



July 2022



## Refurb Phase One finishings and Phase Two beginnings

Dear friends of Brunswick Church.

In our last update back in November we said: "Once we get our breath back from all the above, we will begin to explore the next phase of Refurb." More on this below.

### Phase One finishing off

There are still a few remaining jobs to finish Phase One (apparently the technical term is "snagging issues"). These include getting the hall windows to open – hopefully completed by the time you read this – fixing up a basketball net, a couple of heating-related things and possibly upgrading lights to more ECO-friendly LEDs.

Not directly related, and this may be added to Phase Two, is our need for a new external sign, as part of the old one had to be removed when the new hall entrance was built. The photos show the old one as it currently is and a mock-up of a possible new one.



The adding of two electric vehicle charge points to the revamped car-park as a postscript to Refurb Phase One has happened with funding help from 2 of the 3 we asked (Manchester City Council and the University of Manchester). The EV points are installed and being used as part of the national Pod-Point network. Another nudge green-wards.

### Use of the hall

None of the above hinders the use of the new hall and facilities which we are pleased to report that has been extensive. In addition to large and well-attended community events such as [Sportstacular 2](#), which included the official opening, and a recent [Summer Ball](#), the hall is in regular use by community groups and as part of our own 'Positive Steps'. One encouraging development has been the hall's suitability for work with vulnerable people, as it's ability to be self-sufficient and closed off from the rest of the building gives the necessary privacy.





## Phase Two beginnings

Phase Two will include replacing or renewing main entrance and doors, lounge windows (and possibly worship room windows, moved up from Phase 3 as not in a good way) and the old toilet block, plus work on three flat roofs. Other bits such as a re-vamp of the offices are still to be decided. An initial meeting with the architects gave us an estimate cost for of £225 to £250k. We have rough costs for each element if anyone is interested. The first spend will be about £10k to get the detailed drawings and planning ready for tendering for the actual work (RIBA 3). This has been agreed, and a decision about if and when to proceed will then go to the PCC in September. Unlikely it will be before 2023. We will need to consider carefully as a church if we are ready for another round of fund-raising and all the associated hard work and stress. Although, as an initial encouragement (and maybe a God-nudge?), two of our previous funders have asked us to go back to them as and when.



## Church Community Garden update

Work continues on the community garden in bursts as time or bits of resource come available. More flags have been lifted ready to be replaced with grass soon, with help from the Council. Discussions with our ex-member garden designer continue and the church ECO Group are coming up with ideas. We recently put a lot of plants on the church roof – these attract bees and help with insulation. OK, not the garden as such, but done as part of our ‘Bee Party’ work-day there. Some discussion is going on about usage with concerns about “out of sight, out of mind” due to the closure of the old walkway through this area.



Finally, here's our rector Simon in a [video interview](#) about Refurb.

As always, thank you for your interest, support and (for those of you who do) prayers. Any questions, requests for more details, feedback or just an encouraging note, would be most welcome. We will try to do another update before the end of the year.

*The Congregation of Christchurch Brunswick*

