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Greek Orthodox Cathedral
St Sophia, Vicarage, Moscow Rd
London W24LQ

Greek Orthodox Cathedral Of The Divine Wisdom (Aghia Sophia)

Dear members and faithful congregants of our historic Cathedral,

It is our prayer that this letter of appeal finds you and your families surrounded by the warmth, grace, and celebration of the Christmas Season. As we approach the light-filled 12 days of Christmas and the year's end, we convey to you our collective prayers and wishes for life, health, and spiritual and material prosperity, for you and yours.

In the hymns chanted during the of Christmas Vesperal Liturgy we hear, "What shall we offer you, O Christ, because you have appeared on earth as a man for our sakes? For each of the creatures made by you offers you its thanks: the Angels, their hymn; the heavens, the Star; the Shepherds, their wonder; the Magi, their gifts; the earth, the Cave; the desert, the Manger; and we, a Virgin Mother..." Indeed, humanity offered itself for the salvific incarnation of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Two thousand years later, we ask ourselves, "What shall we offer you, oh Christ, through your holy Church?"

Over the past year, with your gracious support, our Grade 1 listed Cathedral building was able to commission the ongoing refurbishment by specialists of its historic pews (costing £52,550), as well as restore the electrical system for the lighting in the holy altar. Currently, we are in the process of beginning the Planning Repairs to Ilchester Gardens wall (£3,500) as well as investigating and securing Cathedral Windows (£6,000). In addition to the specialized maintenance required by such a historic monument, we intend to increase pastoral support, the number of Divine Services, as well as create more opportunities for fellowship in our crypt following Services.

We have witnessed a measurable growth in congregants at Sacred Services as well as found the average age of our congregation decreasing greatly. We strongly believe in our community and are committed to being a catalyst of spiritual progress, support, and meaningful community bonds, aiding and strengthening all people in Christ. We've already seen the fruits of our combined efforts, through the generous giving of our parishioners, and are committed to making our Cathedral present in the daily lives of our people. This is our sacred calling and our response to the great cultural and spiritual treasure we've inherited.

As we look to 2025, we are hopeful, having experienced the growth of our community and are encouraged by the numbers of community members who have returned to Orthodoxy. We are sure that you, too, have experienced and deeply appreciate the wonderful works of God in our Cathedral. And so, we invite you to boldly respond to the call of our ancient hymnography: "What shall we offer you, oh Christ?" by considering a monetary gift to the Cathedral this Christmas and in

the new year. Any gift you offer is deeply welcomed and greatly appreciated by our Cathedral Family. Each one of us plays a crucial part in the livelihood of our Cathedral. May we rise to the occasion and use this opportunity to offer Christ our sacrifice as He lay in the Cave.

We wholeheartedly thank you for sharing in our vision and encourage you to participate dynamically in our common spiritual work by making a one off and/or a monthly contribution. Please remember to Gift Aid your monetary gift, as we will receive through this program an additional 25% for every pound donated. The ways you can offer are listed below:

By bank transfer:

Bank Information: Greek Cathedral St. Sophia, Sort Code: 40-05-33, A/C 61506935

By Cheque:

Payable to "Greek Cathedral St.Sophia

In Person at Cathedral:

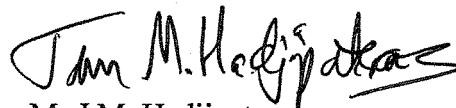
Contactless Card

Cash Donation

Thank you for your time, consideration, and dedication to the Faith and Legacy of our Cathedral, and please accept, once again, our wishes for a Merry Christmas and a blessed and spiritually prosperous 2025.



Dean
The Very Rev. Archmandrite
Nephon Tsimalis



Mr J.M. Hadjipateras
Chair of the Churchwardens Committee