

## The Barn Ethical Use Policy

The barn is a 200m<sup>2</sup> hall space situated in the gardens of St Saviour's Church, Hanley Road. Built in the late-1800's, the hall has a history of use to support the local community, a Sunday school for working children, a Band of Hope, Clothing clubs and a Penny Bank. The Hall was a space designed to engage with these needs, being a centre of community for local families and serving those who were underprivileged.

Throughout the years the hall has had a colourful and vibrant history, from serving as a theatre to a gymnasium, but over the past 30 years the hall has fallen into a state of disrepair. We're on a journey to bring it back to life.

ARK studios is a partnership of St Saviour's Church and ARK base, seeking to bring the hall back into use – in particular to **build community & showcase creativity in Finsbury Park**. Our value and mission is shaped by our faith, which can be read further at [www.stsaviours.church](http://www.stsaviours.church).

The building is as an active place of Christian worship, and because of this, we have developed an Ethical Use policy for both internal and external use of the building. This sets out our hopes for the creative use of the building, along with some exclusions of events that we are sadly unable to accommodate as an active place of worship.

### Our purpose

The barn is a space that cultivates creativity and community, providing a genuinely affordable space to hire for residents, local businesses, creatives, charities, and purpose-driven organisations in Finsbury Park, Crouch Hill and beyond, whilst also knowing our environmental footprint. Every hire invests straight back into the restoration of the building, practically fueling the ongoing story of new life.

### Events we seek to host

As an ambitious organisation with charitable objectives, we are particularly keen to host events that are:

- **Local.** We love our local area and love hosting residents, creatives and businesses who are local Finsbury Park & Crouch Hill, and excited to see the transformation of the area.
- **Creative.** Our vision is to see the barn being used again as a space that cultivates creativity. With the Barn's limited functionality, the Barn is best set-up for photography and film shoots.
- **Promote Diversity and community.** We are excited to host hires that bring together people from different backgrounds and all walks of life.
- **Restorative.** Our ultimate goal is to see the physical, social and spiritual transformation of the barn and our local area.
- **Partnerships.** So much of our approach is founded on long-term partnerships with local organisations doing amazing things. We love hires to be the catalyst for further partnership.
- **Sustainable.** We want to reduce the impact of our venue, and promote activities that are working towards a sustainable future.

### Restricted activities:

Alongside this, however, there are certain events or organisations that we are sadly unable to host. Many of these are guided by the definition and discussion of the relevant ethical issues by the Church of England's Ethical Investment Advisory Group (EIAG) and/or the National Investing Bodies - as well as further exclusions as a place of Christian worship. The exclusions are:

1. The hirer is known to be engaged in or promoting illegal activity
2. The hirer promotes views which are anathema to the teachings of the Church of England, as may be affirmed by its Synodical or Episcopal statement from time to time, such as groups which promote racial prejudice.
3. The hirer is known to be involved in the production or distribution of pornography or achieves its material revenue from the production or distribution of pornography.
4. The hirer produces indiscriminate weapons such as nuclear weapons, chemical weapons, biological weapons or anti-personnel mines.
5. The hirer derives more than 10% of its revenues from conventional weaponry, tobacco, E-cigarettes, recreational cannabis, gambling, non-military firearms, thermal coal mining, production of oil from oil sands or high-interest loans, or recreational drugs.
6. The hirer is a company in which the Church of England has decided on ethical grounds not to invest, including with regard to alcohol production or retail.
7. The hirer derives more than 25% of its revenues from alcohol.
8. The hirer is indiscriminate and/or irresponsible in seeking sponsorship from any of the above categories. In order to ensure that this is not the case, the Corporation may ask the hirer to disclose to them the criteria upon which they seek or refuse sponsorship.
9. Other non-Christian faith groups, festivals or activities, except for social functions and events that promote social cohesion.
10. Campaigning groups and Political Parties where they also promote illegal or immoral activity as defined by the Church of England through its Synodical or episcopal statements from time to time.
11. Cultural events that glorify or promote illegal or immoral behaviors as defined by the Church of England unless it is an educational event where such material will be critiqued and debate will occur.
12. Events involving sex acts and/or nudity
13. Other events that may impact the reputational risk to St Saviour's or the Church of England.

Please also note that we don't currently hold a wedding license in the barn.

We recognise that each booking in the Barn will be uniquely different from one another, and that this policy will not capture all types of events that will be hosted in the space. We have a steering group made up of representatives of different backgrounds to discuss any events that we are unsure about hosting. This may lead to a small delay in accepting certain enquiries.

## **Alcohol and Drugs policy**

The Barn does not have a premises license, and so alcohol cannot be consumed or sold on site. Smoking is prohibited in indoor areas of the site, and illegal drugs are prohibited from being brought on to site.

This policy was agreed by Management on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024.