

**From the Chair of the Ministry Council, the Rt  
Revd Martin Seeley**

As ever, we are delighted that the *Church Times* is launching its annual Lent Train-A-Priest appeal. Last year, readers pledged £68,938, bringing the total value of donations since the fund began to more than four and a half million.

We are always overwhelmed by the readers' generosity. Every penny donated goes directly to ordinands, and from this year will be used exclusively to alleviate unforeseen financial hardship.

It's an exciting time for ministerial education in the Church of England: 544 new ordinands began training this academic year. This is the highest number in a decade, and a 14-per-cent increase on last year. The growth includes a 19-per-cent increase in women ordinands, who make up just over half this year's cohort. The number of young ordinands, aged 32 or under, is up 39 per cent.

These figures are very encouraging. We can see these signs of how God is at work in parishes and chaplaincies up and down the land. We are delighted that our faithful commitment to praying and working for an increase in the number of ordinands is bearing such fruit.

Training for ordination brings both sacrifice and blessing for the ordinands, and their families and friends. We have a broad package of financial support available to provide basic support through their training. But over and over again, ordinands experience unexpected financial needs, which can make their personal circumstances very challenging indeed.

This is where your readers come in. Their unceasing generosity funds a pot of money which allows us to support ordinands through special hardship, enabling them to continue to flourish as they set out along the path laid out for them. On behalf of every ordinand who has benefited, or will benefit, from this fund, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks.

May you all have a blessed Lent and a glorious Easter.

+ Martin Seeley

Last year's appeal brought the grand total raised by the TAP Fund over the years to

**£4,750,000**

*(that is, more than £9 million in current values)*

all for the direct maintenance and support of ordinands and their families.

### **A TAP prayer for Lent**

*For all who are training to be priests in the Church of England*

Almighty God,  
look mercifully on your Church  
and on all who offer themselves  
to be trained for the priesthood;  
so that by their labours your light  
may shine in the world,  
and the coming of your kingdom  
may be hastened;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

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Leave a legacy for ministry.  
Please remember the *Church Times*  
Train-A-Priest Fund in your will.

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**EVERY PENNY  
FOR MINISTRY**

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**How to give to TAP:  
the *Church Times*  
Train-A-Priest Fund**

**CHURCH TIMES**

## What does the TAP Fund do?

The **Church Times Train-A-Priest (TAP) Fund** was set up by Rosamund Essex, Editor of the *Church Times*, in 1952, when the number of Church of England ordinands who were married with children increased sharply. Since then the Fund has existed mainly to provide support for the dependants of married ordinands in theological college training.

More than 6293 ordinands and their families over the years have received valuable help from the Fund.

Until now, a small proportion of the TAP donations were directed into the Special Hardship Fund. In discussions with the Ministry Division, however, we have discovered that the demand for hardship grants far outstrips the money we have made available.

Typically, an ordinand who applies for a special hardship grant — perhaps because of a broken-down car, a failed computer, a faulty heating boiler, or something more serious, such as funeral expenses — receives just half what he or she asks for, and must look help elsewhere for the rest.

Another factor is that the C of E's recruitment drive is bearing fruit, and the number of ordinands is going up — and with it the number of applications for hardship grants.

**For these reasons, we have decided that everything raised in this year's TAP appeal will go into the Special Hardship Fund.**

We want to be in a position to promote the fund to ordinands, inviting them to approach the Ministry Division with confidence that their financial worries can be solved.

## How can I give to the Fund?

The Fund is organised by the *Church Times*, to whom donations should be sent.

The address is:

**TAP Fund  
Church Times  
Hymns Ancient & Modern  
13a Hellesdon Park Road  
NORWICH NR6 5DR**

The assessment and administration of grants from the Fund is undertaken by the Ministry Division of the Archbishops' Council.

### Online giving

The easiest way to donate is by means of the special online giving page: [www.hymnsam.co.uk/train-a-priest.aspx](http://www.hymnsam.co.uk/train-a-priest.aspx). This is a secure page, and so your donation can be given safely, in just a few moments. The online page can also handle Gift Aid.

### Gift Aid

If you are a UK payer of income or capital gains tax, a payment by Gift Aid means that the *Church Times*, through Hymns Ancient & Modern, can recover 25p for every £1 that you give.

A donation of £10 becomes £12.50 to the Fund.

If you pay tax at the higher rate (40 or 50 per cent), then you can claim back the difference between basic and higher-rate tax yourself when you complete your annual tax return.

Please use the Gift Aid form in this leaflet.

### Charity vouchers

If you have a charity account with Sovereign Giving or the Charities Aid Foundation, you can give by charity cheque.

# THE CHURCH TIMES TRAIN-A-PRIEST (TAP) FUND

## Gift Aid form

I enclose my gift of £ ..... for the TAP Fund.

Full Name .....

Address.....

.....

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..... Postcode.....

Please indicate below whether your donation is eligible for Gift Aid. Make your cheque payable to "**The TAP Fund**"

**By Gift Aid** (Please sign below)

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference..

Signature .....

Date.....

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