

Roof Project – May 2024

First of all can I say a very **big thank you** to all of you who have made donations to the roof fund anonymously? The first thing you learn when fund raising, after asking for money, is to say thank you to those that make donations and please keep doing so whatever you can afford. It is so encouraging to see the money rising and most of all you want to see the work and activities which happen at St Matthew continue.

So what has been happening? The architects have drawn up the plans of the roof and have identified three contractors who are interested to give us a budget estimate. The structural engineers have identified that the roof could do with some strengthening on the section of roof to take the solar panels. Also there is a long crack in the wall under this section of roof which will need to be addressed. I am told it is nothing serious.

The people advising on the solar panels have suggested a charging point in the car park for two cars. Most of the electricity generated by the panels will be used within the church for the lighting but if we have any spare on a sunny summer's day the extra can be used for the cars. I am going to talk with an organisation who is interested in funding solar panels on buildings around Croydon with the idea they get the electricity generated. As we are likely to use all the electricity generated they might not be interested but it is well worth a conversation.

When the estimates from the contractor have been received and have been considered I have asked the architects to come and give a presentation at the church. So please look out for the advertisement for this event.

There is some good and bad news. The bad news is that we were hoping to apply to the rubbish dump people who operate in our area. Some of you may have noticed that the company Virdor has sold to Valencia Communities. They have decided to no longer use the Beddington Lane site for landfill rubbish. This means that they no longer have to contribute to charities in the area. The company has now decided they will continue to make contributions to local charities but not as much (maximum of £50K with a payback of 10%) and with rather restrictive conditions which are to start building within 6 months and be complete in 12 months, which unfortunately currently we cannot comply with. The good news is that they are not using the site for landfill.

News about the two trusts we have applied to. Firstly Bernard Sunley has asked for an update on our progress and I have already done this so they are still in the frame. Secondly the City Bridges Trust wants us to have their Eco Survey done and I have applied for this. I thought they might have accepted the survey we have already done for the Church of England but they want their own. It does not cost us anything so it will be interesting to see what they identify. I have started reapplying to Marshalls Charity Trust. They were going to give us £11K back in 2021. However with Covid and problems getting planning agreement from the council for the solar panels we could not go forward so I thanked them and explained we could not use the money at that time. They suggested we reapply in 2024 so this is what I am preparing. I am just waiting for the finalising of the annual financial accounts so I can send these to them and to Bernard Sunley. Finally I have prepared an expression of interest for the National Lottery Heritage fund which I have sent to the Southwark Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) for review. There has been a suggestion that the DAC will be given funding for a person to help give advice on funding applications. I would certainly welcome help in this area.

Apologise for rather a long time since the last update and for the length of this update.

