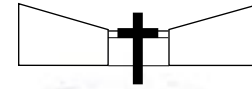




Brunswick Parish Church

Annual General Meeting, March 19th, 2006



Reports

for the year 2005-2006

Ruth Cox's Work for Oasis Global

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your prayers, financial support and interest over the last year. It has been a year of new challenges and encouragement! Thanks too for welcoming Andy Matheson (my boss) when he came to preach and to talk about the work of Oasis in different parts of the world.

As I look to the year ahead, I will be going to Zimbabwe in March and India and Bangladesh later on in the year. These trips are a real joy in many ways, but challenging at the same time both for me and for Ed and the kids left behind at home. Thank you for standing alongside us as we take on these challenges, we really do appreciate it very much.

Key Activities During the Year

- 1) Visits made to Zimbabwe (May) and India -Bangalore and Mumbai (October) to attend strategic planning meetings, build relationships and give advice.
- 2) Product ranges designed for Zimbabwe (Tanaka/ OSTA) and for Oasis India (Jacobs Well) in order to stimulate sales.
- 3) Links made with Manchester Metropolitan University with a view to encouraging design students to spend their course placements working alongside and supporting Oasis Vocational Training Projects. The first student spent 3 weeks in Bangalore in September.
- 4) Designing and producing a leaflet for the new 'Fund a Place' scheme aimed at getting supporters to sponsor the place of a trainee on one of the vocational training courses in India.
- 5) Working with UK buyers to obtain on going and new orders for Oasis India
- 6) Compilation of a detailed report on all the Oasis VT projects, including the numbers of people trained thus far and plans for the future

Ruth x

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. Christine Mullins (from July 2005)

Church Wardens	Mr David Donnelly Mr. Chris Rogers
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Representatives on Deanery Synod	Ms Suzy Farrow Mr John Wilson and Mrs Kerry Colyer were co-opted during the year
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Elected Members	Mrs. Yuko Ang (to March 2005) Mr. Julius Ang (Treasurer) (to March 2005) Mrs. Kerry Colyer (from April 2005) Mrs. Judith Keeble (Vice Chair from April 2005) Mr. Paul Keeble Mr. Jim Owen Mr. John Wilson Mr. Gordon Flear (Secretary) Mrs. Naomi Hewerdine (Vice Chair) (to March 2005) Mrs. Penny Kelly Mr Alan Price Ms. Claire Stableford Ms. Liz Lamb (to March 2005) Mr Gareth Baxter Mr Matt Harrison (from April 2005) Mrs Sally Jones (Treasurer- Co-opted from May 2005)
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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:

Inside Out- looking at the Church's Mission from a nurturing start point to enable the Church to reach outwards

Outside In -Looking at Events and Mission outside the Church which will encourage others to "come -in",

Standing Committee- Attending to the maintenance of Fabric and administrative issues

Global Justice- Looking at wider issues, campaigns and support that the Church can be involved in- including support of Missionaries.

Representatives of these groups met with the Rector on a regular basis as a Support Group, whose purpose was to support the Rector, agree priorities for PCC discussion and take soundings on the Spiritual temperature of the church body.

Church Attendance

There were 71 parishioners on the electoral roll at the AGM in April 2005

Morning Service Attendance

	Average	Highest	Lowest
Adults	57	119	31
Children (<16)	28	49	7

There were Sunday evening meetings, mostly on the first Sunday evening of the month

Previous years average attendance/Electoral Roll

2004	57+26 = 83	71 Electoral roll
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

Paul Keeble - Urban Presence

I'm writing this while watching Chelsea demolish Everton in the F.A. Cup. 3-0 with thirty minutes to go. Ah... penalty to Everton. Make that 3-1. Is it our turn for the double this year or are Everton going to do what Liverpool did in the Champions League final? I guess not – John Terry just got a fourth.

Well, apart from being the year Chelsea won the Premier League (at last!) 2005 also saw our Silver Wedding Anniversary – yes we are that old – and the passing away of my father after years of dignified struggle with Parkinson's Disease. So, from both ends of the emotional spectrum it has been a time of looking back and remembering, and we're particularly grateful for the tremendous support and friendship we receive from our Brunswick family through good times and bad.

Work-wise a development has been getting drawn back into some city-wide stuff – a group liaising with the Bible Society on a Media Campaign coming in mid-2007; another group looking at ways forward for inter-church working; yet another acting locally on behalf of a national trust with the amazing privilege of finding people in the pews with dreams and vision for ministry outside of 'normal' congregational life and helping them get started doing it, or developing it and involve others.

Carisma remains the main single commitment. It is now a Registered Charity, and we are currently preparing for the 2006 PeaceWeek, which is in March this year. Some exciting events and other possibilities are in the pipeline, though as usual everything is quite volatile! Our worker Claire is doing a brilliant job pulling it all together.

The Street Pastors project has developed well and the Moss Side team are now well established in the area. A few team members have virtually dropped out which is a shame, but the rest are committed and consistent. At our third attempt we finally got funding to employ a part-time Coordinator, and Tony has made a big difference with his input to the Moss Side team and also in helping get a second team recruited and working in Longsight from December (including David from Brunswick!) In the last month we've started the process again in Gorton. I also continue to have some involvement with Street Pastors nationally, such as running the website.

There's been loads of other stuff... a website for Mothers Against Violence, Friends of Swinton Grove Park (with Judith), another Urban Theology Collective, Faithworks Conference, MMAGS IAG (ask me), three more RefUrbs, Media training, Stop and Search youth consultations, P.A. hire and engineering, Tech. Support to the world, and... I can't remember the rest. Senior moment. Brunswick is a vital part of the network of friends and supporters we have that enables me to do what I do. Thanks.

Paul Keeble

Missionary Committee Report

There has been a change in emphasis in our missionary support during 2005 with more money being given to individuals from within the congregation and less to societies.

Progress in developing a Namibian link has been slow. Helen Gatenby produced a package describing Brunswick, which was taken out to Namibia in May. Chantelle August, one of the young people from the church (Grace Church, Khomasdal) is in the group coming on an exchange visit this summer. We hope to see her in Brunswick and have promised to pay her airfare.

Missionary Gifts for 2005 were:

M13 Youth Project (Helen Gatenby)	£480
Urban Presence (Paul Keeble)	£960
Oasis (Ruth Cox)	£480
Dave and Jo West	£600
TEAR Fund	£400
Barnabas Fund	£100

John Wilson

Bookstall

Another very quiet year with an increase in sales of Scripture Union Bible Reading Notes.

John Wilson

PCC Review of Year

The full PCC met 6 times in 2005 and had approx. 80% attendance. Sub Groups met between full meetings and submitted reports and suggestions for PCC approval. Full reports of each Sub Group can be found attached to this report, with a financial report from the Treasurer.

PCC discussed a number of issues throughout the year and minutes for PCC members plus summaries for all Church Members were provided.

Major items on PCC's discussion time were

- a) Financial matters - including a Church Urban Fund application for a Church administrator for "Brunswick Open Access" to allow more community use of Church Buildings
- b) Desire to see if Church Patronage could be altered- which concluded with meeting the Church society early in 2006
- c) Church strategy priorities and direction
- d) Obtaining faculties to start process of improving heating and renewing Church kitchen
- e) Prayer: How it was a priority for the church and what we could do to encourage participation
- f) Eco -Issues: An Environmental Audit was undertaken and changes made to Church purchasing

Regular events included continuing "Bring and Share lunches" once a month after an "All Together" service.

The Church was involved with the "Make Poverty History" March in Edinburgh in the summer and groups from Church attended Spring Harvest, Keswick Convention and Greenbelt Arts Festival.

Last, but by no means least, we took delivery of a new Curate! Christine has quickly become known in the area and very much a part of the church family, as has her husband Dennis (also a very welcome additional source of DIY and sound engineering skills!)

You can read more about all these events and other regular church activities in 2005 in the reports that follow.

*On behalf of Christchurch Brunswick PCC
Reverend Simon Gatenby*

Curate's Report

The view of a newcomer

My first time at Brunswick was about six months before I was ordained. We sat in the car outside until 28 minutes past 10, so we wouldn't be interrogated by anyone. How were we supposed to know the service wouldn't start until 10.45 – it felt like a lifetime. We were 3 of about 5 people sitting in church, we didn't know the size of the church or what the delay was – was this it? A quick trip to check out the ladies revealed everyone in the foyer talking to their friends, we were outsiders inside!

It can't have been that bad though, we came back. This time a few sussed us out and we stayed for coffee, everyone whether they knew why we were there or not were friendly. We liked what we found, now only the interview to get through.

The rest, as they say, is history. We did come and have been made very welcome, the support, without intrusion, we have had through my illness and treatment has been just right. I got to know some people very quickly, it's easy, they're the ones who do everything and are at every meeting. You on the fringes, you need to get involved, give someone else a rest for a while! 20% of the people shouldn't be doing 80% of the work. You have gifts to use in the body of the church too, we need you.

This is meant to be a place where I can learn in safety, make mistakes without being damaged for life, (you or me!) and practise on you. And is it? Yes, I think it is. Leaving our last church after 6½ years with one way of doing things we have found new things to learn and new people to be taught by and I hope we will prove the old theory wrong – that you can teach old dogs new tricks!

Christine Mullins

Toddler Group Report 2005

We meet each Wednesday morning from 10am til 12noon, during term-time and sometimes during holidays. Our aim is to provide a safe place for babies and young children to come with their carers to play and meet others.

A variety of toys are available each week, from the large, such as the ball pool, home corner or slide, to the small (cars and play people), with books, puzzles, dolls and prams, ride-on cars, and a multitude of baby toys to stimulate and entertain babies and young children.

Snack time provides a break from the busy-ness of playing and we are trying to introduce fruit and other healthy options as well as the usual biscuits and occasional cakes (we enjoy celebrating birthdays!).

Once again numbers have fluctuated throughout the year, with as few as 10 (adults and children) one week in spring and as many as 35 at the end of the year! With such uncertain numbers (and few available adults) it was difficult to plan activities effectively, but during the autumn we were able to restart craft activities and story and singing sessions (thanks to Yuko and Helen G.).

With support from a playworker from SureStart (thank you Rhian), we were able to stay open as normal on Wednesdays through the summer holidays, and were joined by families with young children of nursery and school age.

We celebrated Easter and Christmas with 'toddler-friendly' services (thank you Simon), followed by food. Several toddler families also enjoyed the 'Planes, Trains and Trams' trip in the autumn (thank you Gordon).

During the year, as well as children leaving to go to school and nursery, and families attending for a while and moving on, we have seen a few changes in the situations of adults at Toddlers. We appreciated the extra time Helen R was able to give to the group as a 'child-free' adult in the first half of the year, and have missed her input since she started working (we wish well in her work at Medlock school). We welcome back Alan who now holds the fort in the kitchen and does a great job with our individual refreshment orders! We also appreciate Christine's input as an 'unattached' adult, available to talk to carers, babies and children.

Thank you to all those who help with setting up the room, toys and furniture, and tidying away at the end, and to everyone who comes along to join in the fun – it wouldn't happen if you didn't!

Penny Kelly, Yuko Ang

Crèche

We continue to run crèche on most Sundays except during summer holidays and ATS Sundays. About 10 adults, not all of them parents, are taking turns to supervise. The number of children coming to crèche varies from week to week, but most Sundays we have about 5 under 3-year-olds in the lounge. If you would like to help supervise crèche occasionally, please get in touch with Evan. It's great fun and will give parents with younger children the chance to stay in church for the service.

Yuko Ang

7UP Report 2005

This has been a year when 7UP has been enjoyed by about 40 children and 10 grown ups, but not all at the same time. We have about 20 children aged between 7 and 11 who come each Monday night, for a mixture of games, crafts, drama, cooking (and eating!) and God spots. The club normally runs from 6.30 – 8.00 pm. Most of the children are from the area around church and are children who do not have a church background, there being few children of church members currently in this age group.

There have been quite a lot of changes in leadership during the year, and we are grateful that God has provided enough people to take on this role to enable us to keep the club open. Our thanks for all their hard work go to Liz, Kathryn, and Alan who left the team earlier in the year, to Evan who stopped working with us recently, and to Matthew who frequently steps in when we are short of leaders. It is great to still have Gordon with us when his work allows, and thanks also go to him for all that he put in as the team leader until May. A new departure for us is that we have also had one of the mum's helping occasionally since September. This has worked really well and we would value prayer as we look at how we can encourage this more.

Gordon Flear

JAM Club

JAM Club has been extremely successful with up to eighteen children attending on a regular basis. Each week we enjoyed exploring parts of the bible through art, drama and listening to stories. The children also enjoyed cooking, games and trips out.

Sadly, JAM Club was a victim of its own success. The children are aged between 5-7yrs (reception to year 2) so the club needs to run quite early. This has made it difficult so far for volunteers to come forward to lead or help out. So, regretfully JAM Club stopped running at the end of June 2005.

I would like to remember Jo and Alan for all their support in leading JAM Club throughout the year. Thank you to Evan for staying on board and Angela and Sheenagh for all their help and support which kept JAM Club open for a while longer.

Ann Foley

Wardens' Report 2005

Fabric Report

Major items in 2005 have been:

- The completion of the roof repairs started at New Year
- Work on the heating system to replace leaking pipework in the kitchen and boiler room
- Painting the foyer ceiling

A significant amount of general maintenance work has been carried out in the year during maintenance days.

We have obtained permission from Church House in Manchester to fit a gas supply to the building. The gas will be used to power a house sized gas boiler for new radiators in the lounge, foyer, kitchen and youth room to allow these parts of the building to be heated in the week at lower cost. We now need to get the permission for the boiler and radiators. The gas supply is also planned to be used for a gas cooker in the updating of the kitchen which we are starting to plan. At some time in the future, the gas could be used for new main boilers when the current oil boilers are worn out.

Other significant items we are trying to make happen in 2006 are:

- Various work by our builder including repairs to mortar between bricks at a number of places outside the building, repairs to plaster in the lounge and toilets, replacing missing ceiling tiles
- Having a painting weekend in the summer when we repaint the outside window frames. We will hire a scaffolding tower to do this work safely.
- Upgrading the handrails in the disabled toilet to current standards
- Further progress with general items on the list from the 2004 survey of the building.

We successfully repaired the lounge roof in 2005. However, the flat roofs, especially over the lounge and the toilets/ office area are getting towards the end of their lives (and have done well to get to 32 years) We need to decide whether to plan to replace them or do so when they fail.

General Report

I would firstly like to say many thanks to everyone who has participated in stewarding Sunday worship and maintenance days. We could not run church without either activity. Maintenance days share the load of internal work on the building, save us significant money and are good occasions for getting to know others while holding cleaning cloths, paint brushes, ladders.... The stewarding of worship welcomes everyone who comes through the doors both by greeting them and by helping things to run smoothly- so that it is easy to take part in the service and hear what God is saying to each of us.

It would be great to have more people join in both teams. Different people do things in different ways and we are happy to have people do things in ways which suit them. To find out more about maintenance days please get in touch with Gordon or myself. To find out more about stewarding worship (being a sidesperson) please get in touch with David or myself.

I would finally like to say a very big thank you to David for all that he has done as warden over the last three years in difficult circumstances. I have found his sharing of the work and his wisdom very valuable over that time.

Chris Rogers

Child Protection Report 2005

After the apologies of last year, I'm pleased to be able to report that with the help of Jo, Helen R, and now Evan processing the applications, 15 church volunteers have undergone criminal disclosure tests in the last year. This number includes some operating within our Sunday crèche (which is still legally a "grey" area – confusion as to whether this is a service we are actually offering to congregation members, or simply a holding space where parents can occupy their children.

A feature for possible concern is that I have not received any references this year (in addition to CRB checks) for any new volunteers working with children. The concern is either that we haven't had any new volunteers, or that if we have, due to the emphasis on CRB checks, we've omitted to follow up personal references.

Thanks however to all those who have gone through the process, and indeed for your valued work with and for our children and young people.

Simon Gatenby - CPO

Pastoral Network

The pastoral net was started to try to ensure we were aware if people had stopped coming to church due to illness and other reasons and so we would be in a better position to pray for and support them. This is particularly important in a church with a lot of congregational mobility. A small group of church members look out for people (over 16 years old) with whom they have some contact. Examples of this would be toddler group families, fellowship groups, students and so on.

We meet twice a year to share and to make sure we incorporate new people into this scheme.

This year David Donnelly has had to step down due to extra family commitments and Robin Chapman (and family) have left to live in Northumbria. We are all grateful to them for their involvement over the last two years. They have been replaced by Vi Palmer and Matthew Harrison. Thanks go to both of them for their willingness to support the pastoral net. Other people who are involved in this kind of support are: Claire Stableford, Penny Kelly, Richard Young, Ros Carr Brown, Simon Gatenby and Judith Keeble. Sheenagh Young looks after the pastoral net!

We all need to take responsibility to care for each other. If you miss people or have some concerns, please let Simon, Christine or Judith know about them.

Judith Keeble

Student Plus

This year we have seen the number of students at Brunswick increase to about 20. A very positive sign of the welcome and support that students continue to receive at Brunswick. We continue to offer the opportunity for all our students to be linked with a church family. We have also started to include those teenagers that are too old for discipleship group so that they are not left unsupported.

Our activities this year have included various meals out and the now annual carol singing round the estate, for which we were joined this year by students from the university chaplaincy and to musical families connected to one of our students. We have a range of events planned for the coming term (see the leaflets at the back of church). Turn out for the various events has been very good partly due to improved notice being given about events.

We are also keen to engage the students in wider church life, and already a number have become involved with other groups in church. We would like to thank all those who support us and the students throughout the year and would remind everyone that even if they are not a link family they can still talk to and/or offer to pray for the students.

Claire Stableford + team

Discipleship Group Report

We asked the young people some questions and this is what they said.

How was it for you?

GR8, holy, godly, fun, I learnt a lot, educational but not like school, we need more Christine.

What did we do?

Eco-stuff, pray, mazes, not have jam doughnuts, learnt stuff, conquer colyer, talked a lot, all got drunk, sex, (looked at issues to do with alcohol and sex-Ed), play good games,

Is there anything that we should tell the rest of church?

We need more Christine, we have a gr8 group, smile, we enjoyed it., w.w.j.d.

Ed, Kerry, Anne

Fellowship Groups

So what is one...?

A group of people who meet regularly to pray, study, ask questions, relax, chat, listen, be creative, be honest, encourage each other, worship God ...

Usually the group meets in someone's home and sometimes goes out on trips and socials.

So how many groups are there?

There are currently two fellowship groups. Here is an update on the life of each group during the last year:

Tuesday group at the Donnellys

This group continues to meet for the most part on alternate Tuesday afternoons at the home of the Donnelly family. David hosts the sessions and John Wilson leads them. We use Lifebuilder Bible Studies and spend time praying for each other and for the needs of the Church. We also phone each other and pray for each other regularly. This year we have worked through courses on the letter of James and on the Lord's Prayer.

Wednesday group at the Youngs

This group meets at the Youngs on Wednesday evenings. This year we explored a wide range of material, including series on Women in the Bible, on Work and Learning and on Environmental Issues. We also watched and discussed some memorable films together. Highlights have included a chilly dawn service for Easter Sunday on Werneth Lowe (with cooked breakfast after!) and our monthly social evenings, more often than not with a tasting quiz. Each member is linked into prayer triplets and this is going well.

Interested?

These groups are open to any church member so if you would like to be a part of one, please speak with Simon or with a group host or leader.

Sheenagh and Richard Young and David Donnelly

Music group report 2005

Music group have led the sung part of our worship in church in our services throughout the year. We have had a smaller number of people involved this year than in some recent years, but have still usually maintained a group of a reasonable size and balance on most Sundays. There are still plenty of musicians in our church, allowing us to take turns to play, and to lead worship. We have missed those who have moved on, or stepped down for a while due to new responsibilities, whilst being very grateful for the contribution which they have made. We have welcomed new members towards the end of the year, who we are hoping will enjoy being part of the group in the year to come. We have continued to meet occasionally on Saturday or Sunday afternoons to pray together, to play all together and to learn new songs. Hopefully the congregation have enjoyed our sharing of these songs as much as we have.

We continue to enjoy leading the congregation in songs of worship, and pray that we may be ever enabling people to come closer to God through our ministry.

Helen Rogers

Inside Out

We are the group that look at how we nurture and build up church members. The group is open to any church member to attend regularly or as a "one-off" when discussing a particular topic. We then make recommendations for action to the PCC.

This year we have discussed:

1. Welcoming new people. We have produced a welcoming board and welcome and information leaflets which people can use to give their details if they want to. The service leaders have been encouraging everyone to make an effort to welcome new people.
2. The houseparty and some of the issues it raised. These comments and suggestions were then considered in its planning.
3. How to support all those who volunteer to be involved in church activities and we have made some recommendations to PCC.
4. The concept of having an official membership and have reported back on that.
5. Fellowship groups, short courses and whether we need to develop more
6. The way the church could build links to the families of the children we work with. We have reported back a couple of possible ideas.
7. Attempting to restart hospitality Sunday. This has been only partly successful, but we will try it once more.
8. Small prayer groups. Claire is actively promoting this at the moment.

Thank you to those who come to these meetings. More people would be very welcome.

Judith Keeble

Outside In

This has been a relatively quiet year for Outside In, the group that considers the local mission activity of the church. There hasn't been any special mission or evangelistic event this year as we have taken stock and explored how we develop the church's 'fringe'. There has been a lot going on in the community however. A new health centre is being built and plans are afoot for a new school and 'early years centre' as well as new housing through a 'private finance initiative'. Simon is involved in each of these and tries to bring a 'community voice' in an agency-orientated world.

The Outside In year started with supporting the annual Peace Week. The number of activities and the amount of media coverage seems to grow by the year with hundreds of children learning about peace on the streets of Manchester through involvement in countless school assemblies. The week also featured a lantern parade to Platt Fields for the unveiling of a special peace mosaic.



There have been summer and winter editions of Brunswick News. The winter edition went out along with a special Christmas card which took Christmas greetings to the community and invited people to our Christmas services.

Outside In also initiated an environmental audit of the church which revealed a long list of activities to reduce the church's footprint on our fragile world. Environmental issues have become study topics for fellowship groups and youth work, purchasing policies are beginning to change including going onto a green electricity tariff, and there's a renewed emphasis on recycling for all building users.

Ed Cox

Global Justice

Make Poverty History has been the main theme of this year's action for global justice. The campaign for more and better aid, trade justice and debt cancellation has featured in a number of services and more than 40 Tearfund campaigning postcards were sent to the Prime Minister in April. The highlight of the year though was sending a party from church on a train to Edinburgh to join the UK's largest peaceful protest in years. The July 2nd white band march attracted 225,000 people from all over the UK and played a significant role in persuading the G8 leaders to make important decisions to cancel debt and increase aid.



We have also made efforts to feature global justice issues in Sunday services by focusing on our links with two southern African countries: Mozambique and Namibia. In early December we learned about the devastating impact of HIV/AIDs and released 50 white balloons into the Brunswick skies to spread the message of our concern across Manchester. And in February we held a special service led by Dave and Jo West and John Wilks from the Kedesh project in Mozambique where we learnt about the situation in Beira and about some of the work they will be doing when they go out as missionaries later in 2006.

At Christmas we also ran the World Vision inspired big communal Christmas card idea for a second year where people give money and sign a big card rather than sending individual cards. This year the scheme raised £100 for World Vision.

Ed Cox