

Ministry Matters

Clergy Support Trust

The Trustees of the Clergy Support Trust (formerly Sons & Friends of the Clergy) provides grants and other support for Anglican clergy (serving or retired), ordinands and the dependent family members of clergy, including the separated/ divorced spouses of clergy.

In 2019, the charity gave out over 1,600 grants totalling over £3.1m to around 900 clergy households, a two-thirds increase on the previous year. The full range of grants and other support provided are detailed on the charity's new and award-winning website, which includes a quick eligibility checker and online application form. In summary the charity provides the following to ordained clergy and their dependants:

- Emergency grants of up to £500 for sudden unexpected costs such as broken appliances or car repairs
- Financial support grants for clergy households which are struggling with their finances (means-tested)
- Debt support for clergy families struggling with unsustainable levels of personal unsecured debt, working in partnership with StepChange Debt Advice Charity and the Churches' Mutual Credit Union
- Health & Wellbeing grants to help promote healthy work/ life balances, including grants for relationship and family counselling

Apart from the means-tested financial support grants, the only financial test is in relation to savings assets: clergy who own a property must have savings of less than £16k to be eligible for help. All grants are viewed on their own merits.

The charity is completely independent and treats all applicant information confidentially.

If you know of a clergy household who may need some help, they can contact the Trust on 0800 389 5192 or by email on grants@clergysupport.org.uk.

The charity also supports those training for ordained Anglican ministry with health grants and an excellent free resource, which is also available to all curates-in-training: the Clergy Support Trust Library, a partnership with SPCK which provides access to over 1,100 SPCK and IVP titles in e-book format.

This resource is proving invaluable with the closure of TEI and other libraries.

The charity is keen to work directly with dioceses on promoting its work to eligible beneficiaries.

If you have any questions about the Clergy Support Trust, then please email the Chief Executive, Jeremy Moodey, jeremy.moodey@clergysupport.org.uk.