



GATHER | PARTICIPATE | CREATE

ALL SAINTS' HIGHGATE

Talbot Road | London | N6 4QH

RECLAIMING OUR COMMUNITY SPACE

The stories we remember are the ones that resonate with our senses. Sight, scent, taste, touch and sound combine in our most important experiences. Our favourite recollections are ones that stir up a mixture of these senses. We feel, smell and see the room, taste the food and hear the music of that perfect evening. Part of making memories is about creating the spaces where the combination of people and moments become treasured memories.

At All Saints' Church, we want you to know that we and our building are **HERE FOR YOU!** We've got exciting plans to make changes to this little Parish Church as we believe our spaces can be a gift and asset to our community, now and for many years to come. Together we can make lasting memories as we **RECLAIM OUR COMMUNITY SPACE!**

The story behind our spaces

In 1863, St Michael's Church in Highgate Village, planted a small Mission Church on the north side of Highgate. With the growing population and work force of the area, the Anglican Church wanted to ensure spiritual and physical care for the residents of the developing area. The original building was smaller than the current church, but it was enough to plant a seed in the area and to show the people of Highgate that it didn't matter how much or how little money you had, or how/why you ended up in the area, if you were here you mattered and you were a welcome part of the growing church community.

As the area developed and the residential developments grew, the church expanded their main building and developed an 'off-site' location for a Mission House. The Mission House served as a church hall, in the lower part of the building, and included, above the hall, living accommodation for a community nurse and beds for the sick and needy of the area. In the subsequent years, the property was sold off and the Mission House became part of the buildings that now comprise the Highgate Group Medical Practice.

For 157 years, as the church proudly stood on (what became) the corner of Church Road and Talbot Road, it has gone through a number of physical changes. Every change, whether it meant expansion or contraction, has been undertaken with careful consideration to balance the contemporary needs of the church and local community.

Throughout this time, the priests, Parochial Church Council (PCC), and congregation of All Saints' church, have sought to support the people in the local area as the community grew up around it. Although the parish has changed over the years, our commitment to be an open place of worship, prayer, hospitality and care has not changed.

What does this mean for you?

Many church spaces lack flexibility, adequate heating, and activities. It is not that church communities are trying to be exclusive, or excluding, but for many churches they have inherited space that was developed and ear-marked for a set purpose when their parish (local area/community) looked very different. Often, churches had greater resources in terms of money, people and space. It was easy to maintain designated spaces for specific activities, and the range of activities expected from a church were more limited. Even when the world looks different it can be hard to live outside of these inherited norms.

Over the years we've heard countless stories about joyful memories from parties, activities and events in our Church Hall. We're so fortunate to have this space that has been able to foster such great opportunities but that is only part of what we have to offer. Through careful development of these spaces, with attention to local needs, we know we can grow these assets for the good of the community. We will be able to offer safe, secure, peaceful, dynamic, flexible, welcoming spaces that will be able to be used for a wider range of activities, events and services.

This past year, the PCC have been dreaming of ways to expand internally to be more beneficial to the wider parish. We've begun an exciting journey of reordering and, thanks to a large delay due to COVID-19, we're now ready to share our developing vision and to invite you as we continue to seek to GATHER, PARTICIPATE and CREATE together.

Why are we doing this and what is planned?

The nave, which is the largest, central body of the church building, is, in many ways, the most important. It is meant to be the place where people are able to connect with more than they expect or imagine. It is a place of catalyst where something of a life and a world beyond ourselves becomes reality. It is a place imbued with power of transformation and possibility. It is meant to be a safe, dynamic, life-giving place for ALL people.

Our building now comprises a 'church' space and a 'hall' space (which are used regularly for an assortment of activities) that have been carved out from the enlarged church nave from the early 1900's. Range of activities includes: services of prayer, worship, choir practices, concerts, to exercise classes, Zumba, other physical training, and summer schools for children. The activities that take place in our small spaces are as varied as the people who attend them...but it can do more.

Currently, the physical layout and building materials that have been used to create these different spaces, do not allow multiple bookings/events to take place at the same time. We want to offer spaces that are flexible and safe and have access to necessary amenities. It's not just the internal space that's changing; we want our garden to be a greater resource and gift to our community as well. We plan to do this across five phases, and Phase 1 has already begun by paying for the removal and replacing of the current pews.

PHASE 1 – Redevelop the CHURCH NAVE

- replace the current fixed pews with lighter, stacking pews.
- refinish the wood floor so it's safe for activities for people of all ages.
- replace and relocate the old boiler that services both the Church and Hall
- ensure our entrance and fire escape are step-free.
- purchase new 'cafe' furniture to allow more opportunities for socialising and fellowship.

PHASE 2 – Replace and relocate CHURCH/HALL BOILER

PHASE 3 – Redevelop the CHURCH HALL

- move our current kitchen to the Hall entrance.
- redevelop and update our toilet facilities in the current entrance space, including maintaining a disabled loo and family friendly facilities.
- add sound proofing between the hall and church.
- add ramps at both entry points to create disabled access.
- clean-up and make good the back patio space to make a new, dedicated, hall entrance.

PHASE 4 – Redevelop the CHURCH GARDEN

- a full trim and clean-up of all the garden spaces.
- removing 'wild-sown' trees and unmanageable vegetation that is causing damage to the church building and surrounding fence.
- rebuild the current 'Memorial Garden' and back ramp entrance to create a quiet, community garden of remembrance.
- create an opportunity for an artisan coffee kiosk.

PHASE 5 – Develop CHURCH AMENITIES

- expand our AV systems to support events, activities and services in the church.
- purchase new lighting to enhance local opportunities and our current repertoire of services and concerts.

Gather, participate, create ...

Will you help to RECLAIM OUR COMMUNITY SPACE? Will you help develop and create spaces where, in a beautiful combination of people and place, we can help create life-giving experiences and life-long memories that foster relationships, that strengthen community, that create opportunities for dialogue and growth that may not be available anywhere else? Will you work to create a community space that can be a gift to all people and can be a place of peace, safety and fellowship for many years to come?

If you would like to get involved, we're looking for help with the following:

- identifying and applying for grants
- connecting with local resources to bring this vision to life (i.e. gardeners, builders, connections for building materials and goods, etc.)
- spreading the word about the vision and plans for these spaces
- regular/one-off donations to the ongoing life and work to RECLAIM OUR COMMUNITY SPACE



If you would like to hear more about the vision, see the plans/current progress, or want to talk about how you can get involved, follow the QR code or contact Timothy Miller, our Priest in Charge on [07588644217](tel:07588644217) or revtimiller@gmail.com, and he'll be more than happy to speak with you.

WE CAN'T DO THIS ALONE.
WE WON'T DO THIS ALONE.
WE WANT TO DO THIS TOGETHER - WILL YOU JOIN US?



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