

A1 WINDRUSH HALL / METHODIST CHURCH



SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

The Harlesden Methodist Church and the newly renamed Windrush Hall occupy a crucial spatial and social space in the dynamics of Harlesden Town Centre. The church has historically welcomed a wide cultural and ethnic community, reflecting the diverse makeup of the area's varied demographic.

In addition to its religious and faith-based role within the local community, the Church also offers a range of secular events and services for the wider community. This includes social services such as food banks, advisory services and support for other civic needs.

The recent renovation of Windrush Hall also aligns with the broader aspirations for the church and the hall spaces to provide a more formal community centre function, particularly for the local youth.

Physical and spatial improvements to the buildings would need to be supported by a programme of youth-focussed activity through various avenues such as music, performance and theatre - building on the area's rich cultural and musical legacy.

The proposal aims to increase the incredible range of cultural activities already hosted in Harlesden Methodist Church and Windrush Hall by reconfiguring internal spaces, and adding a café extension to the High Street.

KEY INFORMATION

LOCATION: 25 High Street

TYPE: Building refurbishment with new occupiers and public programme

INDICATIVE COST: £1,303,142

TIMESCALE: 0-2 years

OWNERSHIP: Harlesden Methodist Church

STAKEHOLDERS: Harlesden Methodist Church, LB Brent

POTENTIAL FUNDING: Heritage England, Heritage Lottery, NCIL funding, GLA Good Growth Fund, ACAVA, National Youth Arts Trust, National Youth Theatre

COLLABORATION: Roundwood Centre, Refugee Support Network, Beat Radio, Bang Edutainment, Harlesden Business Association, Brent LBOC, other religious and non-faith organisations

KEY ACTIONS

NEW FORECOURT STRUCTURE

- Demolition of existing single storey front and partial side extension on High Street
- Construct new glass front extension to High Road to include new café, access doors to Church Hall and Nursery
- Café space to support events such as weddings, funerals and other church-related activities

COVERED WALKWAY

- New, glass canopy structure over existing walkway to secondary entrance for church

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS

- Strip out ground floor internal partitions in Windrush hall to create 2 flexible community spaces
- Install sliding doors and hinged partitions, with new internal linings and electrics
- Realign internal partitions and new structural opening between Hall and stairwell at ground floor for enlarged atrium and reception
- New lift and accessible entrance on Tavistock Road
- Realign partitions at rear of church on ground floor
- Nursery and ancillary spaces to remain as existing
- Redecorate existing WCs at ground and first floor

PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS

- Feature paving to demarcate entrances on High Street and Tavistock Road
- Maintain a no-parking zone in front of both entrances with a clearance for pedestrians crossing, with some parking provided along Tavistock for drop-off
- Remove fencing and provide stepped access through rear garden to Harlesden Plaza (this should happen once a meanwhile use is established in the adjacent car park

INTERNAL AREAS

Level	Café / Flexible community space (GIA) sqm	Church (GIA) sqm	Nursery / Crèche (GIA) sqm	Hall / event space (GIA) sqm	Resi (GIA) sqm	Reception (GIA) sqm	Office (GIA) sqm	Kitchen (GIA) sqm	Store and WC (GIA) sqm	Total GIA (sqm)
0	50.2	113.6	31.5	64.8	33.9	18.2	8	6.2	19.3	345.7
1	0	0	29.4	123.3	0	0	8.1	0	0.6	161.4
TOTAL	50.2	113.6	60.9	188.1	33.9	18.2	16.1	6.2	19.9	507.1



Feature paving to designate space outside entrances on High Street and Tavistock Road

Reconfigure planting
to demarcate
forecourt from street,
allowing space
for gathering for
weddings/funerals

Public facing function
in new conservatory
structure at front
of Church building.
Potential to host
events.

Play area for crèche is maintained, with entrance from within Windrush Hall

Removal of existing partition walls to open up event spaces.
Foldable partitions to allow temporary subdivision of space

New steps and gate leading to Harlesden Plaza meanwhile use



Improvements to existing hall to allow better connectivity with Garden and Harlesden Plaza

Relocated nursery to increase privacy and free up the frontage to the High Street

PRECEDENTS

THE GRANVILLE,
SOUTH KILBURN

A community-led mixed use regeneration of a former church hall owned by Brent Council. It provides workspace and community facilities including a children's centre and community kitchen.

The frontage is re-activated with a new stepped structure in bold colours, emphasising the transformation of the old building to provide new functions. (RCKA)

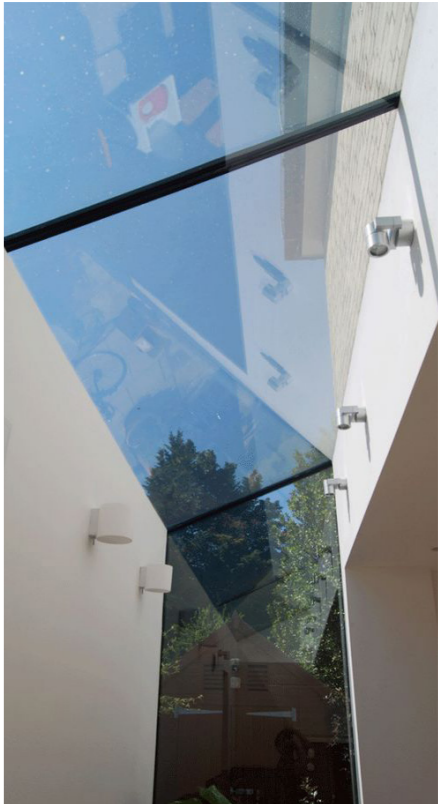


↓ THE ESTORICK
COLLECTION CAFÉ,
ISLINGTON

A light touch extension creates a social space away from the high street and a more welcoming frontage. A glazed infill creates a new access route with plenty of light, easing management of the spaces and accessibility for visitors. (Nathaniel Gee)

↑ THE SHEFFIELD CENTRE AT ST. JAMES CHURCH

A church that brings a diverse section of the local community together by cross-programming their space. A post office, stationary shop, café, children's soft play area and concert venue provide useful services and opportunities for socialising, whilst any revenue regenerated feeds back into the charity.



↑ ALL SOULS CHURCH, HARLESDEN

Harlesden has its' very own example of a church extension that provides a welcoming entrance and events notice board to keep locals engaged and informed.



← THE
BARTLETT
SCHOOL OF
ARCHITECTURE,
UCL

Flexible partitions allow both large events/meetings and more intimate uses whilst keeping circulation routes clear and without cluttering the spaces.(Hawkins/ Brown)

