



News release North Region

23 April 2018

ST JOHN AMBULANCE VOLUNTEERS THANK MASONS FOR NEW TREATMENT CENTRE

Volunteers with St John Ambulance, the nation's leading first aid charity, took time out recently to say thank you to the Masons for the donation of a new Treatment Centre which will be based at the charity's Preston unit.

The new Treatment Centre is one of over 50 vehicles which are being handed over in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands in a phased programme from October 2017 and throughout 2018.

The vehicles have been secured thanks to a capital grant by the Mark Master Masons through their Mark Benevolent Fund to the Order of St John with the specific aim of providing new ambulances, treatment centres and support vehicles to St John Ambulance, the Order's operational arm in England and the Islands.

The Preston vehicle will be put to use at events in the county as volunteers deliver life saving first aid to members of the public.

Keith Beardmore, Provincial Grand Master at the Mark Province of West Lancashire, said: 'We are delighted that, with the incredible support of the Mark Benevolent Fund, we are able to support St John Ambulance in its life saving work.'

Dr Iain Robertson OBE DL, Chair of the Lancashire County Priory Group, said: 'The donation of this vehicle is wonderful news for the county and will significantly help enhance patient care and contribute to more lives saved locally. We're immensely grateful to the Mark Master Masons in the West Lancashire Province and to the Mark Benevolent Fund for their generosity and we look forward to seeing the positive use made by local St John Ambulance volunteers of the vehicle in the future as they continue the charity's life saving mission.'

For more information about the Mark Master Masons and the Mark Benevolent Fund, please visit www.glmmm.com and www.markbenevolence.org.uk. For more information about St John Ambulance, please visit www.sja.org.uk. For more information about the Order of St John in England, please visit www.stjohnengland.org.uk.

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To find out more about this story or to arrange an interview, please contact Lesley Cann, St John Ambulance Regional PR Officer - North, on 07875 707304 or at Lesley.cann@sja.org.uk

To find out more about the Order of St John and the Priory of England and the Islands, please contact Ian Groves, Priory PR Lead, on 07973 839285 or at ian.groves@sja.org.uk

For enquiries about the Mark Master Masons and the Mark Benevolent Fund, please contact Darren Coleman, Charities Manager, on 020 7747 1187 or at d.coleman@mmh.org.uk

Notes to editors:

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.

About the Order of St John

The Order of St John, which can trace its roots back over 900 years, is a major international charity with a worldwide footprint of over 250,000 volunteers and staff, delivering 16 million hours of volunteering each year to help people in the community. Its work is centred on delivering first aid and care, along with education and training to improve community health. St John Ambulance, the nation's leading first aid charity, is the operational arm of the Order of St John in England. Visit the Order's website for more information or to donate to any of its charitable projects at www.orderofstjohn.org.

About St John Ambulance

St John Ambulance is the nation's leading first aid charity.

Every year, more than 400,000 people learn how to save a life through our training programmes, including hundreds of thousands of young people. Our volunteers provide first aid in their communities, keeping people safe at events, and working alongside the NHS in response to 999 calls. We're also always campaigning to raise awareness of first aid and directly educate the public.

First aid is such a simple skill, but it has an incredible impact. We want everyone to learn it, so that they can be the difference between a life lost and a life saved.