

St Joseph's Community & Mission Hub – Update, Spring 2026

Welcome • Compassion • Outreach • Discipleship

Building work is well underway on our pioneering Community Hub at St Joseph's, due to open in Spring 2027!

Our Vision: Our new hub will create a space for our parish & local community, where everyone can be welcomed, belong, build community, serve others, grow and flourish: an opportunity to renew our church community and neighbourhood. We are a vibrant, outward-facing community serving one of the most deprived areas of the city. Our hope is to reach out to more people and serve urgent needs, reweaving community and witnessing to the joy of the Gospel.

✦ Inspiration: The Woman at the Well – John 4

Jesus meets the Samaritan woman in her thirst and offers her an inner *Wellspring of Living Water*. In that encounter, she discovers the life she has been searching for, and her joy overflows into mission. From *encounter* → *transformation* → *mission & invitation*: a model for our Hub.

What the New Hub Will Do:

1. Community & Social Action

- Create joyful opportunities to bring people together into friendship & community, for our parish and local community; intergenerational and multicultural celebrations.
- Food support, community meals, and cookery education.
- Social prescribing, advice, skills development, wellbeing sessions and pastoral listening.

2. Children, Families & Youth

- Weekly after-school club for children on Free School Meals; youth outreach and safe space, with opportunities for music, cookery, manual skills.
- Parent & Toddler group.
- Family of Faith – ongoing catechesis.

3. Discipleship Formation & Leadership

- Student Centre – discipleship formation for young people.
- Alpha, theology conferences, discipleship groups, faith-exploration pathways.
- Leadership formation for parish volunteers & teams; community-organising training.

Why the Hub Is Needed:

Our church community urgently needs a purpose-built space for community celebration, formation & mission. At the same time, local research show urgent needs - economic, social, and spiritual:

- 47% of children on Free School Meals in some local schools
- High housing costs, insecure tenancy, and rising hardship
- Youth mental-health crisis, anxiety, isolation
- Parents struggling with childcare, SEN pressures, and lack of safe spaces
- Migrants seeking belonging and practical support
- Elderly residents facing loneliness
- Urgent local need for expanded food provision

Our contribution will be distinct: to offer an open door into an environment characterised by Christian faith and values, uniting social outreach, pastoral care, formation, leadership development, and community participation.

Funding:

The construction of the new Community & Mission Hub has been made possible through:

- Proceeds from the sale of St Francis Church (c.10 years ago)
- Funds from the sale of Howard House, the former student chaplaincy at Falmer
- A large Diocesan loan
- A small amount of external grant-funding

Further funding will be required for the final fit-out of the Hub, and the initial staffing. In due course, we will be inviting support from the parish community, partners, and well-wishers to help complete the final phase and bring the Hub fully to life.

Shaping the Future Together:



We want to listen to your ideas and hopes for the space! Scan the QR code to fill out our short survey. We will also be holding consultation meetings from the summer term onwards – watch this space. Together, we can create a welcoming space that helps our community thrive.