



## Eastertide 2021

Dear Church Leader,

Greetings from Brunswick Parish Church. We trust this Easter season has been good to you and your fellowship and that, like ourselves, you are looking forward to Pentecost celebrations to come, in the hope that Covid restrictions might be further lifted enabling the singing of God's praises in our respective church buildings.

We write to share what we hope is an encouraging account of God's goodness to us as a congregation.

Located in a deprived area of central Manchester, and based in a building which is now showing its age, our small yet faithful congregation was encouraged, through prayer, to work towards the phased refurbishment of our building which has served the surrounding community for almost 50 years. Our commitment to serving others compelled us to prioritise the "community hub" element of the refurbishment ahead of plans that would benefit the worshipping community alone.

We have been working and praying hard to raise the funds for this first phase of 'Refurb' over the past 20 months, and now, thanks to a mix of donations from present and past members, the commitment of our own church reserves and several successful grant applications, we are amazingly within £50,000 of the total of £600,000 needed for the full refurbishment of Phase One. Not bad for a small inner-city congregation and a great testimony to God who has got us here! We are nearly there and in faith have commissioned the work to begin (more here: [brunswickchurch.org.uk/phase-one](http://brunswickchurch.org.uk/phase-one)).

We'd be delighted if you'd consider supporting us in prayer as we pursue this exciting and daunting journey. We'd also be delighted if, as fellow sisters and brothers in Christ, your church felt in a position to contribute financially to this work. We've done quite a bit of thinking around this area theologically, leading us to write and share our news and needs – should you wish to, you can read our thoughts here: [brunswickchurch.org.uk/refurb-thinking](http://brunswickchurch.org.uk/refurb-thinking)

Regardless, we wish you and your congregation well in the months to come and hope you take encouragement from our God-led adventure.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Simon Gatenby'.

Simon Gatenby and the congregation of Brunswick Parish Church

**Rector: The Rev'd Canon Simon Gatenby**

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