



CREATIVE 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 delivery 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 Creative Practitioner to support the next stage of this exciting project.



The Brief

The Creative Practitioner will:

- Work closely with the Community Engagement Practitioner, to run creative learning sessions with the local community in Barnsbury to support the pilot. Participants will include school pupils, members of local community groups and local residents living on estates near to the Church by the Caledonian Road particularly the Bemerton Estate. We require at least 10 x creative learning sessions to be delivered as part of the work at St. Andrew's and various local community venues.
- Using archive material and photos as inspiration, lead a creative exploration of the local heritage stories, bringing to life examples of people from the past that lived in Barnsbury in the 1850s, when St. Andrew's Church was first built.
- Lead discussions about memories of Barnsbury in the past and what it's like living there today, listening and responding to participants' memories and personal photos. Memories will be recorded by the Community Engagement Facilitator.
- Using mixed media such as paint, textiles and photography, work with participants to respond to the heritage stories and create two outputs:
- Create content for a large-scale pop-up exhibition at St. Andrew's Church, displayed on portable roller banners. The exhibition will then tour as a pop-up display to community venues and estates around Barnsbury and wider Islington including Jean Stokes Community Centre, Islington Library and Islington Museum and Heritage Centre.
- Create a time capsule celebrating life in Barnsbury today, to be displayed at St. Andrew's Church. High quality, recycled materials will be preferred.

Budget

The fee for this work is £4,000 (excluding materials). A separate budget allowance is available towards materials and will be agreed with the Community Engagement Practitioner. 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 – May 2024

St Andrew's Church, Thornhill Square, Islington, NI IBQ



Creative workshops – August 2024 – December 2024

Exhibition and Time Capsule at St. Andrew's – February 2025

Contact finishes – March 2025

Contact details for questions and submission of tender

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

Tender procedure

Interested parties should submit:

- An expression of interest, outlining your understanding of the project brief, method and approach
- A fee proposal for the work with number of days/key tasks breakdown
- Information about your relevant skills and experience
- A recent case study example with photos of your work
- 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

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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.