

Update on the Roof Project – June 2023

Successful planning application

On May 30th, our architects received a letter from Croydon Council granting planning permission to replace the aluminium roof with natural zinc *and* to install solar PV panels. This work must now begin within 3 years of this date.

This is a major approval met, but what we now need to do is raise the money to pay for this work. We have currently raised £195,600 towards an estimated total project cost of £560,000. Since this estimate was made before Covid, we may assume the cost will be even greater. We have recently received two large donations, one from the UK Asian Women's Association and another from the 'Singing for the Brain' Group. Many thanks to those who contributed to the costs of the Coronation Mugs – this also went into the Roof Fund. Originally, the PCC asked that £15,000 p.a. be donated to the Roof Fund, but since the amounts coming in to St Matthew's have decreased this is no longer affordable.

How will we raise the funds to meet the total project cost?

There are various trusts and grant providers we can look into and format application for:

- Benefact Trust
- The National Churches Grants
- Marshalls Charity
- The Laing Family Trusts
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Landfill Communities Fund
- Surrey Churches Preservation Trust
- Beaverbrook Foundation
- City Bridge Trust
- Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation.....

What else can we do to raise money?

- Ask the congregation directly for further contributions.
- Ask those organizations that hire space at the church
- Put on events that raise money – Concerts, BBQs, etc.
- Sponsor people to run, walk (sections of the Vanguard Way), scale the O2 roof, etc.

It is now vital that we reinvigorate our fund-raising drive and keep up the momentum of our giving and the search for external funds. Once we achieve 50% of our target, we may then benefit from matched funding.

N.B. Donations to St Matthew's go into a general account. Gifts towards restoration of the roof and installation of solar panels must specify 'Roof Fund'.