



January 2020

Dear friends and supporters

## Brunswick Church Refurb Update: funds coming in 😊... costs going up 😞

Welcome to our first Refurb update for 2020 (Happy New Year). Last time we described the 'Big Task' of Refurb Phase One and something of our journey – as a small-ish church family in not-so-well-off area – coming to grips with just what we were proposing to do. This led to the 'Big Ask' where we invited you as ex-members of that church family to prayerfully stand with us financially.

First, the good news. Since our last update the giving has increased from £140k to £211k. This is a hugely encouraging increase of 50%! It is a mix of big personal donations, plus widows mites and many anonymous donations coming from current past members of the Brunswick family. A big thank you to all of you who have been a part of that.



Not so good news was discovering in October that our cost estimate for Phase One had gone up by 44%. As you can imagine, this was not what we were expecting and came as quite a shock. We are still getting further details and seeing if there are ways it can be ameliorated, but safe to say, if we needed a miracle before, now it seems we need a bigger one.

We are currently in the middle of a number of grant applications. Most so far have been very supportive but a bit of a theme is emerging in that they seem to have less funds available than we hoped and asked for. Bids are in process right now with Sport England, All Churches, Bernard Sunley with more to go in soon.

Another possible source for funding is from our fellow churches, in Manchester, and perhaps further afield. A letter will be going out soon with a request for help based on Paul's appeal in 2 Corinthians chapters 8-9. Asking for a contribution to a collection for the struggling church in Jerusalem, Paul cites the generosity of the Macedonian churches and invites the Church in Corinth to join with "this grace of giving". The key is in 8:14: "At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality." It is also a statement of the unity of the Church and so a witness to the gospel. If you would like a copy of that letter for your church, or others you know of, please let us know.

### SPORTS-TACULAR

Last time we briefly mentioned our "Sports-tacular" sport-themed community fun day. Several months on this has proved to have had an ongoing impact in terms of growing local awareness of the Refurb Project and (more importantly) of our mission as a church to love and serve this community: "Living God's love - here." On the day over 250 people signed their names to a statement supporting Refurb. A funder on a visit recently commented on how clearly we identified with and understood the local community. All good to know: we still need to turn that goodwill into hard cash!







The photos above are from “Sports-tacular”, and the photo on the right is of a recent typical day in our ongoing Community Hub, ‘Positive Steps’ (other groups meeting out of shot to left and right). As Refurb continues, so too – more importantly – does our ongoing mission.

Thanks for reading and for your support. Can we ask you to please keep praying for Brunswick Church and the Refurb project as we go through a testing period?

As before, the Refurb page on our website ([www.brunswickchurch.org.uk](http://www.brunswickchurch.org.uk)) gives more information and has an online donation facility. Or contact us\* for any further information you may need.

Thank you for walking with us.



*The Congregation of Christchurch Brunswick*

\* [✉ refurb@brunswickchurch.org.uk](mailto:refurb@brunswickchurch.org.uk) [🐦 @brunswickmcr](https://twitter.com/brunswickmcr) [f brunswickchurchmcr](https://www.facebook.com/brunswickchurchmcr)