF), the Freemasons' charity, are combining to provide support to vulnerable members and their families, as well as their local communities - as we always have done, but now we must redouble our efforts.

Today, we have agreed that during this crisis, the MCF will supply additional financial assistance above and beyond its regular charitable funding, working alongside UGLE who will be coordinating a number of projects through the mobilisation of our vast membership.

Please be assured that the safety of our members and those we aim to assist remains our top priority, and any arrangements that are made will strictly conform to the best medical advice from the authorities.

More details will follow shortly and your involvement in this vital action will be key to making it a success.

Galvanising a network of 200,000 members, many of whom are elderly as well as at risk, is not without its challenges. Now is the time to pull together with a clear, joined up approach. We do not doubt that Freemasonry and its members will rise to the challenge.

**Dr David Staples FRCP**  
Chief Executive and Grand Secretary  
United Grand Lodge of England

**David Innes**  
Chief Executive  
Masonic Charitable Foundation