

The English Clergy Association

Report of the Council for the year ended 31 December 2020

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 2021*)

The Rev'd Alec Brown (*to AGM 2021*)

The Rev'd Canon Derek Earis (*to AGM 2021*)

The Rev'd Canon Simon Godfrey (*to AGM 2021*)

Mr Anthony Jennings (*to AGM 2021*)

The Rev'd Dr Melanie Marshall (*from 10 March*) (*to AGM 2021*)

The Rev'd Cassa Messervy (*to AGM 2021*)

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 2020 a total of £16,460 was granted to 40 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*.

The Council met in March, just before the first covid-19 restrictions came into force. No meetings were held in May. Basing itself on guidance for the charity sector issued by the Charity Commissioners, the Council met via video link in October and resolved that the Annual General Meeting be postponed until it was safe and practical to hold it, and meanwhile confirmed that the terms of office of Council members which expired in 2020 should continue until the following AGM, and that the Chairman and Honorary Officers (Treasurer, Honorary Almoner) should likewise continue in office until the conclusion of the next AGM.

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