

We are committed to the welfare of our ordinands, with a broad package of financial support to see you through your ordination training.

Profile of female clergy member holding bible

Keith Blundy

Financial support available

Your tuition fees will be paid for you by your diocese, funded by a block grant from the Church of England's Ministry Division. We also have a series of grants available to support your living, study, and travel costs.

The amount you receive depends primarily on the type of training pathway you are following and the extent of your own financial circumstances.

Any questions on financial support should be directed to your diocese.

- [Financial information for recommended candidates](#)
- [Ordination Training Grant Form](#)

Testimony: Rachel Bedford

Rachel was unsure what vocation looked like. Her story shows having a family can be a strength to ministry, not a burden.

If God is calling you he'll make it work

Woman curate preaching

Right now I'm doing my curacy, having recently completed training at St Mellitus. I live in curates' accommodation and receive a stipend.

Women have been getting ordained for a long time, but there are not many women church leaders in the more evangelical, charismatic churches that I am in. So when I was exploring what God was calling me to, a big part of it was wondering "What does vocation look like for people in this type of church who are like me?"

I took that to my vicar. He was amazing and was a huge champion of me and my gifting. Looking back, I truly believe that when I articulated that calling for the very first time, which was to him, the fact I was affirmed and encouraged was really significant.

My Diocesan Director of Ordinands was also incredibly encouraging and said "I believe God's calling you. Don't worry about your gender or your age or any of things you want to do, like be a mum or whatever. If God is calling you then he'll make it work".

I became a mother during training. My tutor gave me full choice as to whether I wanted to take time out and come back, or to just keep going. I was never pushed one way or the other.

Juggling ministry and childcare is made easier by having an understanding boss. The vicar knows that my husband also works full time, so is unable to do childcare during the normal work week. I've heard other curates say the vicar doesn't really get it, because they have a stay-at-home spouse, so I think there's still work to do around that. My vicar though totally gets it. He realises that within our community there are tons of young families, so having a curate doing the young family thing is a brilliant way to connect. He always says "We need to make this work for you because I want you here to minister to these people".

I'm so passionate about my ministry. Often when I chat to other women, they have found it difficult. I feel like I want to counterbalance that and talk about how great my experience has been, because I've felt supported every step of the way. If that good practice could be more widely shared then brilliant, there's definitely a path there for women called to do it.

Rachel Bedford

[To read more about The Church of England's guidance on parental support click here.](#)

Help in emergencies

Supported by the Church Times, the Train a Priest fund provides grants to ordinands experiencing special hardship.

We recognise that sometimes life throws you unexpected challenges, and we do our best to ensure that when this happens your training is not affected.

If you need to apply for a special hardship grant you can do so through your diocese or college/course.

Continuing students (who started prior to 2017)

If you started training prior to 2017 the financing for your training will have been slightly different to what is described elsewhere on this website.

We've recently revamped the way we fund ministerial education, to ensure we are able to continue to support the growth we want to see. It's being introduced in stages, so if you started training before 2017 you will continue to be funded directly from Ministry Division as before.

Support for dyslexic, deaf, or disabled candidates

Disability is no barrier to exploring your calling. There are many ministers, both lay and ordained who live with disability, yet nonetheless flourish in ministry.

Our commitment is to help you discover what kind of calling is best suited to you, and to ensure you are able to fully access ordination training.

Reasonable adjustments will be made to enable you to access selection and training on an equal basis with those who are not disabled. But we want to go beyond that. We want to be an enabling church rather than a disabling church.

It may well be that you want advice and encouragement from others who have faced the same challenges as you do. In this case our [National Disability Adviser, Roy McCloughry](#) and our [National Deaf Ministry Adviser, Gill Behenna](#) may be able to put you in touch with somebody who has been ordained or is working as a lay minister who can encourage you and answer your questions.

Additional support is also available to support dyslexic, deaf, or disabled ordinands through training. In the first instance you should contact your Diocesan Director of Ordinands, or the principal of your theological education institution for more information.

You may also like to take a look at some the organisations we work with:

[The Torch Trust](#) Fellowship and resources for people with sight loss

[Through the Roof](#) Making the good news available to everyone

[Churches for All](#) Creating a better church environment for disabled people

Explore more

Your pathway

Theological training and the courses on offer.

Understanding selection

Our guide to the criteria used by bishop's advisers. Selection for ordained ministry is about discerning what God has called you to do.

Ordinand

Someone who is currently being trained to be a member of the clergy.

Diocese

Main administrative and pastoral area in the Church of England – often roughly coincides with local county boundaries. There are 42 dioceses.

Source URL: <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/vocations/preparing-ordained-ministry/financial-support-ordinands>