



ARMENIAN COMMUNITY AND CHURCH COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN

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www.accc.org.uk

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Armenian Community and Church Council of Great Britain is pleased to announce that the recently elected Council has received from His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos and Supreme Patriarch of All Armenians, recognition of the Council's election, by way of His Holiness's Blessings and his wishes that the ACCC should continue to function for the benefit of the British Armenian community and the Holy Armenian Church.

After very long and in depth consultations and meetings with His Holiness, the Council is also pleased to announce that it has given its current function of serving two purposes (i.e. Community Council and Church Council) its serious consideration and has reached the decision to devolve the management of the St Yeghiche Church from the functions of the ACCC, and we have received the agreement of His Holiness to proceed with the necessary arrangements.

In the late 1960's/early 70's when the Catholicosate of Holy Etchmiadzin was under the encumbrances of the Soviet regime, it had been necessary for the Armenian Community Council of Great Britain to undertake the management of the community's church and to perform the function of a Diocesan Council at a local level with the encouragement and agreement of the Catholicos of the time, His Holiness Vasken I. However, with the establishment of a free independent Republic of Armenia, the Catholicosate of All Armenians in Etchmiadzin is now able to function and flourish freely under the most able direction of the present Catholicos, His Holiness Karekin II, and the ACCC has noted with appreciation the current active efforts of His Holiness to create a unified and uniform Church throughout Armenia and the Diaspora.

Having taken the above into consideration, and also the fact that steps are now in hand with the cooperation of the ACCC, to produce a Diocesan Constitution and to establish a Diocese of the United Kingdom under the jurisdiction of Holy Etchmiadzin, whose function shall be to attend wholly to the ecclesiastical and religious matters of the community, the Council felt that its current management of the St Yeghiche Church in London, should be passed from the Council to a job-specific "Parish Council" whose sole responsibility would be to manage the Church and attend to the religious needs of the parish.

The Council is hereby pleased to announce the establishment of THE PARISH OF SAINT YEGHICHE CHURCH. A meeting shall be called of all community members who wish to register as parishioners of the St Yeghiche Church Parish and attend and to pay their parish dues, and the thus formed PARISH ASSEMBLY shall elect from among themselves, the SAINT YEGHICHE CHURCH PARISH COUNCIL. The Parish Council shall have full charge of the management of the Church in its ecclesiastical sense since the church building of course belongs to and is fully maintained by the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Charitable Trust, and the building is made available by the Trust for church services free of any charges.

When the Parish Council comes into being, the ACCC shall have devolved all matters to do with St Yeghiche Church to the new SAINT YEGHICHE CHURCH PARISH COUNCIL, and the ACCC shall cease to have any connection with the St Yeghiche Church, the proposed Diocese and the Church Primature, although of course the ACCC will wholeheartedly urge all members of the community to give the Parish their full support.

The Parish shall function under a Constitution the terms of which are set out in the Guidelines of Diocesan By-Laws of the Holy Armenian Apostolic Church approved by the Diocesan Representative Assembly of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin.

The members of the Council of the ACCC are very keen that the Council and the Primature, and the proposed Diocese, should co-exist and cooperate with mutual respect and support; the Primature and the Diocese attending to the ecclesiastical and religious needs of the community as per the Constitution of the Armenian Apostolic Church, whilst the Community's Council shall attend to the community's secular, educational, social and political affairs.

Armenian Community & Church Council of Great Britain (ACCC)
15th April, 2013

Hon. President: Bishop Dr V. Hovhannessian **Chairman:** Mr A. H. Palamoudian **Vice Chairman:** Mr Z. Gasparian,
Joint Secretaries: Mr V. Haladjian, Ms M. Jakeman **Financial Controller:** Mr Manouk Mikailian **Members:** Mrs A. Banian, Mrs R. Cherchian,
Mr Z. Jerejian, Dr S. Karanfilian, Mr R. Krikorian, Mr C. Malas, Mrs M. Megerdichian, Ms I. S. Sahakian, Mr R. Sarkissian, Dr S. Tatulian