

REST FROM DUTY

Our Chairman on the difference that a Holiday Grant from the English Clergy Association Benefit fund can make

Holidays for clergy are a very particular concern at this time of year for the English Clergy Association's charitable fund. It is a considerable fund, and largely an inherited fund so far as the current trustees are concerned, but it can never be large enough. We have read in the press that a third of clergy rely upon charity in order to live – and holidays are a vital part of living. So I am unashamedly asking readers to consider to whom they could show this middle-spread inset from our magazine, in the real hope of their "topping up" the trustees' resources with a donation.

Clergy incomes are not large – indeed, with stipend statements the Church Commissioners have sent out to clergy details of how to apply for Tax Credits. The Ministry Division of the Archbishops' Council encourages clergy to telephone the Tax Credit Helpline or collect application packs from the Inland Revenue Enquiry Centre. So you will not be surprised to know that many of our holiday grants are for larger rather than smaller amounts, and we see the need for them as increasing. Most clergy find their incomes inadequate even for a modest lifestyle, as it is, comparatively by English standards – and often very unfair to the children, who come off badly compared with friends at school.

The E.C.A. Benefit Fund is Registered Charity No.258559. Legacies are especially welcome now as in the past. For many charities legacies are even more important than donations. Large sums can be invested to improve future income. But any immediate gift you can make, whether by Gift Aid or not, is hugely appreciated. The Fund is a small charity employing no staff and run by a group of independent trustees from The Old School, Norton Hawkfield, Near Pensford, Bristol BS39 4HB (telephone 01275 830017). Whatever giving you can solicit will 100% benefit clergy in need of a rest from duty – including their families, who may not have seen quite so much of Dad during the working week as they would like, and who, with him, need a holiday just as much as anyone else. I should imagine that a holiday is, or ought to be, part of Human Rights! There is, with the clergy, this stark difference: they cannot have a real holiday at home – interruptions continue, necessarily. After all, the parsonage is a place of work. Going away costs money – even if it is only petrol for a visit to stay with friends. Even someone else's vicarage is a pleasant change – as well I know, having much enjoyed the privilege – but why should clergy be unable to rent a cottage or to travel in France? Please help us to help them.

Our Honorary Almoner explains who is eligible and how to apply

The Association is able to make grants towards “a rest from duty” to those who are:

- (a) clergy of the Church of England, engaged in full time ministry or part time ministry in the Church; or
- (b) clergy engaged in some other employment, occupation or calling; or
- (c) clergy who have retired from ministry in the Church or from other employment, occupation or calling but who perform duties calculated to advance the work of the Church of England.

Applications for grants, from the English Clergy Association Benefit Fund (registered charity no.258559), should be made to:

The Hon. Almoner, The Rev'd J. Charles Stallard, Greengates, Cae Melyn, Aberystwyth SY23 2HA

***The Association and the Trustees of the Benefit Fund
record their grateful thanks to Canon John Thompstone
for his years as honorary almoner***

A note from the ECA Treasurer, John Hanks:

You can now nominate the English Clergy Association Benefit Fund to receive all or part of any tax refund due to you. Please complete Section 19A on page 8 of your Self Assessment Tax Return, entering code UAH88UG in box 19A.3. If you are able to tick the Gift Aid declaration, your donation will be augmented by a further 28%.

Thank-you postcards recently received....

Recipients of holiday grants from the Benefit Fund of the English Clergy Association are encouraged to send a postcard to the Association when they are on holiday. Among those who have been in touch with us recently, the following have commented:

“....sleeping better, walking better, eating better, reading better – I am so grateful to the ECA for making this possible and so beneficial....”

“it would have been impossible to have this break were it not for the very generous help of the English Clergy Association; it has been a delight, and greatly appreciated...”

“...enjoying a marvellously restorative time... - thank you so much for the kind support of the ECA...”

“...thank you very much for your great help towards our honeymoon....”

“... because of the wonderful, generous holiday grant we are enjoying a splendid, restful and rejuvenating holiday here....”

“...Thank you to all at the English Clergy Association ...This time the whole family has been able to come and renew friendships made through our diocesan link....”

“Thank you.... It has been a splendid fortnight and re-charged the batteries to face the parish...”

“...your grant has made it possible...thank you so much....”

“...the ECA grant towards my family's holiday here has meant that our two children are able to have a wonderful time with their grandparents who work out here...”

“...Once again, thanks to the Association for the generosity... enabling us to have a relaxing and enjoyable late holiday...”

WILLS — Making a Donation in your Will

The Association and our Benefit Fund are helped greatly if there are legacies and bequests. By making a posthumous gift of money or property you may also reduce your estate's Inheritance Tax liability.

The options for a donation in your Will are:

- a legacy of a specific sum
- a bequest of specific property
- a bequest of the residue of your estate or a share of it with other charities or individuals

What to do to help us in your WILL:

If you wish to include a donation in your WILL please first consult your solicitor.

A simple form of legacy might include the following words:

"I hereby bequeath, free of tax, the sum of £ _____ to the English Clergy Association Benefit Fund (Registered Charity No. 258559) OR to The English Clergy Association (The Old School, Norton Hawkfield, Bristol BS39 4HB) and the receipt of the Hon. Treasurer or other proper Officer for the time being of the English Clergy Association shall be a complete discharge of such legacy."

This wording can easily be adapted to cover the bequest of a property or of all, or part of, the residue of your estate. In any case of doubt please ask your solicitor or get in touch with the Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer. This is especially appreciated if you intend to lay down conditions as to how the bequest should be used.