



February 2021

Dear friends of Brunswick Church near and far.

We have some great news. Before reading on, you may wish to be seated, to remove any nearby breakable objects, and be out of earshot of pets or anyone of a nervous disposition...

WORK ON REFURB PHASE ONE STARTS ON APRIL 12!

In July we told you about a couple of successful grant applications (Bernard Sunley and Garfield Weston), and that we were waiting to hear from several others... one in particular. Well, we have heard back.



On top of those two grants, which gave us £70k, we have since also had grants from All Churches Trust (£12k) and a lovely surprise from Tudor Trust who gave us £70k – almost double what we were expecting! Read the nice things they said about us [here](#).

All really encouraging. However, with funds now at about £335k we were still a long way short of our requirement of £530k. Fund-raising continued throughout the year with contributions from both current

congregation (including custom-facemask-making adding over £1000! Got yours yet?), and our "Diaspora".

Our final grant application to Sport England had gone a bit quiet. We had applied in December 2019, met them in January, and were hopeful of a response by April, but we knew they would be very busy with the Pandemic response. So we waited... and prayed. In December this year they contacted us to say that they were looking at the grant again, and had some questions. We had already been told that we wouldn't get our requested £150k – it would be more like £100k – and with the Pandemic we didn't know what to expect. On 11th January we got an offer of... £150k. One Hundred And Fifty Thousand Pounds. Sterling. So, where does that leave us? Well, firstly thanking God for his amazing provision and also all of you for your prayer, encouragement and giving that have helped get us to this place.



Working on the last cost estimate we have, this gets us to just over 90% of our total – it may be a bit less or more. So we still need to raise a bit more – a sum of about £45k. But we also need to get cracking as the 47 year old heating boiler finally stopped working in early December. The brilliant news is that our architect has confirmed that we have enough for **Actual Building Work to start on April 12.**

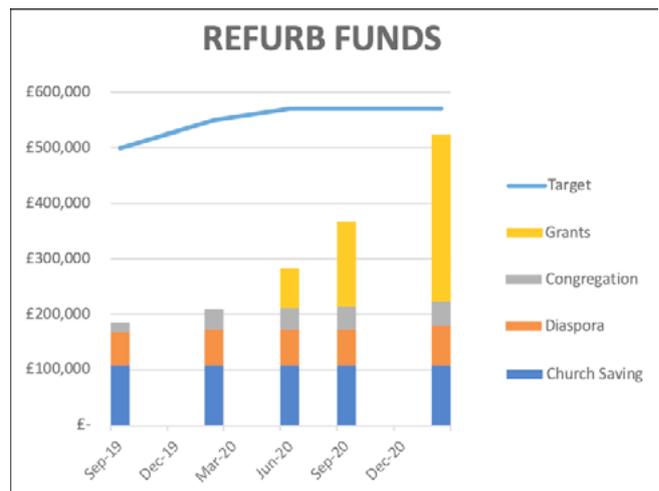
It is estimated the work will take around four months, so we also need to start thinking about what activities will happen within the new facilities later in 2021.

Meanwhile, through the various lockdowns, the building has continued to be used for cooking up to 200 meals each day by our partners 'Cracking Good Food'. These are given out along with other supplies at the lunchtime 'Brunswick Beestro' and around the city to those in need. Youth work by M13 Youth Project still happens regularly as well. We will need to accommodate these activities around the construction work. As well as totally clear that part of the building.



We would love you to share in our thanks and praise to God for what has happened. And also to pray with us as we embark on the actual work of Refurb Phase One. As you can imagine, we're a bit stunned and excited that, after all this work and prayer, it is finally coming to pass.

For your prayers, there is still the matter of raising that last 10% to ensure we can complete Phase One this year. We have some ideas on that, but if you are able to support us at all, that would be a help and encouragement. No sum is too small, and small amounts build up (remember the facemasks!). The Refurb page on our website gives more information and has an online donation facility.



Being Brunswick, we will no doubt have a big opening event sometime in the Autumn – Covid permitting of course – to which you will all be invited. Watch this space.

Please [contact us](#) for any further information you may need.

Thank you again for walking with us on this Refurb adventure – our first destination is in sight!



The Congregation of Christchurch Brunswick

