

# Saint Agnes Birch-in-Rusholme with Saint John with Saint Cyprian Church, Longsight

## Parish information and Profile

We are a welcoming, inclusive, friendly and committed church and are happy for a male or female priest to lead and inspire us. We embrace activities to foster community cohesion. We have established cordial relationships with several community groups, notably the local Makki Mosque and our community garden project. We are proud of these achievements and feel that there are possibilities and opportunities to develop this further in the future.

The church is in the Diocese of Manchester and situated within the Manchester North and East Deanery.

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## Our Church and Parish

Our church is situated in what is now a densely populated area. It was built in 1884 and consecrated in 1885 and was designed by Medland and Henry Taylor. The main building material is stock brick with a smooth red facing brick for details with roofs covered in plain tiles. The interior is also brick with a yellow glazed brick wainscoting and there is a very dominant roof with a complex timber structure and a Nave altar. The church has an approximate seating capacity of 120. The north aisle was separated from the church in 1987 to form a community hall that contains a kitchen and toilets. The Rectory is a large detached house located adjacent to the church.



## Number on Electoral Roll

38 recorded at the last Annual Church Meeting in 2025.

## Average weekly attendance for the last 3 years

2023: 23 / 2024: 20 / 2025: 17

### **In the last twelve months, numbers of:**

those baptised: 1 / those admitted to holy communion before confirmation : 0

those confirmed : 0 / marriages : 0 / funerals : 2

Christmas day communicants: 8 / Easter: 22

Whilst numbers have dropped following the retirement of our incumbent in summer 2020, the resulting interregnum and the Covid pandemic, we have seen several new members join. We wish to work together with a new priest to grow the congregation.

### **Details of Publicity that the parish produces**

We have previously had a Weekly News Sheet, but notices are now announced at the end of the Sunday morning service. There is a Parish Magazine which is currently on pause (normally 6 issues per annum). Church Notice Boards both Internal and External.

### **Address of Website and other social media**

We use the 'A Church Near You' site and this is regularly updated.

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2884/>

We also have a Facebook page which is monitored. We are keen to develop these.

### **Local community**

The parish covers an inner city area which is diverse and multicultural. There is a large south Asian community, predominantly Muslim, originating mainly from Pakistan and Bangladesh, particularly located in the streets surrounding St Agnes Church. There are also residents of Caribbean and African heritage. Within the parish is the Anson Estate – a former council estate.

In the locality, there are a number of shops, including those serving the needs of the diverse community, alongside other facilities including GP and dental practices and a pharmacy. Just outside the parish boundary and with easy access, are two universities and the large NHS Foundation Trust complex of the MRI, Eye, Children's and St Mary's maternity hospitals.

It is important that the church continues to maintain and further develop the links already established with the local community. This needs to be a focus of our outreach work by meeting our neighbours, finding how we can all work together in harmony, increasing our understanding of and having mutual respect for each other's cultures and beliefs.

### **Community Engagement**

Some years ago we formally signed a friendship agreement with the Makki Mosque on Beresford Road acknowledging our respect for each other's traditions. We would like this to be re-visited and developed. Along with the church school, we make a contribution at Harvest to a local Foodbank.



Completed in 2012, a redevelopment of the church grounds has provided a community garden space for the people of Longsight which is both green and restful. During the summer months especially, the facilities are well utilised. We have an annual Summer Fair and sometimes a barbeque, which are well supported by the local community. We have in the last few years experienced some vandalism to the area, including to the seating, which has had to be removed. However, we have recently made contact with a local community group sponsored by the council and are discussing a potential project to develop and maintain the garden whilst supporting disadvantaged local women.



## **SCHOOLS AND VOLUNTARY GROUPS**

St Agnes C of E Primary School is a voluntary controlled school which has pupils who are mainly of the Muslim Faith. This is an important point of contact between the Christian and Islamic Faiths in our community and presents opportunities for inter-faith outreach work. The Parish is very proud of its links with St Agnes School. Since its foundation in 1885, the school has been providing excellent teaching and learning for the young people of Longsight. The parish is also proud of the very high quality of teaching and learning in the school and are very proud of their achievements. At the last OFSTED Inspection in October 2022, the School was graded Good.



There have been excellent links between the church and the school. The Governing Body has two Foundation Governor places and the Rector has usually been Ex-Officio. Since the start of the interregnum there has been no clergy representation on the GB and currently only one PCC member is a Foundation Governor (who was previously Chair of Governors for many years). We look forward to having a Rector on the Governing Body again and further developing work with the school.

The Community Hall is part of the St Agnes Church building. It provides a venue for social and educational/recreational activities and can be hired by individuals and other church and community groups within the local area. Activities previously held here include Zumba, children's Dance, a craft group, and Martial Arts. It is also used for church fairs which are open to the local community. We would like to get WiFi installed and a longer term goal is for complete refurbishment of the hall to enable a wider variety of uses for the community.

## **WORSHIP AND WORSHIPPERS**

The pattern of worship at present is:

Sunday 9.30am Parish Eucharist and Wednesday 10.00am Eucharist – Common Worship  
Morning Prayer was previously said Monday - Thursday in church at 9am. We hope this can be re-started with a new incumbent.

Other services are held during the year to celebrate special days in the church's calendar.

In 2025 we held a Christmas Day morning service, but we would like to have Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve too.

Holy Week: Maundy Thursday – 7.30pm Eucharist with Foot Washing followed by a Watch.  
Good Friday - 2pm The Liturgy and Easter Eve – 11.30pm Easter Vigil  
Easter Sunday: 9.30am Parish Eucharist – Common Worship



Advent and Lent study groups are held every year in church. There is currently a weekly Bible study in church led by a local priest (all daytime events).

We usually take part in the annual Manchester Whit Walks.

The tradition of churchmanship is liberal catholic, recognising the importance of the centrality of the sacraments of the church. The vesture of the ministers is Cassock, Alb, Stole and Chasuble.

We are forward thinking and would be open to considering other styles of worship eg; Taizé and family services as we move forward.



## CHURCH-BASED ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS

### Junior Church

Our Junior Church has catered mainly for 3 -10 year olds but with children of all ages welcome. Held in the Community Hall during the Sunday service, staffed by 2 members of the congregation and previously with around 5 children attending. Junior Church joined the rest of the congregation part way through the service and in time for Communion.

Since the pandemic, regular Junior Church has not re-started due to lack of leaders and very few children. However, there are always work sheets, books and some quiet crafts available for children during the service. Previously children have made displays and undertaken fundraising activities. Attracting families with children and offering Junior Church once more are areas we hope a new priest can help us develop.





### Evergreens

This is a social group organised by the church but open to all members of the community aged 50+. Held weekly in the Community Hall and attended by around 10 members, events include celebrating Shrove Tuesday with pancakes, bingo and an annual Christmas meal out.



### Social activities and fundraising

There are occasional Bring and Share Lunches after the Sunday morning Parish Eucharist (for example on St Agnes Day) and some Fundraising events (fairs, barbecues) are organised during the year. A long-standing tradition has been the Christmas Hamper Raffle drawn at the Carol Service alongside enjoying mulled wine and mince pies.



## **NEIGHBOURING ANGLICAN CHURCHES AND PARISHES**

Informal links have been maintained with other Anglican Churches and the priests have met regularly. Members of other churches have joined us for Corpus Christi. We are developing our links with St Chrysostom's. For example, we have had a joint Christmas Carol concert.

## **ECUMENISM**

We are also keen to connect up again with churches of other denominations in the area.

## **MINISTRY**

We have Lay Assistants and Lay Pastoral Visitors to assist the Priest. There is significant Lay involvement in our worship including sides persons, readers and intercessors. When a priest has not been available for Sunday Eucharist, the church wardens have led a Service of the Word. We have also had several groups led by the Incumbent which look at various aspects of worship, church and community issues.

Additionally we have talented members with gifts for flower arranging and crochet which mean the church is always beautifully decorated at the key festivals of Christmas and Easter.



## **FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP**

The congregation give willingly of their time and give financially according to their means.

Various items needed in the church have been sponsored by members of the congregation. Recently several members contributed to buying new kitchen equipment and have donated generously when needs arise.

The parish has always been committed to paying the Parish Share in full each year. 2025 has been paid in full. Clergy expenses have always been reimbursed in full.

We recently held a Gift Day when observing St Agnes Day and raised £585.

We would like to get a digital device for donations set up to enable increased giving at baptisms and funerals in particular.

## MUSIC

The church has on occasion become a bespoke venue for live music, supporting local artists and musicians as well as creating a unique atmosphere that makes good use of the church's excellent acoustics. The space has also been used for local bands and musicians for rehearsals, adding new income streams that make use of the church for creative purposes.

Our organist is also a professional musician and music teacher who is eager to work together with the priest to create outreach programmes that use music to connect with the local community, be it through multicultural music making or teaching young adults how to record and make their own music.



## What we are looking for in our next Rector

We are seeking a committed and compassionate priest to serve our parish and primary school, and who is able to inspire us to grow and flourish. The successful candidate will be able to manage the workload of our community and that of St Chrysostom's while fostering strong, positive relationships across all areas of ministry.

The priest will play a pivotal role in forming new collaborations with St Chrysostom's. St Agnes has a successful history of building close relationships with other churches in the parish when clergy are shared and during interregnum, leading to joint services and events that enhance the overall church experience for both congregations. The ideal candidate will have a strong vision to coordinate the shared resources of both churches efficiently, drawing on the strengths of each congregation for the greater good of the parish.

We are looking for an open, honest, and transparent communicator, capable of working with the PCC and congregation in a straightforward and supportive manner. A strong commitment to lead, provide spiritual guidance and pastoral care is essential. We are a culturally diverse family that is closely connected spiritually, emotionally, and interpersonally. We would like our new priest to be fully part of these relationships, contributing to a loving and inclusive church environment.

An interest in music is highly desirable. The priest will have the opportunity to grow outreach initiatives through music projects, working alongside our church organist, who is also a music teacher at a nearby secondary school.

The church community hall has the potential to generate additional income through rental opportunities. Therefore, someone with experience in grant applications and capable of leading projects that enhance the church's role in the community, is desirable.

We welcome applications from clergy who are visionary, approachable, and committed to fostering a warm, inclusive, and vibrant ministry at St Agnes and St Chrysostom's.