

## **Support for Clergy Spouses**

The wellbeing of clergy and their families has always been a key aspect of our life as a diocese. Invariably the clergy themselves have access to a range of resources specific to their professional needs and development. However, we are also committed to establishing networks of support available to spouses and their families, as well as the specific help that may be needed in times of difficulty.

We are fully aware that whatever the chosen level of involvement in the ministry of the clergy person, there are inescapable effects on the spouse and household. Some of these will be experienced positively. However, some will cause stresses and strains. Living in the parish provides a readymade circle of friends and contacts but also can make boundary setting between public and private life difficult to manage. Living in a clergy house can be a blessing but also has the inevitable consequence of the interruptions to family life due to it also being the priest's place of work. While there is a readymade community in the parish, it is not uncommon for spouses to feel a degree of isolation, especially when in a more dispersed rural setting.

This aim of this website page is to provide information on resources available to clergy spouses and their families. We hope that it is helpful. However, we are keen to add to our resources and therefore would be pleased to receive suggestions as to additional areas of need, help, and support.

As a diocese we seek to shape our life together in the way of Jesus, responding in our relationships to the compassionate heart of God. We know that it is in the way that we relate to one another and the way that we care for one another that His Gospel is proclaimed.

*Bishops Nick, Andrew, and Karen; Archdeacons Alan, Penny, Antony, and Sue*