

News release
25 June 2009



St Mark's Takes Makeover Project Community-wide in appeal to update facilities used up to 800 in Kensal Rise/ Harlesden

An ambitious plan for a state of the art community centre for all at St Mark's church, Kensal Rise, called the Makeover Project launched today, with a programme of fundraising kicked off by a design an identity competition with prize winning categories across all ages.

Speaking at the launch event, Rev Phil Stone said: "St Mark's church hall is a hidden gem in the community, already used by so many more than the church congregation.

"It is *your place in our space* to a diverse range of organisations and individuals in the Harlesden/ Kensal Rise community with up to 800 people using the centre each week – that's over four times the average Sunday congregation. We are truly at the heart of the community from babies – at mothers and toddlers – through to the more senior citizens at Living Well over 60s club, and the homeless in our over-winter shelter.

"We're appealing to this community to join the fun and fundraising, starting off by entering our Design an Identity for the Facilities at St Mark's competition. Entrance is free – though donations to the Makeover Project are welcome – and there will be finalists in every category from pre-school to post university. There will be an exhibition of finalists next year and the overall winner will get to see their identity, that's the name and logo, used for the facilities at St Mark's. The really fun bit is that we're encouraging entrants in all media," Rev Stone commented.

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About the Makeover project



Brent Association for Voluntary Action (BRAVA) and Well London have identified the area where St Mark's Church is located as lacking in community facilities and the buildings in which to host them. With new improved facilities, St Mark's will be able to expand and build on existing partnerships with community groups to benefit all ages.

Launched in June 2009, The Makeover Project is an ambitious five-year redevelopment plan to create a significantly improved community facility adjacent to and in St Mark's Church.

The project aims to fund redevelopment work that will create a significantly improved community centre adjacent to St Mark's Church. Subsequently, the plan is to create a large flexible space in the church itself for community use from Monday-Saturday.

The benefits stretch far beyond the Church congregation to the whole local community. The people behind the Makeover Project want everyone, whether they worship at St Marks or not, to continue to benefit from and use the facilities. And for that reason, the whole community is invited and encouraged to help us on our fundraising journey.

Fundraising targets are challenging – The Makeover Project is looking to raise £750,000 or more over the next five years - and plans are phased accordingly. A proportion of the funding will be achieved through grants and the rest through the congregation and the support of our local community.

To find out how you can get involved log on to www.saintms.co.uk/makeover, email makeover@saintms.co.uk or talk to Rev Phil Stone.

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