



Clergy Family Network - The Data

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What is different about Clergy Families?

47%

of spouses

HAVE A PERSONAL CALLING THEY FOLLOW

79%

of spouses

IDENTIFY AS C OF E CHRISTIAN

Employment



28%
PART TIME



20%
FULL TIME



18%
PRIMARY CARER
FOR CHILDREN



12%
VOLUNTEER



12%
SELF-EMPLOYED



10%
OTHER

We asked over 500 clergy spouses “how do you like being a clergy spouse?”

The average score was

6.7 / 10



Being a clergy family is unique.

Our data comes from an online survey of over 500 Church of England clergy partners.

If I need support, I would feel comfortable approaching...

Friends	70.79%
Partner, to contact someone in the diocese	40.17%
Prayer group/peer group	32.92%
I wouldn't seek help through the church	29.38%
Archdeacon	19.46%
I don't need more support	18.23%
Other position of church responsibility	15.92%
Bishop	14.69%
Partners line manager/training incumbent	14.3%
I don't have anyone to contact	11.7%
I want more support	10.8%
Other	2.3%
Family	1.76%
Councillor	0.53%
Spiritual director	0.53%
Other clergy spouses	0.35%

There are wonderful opportunities, but sometimes we can't share the harder things with people around us.

Friends and Prayer groups can help and we will help clergy families build up these connections. We will also seek to build a picture of what formal support is available and identify gaps where more is needed.

There are already a lot of support services in existence for clergy families. However it can be difficult to find information unless you are already in a network. We will support more sharing of information and seek to communicate this information directly to spouses and clergy families, especially when they are in a period of transition (moving, curacy, retirement).

We/I would really like...

National org to represent clergy households	40%
Handbook for all clergy partners	38.9%
Diocese specific handbook	35.6%
Occasional conference style meetup	31.2%
Group of people in similar life position	30.3%
Information and links online	26.4%
Spiritual support	25.3%
Local support group	23.9%
Local org to provide support	23.5%
Online support group	22.65%
Local support for children	16.8%
Marriage support	12.2%
Online support for children	10.1%
None	8.84%
Parenting support	8.8%
Other	2.65%
Changes to clergy work time	0.7%
Leave the church	0.53%
Counselling	0.35%

CFN will cover the whole of the Church of England. We will put together online information, link people to local groups and, where local groups don't exist, support spouses to set up their own groups. We will encourage specialist support to cover gaps and help identify funding for this important work.

Would you be interested in more information on any of the following?

Financial Support	44.8%
Retreat Spaces	36.8%
Personal Support-Spiritual	36.3%
Meeting spouses in my area	34.5%
Peer Support Locally	33.1%
Personal Support for my Mental health/wellbeing	32.4%
Housing and how to resolve housing issues	31%
Meeting others in similar life stage	28%
Advice when moving to new area	26.1%
Retiring from stipendary life	23.2%
Support when parenting in clergy context	22.7%
Professionals to contact for financial support	19.8%
General information database	19.3%
Safeguarding or protecting my family	17.9%
Personal support for my child spiritually	17.5%
Knowing when and where we will move with more notice	17.5%
Peer support online	16.5%
None	9.4%
Information on health issues	8.87%
Pre -selection information on financial and other support	4.3%
Other	1.94%
Clergy Spouse Support	1.08%
LGBTQ+ Issues	0.35%

There is clear evidence that clergy families have unique needs to be met. Some of these can be helped with the above commitments. We want others to join us in supporting clergy families, including The Church of England at national and Diocesan level. We will also continue to build relationships with those fantastic organisations who are already doing so much to support clergy families.

As a household, we have experienced or are currently experiencing...

Issues with isolation/ making friends	44%
Difficulties creating time off/for us	42.8%
Manage expectations of partner	35.4%
Housing challenges	31.7%
Impact of clergy household life on children	31.3%
Difficulties with personal circumstances	28.84%
Parenting in clergy context	28.5%
Current church not meeting family needs	25.3%
Impact of frequent moves on children	23.9%
Not feeling heard by diocese	23.9%
Issues with how partners role is managed	23.4%
Challenges around money management	15.92%
Need for support with career	15.4%
Requiring support for disability	14.15%
Transition Into/Out of college	6.4%
No issues	6.37%
LGBTQ+ support	5.1%
Issues with maternity leave, etc	3.9%
Other	3.53%
Racism	2.10%
Issues with harassment	1.06%
Issues with curacy	0.88%
Issues with the diocese	0.7%
Issues with work/life balance	0.53%

Our Pledges

- 1

We will be a **national registered charity**, available to all clergy partners, children and household members.
- 2

We will seek to **communicate directly with partners** to give them all the information they need for their family. Especially at times of changes such as college and moving house.
- 3

We will provide **clear online information** to clergy families.
- 4

We will **raise the profile of existing services and information about clergy family life**. Including acting as a signpost to local groups and discrete online groups for those with specific needs.
- 5

We will **build up and share a picture of what formal support already exists for clergy families**. Particularly charities and services tailored to the need of clergy households.
- 6

We will **encourage setting up of further specialist support** and help identify funding where needed to build up services which directly meet the needs of clergy households.
- 7

We will **provide information, guidance and a listening ear to group leaders and support those who want to start new support groups**. This includes groups based in a particular area or virtual groups focused on a similar life circumstance.

Big Questions

How can we support those who need to move during training?

What can we do to reduce the impact of expectations?

When home is your partner's work or church is your parent's job, how can we keep our boundaries?

Where can I already get help?

CLERGY SUPPORT TRUST
A range of grants and support services
clergysupport.org.uk

ST LUKE'S HEALTHCARE
Support for Clergy Families to access health care - stlukesforclergy.org.uk

SHELDON
Retreat centre for clergy, spouses/ partners and families - SheldonRetreat.com
Online Chat Space/resources - SheldonHub.org

BROKEN RITES
BrokenRites.org for clergy spouses experiencing divorce

DIOCESE SERVICES
Your diocese may have support services already, check their website for information.

SPECIALIST FACEBOOK GROUPS
There are general groups for clergy spouses as well as specific groups for clergy families with disabled children, single parent families and more. Get in touch if you need help finding them.

Join or Start your local Facebook Group.

We can put you in touch with a local group or if there isn't one, we can help you get started. Email or message us.



CFN Mission Statement

Clergy Family Network will support and encourage clergy families and households, advocate on their behalf, and collate and distribute information on a local and national level.

How can I help?

DONATE

ClergyFamilyNetwork.com/SupportUs

VOLUNTEER

Email ClergyFamilyNetwork@gmail.com

START/ JOIN A LOCAL GROUP

Contact us for support

SHARE OUR STATS

Tag us in your posts & share the message

FOLLOW OUR FACEBOOK & TWITTER

Like & share our content. Share your own story and tag us. How has being a clergy family impacted you? Our own stories help people understand the unique impact on us & our families.

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