



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PRACTITIONER BRIEF

– My Barnsbury: Past, Present, Future project

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Introduction

St. Andrew's is a Neo-Gothic style, Grade II listed, church with surrounding gardens. It is set within an impressive urban landscape, Thornhill Square, the largest, best-preserved early Victorian square in the London Borough of Islington. It was consecrated in 1854 and is Grade II listed. St. Andrew's is a significant community and heritage asset. It is on the Heritage at Risk Register (Condition Very Bad, Priority A) and is in urgent need of repair.

Situated in a highly diverse part of Islington, the building has become a vital anchor point for the local community – a place of hope, safety and care, open to all, that enables people of all ages and backgrounds to come together to reflect, connect, and deliver social good. Our recent community survey saw local people describe St. Andrew's as a 'haven', 'shelter', 'family' and 'home'.

Through a range of initiatives, each year we welcome 15,000 people to the church and engage a further 3,000 online and offsite. We have a particular focus on children, young people and families, with programmes including a weekly 'stay and play' for under 5s, an active youth group, and regular clothes and toy swaps.

St. Andrew's is currently opening a new chapter in the life of the church, with exciting plans to:

- Repair the building's exterior, safeguarding it for generations to come
- Update and adapt the interior space, making it more accessible and flexible for our local residents
- Create more opportunities to serve and support our amazing community through engagement and support activities

Our 'My Barnsbury: Past, Present, Future' project is a fantastic opportunity for St. Andrew's to engage a wide range of people in heritage, to increase its ability to deliver positive change locally, safeguard an important and unique historical site and put robust plans in place for its longer-term restoration. We are now looking to appoint a freelance Community Engagement Practitioner to support the next stage of this exciting project.



The Brief

The Community Engagement Practitioner will:

- **Oversee and manage a community heritage pilot** working in partnership with pupils and teachers from our neighbouring school, St. Andrew's CofE Primary, local community groups and organisations, residents from local estates and students from UCL London. The pilot project will celebrate the heritage of the local area and bring to life local heritage stories about the people who have lived in Barnsbury and live there today. Using archive material and images, pupils will work with a creative practitioner to explore and uncover the local history stories. Using this source material as inspiration, they will explore how people's lives at the time when the church was built in 1852 were similar in some ways and different in others to their own. They will develop a creative time capsule and artwork for an exhibition which will be held at the Church. The project will also include a 'call out' for local residents and groups to submit photos and memories of Barnsbury, which will also be included in the exhibition. Pupils, students, contributors and local residents will be invited to an opening celebration event for the exhibition where there will be further opportunities for memory sharing and collection. It will demonstrate positive partnership working and collaboration between St. Andrew's Church, local schools, local community groups, local residents and key partners St. Andrew's CofE Primary and UCL. In addition, it will provide our organisation with helpful experience in testing new approaches for heritage engagement with the local community.
- The Community Engagement Practitioner will act as first point of contact for the community heritage pilot project. They will:
- Oversee the work of the Creative Practitioner, purchasing and providing creative materials and helping to facilitate 10 x archive learning creative workshops at schools, community organisations and at St. Andrew's Church.
- Liaise with group leaders, community members, teachers and individuals to facilitate engagement and learning in the pilot project, with a strong focus on engaging new audiences with the heritage.
- Co-ordinate a 'call out' to local residents, encouraging them to submit their photos and memories of Barnsbury for inclusion in the project.
- Lead the memory collection aspect of the project, using digital recording equipment to collect local people's memories of Barnsbury. Planning, organising and facilitating 6 x drop in memory collection events at community venues around Barnsbury. Transposing these memories and feeding them into the creative sessions so that they are incorporated into the final exhibition.
- Creating an online digital heritage resource on the website. Adding collected memory and exhibition content onto the website and encouraging local residents to submit their photos and memories.



- Publicise and promote the project via the local press, social media, email and targeted distribution of posters to local estates and community venues.
- Co-ordinate the installation, and display of the creative time capsule and the pop up exhibition at St. Andrew's Church.
- Plan, host and coordinate a large-scale community celebration event to mark the opening of the exhibition at St. Andrew's Church, inviting all participants, local residents and stakeholders to attend and participate.
- Following the exhibition at St. Andrew's, co-ordinate a 'mini pop-up tour' of the exhibition around Barnsbury and wider Islington to local estates and community venues including Jean Stokes Community Centre, Islington Library, and Islington Museum and Heritage Centre.

Budget

The budget cost for this work is £12,000. The appointed freelance practitioner will be expected to deliver within this budget.

Timetable

The indicative timeframe for the work is as follows:

Fee proposal return – 11.59pm, Friday 12 April 2024

Interview – TBC

Confirmation of appointment & start work – June 2024

Pilot begins – August 2024

Pilot complete by – February 2025 (Celebration event)

Pop up tour dates secured by – March 2025

Contract complete – March 2025

Contact details for questions and submission of tender

Rachel Walker, Parish Administrator, admin@standrewsthornhillsquare.org.uk



Tender process

Interested parties should submit:

- An expression of interest, outlining your understanding of the project brief, method and approach
- A fee proposal for the work, including number of days/task allocation
- Information about your skill and relevant experience
- A recent case study example
- Details of two referees

Project particulars

Equal Opportunities

The project must seek to enable easy access for people with disabilities or limited mobility. Particular user groups that will need to be catered for including older people and parents with young children. Provision should also be made for wheelchair use and for people with limited or partial sight. All aspects of the project must meet the provisions of the Equality Act.

Climate Emergency

- Where possible, materials specified in the project should be obtained from sustainable sources. The project should seek to ensure minimal ongoing use of resources such as water, energy and chemicals.
- Where possible, high quality recycled materials should be used.
- Of particular importance will be consideration of whole-of-life costs associated with the project and the implications for future maintenance.
- Consideration should be given to sustainable transport and environmental impact generally for events and activities.

London Living Wage

St. Andrew's Church requires that London Living Wage is paid by organisations employed by the Church and those which are sub-contracted by such organisations, for all staff who are working within the London area. If you are sub-contracting or working with employees as part of this project, please include in your fee proposal a statement regarding whether you will be paying London Living Wage.