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**BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE**

**Ministry Hardship Fund Application Form**

The Bath & Wells Diocesan Board of Finance (B&WDBF) has received a grant of £64,000 from the Archbishops’ Council as part of a nationwide scheme to assist those engaged in ministry who are struggling with the cost of living crisis. The Bishops’ Discretionary account will administer these funds to make targeted hardship grants to those engaged in ministry, ie clergy and lay employees such as children, youth workers and pioneers who are experiencing financial hardship as a result of increases in the cost of living crisis especially heating bills. These hardship grants will be one off grants and will be given at the discretion of the Bishops’ Discretionary Fund.

The B&WDBF has decided to use these funds, along with the Council Tax rebate to be received for properties in bands A to D, to make targeted hardship grants. The grants will initially be available for those **who live in housing provided by the B&WDBF for their role** (this includes House for Duty posts and stipendiary curates) and are experiencing financial hardship as a result of increases in the cost of living crisis especially heating bills. These hardship grants will be one off grants and will be given at the discretion of the Bishops and Archdeacons. Only one person in the household may make the application.

A maximum grant of £500 will be available for each household and needs to be claimed by 1st October 2022. Subsequently there will be a second opportunity for those **in their own housing** to apply between 1st October and 1st December if funds are available. Any unspent grant must be returned to the Archbishops’ Council before the end of the year.

If you are experiencing such hardship and would like to be considered for a grant, please complete the form below. We will let you know as soon as possible if your application has been successful and for how much. Once completed this form will be processed by the Bishops’ Office where it will be dealt with in strictest confidence.

Name: …………………………………….……………..……… Position: ……………………………………….….………………

Archdeaconry: ……………………….……………………….

I am experiencing financial hardship because (tick any boxes that apply):

[ ] I am provided with a house for the better performance of my duties which is proving expensive to heat;

[ ] my household income has not kept up with inflation; and/or

[ ] any other reason (please provide further details if you wish):

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….…

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My ministry is (tick all which apply):

[ ] Paid

[ ] Self supporting

[ ] Lay

[ ] Ordained

[ ] as a parochial office holder

[ ] as an employee

[ ] carried out after retirement from office or employment

[ ] other (please specify):

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..……………………

Bank Details:

A/C Name: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

A/C No: ………………………………………………… Sort Code: ………………………………….…………………

Signed: ………………………………………………… Date: ……………………………………………………

Please return this form to [paula.denyer@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:paula.denyer@bathwells.anglican.org) at the Bishops’ Office. This form should not be sent to payroll, as the Bishops’ Discretionary Fund will be making the payment, which will be in the form of a non-taxable grant.