



Dear

Greetings from Brunswick Church in Manchester.

We are contacting people who used to be members of the church to let you know about some big changes going on in the Brunswick neighbourhood, which we, as a long-time part of the life of the area, are very much involved in. As part of this, we would also like to tell you about a crowdfunding project we are embarking on, and invite you to support us.

The Brunswick Estate is currently undergoing a major refurbishing and rebuilding programme via a Private Finance Initiative. The first part of this took place several years ago with the building of a brand new health centre and the rebuilding of Medlock School (scene of our 'Brunswick Festival' in 1981, for those of you with long memories!). The recession delayed the next stage, but that is now in full swing, with parts of the estate being redesigned, new houses built, others demolished, and others being refurbished. This of course has pastoral and other implications and as a church we have been deeply involved in the whole planning and consultation processes. We have also been able to help individuals and families as they cope with moving, losing neighbours, having parts of their houses knocked down and the general dust and change. Early in the process a major consultation was done with local people and Brunswick Church came out of it very favourably with a high approval rating, making our building in many ways the heart of the local community.

With that in mind, and with our building showing more than a little wear and tear from over 40 years extensive daily use by church, community and other organisations, we felt it was time for a bit of refurbishment and improvement alongside that happening around us. A 'Refurb' group, which includes church members and representatives from S4B (the PFI company) has been meeting for over three years and after doing our own survey of what local people wanted from this building a number of ideas are in early stages of development. The first that could actually happen is a concurrent scheme we have joined, along with many other community organisations across Manchester, to install solar panels on all of our buildings.



This is being financed by setting up a Community Benefit Society (CBS). The idea is to help community organisations interested in "installing solar photovoltaic panels (solar), exploring how to improve energy efficiency and tackle fuel poverty but lack sufficient finance and capacity to develop them."

The CBS will issue shares in the company to pay for the installation of solar panels on all 20 buildings – including Brunswick. Coming together with the other groups builds stronger community links and makes a positive environmental statement as well as hopefully getting us all the benefit of cheaper electricity. We can also buy some of the shares as a church and get a return from the Feed In Tariff paid on the energy generated by the panels. How many we buy depends on how much we can raise. Which is where the linked Crowdfunding scheme comes in.

Each of the participating organisations has been given training in creative and fun ways to raise funds to purchase shares. We have been encouraged to identify our "crowd" or community. This will vary from group to group: users, clients, members, friends, neighbours, and local businesses. But for Brunswick, as well as the above – which will include the current congregation, plus all those who use the building during the week – we uniquely also have our alumni, past members, ex-Brunswickians: the 'Brunswick Diaspora'! Which is where you come in...

Hopefully your time at Brunswick, however long ago, was one of benefit and a positive and learning experience in your Christian life that you have been able to build on and pass on to others since. Would you be willing, in gratitude to God, to make a donation towards the solar panels and/or to help in our ongoing Refurb programme?

We realise that for some this will not be possible due to existing commitments and that is fine, but we would also ask if you would support us in prayer for this first project and the whole Refurb programme which will take a number of years and a lot of resources. Pray for our vision, energy, grace and stamina! Pray most of all for our ongoing mission to the people of this area, particularly as we go together through many changes in the coming years.

- The fundraising period for the solar panels lasts until the end of June. Our initial target is £3000. For further information and to donate please find us on the Community Energy for Greater Manchester website: [www.cegm.org.uk/brunswick-parish-church](http://www.cegm.org.uk/brunswick-parish-church).
- To donate to our Refurb fund and/or sign up for prayer and updates, please use our online form: [www.brunswickchurch.org.uk/refurbsupport.html](http://www.brunswickchurch.org.uk/refurbsupport.html). Or fill in and email back the form below.

So many have been members of Brunswick over the years, and you may still be in touch with some that we do not have contact details for. If that is that case please feel free to forward this email to them, or send us their info.

Whatever you decide in terms of supporting our solar panels crowdfunding, we would love to have you say hello via our Facebook page ([facebook.com/brunswickchurchmcr](https://facebook.com/brunswickchurchmcr)). You can also catch up with all our news on our website: [www.brunswickchurch.org.uk](http://www.brunswickchurch.org.uk).

Thanks for taking the time to read this letter. We are look forward to hearing from you or seeing you again soon!

With best wishes.



on behalf of Brunswick Church, Manchester

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Name	Email
Phone (optional)	When at Brunswick

I would like to support Brunswick's Refurb project:

Solar Panels	General Refurb fund
Single Payment of £	by bank transfer.
Regular Payment of £	by Standing Order.

Bank details: Sort-code: 16-25-14; Account no. 13157288; Name: PCC Christ Church Brunswick.

I would like to Gift Aid my donation. Please send details.

I would like to pray for and/or be kept in touch about the Refurb project.  
Please send me occasional updates by email.

I would like to offer 'in-kind' support (add details below).

Please return completed form to: [refurb@brunswickchurch.org.uk](mailto:refurb@brunswickchurch.org.uk)

