

Addington Church Hall, built in 1962, is currently in need of maintenance work in many areas (doors, security, windows, timber-work), and it would be opportune to combine those with a full refurbishment, to modernise its appearance, create a more welcoming environment and improve the quality of the service provided to the Community.

Pre-Covid, the hall was in regular use for a wide range of community activities as well as church outreach, which have been greatly valued for many years: social and fundraising events, Mothers' Union, mother-and-baby/toddler group, "Open4Every1" (providing companionship and practical support to the lonely and vulnerable), its offshoot "Singing4Every1" (an informal but professionally organised singing group which caters for all who love singing, but particularly those suffering from dementia or Alzheimer's Disease), a monthly lunch club for the elderly, the Croydon Churches Floating Shelter (providing overnight accommodation and meals to the homeless during the winter months), a flourishing fortnightly community market, and lettings to such community and cultural groups as the Schiehallion bagpipers and the Norwood Wind Ensemble.

The current refurbishment project aspires to create an upgraded and flexible suite of facilities to support and extend the Church's outreach programme and its work in the community in Fieldway and Forestdale as well as Addington Village itself. Catering facilities will be brought up to commercial standard, toilets and washing facilities will be modernised and enhanced and several new smaller spaces will be created upstairs. Addington Village is ideally situated on a tram-line giving it easy access to the commercial world of Croydon. We would plan to market our meeting rooms as available spaces for firms wishing to run team-building programmes or information away-days as well as spaces for additional community groups. We also envisage introducing an area for hot desking to provide a friendly space for those who find permanent working at home challenging. This is particularly important in a post Covid world. All this will be achieved with an eye to energy efficiency and sustainability, addressing access issues and focussing on the creation of a welcoming and warm space for visitors and users.

The land at the back of the hall will be redesigned and resurfaced to provide a car park with marked bays and the surrounding area landscaped with particular attention to planting bee- and insect-friendly items.

Consultation with the wider parish and with the congregation revealed a strong desire for the Church Hall to be a vibrant centre of life and activity at the heart of the community and we believe that the plans that have been developed with our architect will create just such a space that will be welcoming, flexible, environmentally sustainable and fit for purpose in the 21st century.