

St Gabriel's Aldersbrook

Parish Magazine - Summer 2023



A Church for the Heart of Aldersbrook

St Gabriel's Aldersbrook

Our Mission Statement

Inspired by the Archangel Gabriel:

Through our worship we draw closer to God. In our lives we are messengers of God's love for all, seeking to bring wholeness, hope and joy in the communities where we live and work.

Vicar: Fr Martyn Hawkes

0208 89890315 Old email: vicar@stgabrielsaldersbrook.org.uk

New: aldersbrookvicar@gmail.com

Parish Hall

For information and bookings contact Nick;

07828 582366, email aldersbrookstgabriels@gmail.com

Website <http://stgabrielsaldersbrook.org.uk/>

We are also on Facebook and Twitter

Regular Service Pattern:

1st Sunday of the Month: 8.30am Holy Communion

10.00am All-age Parish Eucharist

2nd, 3rd Sunday: 10am Parish Eucharist

4th Sunday: 10am Parish Eucharist

5pm Evening Service, followed by shared meal

Wednesday 11am Holy Communion

Times for Prayer:

Evening prayer: Mon-Thu 5pm in church and on Zoom

Wednesday 9.30am Prayer hour

2nd Tuesday 7.00pm Adoration of the blessed sacrament

4th Tuesday 7.30pm Contemplative prayer

The church is open Tuesday and Thursday from 10.00 till noon

Not so funny (that we don't talk anymore)

I was discussing the recent protests over the decision by the Oxford Union to invite former professor Kathleen Stock to speak on the issue of Trans rights with a friend from church earlier today. Our conversation was much less heated than the discussions over the rights and the wrongs of the invitation, partly because we were largely in agreement with one another. But the point of most significant concern that we shared is what this situation says about our ability to have difficult and important conversations in public. It feels as though we are rapidly approaching the dangerous precipice of discourse where valid concerns and arguments are having to be left undiscussed because of the risk of more toxic prejudice becoming validated. It is the contradictory aspect of a certain style of liberalism which can both promote freedom of speech and give rise to cancel culture at one and the same time.



The church is not immune to this problem, of course. We're currently having long-running disputes which threaten to divide the Anglican communion over the authority of scripture, or perhaps more precisely how we interpret what it says about sex. In the process the Archbishop of Canterbury is in some quarters being criticised for failing to move far or fast enough, and in others is being cancelled as no longer fit to speak for Anglicanism because of his 'dangerous liberalism'.

Despite, this, I believe passionately that the church has something to contribute in this time of binary opposition. And it's the little known name given to Christianity in the Early church when it was called The Way. That's not supposed to sound arrogant, as though it's the only way, although it has often been understood like that. No, it's a recognition that on the Christian journey we've never quite arrived and there's always more to discover. We have not got all the answers, and therefore are open to learning from others who are willing to journey towards truth. And if we can see all truth seekers in that light, we are less likely to cancel them before we've heard what they've actually got to say, if at all.

Surprisingly to some, that's very much part of St Gabriel's approach to faith. We're fellow travellers on a journey seeking truth, finding belonging, and learning from God through one another. Talking is very much allowed!

Martyn

Changes to the Hall

As you no doubt know, we have planning permission to make changes to the Hall. The main project includes the removal of the stage and using that area for meeting rooms at two levels, together with other much needed facilities.

We hope the main changes can be realised by the Hall's centenary in 2027. Discussions have started about how to fund the main project. If you are interested in being involved in this do let us know.

Another part of the overall project is the installation of solar panels on the Hall roof. An order has now been placed for the panels and we are waiting to hear when they will be installed.

When the stage is removed it will also remove most of the storage areas. Detailed discussions are underway with the groups that use the Hall to make sure the proposed new external and internal stores are workable.

A lot of thought has been given to limiting the disruption to the users of the Hall. There will be times when the Hall can't be used but the aim is to keep that to a minimum and, where possible, carry out such work at quieter times such as during the school holidays.

The external store will be the first part of the building work and we are now asking builders to price for the work. When the external store is complete, the table cupboard at the entrance to the Hall can be removed and new internal stores constructed.

The drawing opposite indicates where the stores are and who might be using them. If you want more detailed information do contact me (richard.pratley@icloud.com).

Richard Pratley



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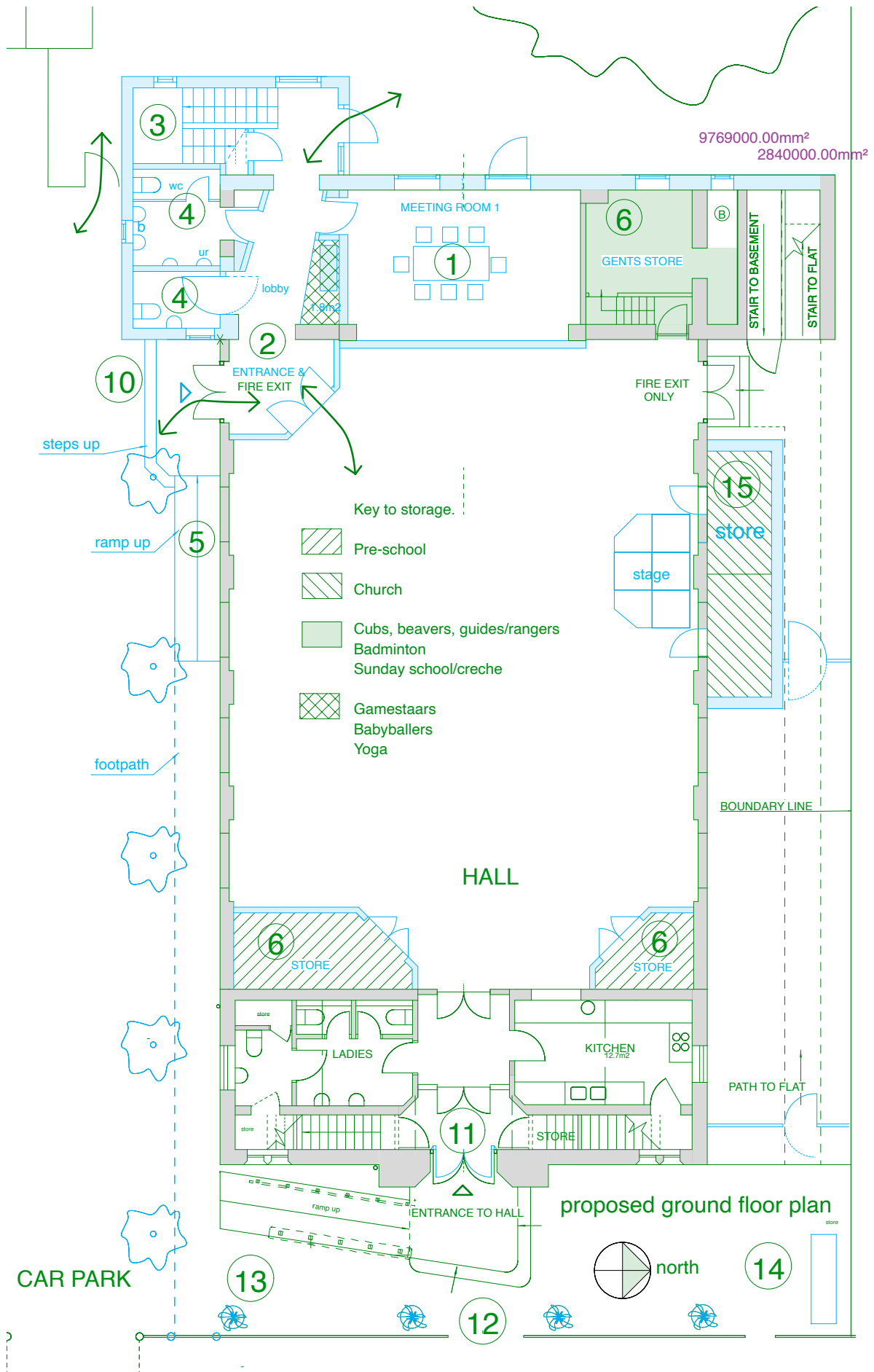
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Changes to the Hall



Climate Majority Project

This month the Climate Majority Project (CMP) is launching. Its core message is that time is up for protecting the public from the reality of the seriousness of the climate crisis. Some hopes have to be let go of so people can focus on what can still be saved. The needed action has to be taken at scale.



There are 4 main strands to CMP's theory of change: 1) truthfulness, 2) handling the truth, 3) activation, and 4) sense-making.

- 1 Everyone needs to know the truth i.e. the climate won't stay below 1.5 degrees of warming.
- 2 These hard truths are easier to deal with in community. We need to have the conditions to turn this knowledge into action, so people can have a role to play in the wider effort.
- 3 There is a need for people to take action where they are e.g. religious organisations, work-places, communities - instead of waiting for governments to act.
- 4 People need to have a sense of being part of something larger, or they can become de-motivated. Climate is not a niche issue so a shared understanding is necessary.

CMP is supporting and accelerating the work of organisations that are doing well on climate issues, e.g. Lawyers for Net Zero, Wild Card, MP Watch. There is also a Youth section of CMP for 18-35's called Climate Majority Project Horizons.

The launch to the media is on 29th June, and the idea is to help people see they are part of the concerned majority. There will be a letter from scientists and academics to tell the truth to the mass media about the situation we are in. Five prominent UK scientists are involved. Another cross-party letter will put the spotlight on the climate majority. A film will follow later in the summer.

Many people are anxious about the climate crisis but feel helpless. CMP suggests the following actions:

- 1 Build a network of collaborators and introduce them to CMP.
- 2 Support the launch of CMP effectively, incubate the work of effective companies, co-ordinate volunteers, use the time and skills you have.
- 3 Get the message into your community, through newsletters, etc.
- 4 Amplify the message on social media, etc.

This is a medium and long-term strategy, not seeking to make unrealistic demands on government but on achieving practical steps towards change.

Lesley Bond

Aldersbrook & Wanstead Summer Holiday Club

At St Gabriel's Church Hall E12 5HG



PEACE

One World, One Life, One Peace

Tuesday 25th July to Friday 28th July

Ages: Reception to Year 6

Tue – Thur 9:30am – 12:30pm

*Fri - All day outing with lunch and activities by coach to Thriftwood Scouting Centre.



Cost: £40 for the week inclusive.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Return completed forms or email to aldersbrookstgabriels@gmail.com



St Gabriel's Worship and Music

Worship at St Gabriel's

St Gabriel's sits within the more traditional end of church worship, but that it by no means the last word for us! The heart of our worship life is the sharing of the Eucharist (Greek for Giving thanks), which is the ancient pattern of eating bread and drinking wine as Jesus taught and commanded his followers to continue to do 'in remembrance of him'. We do that in our main Sunday service with a robed choir and altar servers, which give a certain formality and reverence to our worship. But, we seek to do so in a way that includes and engages everyone - there are activities for children during the service and there's always a place for children and families to engage with the service in comfort and with some colouring or written activity.

On the first Sunday of the month we change the pattern and way of engaging that brings children to the forefront - in reading from the bible, helping with prayers, interacting with the sermon and bringing forward the bread and wine. These are things that they can do on other weeks too, but this is the focus of the first Sunday.

Evening services since covid 19 have become for us a place for exploring new ideas as well as old. On the 4th Sunday of the month at 5pm we have either a Sung Evensong, the traditional service you'd find in a cathedral (on a more modest scale!), or services with more contemplative feel, and different music like Taize chants, or contemporary song and a more experimental feel. They usually finish with drinks and snacks. Please do feel very welcome to give any of our services a try. We seek to offer a warm and friendly welcome.

Fr Martyn, Vicar

Music at St Gabriel's

Our music at St Gabriel's seems to be recovering quite nicely after the difficulties of the pandemic. Our small but loyal and highly proficient Adult Choir continues to enrich our Sunday worship week by week, with our newly-formed Children's Choir appearing on special occasions, and Music Group instrumentalists playing on the first Sunday of the month. We sing music from fairly tradition Anglican music (Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New).

For our Christmas Carol Service 2022 we were again joined by the Brook Brass Quintet and Woodwind Quartet to enliven proceedings along with the regular inimitable solo contribution from our own Anne Cononley; and I have to thank the many extra singers who also helped to make this annual event memorable.

We are very fortunate in having a church building that also makes an excellent and well-equipped concert venue, including an excellent August Forster Grand Piano and a recital-standard Organ that is rated as one of the best for some miles around. It is therefore very pleasing when we can then attract professional, semi-professional and amateur groups and artist to give concerts throughout the year, which will obviously help to put St Gabriel's on the wider map and enhance awareness in the local community. Having firmly re-established ourselves musically hopefully we can expect even better in the future.

John Light, Music Director

St Gabriel's Music Group Player Profiles



John - Music Director, Organ, Piano, Composer

Years@St G: since 1984
 Fave music genre: Jazz
 Fave church music: Gregorian Chant
 Fave Bible book: Romans

Kerry - Flute

Years@StG: since 1984
 Fave music genre: Jazz
 Fave church music: Byrd 5 Part Mass
 Fave Bible verse: John 3:16

Amy - Saxophone, Flute

Years@StG: 4
 Fave music genre: Musical Theatre
 Fave church music:
 Mozart: Requiem in D minor
 Fave Bible story: Joseph the dreamer

Anya - Violin

Years@StG: 10
 Fave music genre: Rock
 Fave hymn: Morning Has Broken
 Fave Bible verse: Hebrews 6:19

Lucy - Flute

Years@StG: 1+
 Fave music genre: K-pop
 Fave hymn:
 Hark, the herald angels sing
 Fave Bible book: Esther

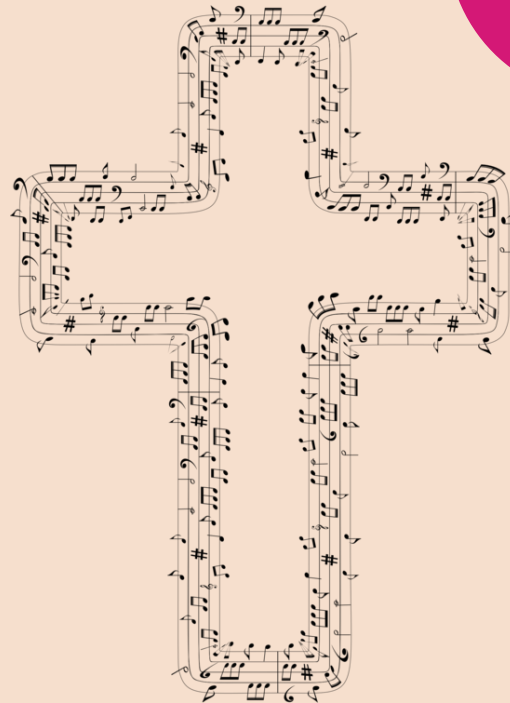
Gigi - Piano

Years@StG: 1+
 Fave music genre: OST
 Fave church music:
 Bach: Mass in B minor Kyrie I&II
 Fave Bible story: death of Samson

All Age Service

1st
Sunday of
the month

- 10am - Shorter Service
- Relaxed, Welcoming
- Live Music
- Interactive Activity



Followed by
Tea, Coffee
and
Cakes

Sunday School

Every
Sunday
(except 1st of
month)

- 10am - For Children and Young People
- Leave near beginning and return for communion
- Biblical Crafts
- Stories, Songs, Drama, Prayers



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On being deaf

I became deaf comparatively recently in my 80+ life, but I've lived with it always. My mother became deaf as a child, following an attack of Scarlet Fever. Without realising it all our family spoke clearly and always faced her during conversations. Despite our best efforts it was still a disability, especially in groups and I remember Mum saying how she could see people shouting at her.



She had an ancient hearing aid which often whistled loudly; the batteries often ran out and new ones were difficult to obtain, especially during WWII as they came from America. This was disconcerting to strangers and embarrassing for my Mum, who in groups she still felt at a loss, pretending she had heard what conversations were about. At the outset of the NHS more modern versions were available free and I remember her saying she felt new-born.

My own deafness, was brought on by a malfunction of the sound system at a 'gig' performed by my nephew in a Putney pub. Next day I could not hear callers on the phone clearly, in one ear. And this has got progressively worse, more so as the other ear is now "age related" deafness. All the problems my mother had, I have, and group meetings are well nigh impossible. Modern hearing aids help but are for me, far from perfect and although sound systems work to some degree and I am researching the use of supplementary gadgets, recommended by the audiologist.

I am very interested to find that people often say to me "I think I might be deaf" but they are reluctant to get tested. I'm interested to compare this resistance to hearing loss with that for sight impairment. I would be interested to speak to anyone who thinks their hearing is worsening or feels reluctant to acknowledge this. Most aids are quite discreet and less obvious than glasses. And an appointment with a hospital consultant can give an accurate diagnosis and offer the most useful aid to make hearing improve. My children tell me the TV is very loud but so far my neighbours assure me they are not troubled with noise.

Jan Smith

St Gabriel's Church, Aldersbrook

E12 5HH

Saturday September 30 2023

7 pm

Vivaldi - GLORIA

Bach - Concerto for Violin & Oboe
 Franck - Panis Angelicus
 Fauré - Cantique de Jean Racine
 Cullen - Friendship motet

All Saints Chorus & Orchestra

Lucy Farimond - Soprano
 Lucy Thurlange - Mezz-Soprano
 Jonathan Strange - Violin
 Graham Salter - Oboe
 Conductor - Jon Cullen



Tickets: £16 with £12 concessions

The All Saints Chorus & Orchestra return following their recent performance of Handel's Messiah which was sold out. Early booking advised. Tickets available from the church & Eventbrite from July 1st

www.allsaintschorus.org

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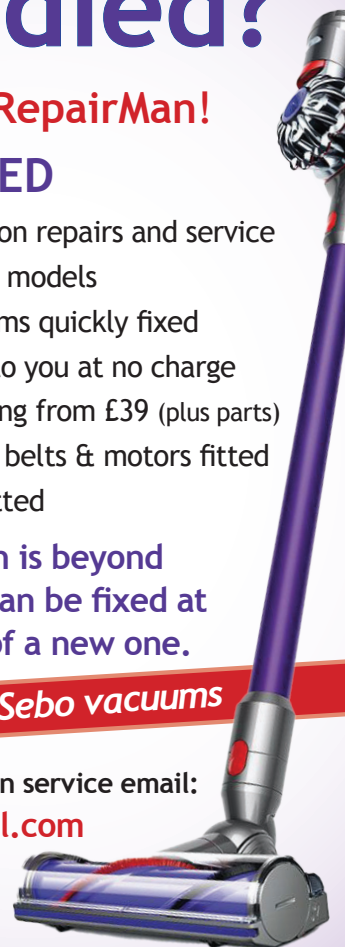
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FAMILY FUN DAY

St. Gabriel's Church Hall, Aldersbrook

SATURDAY, 29th JULY 2023

12 NOON TO 3PM

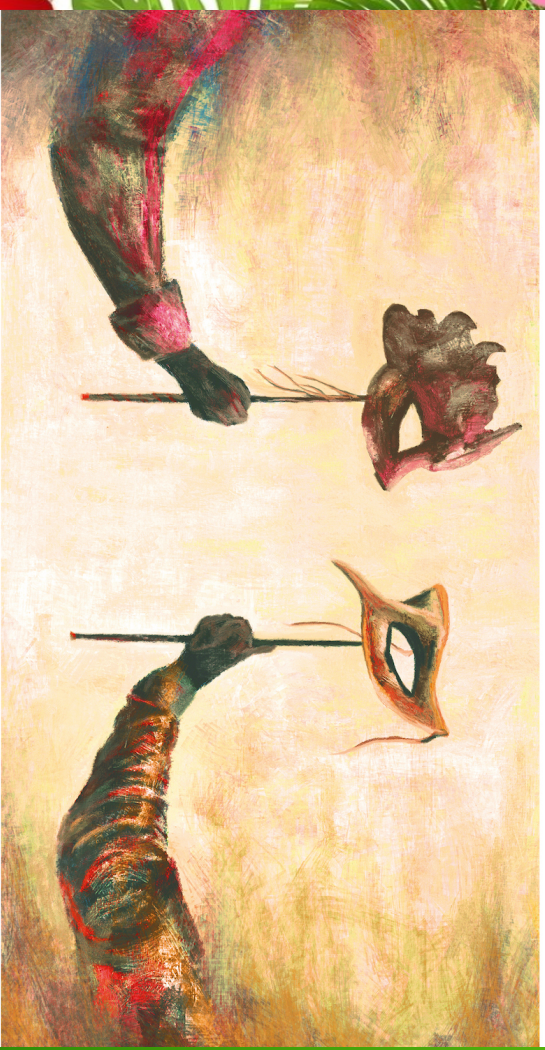
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Bouncy Castle Tombola Raffle

Outdoor Games and Activities for all ages

Entrance: Adults £1, Children Free

Forest Philharmonic



SUK

Scherzo Fantastique

KHACHATURIAN

Flute Concerto

PROKOFIEV

Romeo and Juliet Suite No. 2

Chris Wyatt Soloist

Mark Shanahan Conductor



Eventbrite

www.forestphilharmonic.org.uk



@ForestPO



Forest Philharmonic Orchestra

Sunday 25 June
6.30pm

Venue:
St Gabriel's Church
12 Aldersbrook Rd
London E12 5HH

Tickets:
Stalls - £16
Concessions - £13
Under 25s - £6.50
Family (1 adult + 1 child) - £16

Box Office:
email: tickets@forestphilharmonic.org.uk

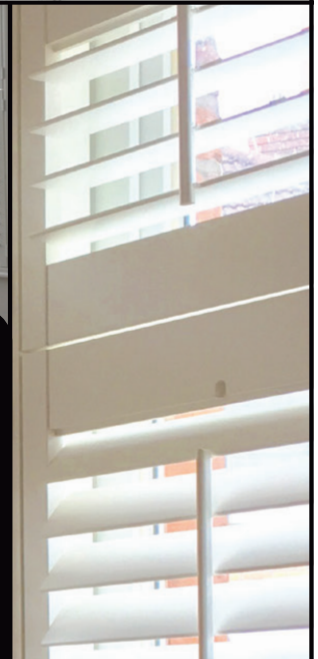




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