

St. Philip & St. Matthias Discernment Update # 4

15 January 2026

Dear St. Philip Parishioners,

We want to thank you for attending the discussion with Bishop Anna this past Sunday. The conversation clearly demonstrated how passionate we feel about our church community. We move forward only at the speed of trust; we hope that the many opportunities we have for conversation will help build that trust as we discern the wisdom of formalizing the conversations about relocating to St. Matthias. Remember: nothing is decided and all decisions are in our own hands!

In keeping with our commitment to provide ongoing updates, here are responses to some of the questions posed at our July 27th congregational meeting.

Yours in service,

Judith and Larry

Wardens

The collated questions can be accessed through this link ([2025.07.27 Collation of Questions from Discernment Meeting 1.pdf](#) initially sent out with update # 1 – 2025.08.05

Memorial Gardens

Questions:

- What will happen to the Memorial Garden?
- What would happen to our memorial gardens if St Philip were sold?

Response:

- We have asked Mark Oldnall, who is the caretaker of Memorial sites in the Diocese, for his thoughts. “In the event that the decision is made to relocate a memorial garden, the garden would be moved to one of our licenced Anglican cemeteries in the area. In your case, we may ask St. Luke's Cedar Hill to accept the memorial garden as they have approved the acceptance of both St. Peter, Lakehill, and St. Dunstan's, Gordon Head. Each relocation would be handled with care and thoughtfulness for those interred and their families.”

Building Condition

Questions:

- What shape are the St. M buildings in and what kind of renovations would be needed?
- How would the scale of costs compare to improve St. M vs improving St. P?
- What is the cost to renovate St. Philip? St. Matthias?

Response:

- We, in partnership with the Synod Office, have commissioned building depreciation reports on the St. Philip property, and St. Matthias have done so for their property. The St. Matthias inspection was done a few weeks before ours, which took place shortly before Christmas.
- The St. Matthias Wardens are expecting their report at the end of January, so it seems realistic to expect ours sometime shortly after that.
- We will make the St. Philip report available for parishioners to examine
- We are not ruling out further building inspection analysis if the report leaves some questions unanswered.
- Without knowing the results of the Building Depreciation report(s), we cannot know what areas require remedial attention, e.g. renovation. Therefore, the costs of renovations cannot be estimated at this time. That said, in 2019, Neal, our Verger, discovered from a roofing expert that our roof was estimated to last “a few years”, and that the cost to replace was estimated at \$100,000. Seven years later, the cost is likely to be considerably more than that.

- Larry and Judith