

Hardship Fund Policy

At St Martin's we want to uphold gospel principles and operate a model of grace & generosity by caring well for those in our church family. This means extending particular care to those who are vulnerable or in need. We have therefore established a Hardship Fund to support those with particular financial needs.

The fund is made up of donations that are given specifically to the fund, and of transfers from general church funds to the Hardship Fund when required. If you would like to give to the fund you can use the usual giving process with a clear indication that your donation is to the Hardship Fund.

The fund will support those in our church family (including those in the Parish with whom we have connections). The fund would offer support when all other reasonable possibilities of support have been exhausted. The purposes of the fund are:

- To meet people's basic needs on a short-term basis
- To meet pastoral needs that cannot be met through the support of the church family and staff team. This may include specialist care or support such as counselling.

The fund will be administered by the Pastoral Team who will consider any requests, in line with the full policy. To make decisions they may speak to the individual, will consider other support that may be available, the context of the request and will make decisions to provide support. Support provided from the fund will always be as a gift, not a loan.

If you would like to access the Hardship Fund, please speak to any member of the Pastoral Team directly or speak to any ministry leader who can pass on your request. You can also email pastoralcare@stms.org.uk. All requests will be treated as confidential and only be discussed with those involved in the decision making process, or where consent is given.

The Pastoral Team can make gifts of up to £500. Any larger, or subsequent requests would also require the agreement of the Standing Committee or PCC.

There is a full policy that outlines the financial & decision-making process in more detail, which is available to read.