

REPORT:
St Barnabas' Community
for the Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum Meeting 24.05.07

www.sbarnabas.com

Welcome to St. Barnabas' Parish Church Royal Tunbridge Wells

www.barnabasproject.org.uk

St Barnabas' Neighbourhood Project, Tunbridge Wells

Saint Barnabas' Parish Pre-School

Father Ed Tomlinson reported that, due to its comparatively small size, the St. Barnabas' Parish community is often neglected in terms of funding and provision. This is alarming considering it is home to some of the town's most disadvantaged citizens.

In a recent poll it was discovered that 68% of school pupils had received no pre-school education whatsoever. Of the remaining 32% most of the provision had been sporadic and/or fairly ineffectual. The result is that St. Barnabas' school pupils arrive two years behind their contemporaries as regards educational provision.

Mrs. Theresa Anderson (Head teacher of St. Barnabas' School) and Father Ed have therefore been working to overcome this problem. A pre-school is being set up to run on the Church site from September. It will run as a charitable foundation, with any profit helping to support families experiencing financial hardship.

In order to achieve the vision funding must be found within a relatively short timescale. £30k is required to ensure the pre-school does not fold within the first few years. £140k is required to renovate a tired Church hall into a thriving parish centre. (Building will inevitably start after September but needs to be put in place as soon as possible.)

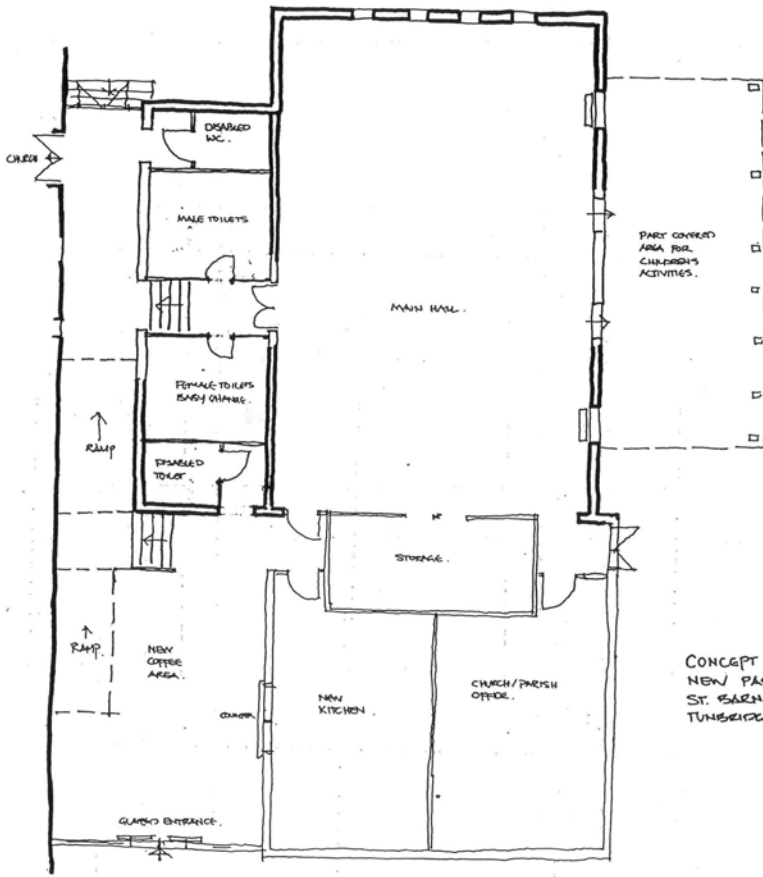
The centre would comprise a small café area, a counselling room and refurbished kitchen and toilets. This is in addition to an outdoor area/playground for use by children at the pre-school.

As from May 2007 two Family Liaison Officers will be based on site and it is anticipated that more agencies will be drafted in on an occasional basis (ie in order to run health clinics or offer counselling/ parenting classes).

This provision is desperately needed. It will offer an often forgotten community a focal point in which to gather and a place where help can be found. It will show to some of our poorest residents that we are a town who cares.

Please consider ways in which you might help us to realise this vision.

Father Ed will happily come and offer a power point presentation to any groups who would find more information useful.



CONCEPT DIAGRAM FOR
 NEW PARISH CENTRE
 ST. BARNABAS CHURCH,
 TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

MARK A STEWART
 CHARTERED ARCHITECTS

Mark Stewart
 MA Dip Arch (Cantab) RIBA

3rd Floor Studios, 43 High Street
 Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1XL
 Tel 01892 530035 Fax 01892 532135

Concept Diagram for New Parish Centre
 St Barnabas Church, Royal Tunbridge Wells
 May 2007