

# GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF ST GEORGE THE MARTYR

Borough Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT2 6BD

*Registered Charity Number: 272135*

## ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE I

#### Name of the Community

The name of the Community is: Greek Orthodox Community of St George the Martyr.

#### Aims of the Community

1. To preserve and promote the Christian Orthodox Faith and traditions as contained in Holy Scripture, as practised in the life of the Church, as confirmed by the Ecumenical and Local Councils and as interpreted, preserved and taught by the Great Church of Christ and the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.
2. To preserve the original language of the New Testament in Divine Worship and in the ecclesiastical life of the faithful, and to minister to the people through canonical services conducted according to the Order of the Great Church of Constantinople by canonical priests, and through sermons and through catechism and Greek language schools.
3. To preserve and maintain the Community's building for the worship of the Trinitarian God and schools for the teaching of Greek education and culture.
4. To receive into the Orthodox Faith, by baptism or chrismation, all those who freely decide and sincerely desire to

in accordance with its spiritual and moral teaching.

5. To undertake philanthropic work for the benefit of those who need protection, assistance and medical care, to provide for the welfare of the poor and for the burial of those Greeks who pass away without financial means.
6. To encourage and support the formation of organizations or groups within the Community with specific responsibilities for the promotion of the educational, cultural and philanthropic aims of the Community.

### ARTICLE II

#### Ecclesiastical Authority

1. The Ecclesiastical Authority of the Greek Orthodox Community of St George the Martyr is the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain.
2. The Community takes part in the decisions of the Clergy-Laity Conferences of the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain through its representatives, and abides by these decisions. Each Community shall have one vote.
3. Every year the Community submits a financial statement to the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain, and through its Auditors it co-operates with the representatives of the Archdiocese for the examination and setting

4. Over every problem the Community calls for help and advice from the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain, and discusses with it the solutions proposed.
5. The Community assists the Archdiocese annually by offering a sum of money voted by its Board.

### ARTICLE III

#### Members

1. The members of the Community are baptised Greek Orthodox Christians, aged 18 years or over, who respect the Constitution of the Community, who believe and live the faith of the Greek Orthodox Church and who pay their annual subscriptions to the Community. The amount of such subscription is set from time to time by the Community Board.
2. The non-Greek husbands of Greek women or the non-Greek wives of Greek men, and unmarried persons of non-Greek origin, provided they have been accepted into the Orthodox Church through baptism or chrismation, and abide by the Constitution of the Community, may become members of the Community.
3. No one, whether of Greek or non-Greek origin, can become a member of the Community if he is not a member of the Orthodox Church, or if he belongs to a Church or Community which is not subject to the jurisdiction of the Greek Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain, or if he belongs to another Christian confession or to any subversive or atheist organization.
4. Every member who has paid his annual dues to the Community before the date of the elections has the right to vote at

the elections to the Board of the Community and to be elected.

### ARTICLE IV

#### Clergy

1. The Priest in charge of the Community is appointed by the Archdiocese, after consultation with the Community Board, and after a formal application from the Community, in which the Priest's stipend is specified. The Priest in charge of the Community must have a theological education, and also liturgical and ecclesiastical experience.

2. Furthermore, he must abide strictly by this present Constitution and by the Holy Canons.

If he is not a member of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain, he must submit a canonical letter of release from his bishop.

His duties are:

- to offer the Divine Liturgy and to perform the Sacraments according to the Order of Service of the Ecumenical Patriarchate;
- to preach the Word of God;
- to direct the Sunday School;
- to teach in the Greek School, if he has time;
- to arrange for the performance of the Holy Services;
- to supervise the cleanliness and good order of the church;
- to keep the holy vessels of the church and to see that they are preserved in a good state;
- to keep the registers of baptisms, weddings and funerals, and to issue the necessary certificates, which the Archdiocese must ratify;

- to correspond with the Archdiocese over every spiritual question and, together with the Chairman and Secretary, to sign every document which goes out from the office of the Community;
  - to assist the Community in promoting its welfare, educational and cultural activities as contained in the constitution.
3. Besides the Priest in charge, additional priests may be appointed to serve the Community. They must have the same qualifications as the Priest in charge. They will concelebrate with the Priest in charge, or else, on his instructions, perform services by themselves; in cases of emergency they may also perform services on their own initiative, without the prior consent of the Priest in charge (e.g. the administration of Holy Communion or of Baptism in emergencies).
- The Assistant Priest will also:
- help in preaching;
  - help in the organization of Sunday Schools;
  - teach in the Greek Schools;
  - consult the Archdiocese and the Community Board about all problems relating to their duties in the Church.
4. The Priest in charge of the Community and the Assistant Priest with him will commemorate in the sacred services the name of the Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain. Likewise, they will commemorate the names of the Heads of State of Greece, Cyprus and Great Britain.
5. Subject to the Priest in charge of the Community are the cantors and sextons, who are to abide faithfully by his instructions. They are appointed by the Community Board acting in consultation and agreement with the Priest in charge. Should the occasion arise, they

are to be dismissed by the Board of the Community, on receiving a written request from the Priest in charge, signed also by the Assistant Priest.

6. The Priest in charge of the Community is *ex officio* the representative of the Archbishop in the Community and on its Board, and as such he participates in the meetings of the Board, without a vote but with the right to express his opinions, which are to be recorded in the minutes.
7. In the fulfilment of his duties, the Priest in charge co-operates with the Board for the financial progress of the Community, instructing the people from the pulpit and through circulars to carry out their financial obligations to the Community. He raises funds for the Community and maintains a register of all local Orthodox in a special book, keeping this up to date and using it when mailing letters and announcements of the Community.
8. The Priest in charge and the Assistant Priest with him are not to absent themselves from the Community without the knowledge of the Board and the written consent of the Archdiocese. In the case of transfer, the Priest in charge, by a protocol, delivers to his successor all the sacred vessels and registers of the Community, at the same time sending a copy of the protocol to the Archdiocese. The Priest in charge and the Assistant Priest have the right of one month's annual holiday with full payment. In arranging this holiday they are to consult with the Community Board and to secure the written permission of the Archdiocese.
9. For the solution of all difficulties between the Community Board and the Priest in charge of the Community,