

# The Charity for Licensed Ministers in the Diocese of Chelmsford

(formerly known as the Essex clergy charity corporation)

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## **Deanery reps**

The role of a Deanery representative is

- To make the Deanery aware of the role and business of the charity,
- To encourage PCCs and individuals to consider contributing to the charity, and/or to make a collection for the charity at a special service (e.g. a licensing, institution or confirmation)
- To make those who might qualify for a grant aware that they might be eligible

Sometimes ministers find it difficult to promote a charity whose main object is, primarily, to assist ministers in the Diocese, as they may not consider themselves to be greatly in need. However, there are times that we can help, and there are many in stipendiary ministry with children, who do not have a spouse in paid employment, for whom our summer grants are very much appreciated.

The summer grants are means tested.

- If the household income of a person in stipendiary ministry is below 1¼ times the average clergy stipend, then they can apply for children's grants, clothing grants, grants for Higher Education, grants for educational trips, and grants for college visits for interview.
- If their household income is above 1¼ but below 1½ times the average clergy stipend they can claim a clothing grant payable at four critical times in a child's educational life.

We also make other grants as follows

- We provide fixed grants to the next of kin at the death of a minister who received a stipend and whose last post was in the diocese; and we can help their widows or widowers in times of need
- We make means-tested grants for those retiring from stipendiary ministry
- We provide fixed grants at the birth of a child to those in stipendiary ministry
- Emergency and compassionate grants – we can respond quickly to a request – usually from a bishop or archdeacon, concerning any need that falls within our Objects.
- We also make a substantial grant to the archdeacons' discretionary funds, which they use to help ministers to fund their annual holiday.

Finally, with the change made to our Objects in February 2020, the above now includes licensed lay ministers – LLMs, Church Army Officers and Licensed Lay Workers. Because our funds are limited, this applies only, for the time being, to such ministers who have a role equivalent to that of an incumbent

In the year to 31st March 2019, our grants totalled over £60,000.

Our income is made up of income from historic funds, and donations from parishes and individuals, and increasingly from collections at special services e.g. confirmations and inductions. However, in recent years, we have also had to realise some capital to balance our books. We are working to minimise this as we do not believe it is sustainable in the current economic climate

Our Annual General meeting is in October when deanery representatives and other supporters are invited to attend. The 2020 AGM is on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October, beginning at 1pm with lunch in the Chapter House, Legg Road, Chelmsford. Please let me know if you plan to attend (for catering purposes)

The Revd Canon Martin Wood  
Secretary  
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