

## Charles Simeon's Charge to his Trustees



*Simeon's Charge, written in 1833, continues to guide our ministry however it was written in exclusively male language and so has to be reinterpreted. Simeon's Trustees are fully committed to the ordination of women and to the appointment of women as well as men to benefices and as trustees. As Simeon's words are read today references to trustees and clergy expressed in male language should be understood as applying to both men and women without distinction.*

'IN THE NAME AND IN THE PRESENCE OF ALMIGHTY GOD I give the following Charge to all my Trustees and to all who shall succeed them in the Trust to the remotest ages. I implore them for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and I charge them also before that adorable Saviour who will call them into Judgment for their execution of the Trust:

'First, that they be very careful, whenever they shall be called upon to fill up a vacancy in this Trust, which they must invariably do within three months of a vacancy occurring, that they elect no one who is not a truly pious and devoted man, a man of God in deed and in truth, who with his piety combines a solid judgment and a perfectly independent mind. I place this first, because a failure in this one particular would utterly defeat, and that in perpetuity too, all that I have sought to do for God and for immortal souls.

'Secondly, that, when they shall be called upon to appoint to a living, they consult nothing but the welfare of the people for whom they are to provide, and whose eternal interests have been confided in them. They must on no account be influenced by any solicitation of the great and powerful, or by any partiality towards any one on account of the largeness of his family or the smallness of his income. They must be particularly on their guard against petitions from the parishes to be provided for, whether in behalf of a Curate that has laboured among them, or of any other individual. They must examine carefully, and judge as before God, how far any person possesses the qualifications suited to the particular Parish, and by that consideration alone must they be determined in their appointment of him.'

Signed by me this 18th day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three.

Charles Simeon'

