



St Agnes Longsight
in this place will I give peace

Annual Report

of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2009

2009

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reference and administrative information
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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 2009 until the date this report was produced are:

<i>Parish Priest</i>	The Revd Stephen Edwards (<i>Chair</i>)	
<i>Curate</i>	The Revd Lara Dose	<i>from June 2009</i>
<i>Wardens</i>	Emmanuel Agbo Colin Best	<i>re-elected 2009</i> <i>re-elected 2009</i>
<i>Representatives on the Deanery Synod</i>	Doreen Healey Leah Lutley Lewis Njoku	<i>re-elected 2009</i> <i>re-elected 2009</i> <i>re-elected 2009</i>
<i>Elected members</i>	Florence Agbo Joan Anthony Nannette Dele-Charley Joyce Green Jemima Micah John McKee Cyril Roberts Joyce Royle Gwen Sherratt Margaret Taylor Rick Tidsey George Tonge Dorothy Vernon	<i>until APCM 2009</i> <i>Vice-Chair</i> <i>from APCM 2009</i> <i>co-Treasurer</i> <i>until APCM 2009</i> <i>until APCM 2009</i> <i>from APCM 2009</i>
<i>Co-opted members</i>	Vivien Morris Jennifer Newton	<i>co-Treasurer</i> <i>Secretary</i>

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structure, governance and management

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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.

- **Community & Action Group**

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

- **Living & Praying 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).

- **Building & Environment Group**

dealing with fabric, maintenance, health & safety and environmental issues

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 – in 2009 at the September PCC meeting.

Vetting and Barring: new Government legislation comes into force 2010 when increased safeguards will be introduced, further enhancing protection of children and vulnerable adults. The clergy and a number of PCC members attended training in 2009 about the scheme.

Health & Safety

During 2009 the fire risk assessment was completed and the Fire Safety & Evacuation policy was presented to the PCC.

Building & Environment

During 2009 the PCC have adopted a maintenance plan for the church fabric. This is being overseen by the newly created Building & Environment group which has also started work on monitoring our energy use and the environmental impact of our building.

The parish also maintains (and annually reviews) policies on

Baptism

Children and Communion

Data protection

Disability Discrimination

Fairtrade

Safeguarding Adults

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objectives and activities

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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 workshops and discussions the PCC adopted a vision for the future which, building on the work of the 2006 Deanery Strategy Plan, set out a development plan for the church building and grounds and our ministry and outreach.

This development plan, 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 2009 the chosen charities were:

- International Community for the Relief of Starvation and Suffering
- NSPCC
- The Big Issue in the North
- USPG Project: Caring for young lives

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achievements and performance St Agnes Longsight Annual Report 2009

Church Attendance

During 2009 the average Sunday attendance was 67. There were ten Baptisms, four weddings, two confirmations and no first communions.

Review of the year

During the past year there have been 8 meetings of St Agnes' PCC. Attendance has fluctuated from a low of 48% to a high of 83% with an average of 63%.

Major items covered by the PCC during the year have included:

- The arrival of a Curate and Ordination
- Whit Walks
- Charitable appeals & Mission Giving
- Finance campaign
- Metal Theft
- Invitation, Welcome & Hospitality
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Fabric
- Gas/Electricity Contracts
- Odd Job List
- Swine Flu
- Baptism
- Grants, Fabric & Development Plan
- Environment Project
- Trusteeship
- Parochial Fees
- Retirement of Headteacher
- APCM
- Parish Development Plan
- Fund Raising

During the year the meetings have been interesting and lively and I would like to thank all the PCC members for their contributions.

Jennifer P Newton
Secretary

Electoral Roll

During 2009 there were 110 names entered on the Electoral Roll.

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plans for future periods

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Parish Development Plan

Based on the Scripture text which we walk under every time we enter our church door our parish development plan grows from the words:

in this place will I give peace

With nearly £3,500 already received from the Big Lottery Fund and an application in for a further £40,000, our plans are now developing well. This leaflet gives some background notes to the whole process along with reports on the three areas we have identified as our parish plan:

- Peace through creative, engaging worship
- Peace through outdoor green space
- Peace through community facilities



Background

St Agnes' Parish Church is a Grade 2 listed building, which is situated in a neighbourhood with the highest Muslim population in Manchester. The church building comprises of a worship space and a community hall with basic kitchen facilities. The community hall was set up in 1987 with funding from Manchester City Council (MCC) and was run as a separate activity with its own management committee until 2007. After the agreement with MCC came to an end it is now run by a parish committee, which invites members of the local community to be part of it.

The church building together with the rectory and its surrounding green provides a small but remarkable green urban ensemble and the only green open space in the neighbourhood.

In 2004 the Church of England published its influential report, 'Mission Shaped Church' encouraging parishes to think differently about worship, 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.

Working with the Deanery Development Officer to prepare for the future ministry and mission of St Agnes Longsight and what part the church building may take in this the PCC have identified three areas of focus for the future of our ministry.

Based on the Scripture text from the prophet Haggai which we walk under every time we enter our church porch our mission as a parish grows from the words: **in this place will I give peace**

Please pray for our future that, in this place we will give peace.

Peace through Creative, Engaging Worship

Part of our parish development plan is to provide 'peace through engaging creative worship' and over the past year or so we have developed *openmind* as part of that plan.

- *openmind* is different:
- *openmind* is 30 minutes of music, images and meditation
- *openmind* is in church but not like church

Each time *openmind* will have a different flavour helping you focus on something different and encounter the sacredness in your life in a new and exciting way

As part of our ongoing discussion about worship at St Agnes we are also developing other worship events which continue this theme of engaging creative worship.

Some examples of this include:

- Godly Play worship for babies and children, particularly the newly baptised
- My Big Fat Church Wedding Party - for St Agnes' newly weds
- Thanks for the Memories – a service supporting the bereaved
- Pew Change

All of this is alongside our usual regular worship pattern and the variety of the Church's year.



Peace through Outdoor Green Space Developing our Community Garden in 2010

As part of our vision for the future of St Agnes we are developing the grounds around the church building as a Community Garden.

This project is a collaboration between the church and local community to open up the church's outdoor areas as safe, green and accessible space for the whole community. The community garden is the only green space in the locality and this project seeks:

- to provide space for relaxation (seats, tables, simple play structures etc)
- to provide an interesting creative green environment encouraging all ages to discover and learn (an area which is safe, accessible for wheelchairs and prams etc)
- to develop the existing wildlife area with further woodland wild flowers encouraging wildlife (possibly including composting facilities)

A community consultation in 2008 gave us some great feedback - thank you to everyone who supported the Community Garden Open Day!

An application for funding from the Big Lottery Fund's, 'Changing Spaces' fund has now been made. We hope to secure nearly £40,000 of funding to redesign our gardens.



Peace through Community Facilities Developing our Community Facilities in 2010

As part of our vision for the future of St Agnes we are seeking to develop our community facilities and the Community Hall. Funding from the Big Lottery Fund has now been secured and work began on the feasibility study in October 2009.

The parish has commissioned a community audit / feasibility study to provide the required background information which will enable us to develop our community facilities with a long-term perspective and according to local needs.

The study shall provide a detailed analysis of the area in which St Agnes parish is situated, focussing especially on existing community facilities and service providers.

Local needs and existing service gaps shall be identified and potentials shall be outlined how to respond to these needs.

The parish also wishes to develop their partnership working with the local community. The study shall also focus on the potential of collaborative working with existing community groups and service providers.

In addition the study shall provide recommendation on the following:

- Prospected profile of St Agnes community facilities
- Draft ideas / recommendations of reordering needed
- Draft funding proposal

Useful Dates:

Tuesday 4th May 2010

Draft presentation to the PCC of the research findings

Saturday 22nd May 2010

Congregation & Community Workshop