

Archbishop Leo Cushley  
[100 Strathearn Road](http://100 Strathearn Road)  
Edinburgh  
EH9 1BB

13th June 2018

Your Grace,

With reference to your Diocesan letter to the Parish dated 14th May 2018 in which you advised the closure of St Mary of the Angels Church in Camelon, we the undersigned have been tasked by the congregation with preparing a response to you in respect of your proposal.

Firstly and most importantly, the entire congregation are opposed to the proposal to close our Church. Additionally, we would be grateful if you could detail the criteria that was used as we have been advised by Father Jamie Boyle that the closure would not be for financial reasons, lack of priests or maintenance of the building. You will appreciate that it is impossible for the congregation to accept the proposed closure without knowing the justification for such a drastic proposal.

We believe that in St Mary of the Angels we have many positive aspects such as:

- increased participation in the Children's Liturgy over the last 3 to 4 years
  - regular use of the Church Hall which generates additional income
  - a willingness to take ownership of the maintenance of the Church and Grounds
  - a sense of community, identity and spiritual vibrance which would be lost by such a closure
  - the connection between St Francis primary school children and St Mary's is strong and would be adversely affected by any potential closure; the participation of children receiving the Blessed Sacraments grows year on year
  - as a Parish we are receptive to increasing our involvement in any way which assists Father Jamie in his pastoral outreach
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- Camelon is an area of economic and social deprivation; the Parish to many, particularly the elderly, is a hub of spiritual and social interaction and support
  - under normal circumstances we would expect to continue to show a financial surplus such as that in 2017 of £23,000; in these times of economic austerity we have demonstrated that we can continue to maintain sustainable growth.

In conclusion we respectfully request that any irreversible action is postponed at the very least until clarification of the criteria is provided. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you in Edinburgh or any other location in order that we may discuss further a mutually agreeable way forward for the Parish.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

The congregation of St. Mary of the Angels Church, Camelon.  
cc - Father Jamie Boyle