



Berkshire-based volunteers with St John Ambulance, the nation's leading first aid charity, are celebrating taking delivery of a new mobile treatment centre which will be based at the charity's Woodley unit in Reading.

The treatment centre was officially presented to St John Ambulance on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018 and 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 throughout 2018.

The vehicles have been secured thanks to a capital grant by the Grand Lodge of 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 Woodley vehicle will be put to use at events in the county and region as volunteers deliver lifesaving first aid to members of the public.

R.W.Bro. Richard Olliver, Provincial Grand Master for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Berkshire said: 'The provision of this Mobile Treatment Centre meets our highest ideals in our charitable endeavours - those of saving human life and the rapid relief of pain and suffering caused by accident and illness. As Provincial Grand Master for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Berkshire and on behalf of the Mark Benevolent Fund it gives



me great pleasure, once again, to join in partnership with St John Ambulance and we wish all who have need of the services of this vehicle, a swift and speedy recovery.'

Clive Lawson Smith, Chair of the Berkshire 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 Berkshire 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.'

A number of local dignitaries attended the event on Saturday, held at Church Road, Woodley, including CPG President, James Puxley, HM Lord-Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire. Joining him was Canon Graham Foulis Brown, who was commissioned as the new County Chaplain for St John Ambulance in Berkshire. He takes over the spiritual, pastoral and religious duties of the Berkshire CPG and, following his commissioning, dedicated the new vehicle.





