

Supplemental Statement by Ian Bernard Burleigh Relating to the Conduct of William Campbell Taylor

This statement consists of four pages. I have personally experienced, seen or observed the matters which I describe in my statement, or otherwise I cite the sources from which I have come to know about them. I believe the facts in my statement to be true. I am aware that the contents of this statement may be made public.

1. This statement is to be read in conjunction with the letter to the Bishop of London dated 30 July 2018, which I and other residents, workers, officers of community groups and local people from the Ward of Portsoken in the City of London signed in respect of the conduct of Mr William Cambell Taylor, and which document is on the record of this clergy discipline measure complaint.
2. I am a retired IT consultant and practising Christian. I live in the City of London and was a resident of the Ward of Portsoken for 14 years from 1998 to 2011. I was a founder member of the Middlesex Street Estate Residents' Association (the estate is in the Ward of Portsoken) and I represented Portsoken as a member of the Court of Common Council for 5 years until 2011. I have been a member of the Portsoken Ward Club for over 18 years and I currently serve on the Ward Club Committee.
3. I first became aware of William Cambell Taylor some 20 years ago when he was chaplain to London Metropolitan University and held services at my then parish church of St Botolph-without-Aldgate. I was chairman of the Middlesex Street Estate Residents' Association and working as the personal assistant to the director of development at City University. William Cambell Taylor invited me to join a slate to stand for election to the Court of Common Council representing the Ward of Portsoken where I lived. The rector of my parish church was also standing as a candidate in the same election, but not part of our slate. I had stood for election on previous occasions, but William Campbell Taylor did not seem to be aware of this, despite his professed interest in the ward.
4. Whilst we were campaigning for election, it became apparent that William Campbell Taylor had been actively involved in the SMUT (Spitalfields Market Under Threat) campaign. He was vitriolic about one of the other candidates for election who had been the driving force behind the redevelopment of Spitalfields. William Campbell Taylor actively encouraged us to describe this person as the destroyer of Spitalfields Market. We published this description on our election leaflet and as a result we were sent a letter from the other candidate's solicitors informing us that we would be sued for defamation of character. This candidate subsequently became the deputy for the ward, then the Alderman. He later served as Lord Mayor. I found him to be entirely contrary to the picture that William Campbell Taylor painted of him, and gradually came to realise that William Campbell Taylor had a personal vendetta against this man, and also that his main agenda in becoming elected to the Court of Common

Council was to attack and bring down the City of London at every possible opportunity.

5. Another candidate for election was described to me by William Campbell Taylor as a small-minded business man who probably held fascist and homophobic views. This candidate subsequently became deputy for the ward and has worked tirelessly for the people of Portsoken. I cannot stress enough how much this person has achieved for the electorate. He continues to raise funds for outings and holidays for the disadvantaged. He is the go-to man for help and support for anybody in the ward and he has, unlike William Campbell Taylor, served the ward continuously and has always been re-elected at every ballot. William Campbell Taylor's initial assessment could not have been more incorrect and has even tried to claim kudos for work for which the deputy has been solely responsible.
6. During the election campaign I told William Cambell Taylor that I had seen a letter in the course of my work written by the rector of St Botolph's to the chancellor of City University. The rector was a governor of the Sir John Cass Foundation, which had recently given a large sum of money to the University towards the development of the Cass Business School. The essence of the letter was that the rector would be pleased to accept an honorary doctorate from the University for the assistance he had given supporting the University's successful application for a considerable amount of funds from the Sir John Cass Foundation. The doctorate would be ostensibly for the work that the rector had undertaken towards the homeless community in Aldgate. William Cambell Taylor was very keen to obtain a copy of this letter and asked me on several occasions to provide him with a copy, saying that it could be useful in the future. I took a copy of the letter, and William Cambell Taylor was aware that I had a copy, but I did not give a copy to him as I feared he would use it for nefarious purposes.
7. Subsequently I was elected to the Court of Common Council and served alongside William Cambell Taylor, the rector and the deputy for the ward of Portsoken. The deputy organised regular surgeries where voters could drop in and discuss their concerns. We set up a rota so that we could be sure that at least one of us would be present at any surgery. William Cambell Taylor failed to turn up to his designated surgeries on so many occasions that we were forced to remove him from the rota. We also held regular meetings together with key people in the ward including the police and management representatives from the two social housing estates in the ward. William Cambell Taylor was frequently absent from these meetings and his attendance at Common Council meetings was well below average. It became apparent that he only actively engaged with the people of Portsoken at election time. His only real interest in the ward was as a means to secure his place on Common Council so that he could pursue his vendetta against the deputy for the ward and the City of London.
8. At one of the regular private meetings of the common councillors representing Portsoken at which I was present, William Cambell Taylor was confronted by the

deputy and the rector concerning his lack of engagement in the ward. The meeting became heated. The rector twice denounced William Cambell Taylor as evil during the exchanges. I was shocked to hear one priest describe another priest as evil. When the meeting broke up, I was crossing the road when William Cambell Taylor, who was still very angry, caught up with me. He implied that I didn't have anything to be proud of and what about that letter that I had stolen from the university? I asked him if he was trying to blackmail me, to which he replied "Yes!" I was deeply angered and upset by this exchange. I returned home and decided that my best course of action was to relate this incident to the rector and the deputy as soon as possible so as to remove any hold William Cambell Taylor might think he had over me. I made an appointment to see the rector that same afternoon, followed immediately by the deputy. When I entered the meeting with the rector, who was also my parish priest, he asked whatever was the matter with me, as he had never seen me so upset and angry before. I told both the rector and the deputy about the letter, how I came to be in possession of a copy and the threat of blackmail made by William Cambell Taylor. Subsequently I have had as little direct contact with William Cambell Taylor as possible as he proved himself to be prepared to threaten and blackmail me and I did not want to inadvertently allow him any more chance to humiliate or embarrass me.

9. At another election William Campbell Taylor succeeded in forcing another resident of Portsoken to stand down as a candidate for election because he discovered that as a joint signatory to a club account she had signed a blank cheque to facilitate the prompt payment of a debt for which she did not know the exact amount. She was aware that the other signatory would complete the correct amount. Whilst this was a mistake, William Campbell Taylor succeeded in exaggerating the incident to such an extent that the woman was so embarrassed before her church and community that she was forced to stand down. This woman was a regular communicant at St Helen's Bishopsgate and a member of her residents' association committee.
10. William Campbell Taylor stood for election to the Court of Common Council several times whilst I was a resident of Portsoken. During the election campaigns, both before and since, there has been considerable anger in our community about alleged false claims for himself made by William Campbell Taylor during the election campaigns, such as sums of money that he falsely claimed he had raised for the local community which had in fact been raised by the deputy for the ward and not William Campbell Taylor.
11. On one occasion when William Campbell Taylor failed to get elected, I observed him storming out of the Wardmote before proceedings were over. His behaviour was disruptive and rude, and showed contempt for the Wardmote. Having failed to get elected, he took no part in the life of the Ward until election time came round again.
12. I am aware of aspects of William Campbell Taylor's personal conduct prior to his ordination which resulted in his suspension as an ordinand in training at Westcott House, and I question why he was allowed to be ordained into Anglican ministry despite the ongoing concerns that led to his suspension.

13. History shows time and again that William Campbell Taylor is not really interested in the well-being of the people of Portsoken, despite initially presenting himself as a true and honest friend and mentor. No doubt some will believe this projection, as I did, until they have gained more experience of the way he operates. He does not stand for election because he wants to represent the people of Portsoken, but rather he wants to become a member of the Court of Common Council, or an Alderman, in order to gain political power to pursue his vendetta against the City of London Corporation. His only interest in Portsoken is as a means to further these political ambitions. He is devious and bullying. He has caused immense hurt and harm to many people. By his own admission he is prepared to use blackmail. He should not be allowed to use a clerical collar to mask his true intentions.



Ian Burleigh
~~20th October, 2019~~

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