



GOOD NEWS

We all like to hear it – we all like to share it

It's been a year and a bit of bad news – a global pandemic, and all sorts of restrictions to keep everyone as safe as possible. But then there came some good news: a vaccination to protect us. As it has been steadily rolling out, our hopes have been rising. Maybe, just maybe...

Good news can take many forms. A new addition to the family, a good result for your football team, a phone call from an old friend. And of course we love to share our good news with others.

We at Brunswick church have some good news to share. And some Good News.

Refurb Project – good news

As you will probably be aware, we have been raising funds for the first phase of our Refurb Project – some much needed repairs to our building which hosts so many community activities, such as Positive Steps, M13 Youth Project and, during Covid, the Brunswick Beestro. Well, our good news is that we have raised over 90% of our total and building work can actually



begin in May. Big thanks to the many people and funders who have helped make this possible. Still a bit to go, but we are hopeful that it will come in.

Easter – Good News

Of course this is the time of year that Christians celebrate what we believe is the best news of all. The death and resurrection of Jesus make possible a relationship with the God that made us. After a year of uncertainty, loss and frustration, something to hold on to and hope in could make all the difference. This could be a good time to find out about the Good News. You would be very welcome at our Easter Services.



In This Issue:	
Simon Says	2
Easter Services	2
What Easter means to me	2
A Poem for Easter by Gerald Kelly	2
Lockdown lows, woes... and hope	3
Refurb: building lives	3
A New Community Garden	4
Greetings from our Councillors	4

Simon says...



“Greetings... it's been a while! Actually, I'm sure for some reading this (noting how much new housing has gone up recently), it might be a case of "who is Simon, and what gives him the right to 'say' anything?" Well if so, let me introduce myself...

I'm Simon, and I have had the joy of being the Rector (or vicar) of Brunswick, living here for over 27 years! Up to now, it's been a privilege, experiencing many highs and occasional lows that go with this amazing community. And certainly there have been many changes along the way.

Whilst recently clearing out old paperwork to make room for some of the changes we hope to experience in our own building (as I'm sure you've already read about), I came across a copy of this same Brunswick News which was put together way back in April 2006. It carried the title "Regeneration" and was looking ahead to the transformation of the estate.

Well, 15 years later, we're almost there, attested to by the number of new roads, avenues and houses that we now find in our community. Again there have been a number of highs, matched with a few disappointments (...whatever happened to the hope of affordable and shared ownership properties?) along the way.

But of course real community isn't made up of buildings of any kind, but instead the people - the residents that live here. We look forward to soon opening our doors once again throughout the week, hosting a whole array of activities that we hope contribute positively to all the aspects of life, where folk can gather, and share in the support of one another. And as perhaps lives need regenerating too, with the opportunity of fresh starts (I wonder what we promised ourselves once the spectre of Covid diminishes?), there is also, we believe, the support that God wants to be to us too. Easter is a season where we marvel at Jesus' claims and indeed his demonstration of 'new life'. Be assured, that regeneration is a possibility for ourselves too. Happy Easter!



Easter Services

Good Friday meditative service 10:45am, April 2.

Easter Sunday Celebration 10:45am, April 4.

Services will be in the church (with social distancing and other safety measures - please wear a facemask) and also accessible on Zoom. Email hello@brunswickchurch.org.uk for more details or visit our website www.brunswickchurch.org.uk.



What Easter means to me

The death and resurrection of Jesus are a most important part of Christianity. Through the crucifixion and not my works, Jesus paid for all my sins. Because of his resurrection I know he is alive with God the Father interceding on my behalf. So I know for sure that I will be with him in Glory. This is the Good News that can be freely yours too.



Judith Karanja

A Poem for Easter by Gerard Kelly

Because he is risen,
spring is possible
in all the cold hard places gripped by winter
and freedom jumps the queue
to take fear's place as our focus.
And my future is an epic novel
where once it was a mere short story.
Because he is risen.

Because he is risen,
healing is on order and assured
and every disability will bow
before the endless dance of his ability
and my grave too will open when my life is restored,
for this frail and fragile body
will not be the final word on my condition.
Because he is risen.

Because he is risen,
hunger will go begging in the streets for want of a home
and selfishness will have a shortened shelf-life
and we will throng to the funeral of famine
and dance on the callous grave of war
and poverty will be history in our history.
Because he is risen.

And because he is risen,
a fire burns in my bones
and my eyes see possibilities
and my heart hears hope like a whisper on the wind
and the song that rises in me will not be silenced
as life disrupts this shadowed place of death
like a butterfly under the skin and death itself
runs terrified to hide.
Because he is risen

Lockdown lows, woes... and hope

What a year! I don't know about you but, if you'd have told me all that we were going to go through at the beginning of last year, I simply wouldn't have believed you. Who could have imagined that face masks would become part of our everyday life or that hugs would be outlawed?

I've been more fortunate than most, I haven't lost my job or lost loved ones but I am acutely aware that I am in the minority and that some of those dear to me have seemed to have been hit with more than their fair share of challenges and sorrow in comparison. Please be assured that you are constantly in our prayers.



In church we have been working hard to carefully follow all of the guidelines and do our part to keep everybody safe. We've also been trying to respond to those most in need in our community by providing a hot meal five days a week to those who have been hit hardest by the pandemic c/o the Brunswick Beestro with our partners Cracking Good Food.

It is hard and it can be easy to lose hope but, if the Easter story tells us anything, it tells us that God is present even in the very worst of times and that life and hope spring forth even in the midst of death. May you know God's presence with you in this present darkness and, as we remember the Easter story once more, may you be filled with hope in him for brighter days to come.

Jess Davis



Refurb: Building Lives

Since opening in 1974 Brunswick Parish Church has been a focus of local community life, providing the only versatile space in the area for diverse activities. With its catering kitchen, a sports hall, a worship space "in the round" and several small meeting rooms, the church building has been heavily used as a suitable venue for a wide range of users.

Our Positive Steps project offers a community café, a toddler group, an over 50s group, women's group, advice and guidance drop in, fitness classes, English language lessons and other social activities. M13 Youth Project run youth work. In recent years, during the winter the building has become a night shelter for rough sleepers. We often host or organise special community events from family fun days to pancake parties. Of course during COVID much of this activity has moved online (hopefully not for much longer), but through the Brunswick Beestro the building has underlined its importance to the community yet again.



With all this wear and tear we felt it was time to give the building some TLC, and to make some improvements. Refurb is an ambitious project to do just that to enable it to host many more years of service and ministry as a Community Hub for our local area. Now after 3 years fund-raising we are getting ready to begin phase one, which will include improving the sports hall. Read more at www.brunswickchurch.org.uk/refurb.html

We have also begun to explore another part of Refurb – the creation of a Church Community Garden: see page 4.

Refr
Building Lives





A New Community Garden

As the Refurb sports hall project starts, we also have an amazing opportunity to transform the opposite side of the building. The fencing around the new extra care centre means we can use our paved area as a safe place to play, a calm space to relax and a fun space to make friends. It's not very welcoming at the moment, so we would love to hear from you about how to turn this space into a garden.

Can you fill in our questionnaire to let us know your ideas about how you would like to use the space? Someone who used to attend Brunswick church has offered to help design the garden, but he needs to know what we would like to include. Toddler play areas, mood lighting, wildlife friendly plants, covered seating and performance areas are some of the ideas people have already suggested. Just for this summer we will start to make it colourful and fun whilst we look for funds for a larger transformation. Watch out for posters and our Facebook and web sites after Easter for free plants in exchange for your ideas.



OMIArchitects



To fill in the questionnaire, scan the QR-code or go to: brunswickchurch.org.uk/refurb-garden. Or ask at the church for a paper copy.

Anne Flear



'Brunswick Church has been a big part of my life as a local resident over the last decade. Not only has it provided me with skills and knowledge but also creates a space in which all communities are welcomed. I am very pleased to see the refurbishment plans underway to cater to even more of our community.'



Councillor Amna Abdulatif

Brunswick church, has been a focus for the elderly residents and the youth, the church is a great asset to the community, I am really pleased to see the up and coming refurbishment plans, which will be good for the community and future residents.



Councillor Tina Hewitson

"Brunswick Church has been a focal point for the community for many decades and has been the location of many activities bringing together people from all backgrounds. News that it is to be refurbished and that it will continue to be there for future generations is excellent news!"



Councillor Bernard Priest