



**£4,000 for the homeless of London**

**#taxiwarmclothing**

Thursday, 30 November 2017

Honorary Secretary of the Mark Benevolent Fund, R.W.Bro. Ryan Williams, P.G.J.W., this week presented a cheque for £4,000 to taxi drivers, Dean Thomas, Norman Rose and Anton Haynes, to pay for rucksacks, underwear and sleeping bags for 100 of London's Homeless.

They set up a group called, #taxiwarmclothing an organisation set up by London Hackney Carriage drivers, members of the LTDA (Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association), to hand out sandwiches, wraps, baguettes, rolls, tea and coffee every Wednesday outside Charing Cross Police Station.

Amongst the taxi drivers who distributed the goods last night were Steven Crisp, Scott Daniels, Ian Gray, Dave Clements & Tony Cadman.

A few more in this city will sleep a little better during this winter period.

## **About the Mark Benevolent Fund**

The Mark Benevolent Fund (M.B.F.) was founded in 1868 by Canon George Raymond Portal. The aim of the charity is to help poor and distressed Mark Master Masons and their immediate family. To date over £7 million has been disbursed in grants to individual petitioners.

The M.B.F. also makes donations to many other charities and worthy causes. These grants have totalled over £20 million since 1868. Examples of grants over recent years are £2.6 million to the Hope for tomorrow Cancer Charity; £12,937 to the Dogs for Good charity for the training and development of a support dog; £1.4 million to St Bartholomew's Hospital for Cancer Care; £13,150 to the Baldwin Trust for the refurbishment of canal boats specially modified for disabled visitors; £107,628 for St Oswald's Hospice in Northumberland to replace and upgrade their kitchen facilities and a renewed partnership with St John Ambulance pledging over £3 million to help replace their fleet of ambulances, mobile treatment centres and support vehicles.

As the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the M.B.F. approaches, it is important to reflect on Canon Portal's drive, enthusiasm and dedication, remembering that to him it was wrong for there to be any delay in providing assistance to those in need. Canon Portal's own Latin tag "Bis dat qui cito dat" – 'He gives twice who gives promptly' or 'A gift given without hesitation is as good as two gifts', became the guiding principle of the M.B.F. We still live by that adage, which is as relevant today as it was when he founded the Fund in 1868.

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