

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR PARISH HALL

1. Issues for consideration and support.

- Ownership/Trusteeship of buildings.
- Funding for structural repairs and upgrades
- How do we identify the best partnerships?
- Running costs
- Sustainability. Becoming an enterprise
- How do we set up a users' group?
- Licensing for activities
- Marketing ourselves.
- How do we establish charges for use of the space?
- At what point do buildings cease to be viable?
- How do we develop letting policies that reflect our ethos?
- Do we need staff to cover duties linked to the building?

2. Some thoughts on partnership working.

When planning potential use of your hall or other community facilities, it is well worth undertaking a Parish audit. This will give you vital information about your local community, identify your place in the 'market' and give you some important clues as to opportunities for development.

We can help you to plan the process as well as contributing the skills and knowledge of Alison Peacock, our parish mission officer. Using a piece of software called GIS, Alison can prepare a map showing the overall indicators of deprivation in your area. This is a very practical way of identifying need in your area. For example, if the survey shows a large proportion of low income older people, you may want to hold a luncheon club twice a week.

Other issues may include:

- *Changing populations.* The influx of refugees, people seeking asylum and migrant workers is altering the make up of our communities. In some cases they are adding to the numbers of worshippers too!
- *Move to community based services.* There has been a shift towards providing services out in the community, especially in areas of multiple deprivation. E.g. the Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities (NLDC) programmes are being delivered in community spaces. There could be opportunities to fund work in your facility. Similarly, smaller community libraries are being developed in different locations.

- *Extended services in schools.* Schools are being 'encouraged' to provide wraparound services to the benefit of children, young people and their families. They can often only deliver these in partnership with other agencies.
- *Impact of IT.* As technology becomes more available, and cheaper it opens up the possibilities of having IT based activities be it a homework club, classes for newly arrived people etc. Also DVD based technology means you can run a Saturday morning film club, or a musical for an older midweek audience.
- *The great outdoors!* If you also have space around your hall, you can consider community sports as an activity which brings people together, as well as providing a source of income. Similarly, a community garden, wildlife area, or quiet place can be delivered in collaboration with a variety of other agencies.
- *Community art and history.* A timeline tracing the history of your parish, photographs and memories, a big mural can all be exhibited in the hall and or church space too.

3. Running costs. A checklist

Heating and lighting
 Water charges
 Cleaning and maintenance
 Repairs and renewals
 Refuse disposal
 Insurances
 Staffing
 Health and safety, and kitchen and food hygiene

4. Items for future workshops.

- Licensing Laws
- Establishing and supporting a users' group
- Planning and budgeting

Church and Society and GMCVO to liaise regarding potential further joint developments.

5. Sources of help.

For those wishing to undertake a Parish Audit. Contact Mike France on 0161 828 1475. mikefrance@manchesteranglican.org

Greater Manchester Council for Voluntary Organisations (GMCVO) runs a community buildings information network, and offer a range of support to people working in hubs or centres of neighbourhood activity.

Contact Morag Rose on 0161 277 1039.

morag.rose@gmcvo.org.uk

Faiths4Change are based in Old Trafford and offer free services for all faith groups on making buildings more sustainable, and offer vocational training sessions.

karen@faiths4change.org.uk Telephone 0161 877 7756