



July 2020

Dear friends and supporters

## Refurb for Recovery

Welcome to another update on Brunswick's Refurb project.

Refurb is our ambitious plan to make the building a warm, welcoming place for everybody. As an important community hub, our building must be fit for purpose for the next 25 years.

Despite lockdown, our vision and purpose is stronger than ever. The building has been closed for three months. But we have been just as busy, finding new and alternative ways to help people in the neighbourhood through the coronavirus crisis.



The church fellowship has moved online with ['Zoom Church'](#) every Sunday morning. Midweek Zoom activities for children range from painting and baking (guess the parable) to [skittle rainbows](#). The Brunswick ['Cake Fairies'](#) deliver fortnightly treats to older members of the congregation and local residents shielding at home. And our Easter Day service even included Simon [firing a rocket](#) from his back garden.



Our community programme, **Positive Steps**, also went [online](#) with a book group, at home [plant-growing](#) and ceramics, keep-fit, dance and more, plus lots of links to resources, advice and information.

### Do we still need a building?!

Our doors may have been locked, but the building has never been empty. It turns out that the church building is vital to local community support!

Every weekday lunchtime we have been hosting the ['Brunswick Beestro'](#), a free hot food takeaway for local vulnerable people.

We are also providing a base for an NHS Buzz project bringing together people making and needing facemasks. And we will be hosting a local school's breakfast club over the summer holiday.

### Refurb is important for our recovery

We are not free of COVID-19 yet. And it is still too soon to know how the crisis will affect the people of Brunswick (though economic hardship is widely predicted to be a consequence in the months and years ahead).

So we are more convinced that our facilities – and the love and care we give through what we do – will be a vital part of what Brunswick needs as we recover together.



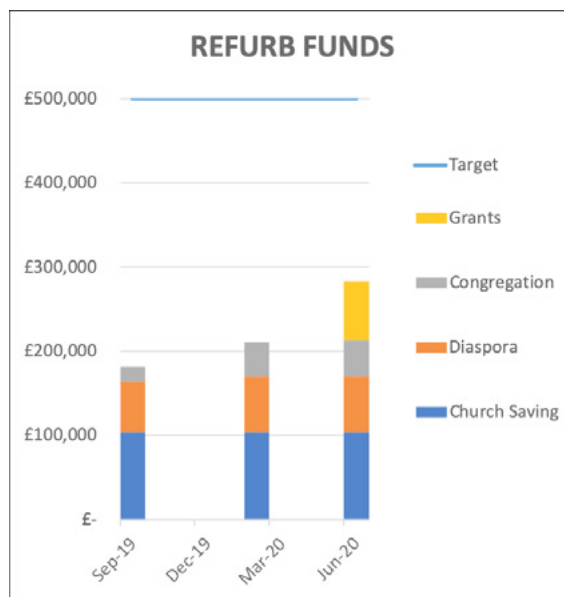
During lockdown we were delighted to receive news of two grants contributing an amazing £70,000 to Refurb. We are also waiting to hear from another funder, although COVID-19 has shifted priorities for many grant bodies.

Many things are new: we have found new ways to serve our community, new partners and made new connections.

But our mission has not changed. Our building is still important – providing an oasis of support and security that is needed in Brunswick more than ever.

Thank you for staying with us on this exciting journey. Your help, advice and prayers are all welcome as we await funding decisions and continue to look for grants.

We look forward to the day when we can once again welcome our community into our doors.



The [Refurb page](#) on our [website](#) gives more information and has an online donation facility.

If you would like a quick and practical way to help (and get yourself a custom-made essential accessory), one of our members has been making protective facemasks and is selling them for a £5 donation to Refurb. Read more and see the numerous designs to choose from [here](#).

Please contact us\* for any further information you may need.

Thank you for walking with us (at 2 metres distance).

*The Congregation of Christchurch Brunswick*

