

STATIONING

GUIDANCE FOR NEW MINISTERS

If you are a minister in the stationing process and wondering if Guernsey might be right for you, then here's some practical information that we hope you'll find useful.

Guernsey is one of the Channel Islands, and as such is not part of the United Kingdom, but is part of the British Isles. It is a Crown Dependency, which means it has its own government, rather than MPs in the UK Parliament. It obviously has very close ties to the UK and the Monarchy – so some things feel the same and some are different.

There are two very useful websites that will give you lots of information about the island and about moving here. They are:

www.visitguernsey.com

www.locateguernsey.com

Specific information regarding being a Methodist minister on the island is as follows:

Island Allowance

You will be paid your basic stipend, plus an allowance of 22% to cover the additional cost of living associated with living on an island (For example, food costs more!)

Medical Expenses

On Guernsey, primary care – for example, to see your GP – is charged for. These costs – for the minister, their spouse, and any dependent children – are paid for by the church. You'll find that access to the GP service is far better here than in the UK.

If you are referred for specialist healthcare then this is covered under the usual social security provisions.

When you move to Guernsey then you will need to apply for a Social Security Number (called a GY number locally) and you'll use this instead of your National Insurance number and NHS number.

Because there is no NHS dental service you will need to register with a private dental practice – and the church will cover 50% of your dental costs (not cosmetic).

Pension

The church will continue to contribute to the Methodist Church Pension Scheme for ministers in the usual way.

Moving Expenses

The church will cover the cost of your relocation to Guernsey, just as it would if you were moving to somewhere within the UK.

Accommodation Costs

This is the same as in the UK – your Parish rates (Council Tax), water rates, waste collection, telephone and broadband are all paid for by the church.

Travel between Guernsey and the UK

There are good travel links between Guernsey and the UK in terms of both sea and air. The Connexion pays for two return journeys per year for the minister, their spouse, and any dependent children. This enables a minister and their family to maintain contact with their wider family and friends in the UK.

Taxation

The tax system in Guernsey is different from the UK – there is the usual personal allowance, and then a rate of 20%, with no higher rate. If you continue to have a UK income after moving here (from for example, a property or bank interest) then you'll need to complete a tax return for both the UK and Guernsey each year – but there is an agreement in place so that you don't pay tax twice!

Car Travel

You can bring your car from the UK to Guernsey – you'll then need to register it here and get a new number plate. There is no road tax on Guernsey, and no requirement for an MOT. Insurance rates are generally lower than in the UK. You'll receive an allowance to cover the cost of your work-related travel.

Pets

You can bring cats, dogs and ferrets to Guernsey without a Pet Passport. There are some controls on other pets – check the www.locateguernsey.com website for more details.

Finally...

All the current Methodist ministers on Guernsey have made the move from the UK, and so have plenty of experience that they will be happy to share if you have particular questions – just ask.