

# The English Clergy Association

*Report of the Council for the year ended 31 December 2021*

## **The Council of the Association**

The members of the Council who served during the year were:

Dr Peter Smith (*Chairman, ex officio*)

The Rev'd Canon Peter Johnson (*Hon. Treasurer, ex officio*)

The Rev'd Richard Hall (*Hon. Almoner, ex officio*)

The Rev'd Mark Binney (*Registrar, to AGM 2024*)

The Rev'd Alec Brown (*to AGM 2024*)

The Rev'd Canon Derek Earis (*to AGM 2024*)

The Rev'd Canon Simon Godfrey (*to AGM 2024*)

Mr Anthony Jennings (*to AGM 2024*)

The Rev'd Dr Melanie Marshall (*to AGM 2024*)

The Rev'd Cassa Messervy (*to AGM 2024*)

## **Status**

The English Clergy Association is an unincorporated association which exists to support in fellowship all Clerks in Holy Orders in their Vocation and Ministry within the Church of England as by law established. It seeks to be a mutual resource for clergy, patrons and churchwardens requiring information or insight, to monitor bureaucracy and legislative and other processes of change in the Church; and to promote in every available way the good of English parish and cathedral life and the welfare of the clergy.

Contact with the Association may be made through the addresses given on the Association's website.

The English Clergy Association Benefit Fund is a registered charity (no. 258559), which gives holiday grants to clergy of the Church of England to enable them to take a rest from duty. In 2021 a total of £18,425 was granted to 37 clergy.

The fund operates under a Charity Commission scheme dated 14 December 1994. The Chairman and Almoner of the Association are *ex officio* Trustees. The other Trustees are appointed by the Council for a

term of four years, subject to approval by the Trustees. Separate accounts are prepared for the Benefit Fund as required by law.

## **Review of the year**

During the year the Association continued to publish its journal *Parson and Parish*.

Covid-19 restrictions meant that the work of the Association was carried on by electronic means. The AGM in May was also conducted in this way. The Council expects that in 2022 regular "in person" meetings will resume.

At the AGM there was an expression of views about the future work of the Association in the light of actual or proposed developments in the administration of the Church of England, as these might affect the parochial system, the ministry of the Church, the situation of the clergy, the support of lay office holders and the role of patrons.

## **Future developments**

The Council continues to seek to widen the membership of the Association, and to make known to all clergy of the Church of England the grants available through its charitable trust.

The Association seeks to keep its members informed of legal and other developments that may affect the position of clergy as well as making representations where appropriate in the press and more directly, as required.

On behalf of the Council