

THE HUB

A **hub** for the whole **community**

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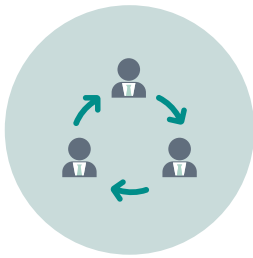
Building a Community Hub

not just a Community Centre:

With a new expression of contemporary living, Kingsgrove is a pioneering development. Offering bespoke and beautifully designed homes, the community deserves an equally bespoke and carefully designed central hub for residents to meet, share and work together for a better life for everyone.

At the moment, **THE HUB** is a vision. We believe that it can offer a range of useful services for residents and will become a hive of activity every day. From pre-school groups; health care services; business incubators; after-school clubs; a modern café; and a place of entertainment, we believe **THE HUB** could become a non-stop, one-stop venue that meets the needs of a growing community. And all under one roof!





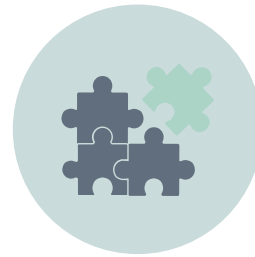
Belonging

THE HUB will be a place that warmly welcomes everyone living in and around Kingsgrove



Enterprise

With hot desking and incubator space, **THE HUB** offers real opportunity for businesses



One-stop

THE HUB is a central point for activities, events for the whole community to share and learn

THE VISION

Imagine a Church family keeping open house the birth of a new community. Curating a safe place known for its warm hospitality as much as for its excellent facilities. Kind to people and kind to the environment reflecting and engaging with modern patterns of work and leisure. Generous, working sustainably in broad partnership for the good of all. At its heart a vibrant praying community of faith – helping to shape a space that smiles.



A REAL **PRESENCE**

THE CENTRE MANAGER refreshes the on-screen schedules. Virtually every room is used at some point during the day by a wide range of users and the screens paint the picture of a community with somewhere to belong. So many groups have moved meetings and surgeries here because each have a presence in **THE HUB**, right at the heart of the community - and people know where to come for pretty much everything.

THE STAFF MINGLE with the early visitors as event organisers plan their sessions over a croissant and coffee. Today, the local dementia charity has a pop-up in the café as the day's featured group and their members are out in forced mingling with visitors and the Church volunteers. Growth in their group means they're having to start a new group and word's out in the area that

they can catch-up with their GP outreach whilst they're on-site or ask questions of the PCSO who has a weekly drop-in surgery. So much easier in one trip!

THERE'S SOME QUIET SPACE set aside for people of any or no faith to take some time to reflect and pause in the day. There are trained counsellors around from the Church if people want to chat or easy access to a community or local council team who hold sessions in the upstairs rooms at set times during the week. They really value the privacy of these rooms and feel special.

TODAY'S A BUSY DAY UPSTAIRS! The local Job Centre is joining the hot-desk team to provide PC skills training before some sessions on job applications and interview technique. Community coaches drawn from



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local businesses are around for evenings to mentor the young people out of work and not in education looking for their next steps - so much tougher after COVID, but so good to do it in a setting that feels more like home than an office. Another new enterprise that launched last quarter has just reported a profit! The coaches are on hand to help incubate the business and create a learning and support community for others to follow.

HOT-DESKERS POP DOWN FOR BREAKFAST and join people catching up with their on-line worlds over a coffee whilst waiting for the bus to Wantage.

PARENTS COME IN AFTER THE SCHOOL RUN to chat and meet friends. Their friends and family love to come to the Hub because it's comfortable, well-priced for a great coffee and feels more personal than a regular café. And there's space to park the buggy!

THE MIDWIVES AND HEALTH WORKERS are in today, so babies are weighed, and parenting classes are running. It's great to have somewhere easily accessible to wait after years at the clinic.

THE BOOK CLUB IS MEETING later this morning, and the parents whose kids are now at school are looking forward to some grown up time along with the other generations coming to swap notes on the latest novel.

SOME NEW RESIDENTS ARRIVE! They're coming in for a coffee, look round the Hub and sign-up for the next welcome evening. Whilst one parent pops over to the school to complete registration, the other enjoys a coffee whilst their toddler plays with the toys provided. They're surprised at how much is going on and are really pleased they moved here.

CHURCH MEMBERS are just leaving the early morning prayer and team meeting taking their freshly baked breakfast with them. They took the opportunity to charge their cars before the day's visitors arrive and it'll keep them going for a few days now.

WHILST THE CENTRE MANAGER gets ready for the day's activities, the Church volunteers mingle and look to welcome people perhaps on-site for the first time. They're around pretty regularly so are a reliable way to find out what's coming up - much more illuminating than a static webpage, tweet or Facebook headlines.

TODAY IT'S THE PARENT AND TODDLER'S group in one of the big downstairs rooms. The moveable partitions mean the room can flex to the numbers coming which means we can still run even in school holidays. The parents and carers love coming to **THE HUB** because they're not the only users! It's warm and ready for them with comfy chairs and great facilities. What they really like most is that all generations are around together. It's not just about keeping the youngsters entertained but there's a real sense of family around the whole place. One of the families signed up for the Church money-management course which they can walk to and at a time they can really make.

LESSONS FOR **LIFE**



THE MAIN HALL IS BUSY this afternoon! The local school is having an afternoon all about subject choices and future careers. They wanted to be off-site to help make the transition special. It's so good to have so many young people here and it really suits the facilities well. The main hall has capacity theatre style, and the state-of-the-art AV means presentations flow well and the video content feels like a movie. The roving mic makes asking questions easier than answering them. We've cleared the downstairs rooms after toddlers, and the moveable dividers means each faculty can have its own display and interview space. The school and college have decided to have one of its staff here each week after school so students and parents can drop-in and follow up in person rather than by email.

THE AFTERNOON IS A REALLY IMPORTANT TIME for **THE HUB**. Whilst downstairs is bustling with teens, there are quieter groups upstairs. Each week a different agency or service provider offer an open surgery on everything from council tax to mental health to fire safety. The entrance allows people to come and go, and the Church hosts sessions where parents can have supervised meetings with their kids. These can be difficult times but much better in an environment that feels more like home.

AS THESE SESSIONS DRAW TO A CLOSE for the afternoon and secondary school students head back to the bus, it's music time! The peripatetic music teachers decided to bring all their lessons to one place. Children



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from the primary join their parents with a variety of instruments as the downstairs rooms are full of strings and brass and the upstairs ones with singers and woodwind. Nervous parents drink more coffee as their kids take their music theory and practical exams... The large downstairs room is perfect for ensembles and today the string quartet are giving their first “public” performance. Everyone is excited because the next day of County music competitions are coming to Kingsgrove and the main hall acoustics will be in their element with the County Youth Orchestra’s termly concert. Last week one of the local amateur dramatic groups giving a performance in the main hall having used one of the smaller rooms for rehearsals after supper in **THE HUB** café.

A PLACE THAT SMILES



Who knew
all this was
happening in
Kingsgrove?

THIS EVENING IS COMMUNITY CINEMA NIGHT.

People really appreciate being able to walk or cycle to the cinema. The main hall auditorium works really well with its giant screen and 3D sound. What's even better is the reasonably priced café that accompanies the evening. Some of today's teachers saw the publicity whilst they were here this afternoon and are coming back with some friends. Who knew all this was happening at Kingsgrove?

AT THE END OF THE EVENING, THE HUB staff are joined by Church volunteers to get ready for a weekend conference. Every part of the building will be in use and full. The whole design and flow of the building is about hosting these events as if they were in a home. There is no-where else locally that can provide these facilities this way.

AS THE TEAM HEAD OFF FOR THE EVENING,

there's a Zoom meeting upstairs as some of the new enterprises - inspired and incubated here - finish their first session of the day with colleagues in New York. **THE HUB** may be local, people may work from home but there's still a global reach.

The local art group team has had a busy day with new interest and now everyone's coming with information ready for the film. What a great way to mix community, church and the civic scene in a social setting. Even better, it's this month's community forum coming up next week and what a great opportunity to sign people up.

THERE IS A SAFE SPACE TO LEAVE BIKES AND BUGGIES.

The whole development is designed for use without cars, but there's enough space when I have to drive. The integrated bus links means I can rely on public transport which save fuel as well as time spent in congestion.

As part of the weekend's conference, we are getting ready to welcome speakers from the local community, council and commerce. We want to hear and celebrate everything that's going on. There's a heritage of prayer in our nation and we would love to know how better to pray and support our local leaders in these COVID times.

SOME OF THE GUESTS WILL BOOK ROOMS or even conferences here in the future - all helping community cohesion and goodwill.

OFF-SITE OUR TEAM OF STREET PASTORS will be out and about as usual and they're around tonight for their end-of-month social. They're starting to explore School Pastors and how the Church can help support parents and pupils through the transition from primary to high school.

THIS IS JUST ONE OF THE COMMUNITY-FACING PROJECTS worked between Churches and voluntary sector groups. The more the Church mingles with the community, the more it's clear the areas in which we can serve better. The barriers are falling naturally as we all work together for the good of Kingsgrove from a "place that smiles."





HOW THE COMMUNITY MIGHT VIEW THE **HUB**

A new resident: “We were really unsure when we first arrived. Everyone and everywhere was new and we didn’t know where to start. We’ve moved just as my husband lost his job as a result of COVID and with our youngest just starting school we were really worried about who to contact and a safe place to talk. The Hub has been amazing - everyone is there. We could make 1:1 appointment with council, benefits and health and it’s so close to the school we come after the school run and meet friends over coffee. We’ve just started an IT skills course and seriously thinking of starting a new business - we have all the help we need to get going. We moved into our new home a couple of weeks ago and now the Hub is our second home.”

Community Worker: “It makes so much sense to have regular presence here. I’d heard colleagues elsewhere talk about having an office in a community centre or Church building and I wasn’t sure. But people see us about, know where to find us and it helps everyone for us to have a community presence. It really helps to share space with the council youth service and other providers. We already knew about the Street Pastors, but it’s great to get to know them better and realise we all have the same goal of a safer and stronger Kingsgrove.”



Church volunteer: “I was so fed up with just hiring our venues! We spent more time setting rooms up and down than we did meeting in them, and there was never anywhere really to put down roots. When I first heard about a Community Hub, I had no idea how that would work with the Church. But now there’s a real sense of belonging. Instead of just organising groups and activities for us and what we thought the community might need, we’re part of the community and discovered there are many others sharing our heart for the well-being of Kingsgrove. I really love being able to worship and pray together here on a Sunday as well as working and serving here during the week. It’s put legs on my faith!”

An existing resident: “So many things I used to drive to, I can do here now. The cinema is great as well as so much less expensive. As a retiree, I love to see every generation enjoying being together. There’s always something different going on. I came for a coffee and left a member of the book club!”

THANK YOU

...for taking the time to read this far! We are really excited about how **THE HUB** could help to make Kingsgrove, and indeed Wantage and Grove, amazing places to live and work. We dream of a future where the comments on these pages become reality, and are happening day after day in **THE HUB**, for the good of each and every person who lives here.”



Neil & Denise Townsend



THE HUB



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