

St Mary's Church Ambleside

**A church without
a church hall**



The Location



Stage One of the Initial Building Appeal

1998-2000: The honeymoon period marked by enthusiasm, lack of experience and a growing realisation of the enormity of the project

[estimated building cost £600,000]

- Street by street survey – do people want a parish centre – answer yes they did
- Architect's brief agreed and RIBA guidelines followed for interviews for architect – Paul Grout appointed
- Preliminary drawings show much more imaginative design that previously envisaged
- St Mary's donates £100,000

Stage Two of the Initial Building Appeal

2000-2002 – Growing ambition about what was possible, some local opposition, realisation that what happens in the building is as important as the building itself

[Building costs rise to £882,828]

- Quantity surveyors costings
- Planning permission agreed
- Became a registered charity with church/ community representation
- Community Fund grant of £395,000
- Town space audit and survey of voluntary sector space needs shows that more space is needed in the town
- Consultation with young people about youth provision

Stage Three of the Initial Building Appeal

2003 – Funds raised to over £650,000 but following structural investigation agreed that extended basement area can be added to original design.

[Building costs rise to £1,000,010]

- Youth project opens one night a week in the Methodist Church Hall and is almost immediately a great success
- Older people's initial survey shows demand for provision
- Still some vociferous local opposition
- Community Fund grant would be withdrawn if spending does not start by 2004
- Fundraiser is in despair – need a miracle!

Ambleside Methodist Church















Going it Alone!

More Than 20 Years of Ecumenism

“The Dream”

“The Nightmare”

- Listing



“The Nightmare”

- Listing
- Planning



“The Nightmare”

- Listing
- Planning
- Best Price Policy



Shap Methodist Church

Shap Methodist Church

Grasmere Methodist Church

Ambleside Parish Centre



Main Hall



The Wesley Room



Kitchen



Youth Club Room



Here Come the Girls Project



The Evergreen Club



Family Drop-In



Current Developments

- Appointment of Centre Development Manager
- Migrant Women's Support Project in partnership with Learning Plus funded through the Methodist Church
- Re-development of current basement storage space into a larger youth space
- Development of existing youth club rooms into rooms for a new counselling project and additional meeting/activity space

Funding for Capital Projects

- Big Lottery – new Community Building programme about to come on line
- The Churches
- Trusts and charities
- Statutory sources
- Local fundraising and donor appeals
- Legacies
- Corporate sponsorship
- Loans

Key Considerations

- Allow time – building projects will take several years
- Some one needs to have or gain fundraising experience
- Be environmentally friendly
- Involve everyone in the congregation from the start
- Involve your local community
- Know how you are going to use your new building for benefit of community as well as the church- have a three year post-building plan
- Don't sit back when the building is completed that is when the real work starts
- Be willing to take risks
- **Never give up**