

Annual General Meeting

Reports 2008/9



29th March 2009

Brunswick Parish Church

PURPOSE

The Parochial Church Council of Christchurch Brunswick, together with the incumbent (Reverend Simon Gatenby) have the responsibility of enabling Christian Mission, Worship and Nurture to take place within and beyond the parish boundaries. It also has responsibility for the Church complex located on Brunswick Street, Manchester 13 and a property at 35 Portland Crescent, Longsight, Manchester 13, known as Barnabas House.

ANNUAL REPORT

PCC Membership

During the year the following served as members of the PCC

Incumbent	Rev. Simon Gatenby
Curate	Rev Ben Edson (from June 2008)
Church Wardens	Mr. Nick Carr- Brow Mr. Tim Craft

Representatives on Deanery Synod

Mr Chris Rogers (from March 2008)

Elected Members

Mrs. Yuko Ang
Mrs. Kerry Colyer
Mr. Gordon Flear (Secretary)
Mrs. Penny Kelly (to March 2008)
Mr Alan Price (to Jan2008)
Ms. Claire Stableford
Mr Matt Harrison
Mrs Sally Jones (Treasurer)
Mr Peter Hicks
Ms Alannah Keeble
Mrs Naomi Hewerdine –Vice Chair
Ms Ali Clay (to March 2008)
Mr David Masters (to March 2008)
Ms Emma Lacey (from March 2008)
Mrs Jenny Ferneyhough (from March 2008)
Mr Mark Hewerdine (from March 2008)

PCC Organisation

The PCC operates through Sub groups, which meet between reporting to full PCC meetings. During the year and discussion of Church strategy and priorities these groups were revised to be:

- **Core Group:** Meeting regularly to discuss all aspects of Church life
- **Nurture Group:** Meeting occasionally to support and suggest how we look after each other
- **Global Justice:** Meeting Occasionally to direct Church's attention to wider issues
- **Communication:** Meeting when required

Church Attendance

There were 70 parishioners on the electoral roll at the AGM in April 2008, the same as a year earlier.

Morning Service Attendance

	Average	Highest	Lowest
Adults	56	75	38
Children (<16)	25	44	2

There were no evening services apart from Carol service and some evening groups

Previous years average attendance/Electoral Roll

Year	Adult+Children	Attendance	Electoral Roll
2007	51+22	= 73	70
2006	51+22	=73	74
2005	56+28	=85	71
2004	57+26	=83	71
2003	58+23	=81	79
2002	62+31	=93	73
2001	57+23	=80	73
2000	56+20	=76	74
1999	61+21	=82	79
1998	59+19	=78	83

Sunday 314

In 2008, the leaders and helpers of Sunday 314 enjoyed another full and varied year of teaching, listening to, learning from and praying, creating and having fun with the young people they encountered on Sunday mornings.

Nick Carr-Brown continued with his role as co-ordinator of the various groups - Bubbles (pre-schoolers), Splash (reception to year 2), X-treme (years 3 to 6) and The Grid+ (years 7 to 9+).

Other than in The Grid+, the Scripture Union Light resources were used throughout the year as a basis for the teaching which, in the main, followed the adult teaching in Church. The Grid+ looked at issues relevant to the group arising from the teaching in Church and often made something creative as a response to what they had been looking at e.g. the recycled "Hope" sign and the "This is your Church" banner.

All the groups, except The Grid+, met every Sunday other than the first, when the young people shared in the All Together Special service in Church. The Grid+ tried to meet once a month, usually on the third Sunday.

The year saw a significant increase in the numbers of young people regularly attending Sunday 314, particularly in the X-treme group, which was great, but which brought with it challenges in terms of staffing the sessions – with often only one leader for 12 or more children! Many of the regular Splash children moved up to X-treme in September and the remaining Splash group sometimes teamed up with Bubbles when leaders were short.

If you are CRB checked (or would like to be – see Nick!) and ever feel the urge to come and lend a helping hand on busy mornings (even if only for crowd control!), it would be much appreciated by the leaders. If you're not CRB checked, a helping hand to tidy up after a hectic session would also be very welcome.

Thanks go to Nick and Ros Carr-Brown, Nick and Sally Jones, Emma Lacy, Ruth Cox, Richard Young, Ann and Naomi Flear, Amy and Heidi Carr-Brown, Alice Young, Alannah and Holly Keeble, Kathy Anderson, Jucelene Will Ramos and Jo West (and anyone else who has helped during the year but who I have missed out!).

Prayer for the leaders, helpers and young people is always welcome, particularly that Sunday 314 would be a fun time when all those involved would learn more of God.

Sally Jones

Wardens' Report

Condition of Buildings

The church buildings remain in generally good condition. During the year a number of internal jobs have been completed, including completion of the store room off the hall; refurbishment of the fire doors off the hall; extension of the gas-fired hot water supply to the toilets, and other routine maintenance items.

We have had a number of instances of rain leaking into the building, and repairs were made to some areas of flashing on the roof, particularly above the front of the worship room. However, there also appears to be some damage to the roof surface in this area, and other joints in the flashing, which will need investigation and repair this year. Having done this we should also consider repainting the roof surface to help prevent further damage to the surface.

Many of the major outstanding items in the refurbishment at Barnabas, including dry-lining of the cellar area, have been completed during the year. There are, however, still some minor interior jobs remaining to be done, as well as work in the garden.

Towards the end of the year funding was secured for the new church kitchen, allowing this work to be carried out in the coming year (more details of these plans are reported elsewhere).

Thank you to everyone who continues to help in keeping the building maintained. It is now being heavily used during the week, as well as at weekends, and it is only through everyone's care and contributions that we keep it going and in a serviceable condition.

Sundays and Events

It has again been our privilege to serve on Sundays and other occasions by stewarding and welcoming, and we thank all those (both on and off the rota) who help us in this. In January we were saddened by the death of Alan Price, who had served as warden and then assistant warden for a number of years, and regularly provided much help on Sunday mornings and other times.

We have also had some new people join the sidespeople and assistant wardens team during the year, although there are still a few gaps in the rota, and one or two additions would help to ensure things run smoothly and help us make time for the important tasks of welcoming and talking to people on Sunday mornings. If you feel you could help for one Sunday a month, or even just occasionally, do have a word with us.

Tim and Nick

Pastoral/Nurture Sub Group

Members: Tim Craft, Jenny Ferneyhough, Simon Gatenby, Naomi Hewerdine, Alannah Keeble, Judith Keeble, Chris Rogers

We have met four times as a group following an initial joint meeting with core group. Our aim has been to look at pastoral care and nurture of those attending church. The main ways in which we have done this have been:

- Small groups including working with the feedback forms from the houseparty at the Quinta last year. This has included thinking of ideas for short term groups and, with others, enabling them to happen. New small groups which have happened/are happening are:
 - Contemplative prayer group at Preston Carmelite House
 - Student+ fellowship group
 - New daytime house group
 - Discussion groups in Advent on Paula Gooder's book
- Ideas for other groups in the future exist including activity for Lent in 2009.
- Look at how people are welcomed and included in activity on Sundays
- The "Lifechanges" slot on 3rd Sundays gives the opportunity for people to share changes in their lives with church.
- Look at structures for nurture and pastoral support.
- This will be done initially by adding to the membership of the team that carry out prayer ministry on 4th Sundays

Chris Rogers

Music Group

Music group have continued to lead our sung worship in church throughout the year. We continue to be a relatively small group of musicians, with a core group of us who are part of the group most Sundays, and others who play and sing less frequently. We have continued to introduce some new songs whilst trying to maintain a balance between the new, the old and much in between. We would, as always, be happy to welcome anyone who would like to join us, who is gifted musically and would like to help us as we seek to lead God's people in worship. Please continue to pray for us in the coming year that our love for God will lead us to worship Him with all of our hearts, souls, minds, and strength.

Helen Rogers

Rock Solid

Rock Solid is a club for 11-14 year olds in school years 7, 8 and 9. We started this club in June as a need was recognised for some provision for 11-14 year olds, and so far it has been a success!!

We meet on a Friday night in Term time from 8pm until 9.30pm. Rock Solid is a resource we have bought in from YFC and has greatly helped with the planning of the club. The Material normally focuses around different core themes and issues each week. We chat a bit about God and how these things affect us. So far we have covered issues such as Freedom and Slavery, Temptation, Guidance, Disability and Heaven and Hell, among others. Each session includes high-energy games and a variety of activities and illustrations to encourage group discussion and input. We also occasionally have a “Freestyle” night, where the young people can choose what they do from a range of activities.

- Trips out also prove popular and so far we have been Climbing, Ice Skating, to a Christian Concert at the Apollo and Bowling. We are hoping to have a residential weekend away sometime over the summer and are looking into options for this at the moment. We have also just purchased a Wii (to be used by other youth groups within the church) from the Youth Budget and this has proved to be very popular!!
- I think everyone would agree that the highlight of the year so far has been the Christmas banquet we held in December. The young people and leaders all dressed up in posh outfits and were treated to a 3 course meal courtesy of Anne Flear and Team of helpers! A great night was had by all and we are already looking forward to our Easter plans!
- Rock Solid is great fun and a good place to chill out and meet up with mates or make new ones. So if you are in school years 7-9 or know anyone who is then come along and join in the fun! Or if you would like to know more please see one of the Rock Solid Leaders.

Michelle Hall, Kerry and Edwin Colyer, Anne Flear, Matthew Wilson, Sheenagh Young, Naomi Hewardine, Rach Flear, Katy Young and of course not forgetting our resident baker Jo West.

Fellowship Group

Over the last year, the fellowship group has met approximately twice a month for prayer, sharing and to have a cup of coffee and good natter! We have watched several challenging films, as well as attending a couple of events organised by LICC (London Institute for Contemporary Christianity). For sometime we also specifically discussed and studied passages that were being looked at on Sunday mornings.

The group has fluctuated over the year in terms of numbers but there is currently a core group of about 5 regulars plus others who come from time to time. We all agree that it's great to meet up outside of church, away from the busyness, to relax, discuss, share and pray together and would recommend it to anyone of you who would like to join us!

StudentPlus

StudentPlus group continues to meet up and plan on events to share friendship and fellowship together. We try to provide support for students who come to Brunswick church as well as help them to integrate with the whole family of the church community.

The biggest change between academic year 2007-8 and 2008-9 is that we have decided to offer Student Plus fellowship group instead of link families. We try to meet up fortnightly. While number of students attending fellowship group and other events vary, the team is excited about number of students attending Brunswick church.

Thank you for all your support, prayers and sharing fellowship with our students.

On behalf of the StudentPlus team

Yuko

Discipleship Group

This year we've done a lot of praying. One lane- wanderer gave us an illustrated talk about India and then gave us the challenge to make the best gulab Jamun (a sweet and sticky Indian desert)

It's also been a year of change for DG. We said a few good- byes the only way we know how- with a montage of embarrassing photographs and a mountain of very yummy home-made cakes

One (almost) reliable source informs me that we went paragliding, skate boarding, base jumping and to see Mary Poppins but that must have been whilst I was revising.

However we did go climbing, let Dave talk to us about Jude (the bible book- not the curates son !!), produce and star in 3 radio shows, play badminton, helped out at Wastewatchers, Naomi and Katy won " who wants to be a chocolate- button- aire" and we even had time to write/act/spell out in cards a message to each other. Lots of DG are now helping out with RS (Rock solid) and JAM Club.

Crèche

Crèche continues to run successfully every Sunday morning (apart from the ATS) thanks to a team of dedicated volunteers. We have about 4 regular children but can have double that at times. The ages of children range from 1 year to almost 3 at the moment, with the occasional baby who stays in with a parent. We get out a range of toys and play equipment and the children and helpers have a great time.

We are however in need of more volunteers to help run Crèche and to be willing to set up at the beginning, so if that's you please see Tim Craft.

On behalf of the Crèche Team

7-Up

7UP is a club for children in school years three to six (seven to eleven year olds). It meets on Monday evenings during term time, normally from 6.30 to 8.00 (ish). Club nights are free, with a small charge for trips (to cover entrance fees). 7UP is run by volunteers. Please have a chat with one of the team if you are interested in getting involved.

The club continues to grow in size and by the end of the year we had more than 30 children attending some weeks. During our nights in church we have had lots of fun cooking (and eating what we have cooked), making things, playing games, singing, dancing, taking photos.....We have also had some group times with discussions with the children about God, and more recently have felt it was right to move back to having 'God spots' where we have been telling the children stories from the Bible. Trips out have continued to be popular, and have included swimming, night hikes, bowling, and trips to parks.

Highlights of the year have included a weekend in May, which this year was not away but 'at home'. We decided that as we had a number of younger children it would be good to stay nearer to home, and that it would be good to be able to do the things around Manchester which we don't have time for on Monday nights. This also meant that we were able to have a family barbeque on the Saturday evening enabling us to spend more time with parents as well as the children. Another highlight was the church carol service when Amy again came to help out preparing a great song and dance routine.

The leadership has continued to change slightly. We were sad to say goodbye to Richard as he felt it was time to move on, and have welcomed Dave West back in to the team. We have been very grateful to Gordon who has returned to co-lead 7UP with Helen. Other members of the team have been able to have times when they have stepped back a bit and just been around some of the time. We have increasingly needed help with trips now that we have more children and are very grateful to Kerry and Edwin Collier, Matthew Wilson, and Chris Rogers for all of the support which they have given us, along with many others who have helped out at the 'Weekend at home' and on other occasions, in many different ways.

It has been great this year to feel that we have been linked in with a bigger variety of youth and children's work within the church. It has been good to receive children who have been at JAM club, and at the toddler group before that, to hear of some of our old regulars attending Rock Solid, and to have seen a number of the children at the holiday club. We thank God for providing people and resources for these activities, and pray that He will work in the lives of the children and families we work with in all of our youth and children's work. Please continue to pray for us as 7UP leaders, that the children will be able to see God in us as we spend time with them.

Helen Rogers - on behalf of the 7UP team:

Helen, Gordon, Peter, Dave, Suzy, Emma, Sarah and Ali

M13 Youth Project

The M13 Youth Project seeks to enable young people aged 11-19 to love, think, create, reflect, enjoy, achieve and make a positive difference in their own lives and communities. We do this by building long-term relationships with local young people, most often meeting them on the streets, listening to them and developing creative activities together. We are committed to fostering informal learning about life with young people through both everyday and 'out-of-the-ordinary' experiences; encouraging young people and workers to value and respect themselves and others, critically question and evaluate their world and worldview and to act for human wellbeing.

We work from an open and inclusive value base, informed by our Christian beliefs, in partnership with local churches and community groups and other agencies in Manchester, for the benefit of urban young people. For us, this means working thoughtfully and respectfully with any young person for their human well-being, regardless of gender, ethnicity, nationality, ability, religion and sexuality.

The Project currently has six core staff and two sessional workers;

Helen Gatenby	Project Manager
Chris Macintosh	Senior Youth Worker
Gideon Thomas	Detached Worker
Francesca Reggimenti	Female Youth Worker
Becky Peters	Female Youth Worker
Sally Jones	Administrator
Nicola Powell	Sessional Youth Support Worker
Diego Lopez	Sessional Detached Support Worker

Regular M13 work in Brunswick includes one or two detached sessions a week and the Thursday evening Drop-In at Brunswick Church for 13-19 year olds. We've recently completed an exciting media project with local young people, which they have titled "Mistaken Identity", using digital photography to explore images of young people. We hope to have an exhibition of their work in spring 2009. The other big news this year was we finally managed to update our constitution and our legal name – so we are now, after many years, officially called 'M13 Youth Project'!

Thank you to everyone in Brunswick for your support and prayers. A big thank you to Tim Craft, who continues as Treasurer to help us keep our finances organised, and to Paul Keeble, who often helps us out with computer blips.

We are always grateful for and encouraged by your prayers for the young people, our work and our future fundraising endeavours. If you would like more information for prayer (or anything else), please contact: Helen Gatenby or Sally Jones, M13 Youth Project, 35 Portland Crescent, Longsight, Manchester, M13 0BU 0161 225 0201. info@m13youthproject.org.uk or www.m13youthproject.org.uk.

M13 Youth Project is a Registered Charity, No 1069401

Paul Keeble

2008 was an interesting year. I spent the first half of it dithering* / prayerfully reflecting* about an offer to turn my sabbatical study from 2007 into an MPhil, finally putting in an application almost as a Gideon-style fleece. My undergrad degree was a long time ago, so I reckoned if God wanted me to do it, getting the application past the academics would be a significant indicator. It was successful, so in October, I embarked on a 4 year part-time course of research into 'Mission With. Presence, partnership and power in local church community engagement.'

I wasn't just dithering* / prayerfully reflecting* last year. Work with Carisma continued. Another Peace Week which introduced the OSBAs – Outstanding Social Behaviour Awards – and the Schools Showcase, plus regular events such as the Lantern Parade and Launch Event and lots of other events and activities. Exhausting but worth it. In the summer our community radio station PeaceFM returned for another 4 week stint (it wasn't possible to get a licence that coincided with Peace Week), and we learned that our chair Erinma Bell had been awarded an MBE. PeaceFM also successfully applied to OFCOM for a 5 year licence, so we have been learning about how to set up a radio station and equip a studio from scratch, as for the 4 week licences we had hired an existing local studio. (See: www.carisma.me.uk / www.peaceweek.co.uk / www.osbas.co.uk)

My formal involvement with Street Pastors in Manchester was one of the commitments I ended in October to make space for the MPhil. I still look after the national website (www.streetpastors.org.uk) – now with over 100 projects around Britain – and occasionally visit new areas to help them work through having a project. Seedbed was another group I ended my time with, but I have continued with other groups and networks such as ChangeMakers, the Community Organising initiative, and the Manchester core group for Hope 08.

Judith and I did a bit of community organising on the Groves, our little group of streets, where we've been having problems with staff and contractors from the hospital parking their vans, cars and buses and hindering access for bin collection, ambulances, deliveries and us as residents. A survey of all the houses, followed by a public meeting, resulted in us being promised a residents' parking scheme. (See: www.thegroves-m13.co.uk)

All the above under the umbrella of Urban Presence. My co-worker Derek Purnell had the trauma of diagnosis and an operation for prostate cancer. His recovery has been going well. I know some of you have been praying for him and Maureen – for which, thanks. As Urban Presence we ran several RefUrb events which went well, but were not well attended so we're giving it a re-think at the moment.

Family: Daniel and Tess are settled and happy in Sheffield, and in September Alannah, after her gap year in India, went there too to begin her Biblical Studies course at the University. (What is it about Sheffield? I'm also going there every few months for my MPhil supervisions.)

Once again, as a dependable constant behind all this, our family at Brunswick. For another year of friendship and support, thank you.

(* delete as appropriate)

Paul

Ruth Cox – Oasis Global

Jacobs Well

The last year has proved to be exceptionally busy, essentially because of the development and launch of the Jacobs Well website (www.jacobswell.biz). This involved designing new product ranges, getting them photographed and documented as well as the compilation of information for the website and input to pricing/ publicity etc.



I was involved in several high profile events in 2008 to promote the Jacobs Well range, which included ‘The Stand’ event in Birmingham in November and a fashion show during London fashion week in September.

We have learnt an awful lot as an organisation over the last few months in terms of how to organise and run our new website operation and do have some great products, but sadly as we were unable to recruit a sales manager, the marketing of our products has been very poor, exacerbated by the current financial situation. As a result, the sales were really disappointing before Christmas and we all have to work hard to sell the stock now so that the money can go back to Oasis India to pay salaries etc. These are challenging times for us again (but there’s nothing new there!)

Trips

In May, I went to India for 10 days, which included spending time in Mumbai (and Igat Puri – on the outskirts of Mumbai), Bangalore and Chennai, I also went to Uganda (Kampala) for a week in October to spend time looking at the Skills Training Project there and also to spend time working with the team on a new business venture for carers of the children that attend the Oasis programmes. The women had a series of creative skills involving weaving and recycled paper bead making and Oasis wanted to look at small business opportunities.

We have decided to focus on bead-making for the time being and I have designed a range of products which are currently being sampled with a view to them being sold on the Jacobs Well website.

Vocational Training

The training in Uganda is going really well and I was encouraged to visit the young single mothers who were doing their work placements in local beauty parlours- hair dressers /



tailoring shops and restaurants. Maggie, the new project manager is a really wonderful woman who has an amazing life story. God has certainly transformed her life and she's keen to see the young mums on the course experience the same transformation!

In India, the training has gone through a time of change (AGAIN!) and I haven't always been happy with decisions that have been made there but I am delighted that a really competent woman who has worked with Oasis for many years and has a wise professional approach has been recently appointed to oversee vocational training nationally. I am certain that her input will be invaluable as it's hard for me to keep too tight a hand on it from the UK!



In Zimbabwe, the training is now focused solely on vulnerable young women, who are offered a one year course which includes tailoring and basic computer literacy. As you might imagine, it has been an impossibly tough year for all my colleagues in Zimbabwe and I know that they would really value your prayers.

Thank you all so much for your support for my work for Oasis. Your regular giving helps to cover the costs of my role – the main part of which is the cost of travel. I don't travel unnecessarily as there's always the issue of getting cover for the children and the extra responsibility on Ed. I also need to be sure that my colleagues really want my input (!) as it is a time and energy commitment for them too. I do always find that

trips really are beneficial though and the certainly inspire the work that I then do from home.

Thank You All!

Ruth xx

Missionary Support

As a church give we give a tenth of our income to support a number of individuals and organisations who work locally, nationally and globally.

In 2008 we supported the following on a monthly basis (amount per month in brackets)

- David and Jo West (£200)
- Oasis - Ruth Cox (£50)
- M13 Youth Project (£50)
- Street Pastors (£25)
- Urban Presence - Paul Keeble (£70)

We also gave one off donations to Scripture Union and Tear fund.

Peter Hicks

Dave & Jo West

2008 has seen us settle ourselves back into everyday Manchester life. Dave has been teaching at Abraham Moss High School, Grace has started mornings at a local nursery and Jo and Ezra juggle a range of health professionals and services! Ezra continues to make positive progress and in light of this our focus is still on returning to Mozambique, hopefully in early 2010.

Things at Kedesh have gone well this year. A grant from Brigham Young University was successful to develop the widows' side of the project. Kedesh has also acquired an adjacent plot of land, doubling the area and giving far more scope for farming and eventual self sufficiency. A new staff member, Heather Pritchard, arrived in July and is committed to staying for 2 years. She is mainly teaching English and IT skills: many of the boys now appear on Facebook! Grace and Dave were able to make a trip in July as well which was a great way to renew relationships for the boys and Grace especially.

Dave and Jo

Barnabas

Barnabas is a house owned by the church, just off Plymouth Grove. It has five bedrooms, and one room used by the M13 youth project as an office. There are currently six people living at Barnabas. For the first half of 2008 it also provided a short term home for theology students on placements from Westcott House in Cambridge.

Extensive work has continued to make sure the house meets the council requirements for a house of multiple occupancy, including a wired in smoke alarm system, plaster boarding the cellar and fitting new doors to the rooms. We now have new furniture in the bedrooms and new sofas in the sitting room. A big thank you to all from the church who helped with tidying, cleaning, painting and decorating. Special thanks to Nick Carr-Brown as house manager and to Tim Craft, who played a large part in the renovation work and continue to give their time and DIY skills to ensure the smooth day to day running of the house.

Peter Hicks, Barnabas resident

PA/Computer Team

The PA and computer team have continued to run and manage the audio and visual equipment during Sunday services. We now routinely record the service, and make the sermon available via the church website, enabling those who may have been away or missed it to listen later.

Although it can sometimes get a little "interesting" when finding new song words, Powrpoint slides or DVDs at the last moment, or in particularly A/V intensive services, it is a good opportunity to help with the smooth running of our worship (and doesn't really require any great technical knowledge!) We are a little short on people to help, so if the idea of "playing" with th mixing desk and/or computer on a Sunday morning appeals then please have a word with any of us.

Tim Craft

Sunday 314

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Sally Jones

JAM CLUB 2008

Jam club is a club for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. We meet on Friday afternoons from 4.30 until 5.30pm. We have 7 regular leaders and 10 children on the register. Here are some of our favourite things from 2008.

We have been reading stories about Jesus and stories that he told. We really liked 'The Wise and Foolish Builders', 'The Precious Pearl' but our favourite was 'The Fox's Tale' which we performed at the carol service. We enjoyed trips to Ardwick Green and the Christmas markets. Our favourite games are; Dodgeball, Football and Captain's coming. We also enjoy craft and cooking. This years highlights included smoothies, bread and angel finger puppets.

Waste Watchers

What a Load of... RUBBISH! The 2008 Holiday Club Report

After a break of several years, we decided to run a holiday club for children from reception to year 6, run over the 4 days after Easter (Tues – Fri). It was based on the "Waste Watchers" resource from Scripture Union, focussing on some of the 'transformations' in the bible; from Nothing into Something, from Water into Wine, from Darkness into Light and culminating in Jesus' transformation from Death to Life. The worship room itself was, in the course of only a week, transformed from a dirty no-man's-land, into a thriving playground!

Each afternoon, around 20 leaders from Brunswick Church and between 50 and 60 children from the church and the local area spent 2 hours warming-up, singing, listening, watching, making, running, photographing, and having lots of fun, using the whole of the Church building. Around 20% of the children were those who attend Brunswick Church on a Sunday morning.

Auntie Babs (Anyone for a cup-o'-tea?!), Vic and Big Bob led us through the programme, with each of the six age-divided groups being named after something that could be recycled; from the impressive Paper Shredders, to the mighty Bottle Squishers (who were clearly the best group)! There were also a wide range of activities that the children carried out, including games with Gordon, photography, junk modelling and making clay tea-light holders. The hanging baskets were a particular highlight; Manchester City Council provided us with materials to make, and take home baskets as part of the 100 Days Campaign.

The club created a buzz both within the building and in the local area. Leading on from the Holiday Club, a number of children and families are now attending on a Sunday, and JAM Club has re-started. Although many of the leaders then required a week to recover, it was a fantastic week, and something that many of the children still remember.

Wotcha Waste Watchers!

Naomi Flear

Curate

I've now been the curate at Brunswick Parish Church for approaching nine months. Last summer was busy for us as a family, and so once the summer passed we felt that we were able to settle into Brunswick and gradually begin to get to know the church and parish.

I spend 50% of my time with Brunswick Church and hence need to be quite disciplined with my time, I generally try to focus on those areas that Simon and I think need developing. In the last few months it's been a great privilege to spend time with Medlock Primary School and more recently starting a mid-week fellowship group with some of the older people in the Church. I've also quite heavily involved with preaching and leading on Sundays, and am usually around Church or visiting people on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursday afternoons.

My observations of Brunswick are largely positive. I see a church that is functioning well and a church that is growing as it reaches out to the community of which it is part. I also see a very busy church, a busy building full of some very busy people and within this busyness I look for places of pause - times to pause and wonder at the vastness of God, and times to pause and rest in God's presence. In my busy times it is the moments of pause that sustain me and I believe that as we get busier as a church we should also be seeking more moments of pause.

Finally, thanks to all who have welcomed us as a family, we're pleased to be part of the Brunswick Church community and we are looking forward to getting to know you all more over the coming year.

Rev Ben Edson