



St Agnes Longsight
in this place will I give peace

Annual Report

of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2008

2008

This Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
contains five sections

1.	Reference and administrative information	3
2.	Structure, governance and management	6
3.	Objectives and activities	9
4.	Achievements and performance	12
5.	Plans for future periods	15



reference and administrative information

St Agnes Longsight Annual Report 2008

The Parish Church and the PCC

St Agnes' Parish Church is situated on Slade Lane near the junction with Hamilton Road. It is part of the Diocese of Manchester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is
St Agnes' Rectory, Slade Lane, Manchester M13 0GN

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

The Bankers for the PCC are CAF Cash Ltd and the insurers are The Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, Gloucester.

The address of the Parish website is **www.stagneslongsight.org**

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2008 until the date this report was produced are:

<i>Parish Priest</i>	The Revd Stephen Edwards (<i>Chair</i>)	
<i>Wardens</i>	Emmanuel Agbo	<i>from April 2008</i>
	Colin Best	<i>re-elected 2008</i>
	Leah Lutley	<i>until April 2008</i>
<i>Representatives on the Deanery Synod</i>	Karen Flowers	<i>until APCM 2008</i>
	Doreen Healey	<i>re-elected 2008</i>
	Leah Lutley	<i>re-elected 2008</i>
	Lewis Njoku	<i>re-elected 2008</i>
<i>Elected members</i>	Emmanuel Agbo	<i>until APCM 2008</i>
	Florence Agbo	<i>from APCM 2008</i>
	Joan Anthony	
	Nannette Dele-Charley	
	Joyce Green	<i>Vice-Chair</i>
	Jemima Micah	<i>from APCM 2008</i>
	John McKae	
	Joyce Royle	<i>co-Treasurer</i>
	Gwen Sherratt	
	Margaret Taylor	
	Rick Tidsey	
	Dorothy Vernon	<i>from APCM 2008</i>
<i>Co-opted members</i>	Vivien Morris	<i>co-Treasurer</i>
	Jennifer Newton	<i>Secretary</i>

2

structure, governance and management

St Agnes Longsight Annual Report 2008

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is exempted by order from registering with the Charity Commission. The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules.

The PCC is supported by the work of a number of sub-committees which although having no particular decision making role meet regularly to discuss issues and make suggestions in support of the PCC's work. The various groups are:

Standing Committee

consisting of the parish priest, wardens, secretary and treasurers, this group can meet to set the agenda for PCC and deal with day to day issues.

Worship & Faith Group

prepares for and deals with details of services and makes suggestions to the PCC about major worship issues/changes.

Mission & Action Group

discusses and suggests to PCC issues of mission, action, justice, peace etc; particularly non-financial ways of getting involved.

Care & Nurture Group

looks at ways of ensuring parishioners are prayed for, visited, and nurtured in times of sickness and in health; also preparation and care of baptism, confirmation and wedding candidates and the care of the recently bereaved

Community Hall Management Committee

manages all aspects of the hall – financially and administratively.

Children's Ministry Team

The Junior Church leaders meet regularly to discuss issues around our Sunday Junior Church programme and other activities and events as appropriate.

Community Garden Project Group

manages the PCC vision for the development of the church grounds as set out in our parish plans for the future (see p16).

Parish Policy

The PCC has developed parish policy in a variety of areas to support and maintain best practice. Key policy areas include:

Child Protection

Under the guidance of our parish officer (Doreen Healey) the PCC has adopted a policy which covers recruitment, safety, and training along with other areas of child protection in line with national and Diocesan requirements. This policy is reviewed annually and was updated in 2008. One extra person joined the team of Children's ministry leaders and received her CRB check in accordance with our policy.

Health & Safety

Training, awareness and implementation are key to this policy which was adopted by the PCC in 2007. It is an agenda item at the PCC at regular intervals. During 2008 significant work was done on the development of fire safety and fire risk assessments.

The parish also maintains (and regularly reviews) policies on

Baptism

Children and Communion

Data protection

Disability Discrimination

Fairtrade

Safeguarding Adults

Work is still underway on the adoption of a parish environmental policy in line with the Church of England's 'Shrinking the Footprint' project.

3

objectives and activities

St Agnes Longsight Annual Report 2008

Objectives

The object of the PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC co-operates with the parish priest in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The various committees and groups outlined in Section 2 above, and especially the provision of worship and pastoral care, are key to the strategy of meeting these PCC objectives.

As a result of PCC discussions during 2005, 2006 and 2007 the PCC have adopted a vision for the future which, building on the work of the 2006 Deanery Strategy Plan, sets out a development plan for the church building and grounds and our ministry and outreach.

The vision, entitled 'In this place will I give peace' is outlined in Section 5 of this Annual Report and underpins our discussions as a PCC.

Activities

The activities of the PCC which are outlined in this report depend largely on volunteers. It is important to mention the contribution of volunteers to the life, ministry and mission of the Parish as a whole and particularly the PCC. Without this 'workforce' many of the objectives and activities of the PCC would not be possible. The PCC notes with gratitude and appreciation the contribution of volunteers at all levels of parish life.

As well as the activities mentioned in this report and the structures outlined above to support the objectives of the PCC, the parish has a mission giving project whereby 5% of the weekly collection is set aside for mission giving. Each December the PCC allocates this money to four or five charities chosen from nominations received from the wider congregation. In 2008 the chosen charities were:

- St Agnes School
- Central Manchester Women's Aid
- Crisis
- The Bondo Fund (supporting the Diocese of Bondo, Kenya)
- USPG Project: Caring for young lives

4

achievements and performance St Agnes Longsight Annual Report 2008

Church Attendance

During 2008 the average Sunday attendance was 66. There were ten Baptisms, no weddings, and no first communions or confirmations.

Review of the year

During the past year there have been 8 meetings of St Agnes' PCC. Attendance has fluctuated from a low of 42% to a high of 79% with an average of 67%.

Major items covered by the PCC and its supporting committees during the year have included:

- a finance campaign to increase regular giving
- the renewal of part of the north aisle roof to remove dry rot
- repair to lead gullies
- major bird protection works to exterior
- new chairs for the community hall
- new heating system in the community hall (including hot water to kitchen)
- involvement in Manchester peace week and the Manchester Whit Walks
- St Agnes School old building demolished and teaching moved to temporary accommodation
- Pilgrimage visit by Bishop Nigel together with community events and contacts
- initial work on developing an enquirer's course
- the development and introduction of alternative worship 'openmind'
- project to review the welcome and hospitality given in our church
- community garden open day for local residents – attracting 70 visitors
- involvement with the local Birchfields Park festival
- fairtrade stall of goods
- adoption of the fire risk assessment document
- major review of parish strategy for fundraising and social events started
- initial discussions on the use of the projector and screen in worship

- preliminary PCC discussion on the third part of the vision for the future: development of the community hall
- two ecumenical 'prayer and place' events at St Agnes involving Roby URC and Northmoor Methodist churches
- review and renewal of Easter Vigil service
- bereavement course
- new service for those recently bereaved
- involvement in Back to Church Sunday

Electoral Roll

During 2008 there were 100 names entered on the Electoral Roll.

5

plans for future periods

St Agnes Longsight Annual Report 2008

In **2004** the Church of England published one of its most important reports in recent years - Mission Shaped Church – encouraging parishes to think differently about buildings, mission and ministry.

In **2006** the Diocese of Manchester underwent a diocesan wide assessment of parishes, buildings, boundaries, structures and mission in order to help Deanery Pastoral Committees prepare for future ministry patterns through the creation of a Deanery Strategy.

Together these two initiatives have enabled St Agnes' PCC to record, assess, and review the life, ministry and mission of the Parish of St Agnes Longsight.

The PCC have identified three areas of focus for the future of our ministry.

Based on the Scripture text from the prophet Haggai, which is written in tiles above the main entrance to St Agnes parish church, our mission as a parish grows from the words:

in this place will I give peace

Our three identified projects are

- peace through engaging creative worship
- peace through outdoor green space for the community
- peace through community café and welcome facilities

During **2008** significant progress was made on two parts of the vision. Alternative Worship has developed our plan to provide engaging, creating worship and the Community Garden Project has produced preliminary resources for developing the church grounds.



St Agnes Longsight

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