

## Shaping our future together

Project Newsletter 9 – September 2022

### HPC 60/60: A Place to Belong

It is a great pleasure to be in touch with our community again to give you an update on HPC 60/60. In this newsletter I feel very pleased to be able to report that several aspects of the 60/60 Vision are already being achieved. Also, I am keen to give you a flavour of how the vision is evolving, much in response to the ongoing pandemic.



After a gap in circulating newsletters, which has been due to a number of personal and other circumstances, we look forward to having exciting news to report about the project in future newsletters. If you'd like to receive updates about the HPC 60|60 project by email, please send us your contact details - by email to me [fr.bruce@hornseyparishchurch.org](mailto:fr.bruce@hornseyparishchurch.org) or by letter to HPC 60|60, Hornsey Parish Church, 140 Cranley Gardens, London, N10 3AH.

Happy reading!

Father Bruce Batstone

When HPC 60/60 was launched in 2018 the vision was threefold:

1. To refresh and improve the quality of our community spaces
2. To add value to the long-term future financial viability of Hornsey Parish Church
3. To improve our connection with the community, creating greater openness and visibility

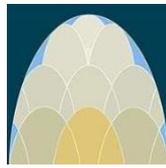
So far, we are achieving the vision of HPC 60/60 in a number of ways:

- a. By investing in the infrastructure of the community spaces in the halls (for the medium term, 10-15 years) we have secured the roof, are redecorating the halls throughout, have invested in new heating, and are refurbishing the windows
- b. With the above improvements, and by investing in better halls management, our income from the halls is increasing and we believe this is sustainable\*
- c. During the pandemic the church has been open much more, improving our connectivity to the community.

*\*Our previous plan to include a residential element in the scheme was to address this issue of financial sustainability. Experience has shown that a residential element, which was never a primary aspect of the 60/60 vision anyway, carries too much viability risk, and so we have decided to shelve any such ambitions for the time being, and do not expect this to change for a generation at least*



[hornseyparishchurch.org](http://hornseyparishchurch.org)



## The next stage - Vision and Plans for HPC 60/60: A Place to Belong

The ongoing pandemic has revealed community needs the local church must try to respond to, especially the fragility of many people's mental health, and the increasing priority around wellbeing, belonging and inclusion. The celebration of the value of outside space that Covid-19 has encouraged has brought into greater relief our established priority to be a **more ecological church**. The gathering momentum within the church community to be ever **more inclusive**, again encouraged by the added community value born out of living with coronavirus, have both contributed to our renewed vision as we continue to deliver on the original vision of HPC 60/60.

### 1) An Inclusive Church

Like many other churches, we are looking at ways of fulfilling the Church of England's 2018 document "A place to Belong" <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2018-07/A%20place%20to%20belong%20Guide.pdf>. This initiative aims to break down visible and invisible barriers to people of differing abilities accessing the church. We set up an Inclusion Group which carried out an internal audit of our disabled facilities and commissioned a Centre For Accessible Environments (CAE) Access Audit. While some of changes required to make the church fully accessible are small and can be managed in-house, others are structural, requiring the architectural changes.

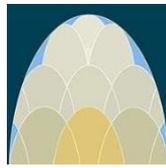


### 2) An Ecological Church

The other strand in our vision is to become a more ecological church. We are now designated an Eco Church and were awarded Bronze status by A Rocha UK <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>. We would like to develop the gardens and transform the hard surfaces into something more environmentally friendly.

This led the Development Group to focus on the part of the 60/60 scheme relating to the church building for which we have planning permission. Our vision is for the church and gardens to be a **spiritual, ecological and welcoming** place open to all. Since the pandemic the church doors have been open during daylight hours every day. We have been surprised and delighted by the numbers taking up this opportunity to come in and pray, look around, or just sit. We would like to extend this welcome to everyone, including wheelchair users. Step free access to the church from the street and then out into the gardens will provide access to all. With step free access from the west nave, the aim is to provide a green sanctuary for the community. We have visions of the enlarged gardens being used for quiet contemplation, discussion groups and for socialising after services. Our welcome to all will include providing disabled loos and space for wheelchairs in the pews. A new vestry will provide one-to-one counselling space.



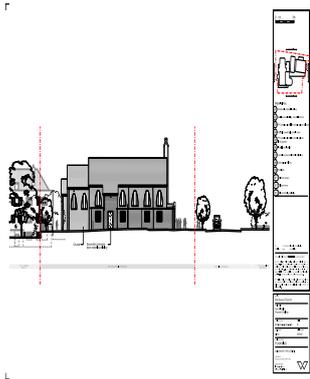


## Phase 1) Level Access and landscaping to Upper Garden

Create a new door to the west nave giving level (or ramped) access to garden. The door will be dropped from an existing window and the door will match existing ones.

We hope to replant the upper garden to the west of the nave/chancel/sanctuary to provide a comfortable socialising/contemplative area.

We also hope to put in a retaining wall to level the sloped bank extending the Memorial Garden (on north wall of sanctuary). This will enable disabled access to the Memorial Garden and provide space to sit in it.



*Architect's impression of new access*



*The west wall of the church*



*Make the window into a door....*



*How would you like the new garden to look?*

## Phase 2)

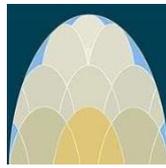
### Level Access from Street and landscaping

Install level wheelchair access from street up to front doors of church.

Put in glass doors, possibly self-opening, for better wheelchair access, and general openness and accessibility

Create ecological landscaping to west of front doors and flowerbeds either side of porch





### Phase3)

#### Accessible toilets

In the space of the present vestry and small cramped loos, create a large accessible loo to current best practice and second unisex loo. The current vestry functions as a fire exit and the new passageway beside the proposed loos will continue to provide a fire escape.

#### Relocated Vestry/counselling room

Relocate the displaced vestry to a new build between the east sanctuary and the church room. There will be access from sanctuary and the church room and a door to the garden.

The vestry will be multi-functional, providing space to serve as a counselling room.

---

Planning permission was granted in 2020 and we will shortly be offering ways in which people can contribute to these exciting developments.

