

St. Mark's Church Haydock Centenary Community & Quiet Garden

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

FEEDING LOVERPOOL COMMUNITY GARDENS ZOOM EVENT 11th MAY 2021

- In former (14 mines) coalfield area, but now a semi-urban linear village with medium level of deprivation, adjacent to St. Helens, the East Lancs Road and M6 Motorway.
- Though the Garden offers opportunity for local people to have free access to a 'bag' garden on with advice and assistance on growing vegetables, unlike similar city-based projects, uptake has been minimal. (Most houses have gardens, or access to allotments. There are a few flats, mostly for the retired.)
- The vision was for an 'extension' for those using our now 20+ year old TANGO Community Project: Furniture Warehouse, Clothing, etc. Shop and TANGO Cafe.
- Also, for congregational groups and visitors to St. Mark's Church with adjacent Centre and Campus. This comprises of Sports Field and Community Orchard, Dog Walk, large Graveyard, Community & Quiet Garden with a 100 space Car Park. Some of the Campus is Local Authority designated as a 'Green Open Space'. Routes to all facilities are clearly sign-posted.
- The Garden is used by various formal and informal St. Mark's Church activities, for both young and old, plus visitors to TANGO facilities, and other Campus areas. Pre – pandemic, we estimate that up to 1,000 people used the Church and it's Campus facilities each week.
- The Garden offers a space of beauty & peace, to enjoy and relax, with the concept of an alternative outreach through enjoyment with interpretation of God's Creation.
- There is a self - conducted physical 'Spiritual Walk' – leading from the Church foyer 'King's Table' Cafe through six different Garden 'rooms' to the King's Rest'- Graveyard.
- Thus the affiliation to the UK - based, but world-wide 300 + Quiet Garden Movement
- The Garden has several accessible pathway routes with amply seating and poetry, quotes and other similar plaques placed throughout.
- At the centre of the Garden is a circular Labyrinth, with 8 mini gardens inviting reflection on the key words of a Bible verse: "*Whatever is -TRUE, NOBLE, RIGHT, PURE, LOVELY, ADMIRABLE, EXCELLENT or PRAISE-WORTHY – think on these things.*" (Philippians 4 v.8).
- Maintenance and opening is by a regular two day weekly (all year round) Team, comprising of the Church Gardener and up to 5-6 volunteers per day, with a 'Roots, Shoots & Fruits' Cluster one Saturday per month, welcoming community guests.
- The Community & Quiet Garden is integral to St. Mark's Church 7 year old Eco Congregation /Church status and environmental stewardship strategy. The Church thus offering spiritual, physical / practical and nature's 'food'!

KEY POINTS TO CONSIDER BEFORE SEEKING FUNDING

(Assuming your Project comes from proven or researched need and has community support)

1. BEFORE you decide to apply for Grants, make a list of your 'Contacts and Connections' – it may be useful to let them know about your Project. It might result in a donation, possibly 'seed money' or 'match funding' to attract Grant funding.
What about fund-raising EVENTS, SALES, offering SHARES, CROWDFUNDING, etc, etc.
 2. Finding suitable sources and applying for funding is not easy: many Grant sources – but many seekers and (increasingly) more specific criteria, especially from Covid-19. Note: some Churches may not want to apply for Lottery related Grants. For Charity Trustees: a CODE of PRACTICE!
 3. Be aware that in applying for some Project funding, you may find that higher running costs or incompatible requirements are implied. Don't let this amend or 'drive' your Application or Project.
 4. Construct a summary of the VALUES, MODUS OPERANDI & OBJECTIVES of your Project. Have some BASIC BACKGROUND INFORMATION regarding location, local history, economic / social facts, those involved, and data (like local deprivation statistics, nature of population, success stories, etc.)
 5. Be prepared!
 - a. Are you looking for CORE running costs, CAPITAL funds or a combination of both?
 - b. Do you need to have prior raised other funds or reserves to 'match' those being offered?
 - c. Are there written policies / systems in place for legal requirements such as SAFEGUARDING?
 - d. Do you need to submit AUDITED ACCOUNTS or detailed COSTINGS/BUDGETS?
 - e. Some Grants are on offer periodically - for short periods, annually, until 'oversubscribed', with short completion periods, etc.
 6. When looking for possible sources use the regular free lists of funding providers provided by your local CVS and the Funding Central website, before spending on expensive subscriptions or resource books (which date quickly).
When you see a possible Funding source, which might fit your needs, make sure you list the Eligibility Criteria, Guidance and any specific Interests or Requirements. Many Grant / Funding organisations have online Application Forms, some of which are very long, complicated, time-consuming with limited page count, space, word limits and formatting!
 7. Some possible **Funding Sources for Community Gardens:**
 - The National Lottery, PostCode Lottery and related Funds. Usually larger amounts for large Projects. Note: This type of fund can be part of Grants offered by other Funding bodies.
 - If there is a Quarry, Tip or Recycling facility within 3 or up to 10 miles away – the ENTRUST Government overseen LANDFILL TRUST FUND Operators - like Biffa, Veolia, Enovert, Wren and others. From time to time these offer substantial Grants, from small amounts up to £500,000, usually only requiring a 10% contribution from 'other' sources.
 - BANKS & BUILDING SOCIETIES – for instance the Co-operative Community Fund which offer smaller Grants of up to £1,000 for account holders.
 - Christian Trusts, like The Henry Smith Charity, All Churches (Ecclesiastical Insurance) Trust, Anchor Trust, Garfield Weston 'Faith' category, Joseph Rank Trust, Laing Family Trusts, etc. There are also many small Charitable Trusts with specific or local interests.
 - SHOPS for smaller amounts, local Superstores: TESCO, ASDA, WILKO and others.
- Finally – **Stewardship of the Environment and Resources**
- 'RE/UPCYCLE' soil, pots/containers; bricks/pavers; timber/pallets/crates/tonne bags, etc.
 - SAVE £/WASTE: B&Q, Screwfix, DIY stores, Garden Centres often offer surplus, outdated or damaged stock, like seeds, plants, bags of compost, sand, gravel; timber and paint, etc.
 - 'GREEN' Husbandry. COMPOSTING, avoid PEAT & PESTICIDES. Reduce PLASTIC.