



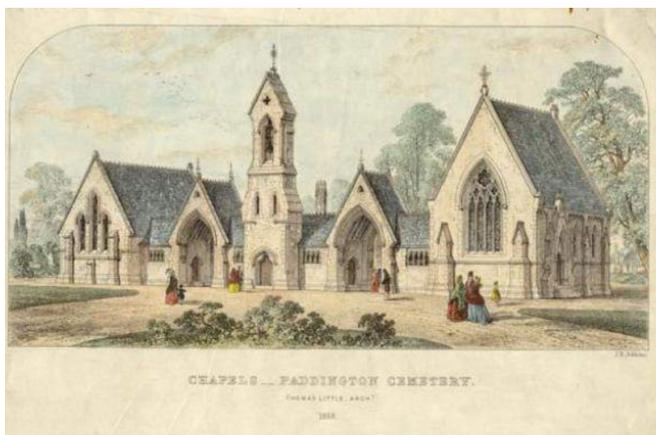
A blueprint for the future of Paddington Old Cemetery chapels

The beautiful Victorian Gothic chapels in Paddington Old Cemetery, behind Salusbury, Lonsdale and Tennyson Roads, are on the verge of restoration.

Designed 170 years ago by architect Thomas Little, and Grade 2 listed, they are currently in dilapidated condition and on the Heritage at Risk register. But their future is finally looking hopeful.

Owners Brent Council are about to apply for a first tranche of lottery heritage funding, to enable restoration work to start. The aim of this first phase is to allow temporary community hire of the chapels as 'shells', with minimal facilities. There will then be a bigger application for a full fit-out, to enable permanent community tenure of the fully renovated spaces.

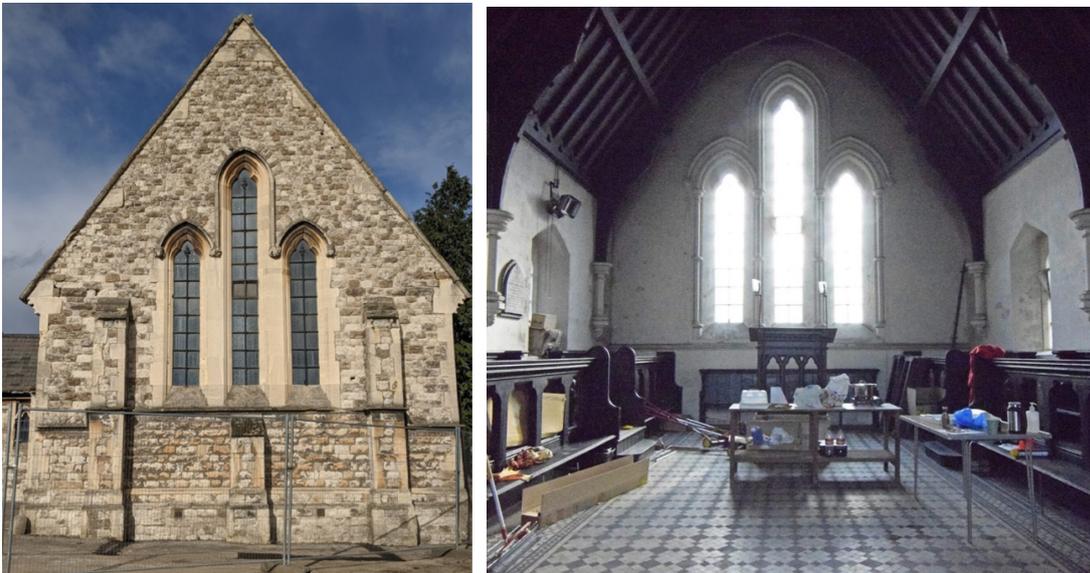
QPK at the Chapels



QPK at the Chapels is our proposal for the longer-term, fully renovated spaces. It's a new educational, cultural, social and memorial centre for our area, but also a strategy. Lottery heritage funding is only granted for projects benefitting the entire community, especially the vulnerable and less privileged. So we will be bringing together the two neighbourhoods of Queen's Park (**QP**) and Kilburn (**K**) to create a hub that bridges social, economic, cultural and ethnic divides. This synergy allows the more disadvantaged and diverse ward of Kilburn to unlock lottery funding, and the more affluent and influential Queen's Park ward to ensure future sustainability.

QPK at the Chapels consists of three complementary spaces, together feeding the minds, bodies and souls of our whole community:

A new U3A learning centre in the East chapel

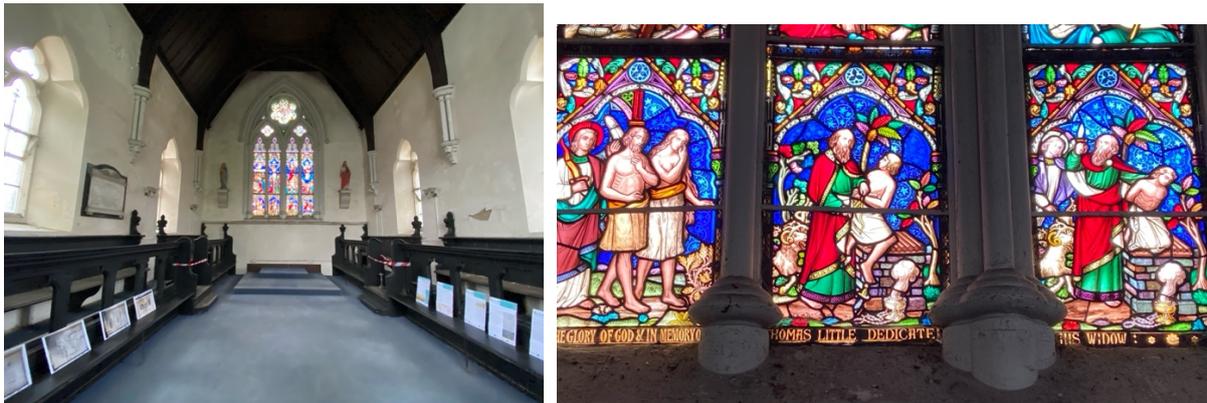


This will be a tailor-equipped space offering classes and interest groups to all adults over the age of 16. These are led by volunteer enthusiasts, and follow U3A's tried and trusted annual subscription model, where one payment buys you a year's worth of access to as many sessions as you wish.

These could include foreign language classes, art history, politics, film clubs, photography or computer skills, but also English literacy classes, advice on benefits, housing and welfare, Irish or Indian dancing sessions, craftwork or boardgame groups. We can use the green amenity around the chapels for botany classes or foraging walks, or researching the rich history of the gravestones.

So that everyone can access the centre, there will be reduced fees for those on benefits, and a Buy One, Gift One membership to enable all our community to participate.

Memorial and Events Chapel



The Anglican chapel will remain a memorial chapel for funerals and remembrance services. But it will also be available for respectful hire by local groups, businesses, colleges and charities for a variety of events, performances and meetings. This could be for theatre or music groups for rehearsals, concert performances, drama and music festivals, or for a host of events such as heritage filming, photographic hire, cultural celebrations, prize-givings, workshops and the like.

Hire fees for these will be set on a sliding scale, to ensure inclusivity.

New Multi-Purpose Pavilion



Early concept by Rise Design Studio

Most excitingly, we propose a brand new multi-purpose pavilion to the rear of the chapels, to replace the non-listed outbuildings that are not original. This pavilion combines a purpose-built community kitchen with a restaurant/café and art gallery, open to all, with tables and seating outside as well as in.

This is not a mere coffee shop but a fundamental requirement for many sectors of the community, particularly the disadvantaged. It will of course fulfil the food and drink needs of U3A members, and the catering needs of event planners. But also those of:

- Refugee and migrant groups showcasing their talents, or learning formal catering skills, and building social networks

- Low income families gaining budgeting and nutrition skills, and improving morale through new contacts
- Specific groups such as single, isolated men, acquiring culinary skills and making new friends
- Local established or emerging chefs who wish to promote their skills through brunch clubs, thus building up their clientele

The gallery will show a rotating curation of local art, design and craftsmanship, much of it offered for sale. Artists in the community will therefore be able to benefit financially from sales or commissions, as well as from promotion of their work.

This new pavilion replaces the unusable rear toilet and storage block in providing modern, accessible facilities. And by enabling us to offer full naming rights to a philanthropist or charitable trust, it can attract substantial private funding.

Brent's Upcoming Open Days at the Chapels



A future for Paddington Old Cemetery Chapels

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR HIRE AND USE BY BRENT'S COMMUNITIES

London Borough of Brent (LBB) is seeking Expressions of Interest from Brent's communities (and beyond) to be potential users of the historic cemetery chapels at the centre of Paddington Old Cemetery. The Chapels and wider cemetery are owned and managed by LBB.

Over the past 24 months, or so, LBB has been investigating how to repair the buildings and bring them back into viable use that benefits Brent's communities. We know there is extensive local support for saving and repairing these buildings, and so the next step is to identify established organisations that might have an interest in using one or both chapel spaces, once the funding is secured and the repairs are delivered. Alternatively, there may be opportunity to use the spaces as they are now, if appropriate.

In order to have the best chance of securing the grant funding for repairs, we must show potential funders that there are viable users for the buildings. This is the purpose of the Expression of Interest process.

We want to hear from local communities, charities, businesses, volunteer groups, and any other organisations, who feel they would benefit from either temporary or long-term use of the Chapels.

LBB, with the support of London Historic Buildings Trust and the Friends of Paddington Old Cemetery, will assess the submissions and follow up with viable applicants for further info.

On the following pages you will find out more information on the buildings and the possible uses we think might work. Details on how to submit a proposal are also included.



Brent will be hosting two Open Days at the chapels in March/April, when they will invite Expressions of Interest for temporary community hire of the chapels as 'shells', with a view to having tenants in place with minimal facilities by late 2027 or 2028.

However applicants will also be able to propose strategic partnerships with Brent, and stake their claim to a more permanent tenure of the fully renovated spaces.

This is the means by which we plan to make **QPK at the chapels** a reality. We have been working for many months with the cemetery Friends group, the Brent project team, and the communities of Queen's Park and Kilburn to pinpoint our neighbourhood's needs. We are now assembling an association of energised supporters to take this blueprint forward, with a website currently under construction.

If you would like to know more, or be part of the chapels' renaissance, please contact us at

qpkatthechapels@gmail.com