

# RESTORING THE TEMPLE APPEAL

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“The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than that of the former,” says the Lord of hosts.”  
Haggai 2:9



## One hundred and sixty years old!

It is now 160 years since the foundation stone – still visible outside the main door – was laid for the building we now call Kensington Temple. Since that time probably more people have been saved, healed and baptised in the Holy Spirit in this building than any other building in the history of Great Britain! Although over the period of the 160 years alterations, repairs and changes have been made to the building we face a situation where a major building programme for the Kensington Temple is required on a scale not seen since its first founding.

## Restoring the Temple Appeal for £700,000

In order to fully restore Kensington Temple we need seven hundred thousand pounds. You will have seen scaffolding outside that is necessary to secure and make safe the front façade. This is just the beginning of urgent work needed on both the outside and inside of the building to ensure that Kensington Temple is a fit building to serve not only ourselves today but also the generations to come.

■ The reopening of Kensington Temple on 8th May 1965.

## Restoring the Temple for future generations

The “Restoring the Temple” appeal is our opportunity to ensure that Kensington Temple is restored and renewed for the service of the Lord for the coming generations. It is also an opportunity for us to give honour to all those that have served so sacrificially in this house for the last 160 years.

### Areas of need

From top to bottom KT’s building needs a complete overhaul. The scaffolding outside the building is needed because of the huge amount of masonry and stone work needed on the outside of the church. Also the roof needs major restoration work and has gone beyond the stage of the repair works we have done over the years. The perimeter wall outside our building and car park are also showing visible signs of decay due to aging. Some of our windows also need repair and restoration work on them.

Inside the building you can see that the main sanctuary walls need restoration and decorative work. We need a full interior refurbishment and redecoration of the whole of the building including ancillary rooms, toilets and the lower hall. A complete overhaul of electrical and plumbing is required due to aging systems. The KT platform, its background and window/plaster needs restoring and remodelling for the future. We also need to install modern security, safety and CCTV equipment. Our audiovisual systems are for the most part out of date and need to be brought up to modern specifications.



This is not an exhaustive or authoritative list and the funds raised will be used on the KT building according to the KTLCC Church Board priorities (including Health and Safety issues) that are flexible and may change as the works progress. However this list demonstrates how much needs to be addressed to put the building and the ministry at KT on a sure footing for the future.

## Partnering with the Restoring the Temple Appeal

On pages 5 and 6 you will read the amazing story of the first appeal ever made to found this building as a church plant in Notting Hill Gate – an appeal to build for the future generations. Like the early founders, we are investing in this building and all that goes on in it for future generations.

## Temple restoration donor's plaque and donor's book

Because we are raising money for the future we want a testimony of our giving for later KT generations. At the end of the appeal all donors who give £1,000 or more will have their name engraved on a donor's plaque that will be permanently fixed to the main sanctuary wall for posterity. All those that donate whatever they can under £1,000 will be recorded in the donor's book that will be kept in the church for a witness to future generations. Of course we will respect any requests for anonymous giving.

## Paying the price for the next generation

In many ways what we are enjoying today in KT are the fruits of the sacrifice of former generations. The sacrifices made were both spiritual and material. Every generation must sacrifice to secure the blessing for the next generation. Moves of God end when a generation enjoys the blessing hard won by the previous one but in its turn declines to pay the price for the future. Thus, when the next generation arises it finds that they have been spiritually – and often materially – bankrupted by their forefathers.

Kensington Temple's building was the product of Victorian evangelistic and missionary zeal. Notting Hill Gate in the early 1840s was a very small village with a number of farms. But Kensington was expanding and soon more houses and estates were being built in the Notting Hill area. Members of Kensington's Congregational Church in Hornton Street began to pray for the "poor and neglected people of Notting Hill Vale" according to their secretary's minute book. Although the congregation was a very successful one it felt the need to pay the price both financially and spiritually for Notting Hill Gate. One newspaper reported that members of the church "had been deeply moved at a recent prayer meeting and many had wept as they commissioned thirty-seven people to pioneer the new work in Notting Hill." But they not only prayed, they gave. In one evening £1,700 was raised for the new church to be built in Notting Hill Gate (£121,000 in today's money!). So it was that in August 1848, one hundred and sixty years ago, the foundation stone was laid for "Horbury Chapel" - as the Kensington Temple building was first known.



George Jeffreys, founder of the Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance

Our Senior Minister Colin Dye said, "I believe that Kensington Temple is part of God's covenant with the early Christians in Kensington. I'm a great believer in the God of the generations – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. When Kensington Temple, or Horbury Chapel as it was then called, was built, it was built as part of the covenant God made with those people when they dedicated their work to God. It came from their prayer meetings. From the people weeping; the sacrificial offerings that were taken, God had spoken to them. That was a covenant of his faithfulness and we are still living off the fruit of it today."

How little did those early pioneers realise the tremendous influence they were having on the future impact of the gospel not just in Notting Hill, but later the nation and indeed the world. The new church soon numbered hundreds and in 1931 Horbury Chapel became the main church of George Jeffreys, the founder of the Elim Pentecostal churches. George renamed the building Kensington Temple. Thousands of people were saved



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