

COMMUNICATIONS REMINDER

The Principles of communication, vision, transparency and consultation were established at the first community meeting as being crucial to this process. Let us know how you want to keep in touch.

- **Focus Group:** Representatives of congregation, hall users, neighbours and PCC reflect on the process as it moves forward and make suggestions .
- **Newsletter,** dedicated **email** list, **display** table in church seek to share information about the project as it is issued.
- A special section of the St Michael's **website** entitled 'Hall Project' as a place to find out more.

A REFLECTION *Father Stephen, Vicar*

The 20th century Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, described the Christian faith as the 'most materialistic of all religions' by which he meant that the spiritual, theological and the practical are always intertwined. We see this most of all in the Incarnation of Christ, which teaches us that our *physical* nature matters, and that the created world is to be taken seriously as a means of grace and a vehicle of redemption. Buildings, as a feature of our common life together as a community, and how they are used, and the significance they hold, are part of the fabric of our salvation, which is worked out corporately, literally, 'in the body'. It is for this reason that we place such importance on the nature of our Church Hall and the role it has to play in the community. Far from being ancillary to the life of the church, such a building is an expression of who we are and what we believe. As the established Church of the nation, the Church of England exists for the whole community, rather than merely for its congregation. To quote Temple again, 'the Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members'. Buildings such as our Church Hall represent the 'benefit' that we provide as Christians committed to the locality of our parish in the long-term, and to making the love of God known to the people in our community. As we seek a new building, we are also seeking to express that the Christian faith is alive and well, vibrant and active, looking to the future, and applicable to the needs and ways of living in Barnes today. Our buildings change as we change, and it is my prayer that the new building will express the best of what we are, because I believe that God and our parish deserves the best we can give.



ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS BARNES



CHURCH HALL NEWSLETTER

No 3

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WELCOME

Welcome to the third of our occasional newsletters about the St Michael's Church Hall project. This newsletter is intended to complement other forms of communication that many of you are already engaged with. If you would like to go on the Church Hall email list please contact:

churchhall@stmichaelbarnes.org. If you do that, we'll also ask you to fill out a GDPR form so that we know your preferences and how we hold and use your personal information.

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- What is the 'Business Case'?
- What happens next?
- Communications reminder.
- A reflection from Father Stephen

'A NEW HALL FOR ALL' - *The way ahead*

At the Open Evening last year we showcased some ideas, styles and firms that might be able to achieve our new hall project. Since then we've been working with your feedback, and a wide range of information to try and form the basis for the next stages of the project, turning ideas into reality.

We've been taking advice from the Diocese of Southwark about the best way to do that, following their good practice guidelines for large projects, and that process has involved a great deal of work. We've been thinking about history, rationale, finances, management and much more besides to produce an initial version of what's called the 'Business Case'. It's taken a long time to do this, and thank you for your patience. However, I'm glad it has taken this time, because it has allowed a real period of reflection, prayer and discussion – a process that continues.

WHAT IS THE 'BUSINESS CASE'?

The 'Business Case' is a rather prosaic name for a practical document that seeks to bring together, in one place, a wide range of information about the project, and all that is really important about it.

The first and longest part called the '**Strategic Case**' contains, in a sense, nothing new. It's all the information about the historical background, physical condition and spiritual rationale which have brought us to this point - and which have been shared at previous community meetings and in other documents. What's new is that this information is now easy to find in one reference document rather than spread across multiple newsletters and other paperwork. It continues with a description of the project, a simple brief, and seeks to connect this to the principles, preferences, requirements and feedback we have already shared. The rest of the Business Case is made up of four short sections, looking at the **Economic, Financial, Management and Commercial** aspects of such a project, and suggesting a way that it could be made a reality. We're going to need a lot of your help in doing this, particularly through fundraising, administration, publicity and in a host of other ways.

While a lot of work has gone into the Business Case so far, for which I am enormously grateful to a wide range of people on the PCC, the Diocese and the congregation, it's really important to recognise that it is neither monolithic nor unchanging. *The Business Case is a developing document over time*, responsive to feedback from both community and from our initial discussions with firms.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

This week and next, we will be sharing the Business Case with you. We'll be meeting with all our key stakeholders to talk it through, and to hear any questions or concerns. And there will be opportunities to feed back in different ways.

For some, it may be hard to visualise a new hall from the words and figures of the Business Case. We've tentatively approached four of the firms that people liked the most at the Open Evening to see if they could provide some initial thoughts and sketch designs, to establish if what we've proposed and set out will result in some appropriate designs.

If the first stage of consultation was all about your needs, desires, hopes and fears for the project, the second stage of consultation will look at how these varied viewpoints might translate into reality. I continue to be aware that not everyone is in favour of this project, and that while we are trying hard to take into account a wide range of views, it's impossible to please everyone. However, I continue to have faith that as a community we can have a discourse that is significantly more nuanced, thoughtful, respectful and generous than what is, unfortunately, too often found online in social media and in our politics today.

As we share this document with you, first of all, I commend it to your prayers. We will be asking for your feedback, answering your questions and seeking your assistance in skills, time and experience, in the near future. We'll also be publishing a new timeline for the next steps of the project, showing the points of consultation and how you can get involved. We remain committed to the principles of vision, transparency, consultation and communication as we take forward this exciting project to create '*a new hall for all*', that will be suitable for our current time, and for future generations, as we seek to glorify God and serve one another in love.