



Tips for the Almoner

The Almoner was traditionally a chaplain or church officer who was in charge of distributing money to the deserving poor. Today the role involves overseeing the needs of the brethren of the Lodge and the widows of deceased brethren, by looking after their welfare and acting as a contact for charity, and it includes visits to the sick, aged and infirm. Here are a few tips to assist the Almoner in the role:

For Brethren

1. Keep an eye on brethren and report to lodge when ill or infirm.
2. In contacting brethren or family and seeking advice on the condition of a Brother be careful not to invade the privacy of the Brother or the family. A general enquiry on behalf of the lodge will suffice to let them know that we are there to help if required. Inform them that we missed the brother at the last meeting. Be careful not to upset the family or make it look like the lodge is invading their privacy.
3. If a brother passes to the GLA then the almoner needs to ensure a representative of the lodge contacts the family asap. This may be the almoner but it could be the Master or another brother known to the family. Refer to the Tool '*Masonic Remembrance at a Brothers Funeral*'. This tool also covers the Masonic Tribute. Whoever makes the approach should let the family know who we are and offer our assistance if they need it. Give advice only, don't take over.
4. Ensure advice is given about the Square and Compasses on the casket. Do not push this aspect, as all decisions are the families.

For Widows

5. Contact widows of the lodge at least 4 times per year. First contact let them know who you are and the lodge that you represent, and enquire after their wellbeing. Offer any assistance that you can supply.
6. Let them know about Lodge functions, and if they wish to partake in these functions who to contact.
7. Often it is a good idea to have a lady with you so that she can converse on other matters. Personal contact is the key to build up trust with the person.

These are a few pointers. There will be others which your District Benevolence Officer can assist with.

