

Brunswick Church Annual Report 2021



Our Vision/Values

Our church is called first to worship God.

- we seek to offer worship which;
 - honours God
 - enables a real encounter with Him
 - reflects our varied community
 - is accessible to newcomers.

We must be the place where all can grow into wholeness in Christ

- together we seek to grow in;
 - the understanding of our faith
 - caring for one another
 - developing our gifts
 - deepening our relationships with one another.

We are called to make Christ relevant to all, and encourage all to follow Him

- we seek to this wherever God has placed us.

We are called to follow the example of Jesus in serving others, mirroring His ability to meet the social, spiritual and physical needs.

We seek to express God's love by serving people locally and worldwide, helping all people to experience life in all its fullness.

PURPOSE

The Parochial Church Council of Christchurch Brunswick, together with the incumbent (Reverend Canon 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 2021

PCC Membership

During the year, the following served as members of the PCC

Incumbent	Rev. Canon Simon Gatenby
Curate	Rev Jess Davis (until 31/7/21) Rev Kathreen Shabaz (from 1/7/21)
Church Warden	Mr Tim Craft (until 30/5/21)
Deanery Synod Representative	Mrs Judith Keeble Mr Gordon Flear (secretary)
Elected Members	
Mrs. Yuko Ang (until 30/5/21)	Mrs Agnes Ablakwa
Mrs Sally Jones (Treasurer)	Mrs Elizabeth Adebo
Mrs Jenny Ferneyhough	Mrs Judith Keeble
Mrs Ann Cain (until 30/5/21)	Mr Dilu Varughese
Mr Andrew Crome	Mr Joel Colyer (until 30/5/21)

PCC Employees

Ms Mo Blue – Community Programme Manager
Ms Kaydia Benjamin – Buildings Caretaker
Luis D’Assuncao – Barnabas Cleaner

PCC Organisation

Despite the Covid Pandemic the PCC continued to function and met 8 times via different means (in person, Zoom, Hybrid). Various groups continued to meet and fed in reports regularly- Refurb Group, Fabric team, Preachers and leaders, Youth leaders.

Church Attendance

There were 64 parishioners on the electoral roll at the AGM in May 2021. Whilst the pandemic significantly affected numbers attending any service that was allowed to take place, the Morning Service Attendance was as follows:

	Average	Highest	Lowest
Adults / Children (<16)	26/9	65/20	4/0

But as Zoom was offered every week it should be noted that between 15 and 20 also 'attended' each service online.

Due to the pandemic, there were not many evening services, although a Carol Service did take place at Christmas

PCC Review of Year

The full PCC met 8 times in 2021 and had approx. 83% attendance.

The pandemic and associated lockdowns impacted the mission of the church, but as can be seen by the attached reports there was still a lot going on!

Major items that PCCs discussed/progressed were:

a) Safeguarding is a mandatory agenda item for every PCC. A series of detailed actions were chased through at each meeting. The PCC complied with the duty under section 5 of the safeguarding and clergy discipline measure 2016.

b) Evangelism: PCC used meetings during the year to watch Diocesan 'Stepping Stones' material and discuss its relevance and impact on Brunswick. Out of this came an initiative to start a Christians Against Poverty group in Autumn and a seeker group in early 2022.

c) The Refurb Project: This moved forward very quickly after a few sizeable grants early in the year. Work began in May and the refurbished hall was first used in October. There were ongoing snagging items at the end of 2021 but praise God for the provision of £620k to pay for the project

d) Continuing the on-going management and repair of the Church property and Barnabas. The Church boilers failed at the end of 2020 and various roof leaks were a source of concern. During the year the use of Barnabas continued with the partnership agreement with Holy Innocents Church, Fallowfield and full occupancy. PCC authorised various works to improve its state of repair.

e) Mission Action Planning: PCC reviewed its Mission action plan at the start of the year and given the COVID situation agreed that priorities should stay the same, albeit with altered specific actions. These were added to the PCC action tracker.

f) The Climate group kept PCC appraised of various actions and a (wet) Great BIG Green Weekend was held in the Summer. A Climate service was held in the Autumn.

g) The Positive Steps project continued online for the first part of the year, getting back in person from March. Mo continued to run various groups in person and on line.

You can read more about these items and more in the attached reports

*On behalf of Christchurch Brunswick PCC
Reverend Simon Gatenby*

Mission Action Priorities

As a Parish we regularly review what and where our Mission priorities are and should be. PCC spends some time at the end of each year looking at what these should be and then ensures that the PCC agenda for following year is focused on these priorities.

At end of 2021 PCC discussed where the emphasis should be for our mission and asked that a group develop some specific actions based around these priorities. They were agreed by PCC in early 2022.

Where we are starting from – a realistic summary of our context and our present situation.

Christ Church Brunswick is an urban Parish in central Manchester with high levels of deprivation. The current Sunday congregation is approximately 50 people per week ranging in age from 0 – 90 years old. The church is well used by the community during the week as a hub for people to meet to take part in activities lead by our Community Programme Manager and as a place for the community to access various support agencies. However, we have identified the following challenges:

1. We have a transient Sunday congregation but stable numbers each week.
2. There is no ongoing midweek children's youth work despite 1/3 of the congregation being children.
3. We have a 40-year-old building that is being used intensively. The community facilities and heating have just had a £600k Refurb, and there is still work to ensure rest of building is warm and up to modern standards.
4. People are using the building throughout the week for a variety of reasons. However, we would like to increase the number and frequency of people accessing church and would like to increase the number of people encountering God in this space.
5. 2020 and 2021 were challenging years due to the COVID pandemic. A lot of Church activity (Sundays and midweek) moved to online via Zoom with its own challenges and implications for future activity. This has become approximately 2/3rds in person and 1/3 via Zoom for the Sunday morning congregation.

Where we are going - a description of where we would like to be in five years' time:

1. A growing congregation who has mission as a priority.
2. Exploring new ways of reaching young people with partner organisations.
3. To have an attractive and warm building that is fit for purpose where love of God and neighbour is expressed in worship, and hosting of a hub for community activities.
4. Drawing more people together through regular events and joining with others which are accessible to all groups
5. A growing awareness of the impact climate change and our actions on God's creation
6. To Implement next phase of Refurbished Building after a break.
7. Growing an awareness and appreciation of the impact of racism on our members, community and society.

How we will get there - a description of the priority actions if we are to 'get there'.

Priority 1: Worship, Prayer and Evangelism

To create a culture of welcome and invitation to faith. Develop teaching to support this.

Priority 2: Young People

Continue to look at opportunities to work with young people and families especially with refurbished Community/ Sports Hall available.

Priority 3: More people in the mix more often

Getting people together and creating links from our different activities and communities.

Priority 4: Positive Steps Project

To continue to resource and develop the midweek Positive Steps project following the pandemic. To create more links between Sunday and midweek people and activities.

Priority 5: Climate Change Awareness

To build on the initial groups work in 2021 and embed CCA in both Church life and in lives of church and community members.

Stage 3 – Current activity plan.

What do we need to do and by when? Precise, time-based and measurable actions that help us achieve our priorities. It is assumed that this page will be updated regularly as the outworking of the plan develops and progresses.

Task/objective	Person assigned	Resources available/ required	Budget Required	Timeline (start/finish dates)	Review method and timing
1a Deliver LENT course	Rector/ Curate	Books	£100	Easter 2022	May 2022
1b Develop and deliver START course	Judith K to lead	Course materials	£100	First half of 2022	When complete
1c Deliver Living in Love and Faith Course	Rector	Diocesan materials provided	none	Feb 2022	March 2022
1d Create information and welcome leaflets	Paul Keeble	Printing/ collating/ distribution	£25	Feb 2022	Sept 2022
2a. Increasing offer to local school, 'Experience Easter'	Judith K, Curate, + others	'Experience' materials	£50	Easter 2022	May 2022
2b Explore 7-11's work with M13	Gordon	n/a	nil	Q1 2022	Summer 2022

Task/objective	Person assigned	Resources available/required	Budget Required	Timeline (start/finish dates)	Review method and timing
3a Plan and deliver the following events: Pancake Party, Sportstacular 2, Weekend away, Summer Ball, Big Green Weekender, Quiz, Panto Detail plans required for all	Various PP (Kathreen) Sports (Gordon) Weekend (Gordon) Ball (Mo) BGW (Eco group) Quiz (Gordon) Panto (Paul and Mo)	Various People/ Materials Lots of Sport activities Plus Logistics, arrangements Programme Summer – initial plan Summer – initial plan Tear Fund event More than 1 ??	£50 £500 (grant obtained) £300 Subsidy £250 £250 £100 break even	Throughout 2022 1st March 22 2nd April 22 8th July 22 TBA TBA November 22 December 22	Through the year after they have occurred.
4a Investigate funding for Co-ordinators role from April 2023	Sally to lead	Time/ Rooms/ Staffing/ Caretaking	Break Even in terms of room hire/ grants	Summer 2022. Review where we are up to	Autumn 2022
5a Run Service to promote CCA	Climate Change Group	Time/ resources/ meetings/ planning	£50	May ATS	Meeting after ATS
5b Big Green Weekender	Climate Change Group	Meeting/ planning/ involve other groups/ activities	£250	Plan by May ATS, run during Summer/ Autumn	Review after
5c Plant up Church Gardens	Climateand Maintenance group (Anne)	Plants, apply for grants, Tree surgeons	Cost neutral-grants	Ongoing through year-timescales to be set	Review as things develop
5d Propose Vision Statement wording on creation care	Climate Change Group	Meetings	zero	For MAP discussion in November	November PCC

Refurb - a journey with God

During 2021, our Refurb project made the jump from years of ideas, vision, meetings, consultations and prayer (lots of prayer) to actual building as we as a church decided to undertake 'Phase One'. This was the refurbishment of our church hall, renewing of church heating and adding of new facilities to the hall so that it would be an excellent community resource. We did this because:



- We believed God wanted us to bless our community.
- We knew there weren't many facilities for activities locally, but ours needed improving.
- We trusted that God would provide as much as we needed – especially after a long period of waiting in 2020.

The Project began back in 2014/15, with architects being appointed in 2018 and funding applications starting in 2020.

At the start of 2021 we were still 40% short of our costs (which themselves were a year old) and had little idea of what the next 9 months would entail.

The year began with an award of £150k from Sports England, which like the one from Tudor trust, was a grant much more than we were expecting. This allowed us to press GO on the construction stage of the project.

The next 3 months were a bit of a roller coaster – as costs were updated (and raised), and we took things out of our specification, only to put most of them back later, as our funding gap continued to drop with more gifts being provided, both in money and work done for free. In March the PCC formally gave permission to sign a contract.

Work began in early May, and after an initial concern about foundations, continued well during the summer. Let's not forget this was in the middle of the biggest Global Pandemic for a century. We managed to add in a new emergency light system for the whole building, as well as provision for Electric



Vehicle charging points in the future. Slight delays in the Autumn pushed the handover date to 15th October, but the newly shiny building was in use straightaway for a

baptism party on Sunday 17th October and a Huge Caribbean Community Celebration on 30th October.

At the end of the year and into 2022 there is still some minor work to be done and snagging to put right, but the new facilities are being used in an incredible way



with loads of new activities such as Zumba, Circuits, Yoga all weekly, various parties, celebrations, conferences and meetings. Safe to say we have seen what we believed come true.

The Thank You's could go on for pages, and I will have missed someone out but, here goes...

- Those who initially worked on the project and kept it going – Sheenagh, Chris, Mike plus Tim, Simon and Paul who have been with this from the start.
- Those that helped us get started and supported with advice: Pete H, Steve W, John W and many others.
- Our architects – especially Andy and Jonathan, and Trevor and Damon from our main contractor.
- Our Funders – you'll have to look at the plaque in the hall to see them all – but the Brunswick Diaspora need special mention.
- The Refurb Team – you all know who you are and so do we!
- The maintenance team – what a great bunch of young people.
- But especially to our Lord, who not only gave us the vision to do this, the encouragement to keep going but also the resources to make it happen. The final cost was £619,846 – God provided (through Congregation, Church reserves, Grants, Diaspora and other gifts) £620,073. That's a difference of £227 or 0.04%. Wow!



Gordon Flear, Project Manager

Maintenance Group 2021

Whilst 2021 was a different year for some, the Maintenance group kept going and did a HUGE amount of work keeping the building and equipment in working order.

A trawl through our WhatsApp group suggests that the following was undertaken.

- Clear out of building and all cupboards/stores for Refurb to take place.
- Painting and weed-killing.
- Banners changed on a regular basis.
- Drilling holes in the front of church (Wave of Hope banner).
- Setting up toddlers in worship room whilst Refurb was happening – we don't ever want to see more grey pipe insulation!
- Wiring solutions, releasing worship room blinds, mending taps.
- Closing Fridge doors, watering the new back garden.
- Cleaning old heaters.
- Testing electrical equipment.
- Plastering the new Hall.
- Helping PCC with annual Health and safety inspections (and then doing all the work required!)
- And... finding the 'G' and creating the 'U'.

We welcomed Joshua and Ala to the team (plus Lee for the time he was able to help out) – and along with the 'oldies' Rosa, Jas and Daniella we need to say thank you to this group of young people who are always willing to try something new and are not afraid to get their hands dirty.

Tim and Gordon



Prayer Team

Unfortunately the team has not been able to pray directly with people after services due to COVID rules on distancing. There has been some informal sharing of needs for prayer on various church WhatsApp groups and on the emailed Prayer Chain as well as prayer taking place in different ways during the week.

We need to begin to use this time to ask God to guide us and to rethink how we can pray for each other in a variety of ways.

I'd like to thank Jenny Ferneyhough for continuing to coordinate the Prayer Chain.

Judith Keeble

Safeguarding Report 2021

The Parish continues to be guided by the Diocese of Manchester policy "SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK" which is available on the church website. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you'd like to know more, please contact Naomi Harrison or Simon Gatenby.

The significant change in Safeguarding this year is that Naomi Harrison took over the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer. She will work alongside Simon to ensure that safeguarding plays a crucial role in all activities in Church. This year, we have raised the profile of safeguarding around church, with the introduction of new posters to signpost people to our safeguarding procedures.

Naomi and Simon have completed recent training with the Diocese of Manchester. Naomi has also completed further training with ThirtyOne:Eight, who process all our DBS checks.

In 2021, no Safeguarding training was undertaken other than by Naomi and Simon, due to a lack of courses run by the Diocese. Those who require Safeguarding Training will be contacted by Naomi in 2022 to update their online training.

In 2021, there were no DBS checks required. There are a number of DBS checks that are due for renewal in 2022. Naomi will contact those who need to update their details.

There have been no allegations or reports of abuse made and no cause for concern raised.

Naomi Harrison, April 2022

Wednesday Evening Fellowship Group

When: We meet on Wednesday evenings from 7.45 - 9.30pm.

Where: Since COVID started we have met on Zoom. This has been good for some people to join us who cannot easily come out in an evening for various reasons. Other people would prefer to meet physically so we are currently working out how to include everyone.

What: This year we spent time using both of Pete Grieg's prayer courses which were both challenging and inspiring. We also tried a 'Lectio Divina' approach to discussing one of our Sunday sermon services. As usual we took a break while the Lent Group was on. Every other week we focus on sharing together and praying for the world, the church and each other

Who – Normally the group is between 4 to 8 people on any given week. You're very welcome to join us. Contact Judith on judithkeeble@gmail.com

Judith Keeble

Welcome Team

For the last few years, there has been a small welcome team at church on Sunday mornings. All members of the congregation have a part in welcoming new people but the welcome team has been made up of people who are willing to focus on that ministry for a particular Sunday. We help people get to know more about the church and introduce them to other people who worship here.

Since COVID started, we have not had any systematic way of covering this role as we were either all online or some of us were.

We need to start this ministry up again now we are regularly in the building and we have new people coming along to services.

We are a small team so we would be delighted to have more people join us.

For more information, please speak to Judith Keeble.

Judith Keeble

Sunday School and Young People's Fellowship Group

As I look back on the last year in Sunday School, I realise we have so much to be thankful for.

We started the year on Zoom, with a rota of leaders running Sunday School on a Sunday afternoon for our 7-11s. The children joined in with games, stories and crafts online together - we even joined together for a pancake party on Zoom! Senior Sunday school (or Young People's Fellowship Group) met twice monthly on Zoom to play games and pray for each other. Despite the obvious challenges, we had lots of fun together and were able to share God's love and continue our relationships with our young people.



When the restrictions were finally eased in May, we were able to meet up in person. We were able to provide socially distanced Sunday School during the service for our 7-11s and 11-18s. It was great to be back together again and be able to use our (new!) outdoor spaces together. We had many Sunday School sessions outside in our garden, and got our older group together for a firepit and marshmallows!



After a well deserved Summer break, Sunday School came back for all ages in September. Naomi Harrison led the Sunday School team in a change to how we had previously run the sessions. Before the pandemic, the three different age groups would run independently from each other but from September to December we trialed a new way of structuring the Sunday School sessions so that the

young people from 0-18 all started the session together and then had more freedom about the activity they then took part in. The aim of the change was to promote a family feel to our Sunday School and to encourage the children from all ages to get to

know each other better. We also felt that splitting the groups by age was not always appropriate for our children and young people and wanted to give them more freedom in how they wanted to engage with God in our sessions. Furthermore, it helps Sunday School leaders to plan for a range of numbers - we are never sure how many children we will get in each age group, so by starting together, we know we will have a good number of children for a game and telling the bible story. The trial went well, and as leaders and young people are happy with the new structure, we will be keeping it going into 2022.

We are so thankful to God for our growing numbers of children and young people in Sunday School, for our growing numbers of leaders, and



for the relationships that have continued to grow, despite the many challenges of 2021. We have loved being able to use more of the church building, continuing to watch our children and young people grow and seeing how God is at work in their lives. A huge thank you to the team who make Sunday School happen, from the leaders and helpers, to the parents and to the Preachers/Leaders team. Most of all, thank you to our wonderful children and young people, who make us smile every single week. If you're interested in finding out more, please come and speak to Naomi Harrison.

Naomi Harrison

Sunday Team Report 2021

Whilst we weren't able to meet in church every Sunday in 2021, there was still a lot of behind the scenes work going on to ensure that 'church' could still meet and happen.

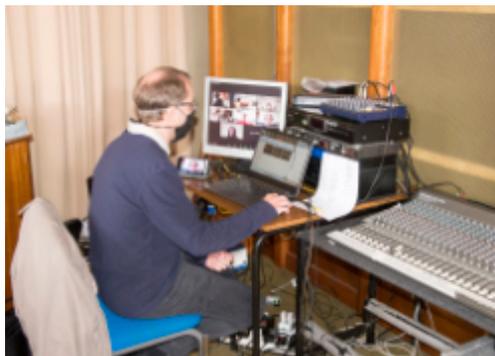
There were also quite a few changes as more and more people got involved in choosing and introducing Worship songs, ensuring that Notices and Weekly News happened every week and becoming 'Duty wardens' when we did meet to make sure we were safe and prepared.

So, thank you to Helen, Paul, Lee, Herbie, Marie and all the others involved in the Worship whether it be online, leading us without congregation singing or encouraging us to sing with masks on.

Thank you to Sueli and Paul for making sure Weekly News and notices were prepared every week and sent out to keep us all informed and connected to what was going on.

Thank you to our 'Duty Warden' - Sueli, Dilu and Elizabeth – behind the scenes, but essential to make 'church' happen.

And a special thank you to Tim who for the past 2 years has been doing Zoom and PA every week, whatever our COVID situation might have been, making sure that everyone can hear, speak



and participate whether in the building or not.

And what about you? As we hopefully are able to do more together on a Sunday in 2022 could you help out in Worship group, Back Table team (Zoom, PA and Screens) or as a Duty Warden once a month? Maybe join Welcome Team as it starts back or offer to tea and coffee after the service? If so, why not have a word with one of the existing members.

Gordon Flear

Positive Steps Project

Our Positive Steps Project continues to run from Monday to Thursday every week. Activities and events give people a chance to get out, have regular contact with other people and create new friendships and bonds. We take an active role in improving the health and wellbeing of local people. We encourage community involvement in activities as this can often result in a sense of pride both in the place and what it achieves and in the area itself. Our project encourages and often initiates activities and sessions that involve residents as a way to bring them together. It is definitely 'A Place of Welcome' used as:



- A place for all-community celebrations for various occasions and traditions.
- A place for public and private meetings on various issues.
- A place for local clubs and volunteer activities.
- A place that community members (and sometimes others), can rent reasonably when a private family function or party is too big for their own home.
- A place of local history.

Our Positive Steps Project plays a vital role as an anchor. It provides a place where people of all ages can gather to create a feeling of community. We help people by providing support in various ways such as health and wellbeing, education, training, advice, and guidance and so on. We are the hub for the community which enables access to activities and services for those who need it most.

During the pandemic we continued to provide takeaway toasties and chickpea curries to people in the community.

We were also able to deliver sessions online such as: book club, women's group, art and craft activities and one-off sessions/events such as international women's day, pamper session and afternoon tea with the young at heart.



During (and after) the pandemic, it was always very clear how important it was to connect with others. So as soon as we could, we re-opened our doors as safe as we could. As well as the current activities, we have had one off events such as the Caribbean Evening, this was attended by lots of lovely people who shared good food, conversation and danced the night away.

We recently had a tabletop sale. Once again it was well attended. It also ticked lots of boxes such as connecting people, giving to others, recycling, and helping the environment.

The activities that we are currently providing are definitely creating that 'ole' buzz that we had before the pandemic hit. So, below is a brief outline of where we were and where we are!

Mondays 10am – 12pm: Women’s Footprints

Our women’s group continued to meet online until June. We had inspirational [guest speakers](#), a virtual pamper session (with items delivered beforehand), personal development activities and arts and crafts sessions, again with materials being delivered beforehand. The group started meeting in the building from June. Highlights from the year were working with [Heart & Parcel](#), a workshop with Manchester University around clean air, in which we produced some [great artwork](#) which now hangs in the building and in October, using funding the group had obtained from Manchester Relief in Need in 2019, the women and their children had a much needed and fun-filled weekend away at the Haven holiday park in Blackpool



(staying in their bubbles in the caravans to do their cooking and meeting up outdoors to socialise with the wider group). Agencies such as the NHS have begun to support women with health issues to attend the sessions. Many of the women have commented that the group has provided them with vital support during the last couple of years.

Mondays 1pm–3pm: Young @ Heart

Our over 50’s sessions continued online for the first half of the year. Once they were able to get together firstly outside and then in the building again they enjoyed conversation, tea, treats and crafts such as [flower-arranging](#) and [weaving](#).

With many of its members being older and therefore more vulnerable, attendance is lower than it had been prior to Covid, due to ill-health and nervousness around mixing. Throughout the year myself and other volunteers have stayed connected with the group via regular phone calls and visits when possible.





Tuesdays 10am – 12pm: CAP Life skills course

Following training with CAP, myself and Judith (one of our recently retired congregation members), ran our first 7-week [life skills course](#) from October to December 2021. The course, which is open to all, is designed to give people the confidence and decision-making skills they need to survive life on a low income. Attendees are taught practical money saving techniques, such as cooking on a budget, living healthily on less and making your money go further. Five people attended this initial course, all of whom found it helpful. The group provided a safe space in which participants felt able to share personal worries and were able to support each other. We ran a second course in February 2022.

Tuesdays 10am – 12pm: Conversational English

[This group](#), run by Manchester City Council, requires no registration (admission is on a first come, first served basis unlike many other similar groups). It has proved to be extremely popular and has a waiting list.

Tuesdays - Thursdays 10.30am - 2pm: Brunswick Beestro

Our café, Brunswick Beestro, provides light refreshments each day (free or by donation) and a hot meal on Tuesdays for £1. Numbers fluctuate but we generally serve 10-15 people a day. The café is staffed by volunteers, who have gained their food hygiene certificate. Brunswick Beestro was featured in [this article](#) in a local publication in September.



We had hoped to serve a Christmas lunch in December but, due to the increase in Omicron cases during December, we instead provided the option of a take-away Christmas lunch or, for those who welcomed the company, we provided them a safe space to sit and eat their lunch in the company of others.

Wednesdays 10am to 12pm: The Parent/Carer Toddler Group

The group stayed connected through their WhatsApp group and Zoom sessions until June when it returned to the building. Whilst the hall was being refurbished they met in the main church room and the garden (weather permitting!). Following completion of the refurbished hall, the group have been enjoying the lovely, large, warm space to play in. Sadly, the group's much-loved leader, Jas [died suddenly](#) in October just before the hall was finished.. Susan from the women's group has stepped up to lead this very popular group, which continues to thrive and be appreciated by both parents and toddlers. Up to 20 children now attend each week.

Wednesdays 10am – 12pm: Advice and Guidance Drop In

The Project continues to provide Advice and Guidance sessions face to face or over the telephone. This service can be accessed primarily on a Wednesday morning, but Mo is around to help local people at other times during the week too, to advocate on their

behalf or to just be a friendly and trusted listening. During 2021 I made 12 referrals to food banks, two charity applications for white goods appliances for local residents and two referrals to charities for school uniforms as well as general signposting to other organisations and assisting with general queries. In December 2021 we delivered ten donated Christmas hampers to local families.

Wednesdays 10am – 11am Exercise sessions provided by NHS

All participants are referred to these sessions through their GP.

Thursdays 11am-12pm: Mixed Yoga

This started in September 2021 and has a core group of 6 people who attend. All those who come along say they find it very relaxing and that it helps them to forget about their worries for a while. It also helps with their physical pain.

Community Events

Two film making workshops, run by the Royal Northern College of Music, were held in May and were open women in the community.

In 2020 we received funding to run a project about the Windrush. This culminated in a [Community Caribbean Celebration](#), held in our newly refurbished hall, at the end of October. The evening consisted of a presentation, local performers, food, and dancing. Over 100 people attended the event. We ensured that Covid-safe measures were in place by using the whole building and ensuring good ventilation, hand sanitising etc.

In December we hosted a travelling theatre company who performed the pantomime 'Aladdin' to a packed auditorium of local families. Tickets were £3 for an adult and up to two children or £5 for two adults and up to three children. All the children received their own goody bag of treats to enjoy during the pantomime (funded by S4B) and all adults wore masks whilst in the building. The pantomime was a huge success.



During 2021 Positive Steps worked in partnership with:

S4B, Lab Project, Elizabeth Gaskell House, BUZZ (NHS), Neighbourly Gardening Project, Forever Manchester, Cracking Good Food, M13 Youth Project, Manchester University, Heart & Parcel, and Manchester City Council.

I honestly have to say, without the PSM (Positive Steps Massive aka Volunteers) it would be very hard. Wow, they give up so much of their spare time which is always 100%. THANK YOU.

Mo Blue

Mission Partners

Manchester City Centre Street Pastors

Street Pastors are trained volunteers from local churches who patrol on weekend nights to 'listen, care and help' in the city centre, where many of Manchester's 100,000 weekend visitors come. Covid Lockdowns have prevented [Manchester City Centre Street Pastors](#) from operating since March 2020, but in late 2021 patrols resumed and work is being done to build up the number of volunteers again.



Operation Restoration Christian School

Based in the deprived inner-city area of Trenchtown in Kingston, Jamaica, [ORCS](#) seeks to nurture, educate, empower and mobilise youth in under-resourced communities to become productive law-abiding citizens.



M13 Youth Project

[M13 Youth Project](#) works with over 600 young people a year in Ardwick, Manchester to promote fun, learning, action and change, within young people, our workers and the communities in which we live and work.



Brunswick also supports the work of [TearFund](#) and sponsors Dennis, a young man from Kenya through the charity [Compassion](#). Dennis is prayed for and written to regularly by the Young People's Fellowship Group.

And we also support...

Paul Keeble

2021... lockdowns, masks, zooming, testing, following on from 2020 another year big on disruption and adapting to different ways of being and doing, with some relaxing of restrictions towards the end. But also towards the end of the last year I was feeling very weary with trying to keep lots of plates spinning – an escalation of a problem I have had for several years. I was advised to get some checks and rest, and review my commitments and involvements – a 40+ year accumulation! So, also to factor in, getting older, less energy, less patience with slow responses (i.e. more grumpy!) That process goes into 2022 and is ongoing.

Amid all those Zooms and other socially distant ways of working, quite a bit still happened.

The [Movement for Justice and Reconciliation](#), a charity addressing the legacy of colonial enslavement and industrial oppression as it affects modern society, finished producing a feature documentary called, '[After the Flood: the church, slavery and reconciliation](#)', which will be getting a West End Premiere on May 25.

I continued my role as part of an enabling group for Greater Manchester Movement for Recovery (M4R) which is working to bring what the churches are doing* into a region-wide post-pandemic re-building strategy (*e.g. Positive Steps, Brunswick Beestro, Toddlers and more. Ask me how these fit with Andy Burnham's 'shared missions').

The [Mosaic Justice Network](#) functioned online, moving in person in the second half of the year, and hosted another 'Street Stories' event in November focusing on M4R and Covid Recovery and including an interview with Andy Burnham.

Also... as before, co-leading the Social Justice course at the Nazarene College, Challenge Hate Forum, Gather, Movement Day, YMCA Chaplaincy, running a bunch of websites, publicity, networking, Refurb, tech support, "could you just..." requests, local stuff with Judith etc. All rooted in the Brunswick church family: thank you.

