

## Prayer for Our Parish

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Lord Jesus Christ our brother and our Saviour,  
we praise you for your glory.  
We thank you for calling us to be your Church,  
and for sending us your Spirit  
to guide us in our prayer and worship to the Father.

Look on us with love in our parish.  
Teach us to recognise your presence among us,  
and help us to work, suffer, and pray with you.  
Let our church be a sign of our faith and devotion,  
a declaration that we are willing  
to serve you in others.

We praise you, Lord Jesus, and ask you to bless us,  
for we are your beloved people,  
one in the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

This report was produced for the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2004

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*St Luke's* At St Luke's the new therapeutic treatment centre which opened last May offering a wide range of treatment is very successful. They need more therapists and sessions to cope with the demand. They are applying for three years funding.

*Bethshan* Major work at Bethshan International Church has to be completed by October 2004 to comply with regulations regarding facilities for the disabled.

Joan Anthony

## From the Community Hall Management Committee

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*Finances* Since the last AGM we have had a few meetings. The Committee has resolved most important issues regarding finances between the church and the hall. With briefings from the letting officers and treasurer the hall has full bookings. The financial state of the takings shows a healthy balance sheet, thus the bank is grateful for using their services. We have amended the Constitution; child protection policy is entirely the users' responsibility.

*Fabric* The church fabric committee will help to apply for funds to improve the image of the hall and the church grounds. There was a late entry to include the hall's advert on the church notice board hence we intend to have a notice board at the corner of Slade Lane soon.

*Thank you* The Hall Committee uses this opportunity to thank the PCC, Parish Priest and Churchwardens for a delightful job/restoration done to the hall's floor.

Lewis Njoku

CPO's and any person working with children or vulnerable adults, either as volunteers or paid employees, are required to apply for a Disclosure enabling them to carry out their duties.

By the end of January I should be informed by the Diocese when all CPO's will be able to apply for application forms for all people working with children in their church.

Doreen Healey

## From the Health & Safety Officers

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### *New Regulation*

Since the early 90's churches have had to comply with the Health & Safety regulation and come under the auspices of the Local Authority (usually the local Council Environmental Health Officer) under Places of Worship.

### *Parish Policy*

On the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2003 the PCC agreed a policy. Karen Flowers and Linda Mellis were appointed as Health & Safety Officers. As it is early days yet there is not a lot to be said as a provisional inspection only has been made of the church and some of the things that needed doing have been done and we look to implement the rest in the next few months.

There will be a copy of the Health & Safety Policy on display at the back of the Church and all Junior Church Leaders and Sidespersons will be given a copy.

Linda Mellis  
Karen Flowers

## From the Disability Officer

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## From Churches Together in Longsight

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### *Meetings*

More people attended the Good Friday witness last year. The trip to Chester was on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July. At the meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup> Ms Ishaq, Headteacher at St Luke's School, and Mr A Wood, Headteacher at St John's School, were invited to and spoke about the relationships within their schools.

### *St Joseph's*

A St Joseph's the Indian community is still growing but are facing difficulties with housing.

Since the last APC meeting one name has been removed from the Roll and there have been three additions, leaving a total of 108 names on the Electoral Roll for the Parish.

Vivien Morris

## From the Worship Sub-Committee

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Catherine?

## From the Fabric Sub-Committee

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*New Sub-Committee*

The Fabric sub-committee was formed with permission from the PCC to look at the forthcoming works required by the Quinquennial Report 2001 and to work on other areas of fabric and building issues, and then report back for the PCC to make any decisions. There are six members of the committee. It has met once so far to consider the Report and to contact the Church Architect with regard to starting on the works as soon as possible. It is hoped that a plan of action – including the phasing of the work - will be in place during this PCC year.

Stephen Edwards

## From Junior Church

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*More activities*

Junior church members have been consistent over the year – numbers of seven to twelve each week. Leaders come up with suggestions for actively joining in different types of entertainment outside Junior Church such as discos, cinema, watching a video together, laser quest and outings that include the whole church as a family.

Gwen Sherratt and Joan Anthony

## From the Child Protection Officer

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*Criminal Records Bureau*

I have not been informed during 2003-04 of any incidents or complaints. On April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2003 I was required in my capacity as Child Protection Officer (CPO) to attend a Criminal Records Bureau Training Session. All

*Comments*

Overall 2003 has been an average year for our church financially. Hopefully when the Parish Share is reviewed under the new scheme we will benefit with a reduction in the amount we are required to pay. At present the Parish Share accounts for about half our expenses and any reduction would be welcome.

Richard Lee

## From the Deanery Synod Representatives

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*Changes*

This has been an interesting year as we changed deanery. We said goodbye to Heaton Deanery and Hello to Ardwick Deanery who welcomed us with a whole hearted cheer.

*Heaton*

The first meeting we attended was with the Heaton's where a discussion took place about the children and the youth within our churches. There is a small team (2) Andy Poole and Steve Dixon who are offering help and assistance to junior church and youth groups. They are happy to visit churches within the diocese; offering support and help to set up new groups or find new avenues for current groups.

*Ardwick*

The second meeting was with Ardwick Deanery. There was one very important announcement that the Area Dean had resigned. The meeting continued with a member of the standing committee chairing the meeting. Once again Steve Dixon and Andy Poole gave us a talk, followed by a presentation by the Diocesan Advisory committee about the help they can give on obtaining grants advice about renovating or updating the church. Adrian Golland gave what was limited and informative information. The only thing that was clear - there is only one member of staff at 90 Deansgate - so although they are willing to help and advise they are a very small team and so patience was required if you need to work with this department.

*Parish Share*

An imminent change to the Parish Share was also discussed - although this was in its early stages. There had been organised meetings around the diocese discussing the proposed changes to the way churches are analysed before reaching what their annual parish share will should be based on the ability to pay. But we will have to wait and see how this one turns out.

Karen Flowers, Leah Lutley, Lewis Njoku

## From the Electoral Roll Officer

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People included on the Electoral Roll have the right to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

- Quinquennial Report - this has been addressed at several meetings – set up a Fabric Committee
- Church Fees - these have been increased along the lines of the Diocese increases.
- Growing in Faith – possibility of holding a course in Church
- Wilmslow Parish Link
- Mission Giving
- Worship – use of Responsorial Psalm and holding a Prayer Week
- Use of FairTrade tea and coffee etc.

The lively debate has continued during the past year being ably chaired by Fr Stephen.

*Thank you ...*

I would like to thank those people who have regularly attended the PCC meetings during the year and to also thank them for their valuable contributions.

Jennifer Newton

## From the PCC Treasurer

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During the year 2003 our income exceeded our expenditure by approximately £2000. This is not as good as our £7500 surplus in 2002, but that was mainly due to the transfer of the St John's bank accounts. It is good that we have managed to "stay in the black" this year, but we really need to try and build up our reserves more as we will have some large building expenses approaching over the next few years.

*Giving*

Giving has increased by some £1,000 since last year. The income we receive from Gift Aid tax refunds has increased by £1000 to £2700 which is very good news. We have nearly got back up to the £3,000 tax refund we used to get in 2000. However, if anyone thinks they might be eligible to claim Gift Aid then please see Vivien Morris and fill in a form. It can make a big difference.

*Expenses*

Expenses have risen by nearly £5000 this year. This is mainly due to the increase in Parish Share and various maintenance work that has been done, such as the sanding and varnishing of the floors and the new signs.

All in all it has been quite an expensive year and this explains our rather small overall surplus of £2000.

*General Notes*

Since last year I have been able to resolve our CBF deposit accounts and put them in order. There are some accounts that we inherited from St Johns that may be restricted in purpose. Some investigation will have to be undertaken to discover what these accounts were created for. If the funds are not restricted it may be worth consolidating some of our accounts to make them easier to manage.

the Hall and had to be redone. The group concerned did pay for the damage caused. Working groups have also made a start on some of the interior jobs including cleaning some of the brickwork and painting the toilets. A thorough spring clean of the church was also undertaken. Thank you to everyone who has given of their time and talents during the year to help in this way. Working groups will be reconvened this year to continue the good work and it is open to anyone who is interested to participate. Discussions are also ongoing between Fr Stephen and the architect regarding prioritising the bigger jobs that will require outside contractors. Routine maintenance and servicing of the heating system has also been carried out.

#### *Church Grounds*

Thank you to the working group and individuals who have helped to keep the grounds tidy and free from litter in between maintenance visits from the gardener. This is not an easy task but the efforts made are very much appreciated. The new noticeboards are now in situ and are looking good.

#### *Conclusion*

We would like to thank the sidespersons and all of you who have served on any of the rotas during the year for your commitment, support and reliability. This has been a great help to us in carrying out our duties and we have appreciated your friendship and fellowship. It is lovely to hear the organ being played again and we thank Dorothy and Vicki for enhancing our worship with music. Thank you also to Fr Stephen for his ministry during the year, for his support and spiritual guidance and for helping us to develop in our worship together.

Colin Best, Joyce Green, Leah Lutley and Joyce Royle

## From the PCC Secretary

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#### *Attendance*

During the past year there have been 9 meetings of St Agnes' PCC. Attendance has fluctuated from a low of 65% to a high of 80% with an average of 75% - three people have attended every meeting.

#### *Agenda items ...*

Major items covered during the year have included:

- Boundary Changes
- Church and Hall floor – these were eventually resurfaced in August by Joyce Royle and Dave
- Disability access to the Church and Hall
- Fund Raising/Social Events – Sponsored Hymn Sing, Summer Teas, Church Barbecue, Parish trip to Ness Gardens, Gift Day, Concert by the Dorothy Vernon Singers, Parish Festival, Autumn Fair, Junior Church Disco and visit to the Pantomime, Retiring Collections.
- Child Protection – update
- Community Hall - the committee has met several times during the year and much progress has been made.
- Health & Safety – policy agreed

*Looking to the future ...*

Having said all that I must also say that a lively parish like ours is in constant need of more and more support! And this leads me on to my second point – the future.

It has been a good year for the parish in many ways. We have grown in numbers, strengthened our worship, worked on our church building and settled in to a new deanery with new parish boundaries. Now we look ahead again to ensure that the life of the Church in our community is secured for the future.

Financially we face many challenges – not just with the day to day running of the parish but with the work needed on the church building as well. One of the great frustrations for me over the past year has been the lack of progress with the Quinquennial report of 2001. I have tried on numerous occasions to speed the process along but so far without success. As I write I am still waiting to hear from the architect. All I can say is that it is certain that sometime during the year ahead we will make a start on this huge task and your support and understanding will be crucial.

*Social events, mission  
& evangelism ...*

Collecting money from people is never easy and never enjoyable. However it is a reality and a necessity if we are to secure the church in our parish for future generations. It is vital that we balance the financial responsibilities carefully with our primary tasks of worship and ministry. So I hope that this year we can set up a group of people to look at fundraising events (on behalf of the PCC) and make sure that we combine the need for fundraising with the vital need for social events to bind our community together. Social events and the nurturing of community are essentials of Christian pastoral care. If we succeed in these things we will also be fulfilling our duty as a missionary and evangelistic church, because with a dynamic parish life we can present the gospel in practical and vivid ways to the rest of the community.

Enjoy reading the report that follows. It shows a good parish with a good future. So I end with thanking you all once again for your work and pray that God will richly bless us all as we look to the future and work for his kingdom here on earth.

Fr Stephen

## From the Churchwardens

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*Church Building*

Some of the work that needs to be done in order to comply with Quinquennial Inspection Report has been undertaken this year according to the list prioritized by the PCC. As agreed, we started with the work that could be undertaken ourselves. The floors in both the Church and the Community Hall have been sanded, re-polished and varnished. A big thank you to Dave Wilkes who did a superb job ably assisted by Joyce Royle for a fraction of the cost quoted by other outside tenders. Unfortunately the Community Hall floor was damaged by a group using

## From the Priest-in-Charge

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

*Looking back at 2003 ...*

The purpose of the Annual Report is of course to look back on 2003 and present to the reader a picture of what happened during the year along with a representation of the state of the parish as we move into the new year. The reports which accompany this letter show you in details all that has happened in the life of our church from Wardens, the PCC, Treasurer, Junior Church and also give a glimpse of the work of the wider Church through Deanery Synod and Churches Together. Therefore it is unnecessary for me to outline in details what has happened and just repeat what is presented elsewhere. Consequently I want to concentrate on two other areas: gratitude and the future.

*Thank you ...*

An important role of the parish priest is to encourage members of the parish in their individual ministries. Sometimes reports like these can appear just as a list of thanks – churned out with some apprehension over the fear of missing someone out! I have been thinking how I may avoid such a list of names and positions held and it lead me to think that, in our parish at least, the role of everyone who does a task or fulfils a role is appreciated by the congregation as a whole. Saying thank you to you therefore is not just a duty and a task to be done, but it is a privilege as it is a reflection of the bond of love which connects us as Christians – Christians who choose to involve ourselves in the life of the church because it is the very life of Christ himself.

I need not spell out the list of people and the list of jobs that they undertake – I am sure that you are aware of the hard work, long hours and sense of Christian service that people do. To those of you who have undertaken specific tasks and roles in the parish please accept from me and on behalf of the entire parish our thankfulness and appreciation for your work. We are indeed fortunate at St Agnes' to have a committed team of people – and no small team – guiding the day to day running of the church. Thank you.

*The Body of Christ ...*

But St Paul reminds us in his first letter to the Corinthians (Chapter 12) that the church is not just the work of a few. As a body is made up of different limbs, muscles and parts so the church is made up of different members – and each member no matter whether priest, warden, sidesperson, committee-member or worshipper is crucial to the life and health of the whole Church community. The ministry and role of the praying Christian - who may be unable to undertake administrative or practical tasks - is crucial to the health of the body of Christ. If you cannot help out in some of the more public ways please accept my thanks and the thanks of the parish for the prayers which you offer for the parish, the community and the world. The church must constantly remind itself that no matter how important the day to day running of the church may be, all is in vain if we are not above all things a family of prayer and a community offering worship to our Creator.

So thank you to everyone involved in our Parish – for your work, your time, your money and especially your prayers.

## The Diocese of Manchester Deanery of Ardwick

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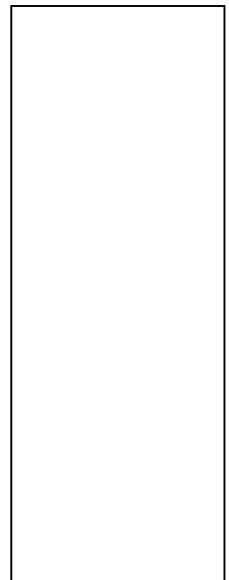
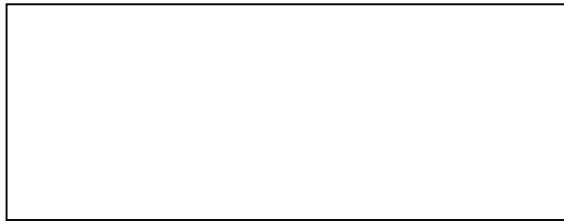
### The Parish of St Agnes, Birch-in-Rusholme with St John with St Cyprian, Longsight

Parish Church	St Agnes, Slade Lane, Longsight
Priest-in-Charge	The Revd Stephen M Edwards, BSc MA
Wardens	Joyce Green Joyce Royle
Asst Wardens	Colin Best Leah Lutley
Deanery Synod Representatives	Karen Flowers, Leah Lutley, Lewis Njoku
Parochial Church Council Secretary Treasurer	Jennifer Newton Richard Lee
Electoral Roll Officer	Vivien Morris
Bankers	CAF Cash Ltd
Insurers	The Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, Gloucester
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# ST AGNES LONGSIGHT

Annual Report 2003



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