

## Annual Report for St. Anne's Parochial Church Council 2019-2020.

This report which covers the period between the last APCM on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and this one in October 2020, contains a number of significant changes and unprecedented occurrences in the life of our churches.

During the period there have been 10 PCC meetings (one of which used social distancing in line with government restrictions concerning the virus) and 1 Standing Committee meeting.

Rev. Stephen Parsons retired from the post of Team Rector in January 2019, and this resulted in a period of interregnum pending the appointment of a replacement. The PCC management was taken over by the Vice Chairman Mr. S. Hobson and the two Churchwardens, Mrs. N. Barlow and Mr. S. Maguire. Together with the Treasurer, the Gift Aid Secretary and, other PCC members they did a tremendous job in keeping the affairs of the two churches on track until the appointment of the new Team Rector, Revd. Canon Peter Reiss, in September 2019.

The refurbishment of the Broadhead Room was completed, a Mission Action Plan was formulated and subsequently approved by the Manchester Diocese, and the Parish Share of £55,175 for the year to Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 was paid in full. (The Parish Share provides money to finance the Manchester Diocese and pays the Clergy.)

AJ's Out of School Care continued to function at St. James' Hall and Mrs. B. Kenny became a Foundation Governor at Edgworth C. of E. / Methodist School in order to represent the church's association with the school, an essential link with the community and in particular young people. The 100 Club was reinstated by Mr. G. Minshull to help.

Led by the children the parish has explored Eco Church – developing the environmental aspects of the church buildings and activities.

The Sound System at St. Anne's had been poor for some time, and new microphones were installed which greatly improved the quality for Services.

WiFi was also installed at St. Anne's which meant that modern methods of communication were made available including visual means of display in the church.

A superb web-site was developed by Mrs. N. Barlow which has proved invaluable since Covid when personal contact has become almost impossible. A News Letter has been compiled each week and provided on-line. The church Facebook page has doubled its followers.

Public worship was suspended in March – the first time this has ever happened - and limited gatherings in church were permitted again from July. Online services have been provided using Facebook and YouTube since March and will continue for now. Other online resources have also been provided in what has been a Team effort for the whole Team. Although there are huge difficulties and the virus has brought tragedy and pain to many, we also are realising that there are benefits and opportunities from an online presence which we must now develop. This is the “new normal”.

The virus severely curtailed wider Church activities, the Palm Sunday walk, the Flower Festival and other Fund-raising events; income has fallen significantly. Those who give to the plate on a Sunday have been asked if they would give by Standing Order.

This large drop in income meant that several projects have had to be put on hold.

None of us could have foreseen at the last APCM what was going to happen in 2020; we are fairly clear now that the restrictions and limitations will continue for some months to come. The PCC will not return to “business as normal” any time soon.

As you will see, the PCC is an essential group of people who guarantee the sustainability of our churches and thanks should be extended to all the members who attend lengthy meetings and fulfil the duties which as Trustees registered through the Charities Commission they are bound to do.