



April 2021

We've started Refurb... sort of

Dear friends of Brunswick Church.

Welcome to another Refurb Update. We have more brilliant news, not just on Phase One, but also on the unexpected start that's been made on another aspect of Refurb, just in the last couple of months. We also have a request for help for you to pass on.



But first, just to confuse you, the start date we gave last time for Phase One has turned out to be doubly inaccurate! As with virtually all building projects, there has been “slippage” – contractors will now be on site from 4th May with work proper starting on 10th May. However, work has *already started* in that the site has to be prepared and cleared. Rosgal, a local engineering company, have removed that scratcher of much vehicle paint, the old car park wall, and provided a skip and storage container for free. In these will go the results of a big clear out of the hall and other parts of the building that need to be made ready. A team of volunteers have been doing our biggest ever spring clean.

“Slippage” has also occurred in the costs. Prices set before lockdown have inevitably gone up in the meantime, but not by enough to mean postponing of building. This is thanks to another sizeable grant, a generous gift from a member of our Diaspora, further giving from the current congregation and the pro bono work from Rosgal. But we have still had to implement some “value engineering”, or as everyone else would call it, savings. These include some features that are not absolutely necessary but we would really like to have and think our local community deserve – such as to improve the acoustics of the hall. Also, as this is an ongoing project we have no contingencies for unexpected issues.



Which all means a deficit remains. Doing the sums, ideally we would like to raise another £50,000 - about 8% of our latest (and hopefully final) total of £600,000. As always, we are looking to God to provide, and given how that has worked out so far, we have some faith that he will finish what he has started. For this provision we are looking at a new source, which we realised we had not actually considered before, even though it is Biblical!

In the Early Church when a church was in need, the Apostle Paul was quite direct in asking other churches to help, “according to your means” so that “your abundance can contribute to their lack”. We have been looking at how he does this in 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9 and reflected on and written about what he calls “an act of grace”. You can have a read here: brunswickchurch.org.uk/refurb-thinking

So, attached to this update you will find a letter for your church leader (or leadership) from ours, Simon, on behalf of Brunswick Church. If applicable, and you feel it appropriate to do so, please pass this on. Other avenues of giving remain open, and of course we would ask you to keep praying as this adventure continues.

Church Community Garden

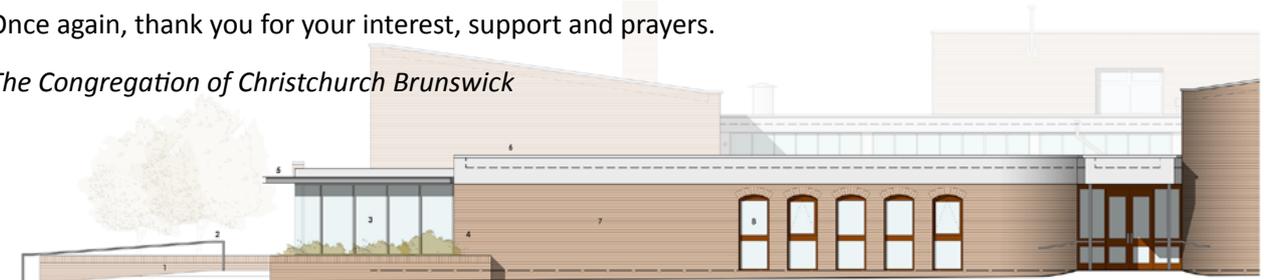
One of the future Refurb phases includes turning the paved area behind the church Worship Room into a garden. In February one of our 'diaspora' was looking at the architect's drawings on our website, spotted this and, as he only happens to be a landscape gardener, got in touch to offer his professional expertise. How good is that?

So, with Robert's help we have been looking at possible designs to make it a multi-purpose area for church and community use. Initial work has begun % some enthusiastic volunteers, and a consultation has been launched to ask local people what they'd like to see in this space and how they would like to use it. The area has been cleaned, some second-hand furniture and other items acquired cheaply, and other items, including a bird bath, donated. The church's long defunct original speaker cabinets, which turned up in the Big Spring Clean, have been repurposed as plant boxes. Local building company S4B have also given some help in kind. Creativity unleashed and a lot achieved on a budget of virtually nothing. On Easter Sunday we began our celebration service in the garden - more photos in the [website news section](#).

At some point some financing will be needed for the bigger changes we have in mind, but one thing at a time... unless you happen to know of green grants for reclaiming land currently under flag-stones? More info and photos here: brunswickchurch.org.uk/refurb-garden

Once again, thank you for your interest, support and prayers.

The Congregation of Christchurch Brunswick



PROPOSED ELEVATION - PARTIAL DETAIL
BRUNSWICK STREET
1:1000 @ A3

OMI ARCHITECTS