

Clergy Support Trust

# Media Pack

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#### Media enquiries

Catherine Cashmore

Head of External Relations

hello@clergysupport.org.uk

#### Social media

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#### 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.

## Clergy Support Trust

#### 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-ina-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."



# Clergy Support

#### 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







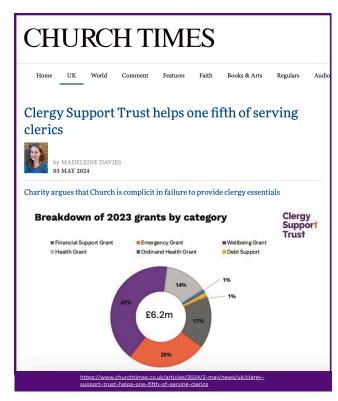


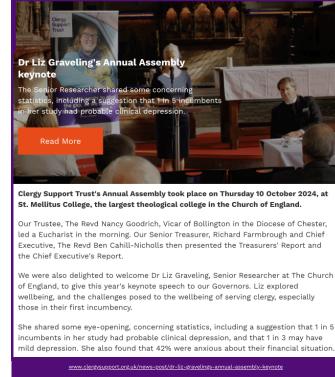


The Church of England COUNTRY LIFE

### Clergy Support Trust

#### Background









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