



Clergy Support Trust

Media Pack

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Social media

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Bluesky | @clergysupport
X | @ClergySupportUK

Who we are

Clergy Support Trust are the largest charity supporting Anglican clergy and their families, including their partners, former partners and children.

We are independent, impartial, inclusive and confidential. We walk alongside clergy households in times of need - from training to moving role, and into retirement - and we've been privileged to do so for almost 400 years.

In 2024, we supported almost 2,800 households, with more than £6m across over 6,700 grants. This is the highest annual number of people ever supported by the charity. This includes more than 1 in 5 of all serving Church of England and Church in Wales clergy, as well as those in the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Church of Ireland.

What we do

Serving and retired clergy households can access a variety of financial support, including:

- **Emergency grants** for those unexpected costs which catch us all off-guard, from energy bills and car repairs to replacing your washing machine.
- **Health grants** to provide support with short or long-term, physical or mental health conditions. This includes mobility aids, dentistry or diagnostic tests.
- **Wellbeing grants** towards fitness activities, spiritual retreats or a much-needed holiday, supporting with physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.

We also offer a number of services through our trusted partners, such as:

- **Counselling sessions** for a range of difficulties, including pastoral issues, anxiety, bereavement, separation and relationships.
- **Insomnia therapy**, delivered online by clinicians and sleep experts.
- **Debt support**, with access to advice and management plans.

In the past two years, we've also launched a Will Writing Service, a Coaching Service and a programme of Wellbeing Workshops, exploring topics such as stress and resilience, building a healthy team and trauma-informed ministry in dioceses across the UK.

As well as providing grants and services for those in need, we're working with the national Churches and others to develop longer-term solutions, so that every clergy household can thrive.

Our Chief Executive

The Revd Ben Cahill-Nicholls has been Chief Executive of Clergy Support Trust since 2020.

After studying Music at Cambridge University, Ben began his career in the civil service, and was an adviser to both the Laming Report and the House of Commons Education Committee. Following three years' formation at St Augustine's College, Ben was ordained in 2021.

Ben has been a trustee of several charities, including as founder-chair of the youth arts charity RicNic; is a Fellow of the Westminster Abbey Institute; and has been a governor of three Church of England schools.

He lives with his wife, son and daughter in Tilford, Surrey, where he is the parish priest.



Some of our applicants

Sarah and Maddie's story

Sarah is a curate in the West Midlands, where she lives with her husband, Mike, and daughters, Maddie and Nancy.

Maddie has cerebral palsy; she struggles with her coordination and gets tired very easily.

Shortly before her 17th birthday, she qualified to represent Team GB at the 2024 Paralympics in Paris, while still studying for her GCSEs!

There was just one problem: with three weeks between learning that she'd qualified, and traveling to France, the family had to work out how they would afford the trip.

We were delighted to provide a Wellbeing grant to relieve the financial strain, and to ensure that the whole family could be there for this once-in-a-lifetime moment.

"It's the most surreal experience to watch your child achieve their dream, doing what they love. It was an incredible moment for our family."



Joseph's story

Joseph moved from Nigeria to the UK, with his wife and four children, to study.

He later joined St Mary's Church in Luton, where he is a non-stipendiary minister.

When utility prices soared, Joseph spiralled into debt. Not knowing where to turn, grants from Clergy Support Trust have been vital in helping the family get back on their feet.

"People see us as religious leaders, but they forget we're human beings. The Trust care about your wellbeing and there's counselling too."



Sara and Graham's story

Sara is the Clergy Household Support Officer for the Diocese of London and a clergy spouse.

She and her husband, Graham have had a relationship with the Trust for many years.

As the saying goes, when it rains, it pours, and when car repairs, dental fees and school expenses all came round at once, Sara and her family were confident that Clergy Support Trust could lend a hand.

"There's no need to feel embarrassed about needing support. We're all in this same boat together."



Where you may have seen us

CHURCH OF IRELAND
GAZETTE

The Guardian

Premier.

BBC RADIO



CHURCH TIMES

The Church of England
Newspaper

COUNTRY LIFE

Background

CHURCH TIMES

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Clergy Support Trust helps one fifth of serving clerics

by MADELEINE DAVIES
03 MAY 2024

Charity argues that Church is complicit in failure to provide clergy essentials

Breakdown of 2023 grants by category

Category	Percentage
Financial Support Grant	42%
Emergency Grant	25%
Health Grant	17%
Ordinand Health Grant	14%
Wellbeing Grant	1%
Debt Support	1%

Total grants: £6.2m

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2024/3-may/news/uk/clergy-support-trust-helps-one-fifth-of-serving-clerics>

Dr Liz Graveling's Annual Assembly keynote

The Senior Researcher shared some concerning statistics, including a suggestion that 1 in 5 incumbents in her study had probable clinical depression.

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Clergy Support Trust's Annual Assembly took place on Thursday 10 October 2024, at St. Mellitus College, the largest theological college in the Church of England.

Our Trustee, The Revd Nancy Goodrich, Vicar of Bollington in the Diocese of Chester, led a Eucharist in the morning. Our Senior Treasurer, Richard Farmbrough and Chief Executive, The Revd Ben Cahill-Nicholls then presented the Treasurers' Report and the Chief Executive's Report.

We were also delighted to welcome Dr Liz Graveling, Senior Researcher at The Church of England, to give this year's keynote speech to our Governors. Liz explored wellbeing, and the challenges posed to the wellbeing of serving clergy, especially those in their first incumbency.

She shared some eye-opening, concerning statistics, including a suggestion that 1 in 5 incumbents in her study had probable clinical depression, and that 1 in 3 may have mild depression. She also found that 42% were anxious about their financial situation.

www.clergysupport.org.uk/news-post/dr-liz-gravelings-annual-assembly-keynote

CHURCH TIMES

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Clergy Support Trust helped me, says curate whose training was hit by lockdown

by PAUL WILKINSON
04 FEBRUARY 2022

The Revd Matt Grove and the motorhome in which he lived

www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2022/4-february/news/uk/clergy-support-trust-helped-me-says-curate-whose-training-was-hit-by-lockdown

The Church of England Newspaper

28 June, 2025, £2.00 Established in 1858 No: 6625

Clergy are going to charity, says Trade Union in bid for stipend rise

Clergy trade unionists have for the first time submitted a claim for a stipend increase citing the cost-of-living crisis for a 9.5 per cent bid.

The Unite trade union which represents some 2000 clergy pointed to the recent growth of the Church Commissioner's current fund to £10.3 billion with average yearly investment growth of 10.2 per cent.

Sam Maggiasis, a clergyman and Unite activist said that clergy had to turn to charity to make ends meet. He declared: "Clergy have been working tirelessly to support their local communities through the cost-of-living crisis: facilitating and coordinating vital services and activities, providing personal care and guidance to individuals in need, and speaking hope and a sense of togetherness in unstable and uncertain times."

He said that all clergy should be paid at a level "that secures relief from financial hardship, promotes personal wellbeing and enables them to effectively serve and support their local communities."

He argued that the increase brought pay back into line with inflation while addressing hardship and anxiety of clergy families.

Unite Church of England and Employee Advocates (CEECA) was invited to submit proposals to the Church of England's Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee (RACSC) after lobbying the church over the hardship clergy were experiencing. CEECA pointed to recent research by the charity, Clergy Support Trust which revealed that nearly one-fifth of clergy households turned to them for charitable aid in 2023 to make ends meet.

CEECA's claim, if accepted, would start from April 2025 and would result in the national minimum stipend increasing from £29,340 to £31,855. Each diocese then use this national stipend benchmark to set individual stipends for their clergy. Sharon Graham of Unite said: "The Church of England has billions in the bank and can fully afford to pay its clergy the modest increase in their stipend they are seeking. The clergy deserve a clear message for the Church of faith in the hereafter: Unite is fighting for a better deal for them in the here and now."

"The Church of England has billions in the bank and can fully afford to pay its clergy the modest increase in their stipend they are seeking," Sharon Graham, Unite

www.clergysupport.org.uk/news