

Support Letter to Diocese re Church

The Cloudesley Association

9 Stonefield St

London N1 0HP

Michael Bye

Property Director

The Diocese of London

London Diocesan House

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London SW1P 4AU

March 2018

Dear Mr Bye

Support for the Restoration of Holy Trinity Church, Cloudesley Square

I wrote to you on 16th October 2016 as chair of the Cloudesley Association on behalf of the residents of Cloudesley Square and its surrounding area to express our longstanding concerns about the deteriorating condition of Holy Trinity Church. I am therefore delighted to note that the leasehold problems have been resolved and the way is now clear for the Diocese to start a much-needed and comprehensive programme of repairs leading in time to a full restoration project.

As the local residents' association, we are privileged to have this Grade II* listed church by the distinguished architect, Sir Charles Barry, in the middle of our neighbourhood. We strongly support the plan to restore the fabric of the building so that it can once again be used as a much-loved resource by the local community.

As local residents, we are profoundly interested in the future of the church and I therefore thought it might be helpful to propose some principles to guide the restoration project:

- We are proud of our church and we therefore expect the restoration to be faithful to Barry's original design and to preserve its status as "amongst the best of the early Gothic style churches of this type". This would apply not just to the exterior but also to the interior including the exquisite windows by Thomas Willement, the "father of Victorian stained glass", as well as to the grounds surrounding the church.
- The proposed use of the restored church is of course a major concern for residents. We assume that the church will continue to be a place of worship, maintaining its original function and building on the heritage not just of the last 200 hundred years since its construction but going back 500 years to Sir Richard Cloudesley who donated the land ("Stony Fields") on which it stands. But we also anticipate that the church will, in parallel, be used for a wide range of other activities of benefit to the local community. Indeed, we understand that this is likely to be a condition of securing funding for the restoration.

- However, we also steadfast in our belief that whatever the church is used for, it must be consistent with its status as a place of worship and with the character of Cloudesley Square as one of the most beautiful and peaceful places to live in London. In other words, the activities at the church should not result in undue noise, disturbance, unsightliness, anti-social behaviour or other adverse effect on local neighbours.

Provided these principles are followed, the Cloudesley Association is eager to work with the Diocese and to help with the restoration in any way we can. We have already discussed such activities as mobilising volunteer gardeners to maintain the grounds, and seeking out and organising a range of community activities at the church.

On behalf of local residents, I look forward to helping the Diocese agree an ambitious vision for the church and bringing it to fruition.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Gill

Chair, The Cloudesley Association

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