



May 2018

Dear friends and supporters

## Brunswick Church Refurb... the end of the beginning?

We know it's only 3 months since we were last in contact but a lot has happened in that time, and we thought you would be interested in brief update. We also recently marked the end of our church year and (sort of) the end of the beginning for Refurb, by getting to the point of launching it publicly.

In our January update we talked about a feasibility study with our Architects (OMIArchitects) and planning a community event to showcase and celebrate the future potential of the building.

We are pleased to be able to share with you some of the plans and ideas we have from the completed study (see attachment). We are grateful to everyone that has been involved in the process so far, having got to the stage of having firm plans that can be implemented in phases.

On Thursday 19th April we presented these ideas to over 20 people including all three of our local Councillors, plus Diocesan representatives, other friends and stakeholders and representatives of the current users of the building. It was great that the building was full at the time with various groups using it with the Well-being Café as ever serving some excellent food.



Saturday 21st was an open building and Community Event celebrating Past, Present and Future. A slideshow of photos from over forty years of Brunswick Church made for enjoyable memories; the foyer was full of stalls advertising current activities and opportunities in and around the building; and the Youth room housed the future: large copies of the plans and sketches we have attached for you, with church folk on hand to explain in a bit more detail or answer any queries. All accompanied by lots of pizza and other goodies. An unexpected bonus on the 'past' was the discovery of some long-lost documents going back to the original vision, planning and design of the buildings!

As we always do, on Sunday morning we held our AGM as part of the worship service – a time for reflecting back on the year with thanks to God and committing the year to come into his hands. This year it featured a Refurb report (with Rector's Ruminations... thrilled that the set reading for that day happened to be John 10, which includes what has become a key verse for our work in the community: "I have come that they might have life in all its fullness.") and – of course – it was followed by food. We have also attached an electronic copy of the AGM report which shows all the things that have been going on in the past year.



So at the end of all this we pause to take breath, reflect and thank God that he has brought us this far – but also to discern what's next...

- The whole project is estimated to cost about £1.1-£1.2 m – that is a lot of money. However, as we noted over the weekend, we have been here for a long time, and are in this for the long term.
- The project of course won't happen by next Tuesday. It was planned to be implemented in phases and will take time
- We will proceed as funding becomes available and as God provides the resources needed.
- Specifically, we need to agree a first stage, liaise with the Diocese and understand what it will cost us to get detailed drawings from OMI from which we can get quotes and tenders. Once we know the detailed cost of this we can apply to funders. We think this might take us to early 2019.
- As ever we need your help. Thank you for all the comments, interest and prayers over the past 12 months. We need more of the same as we now get into the details and seeing changes happen. We will be fundraising, so any expertise and help with that will also be appreciated.

We would like to keep you updated on progress – IF YOU WANT US TO. So, in the next few weeks, to comply with the new GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations), you will receive another communication from us to confirm if this is the case.

In the meantime, please enjoy the pictures and reports (there are more on [www.brunswickchurch.org.uk](http://www.brunswickchurch.org.uk)) and let us know if you have any thoughts or comments about Refurb.

*Simon, Gordon, Paul, Herbie, Tim with a lot of help from Helen, Sally, Anne and Mo*