



Dockhead Parish Community Centre Update

Welcome to our first update on our Parish Community Centre

About our new Parish Community Centre

Take a look here at the architect's impression of the space:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_J3muS0sOY&t=7s

The centre will be a **hub for local social, educational, community and charitable activities**, available to the wider Bermondsey community too. It will offer:

- Flexible, open-plan hall for up to 200 people
- Smaller meeting rooms for workshops and group activities
- Reception and informal seating areas
- Fully equipped kitchen
- Accessible cloakroom facilities

Building Works

We are now into our second month of building works. You may have noticed that the hoarding is up along Jamaica Road, that Canon Alan's garden has disappeared (temporarily) and that the old confessional boxes have been demolished along the exterior of the church. The initial demolition and clearing phase is well advanced, and the foundations are being prepared.

There is currently a minor delay while we wait for Council confirmation of the archaeology team that will review the excavation work. The construction team should be back on site shortly.

Fundraising

Our fundraising strategy has two key strands.

- Keely Tattersall is our Diocesan Fund Raiser. She started preliminary work last year to identify **large charitable foundations who fund projects like ours**. Most of these organisations require building work to have started before an application can be made. In the past month, Keely has submitted two significant applications, and will continue that process.

- **As a Parish, we must raise an additional £500,000.** We plan to do this in various ways, including:
 - Applying for local grants (outside the scope of Keely's work)
 - Securing sponsorship from businesses and donors for specific areas of the Parish Community Centre, or specific items (e.g., furniture, sound system, etc)
 - Seeking donations from businesses and individuals associated with our Parish
 - Other Parish fundraising activities

Parish Fundraising Meeting – Thank you to the large and enthusiastic group who came to our meeting on 22 September. It was fantastic to have so many of you there and you suggested many wonderful fundraising ideas. The most popular ideas – as chosen by those who were there on the night - include a dinner for early next year (incorporating an auction), a musical evening, wine tasting, cake sales and a quiz night. More details on these and lots of other activities will follow.

Individual Donations – Since construction started in the past few weeks, we have received donations of almost £30,000 (including gift aid). Thank you for your generosity. This is a strong start. As we approach businesses and outside funders over the coming weeks, it is important to be able to demonstrate that our Parish community supports the project. We still have a considerable amount to raise, but we are off to a good start, and we are grateful for your donations.

Merchandise - We are also currently looking to develop a range of t-shirts, mugs and other merchandise that will be ready in time for Christmas. Please make sure to hold back a little on your early Christmas shopping - there will be some wonderful stocking fillers available. Our first batch of mugs will be available for sale after the 10am Mass this Sunday.

Do you know of any community funds? Some parishioners may know of community funds or charities to which we could make an application. We would very much like to hear from you if you have those contacts. We are finalising an information pack and can offer help with writing any grant applications.

If you have any further fundraising ideas, suggestions or donations - please drop an email marked "Parish Centre Appeal" to dockheadadmin@rcaos.org.uk

Thank you

Your support will help us to:

- ✓ **Restore a much-needed community space (lost when the Felton Hall was demolished)**
- ✓ **Strengthen local social connections and reduce isolation**
- ✓ **Provide opportunities for learning, creativity, and volunteering**
- ✓ **Create a lasting legacy — a safe, inclusive centre for generations to come**