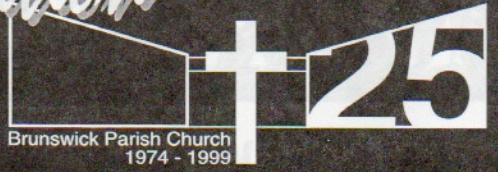


25th Anniversary Special Edition

the brunswick

BROADSHEET



May 1999

WHAT IS A CHURCH?

Careful. It's a trick question. Award yourself one point for: "a building", and ten points for: "the people who meet in that building".

We're celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Brunswick Church, and in a very real sense it is a double celebration where we should be thinking about both definitions of the word "church".



Ecclesia

Our English word "church" is a translation of the word "ecclesia" in the New Testament, which was originally written in Greek. It has also given us other churchy words like 'ecclesiastical'. The thing is, nowhere in the New Testament does the word "ecclesia" refer to a building. It always refers to a group of people who are Christians; people who have a sense of being the family of God together, where there is acceptance and belonging. Perhaps the number of former members who are returning to Brunswick for the Anniversary Weekend is an indication of the strength of those 'family ties'.

The people

This is first and foremost what a Church is - the people, and they are still "the church",

whether they are in a church building, a school hall, someone's front room or anywhere else. Twenty-five years ago three such groups of people, who before were three separate churches, came together to form Brunswick Church. And 25 years ago a brand new building for them to meet in was opened.

Trying times

These Christians had held on to their faith through some very trying times when many sweeping changes were made to their areas, and their communities were almost completely broken up. One group had worked hard for years to raise the money for their previous building, only to have to give it up to make way for a ring road (which, ironically, was never built!).

Friendship

Those of us who have met and worshipped together in Brunswick Church since owe much to their courage and determination, and to their strong belief in a God who loves people - enough to send Jesus to die to make it possible for us to have a friendship with him. As we look back with thankfulness over the last twenty-five years, and think ahead about the future, we must remember that this is what it is all about.

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The Brunswick Broadsheet is produced by members of Brunswick Parish Church for free distribution to every home on the estate.

Any comments, letters or queries are welcome and should be addressed to the editor. They can be given in at the Church Office or posted to: Brunswick Parish Church, Brunswick St., Manchester M13 9TP

You've got to move!

Martin Gooder writes about the history of Brunswick Church p3

We're 25!



Anniversary Weekend, June 5-6

Saturday, June 5:

Family Afternoon

1pm - 4pm: Bouncy Castles - Crafts - Stalls - 70's Video Games
Tea, coffee and cake available all afternoon. Finale at 3.30pm.
Children 11 and under must be accompanied by an adult for indoor events.

Nostalgia & Nosh

6pm - 9pm: A chance to catch up with old friends and ex-members of Brunswick church who have come back to visit. Numbers are limited for this event and admission will be by ticket only. Tickets available from Church Members.
Children 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Sunday, June 6:

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary All Together Celebration

10.30am. Followed by Free Finger Food.

Anniversary Exhibition:

This will be in the main hall throughout the weekend.

There will be a special area for you to add any photographs you may have of past Brunswick events or members. Dig out those old albums!



Simon says...



1974 was certainly a year to remember! A spectacular World Cup, featuring the silky skills of Beckenbauer, Cruyff, Rivelino and Denya. The prospect of Bolton Wanderers and Manchester United derbys in the Second Division. Fashion influences included loons, platform shoes, cheesecloth and Abba, after their success with 'Waterloo' in the Eurovision Song Contest. And in the middle of a rapidly changing inner-city area named Brunswick, a new church was built. Folk tell me that you were considered lucky to get a house on the new planned estate, and that everything was just about perfect.

Twenty five years later, whilst Abba and indeed platform shoes seem to have experienced a second birth, there have been great changes in the fortunes of football teams and, more importantly, our estate. Concrete bunkers, the planned play areas of the 70's, are the dumping grounds of the 90's. Convenience shops and their forecourts and phones prove too convenient for some, and can be intimidating for the rest of us. Over the last 25 years there have been many changes, and not all for the better. So what about the church?

Well fortunately, as our official name of "Christ Church" suggests, the church is built upon God; a God who the Bible tells us, is an unchangeable, immovable Rock. He promises to be there for our individual lives and our lives together, as a firm foundation, someone to trust when those around may let us down. As the old football hymn puts it: "Change and decay all around I see, O Thou who changest not, Abide with me".

Whatever changes, good or bad, befall us in the next 25 years, my prayer is that we will all know the love and support of the One who never changes: God our rock.

Simon Gatenby

NOTICEBOARD

AT YOUR SERVICE

SUNDAYS

10.30am Morning Service
Evening Services as announced
First Sunday of each month:
10.30am **All Together Special**



4th Sunday each month:
Holy Communion with
Prayer for Healing

EVENTS

25th Anniversary

Saturday, June 5th
1-4pm: Family Afternoon.
6-9pm: Nostalgia & Nosh -
ex-members get-together.
(more details above)

Sunday, June 6th
10.30am Twenty-Fifth
Anniversary All Together
Celebration

FROM THE REGISTERS

THANKSGIVING:

16th May: Luke James Owen

FUNERALS:

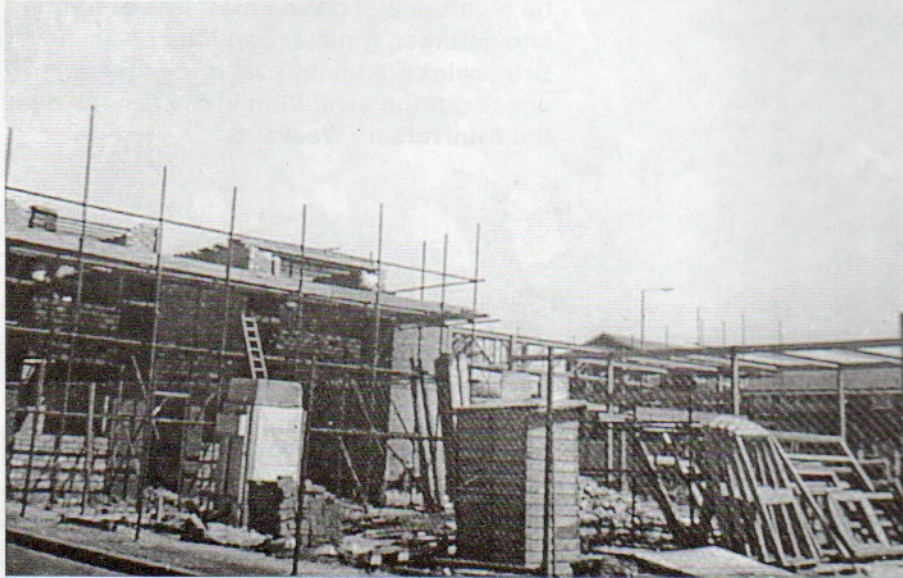
31st March: Graham Hargreaves

6th May: Emily Howard



"You've got to move!"

"There's a ring road planned to come through your Rectory - I hope you don't mind". These were the words that greeted us as we met the Diocesan Planning Officer just after we had moved into St. Saviours, Chorlton-on-Medlock. It soon became obvious that the threat was not just to the Rectory but also to the new St. Saviours Church.



Challenge

It had taken the small congregation 10 years to raise the money to erect the new building which was completed in 1964, two years before we arrived. Now the congregation was faced with an enormous challenge. In the wholesale demolition and rebuilding of inner-city Manchester, the Diocese had negotiated a deal with the City Council. They would allow the Council to demolish three churches if the Council would provide compensation money to build one new one. In the new Brunswick which would replace Chorlton-on-Medlock the centre of the community would shift to Brunswick Street, leaving St. Saviours isolated on a traffic island. We were being asked to let go of our lovely new building and take the risk of joining with two other churches and build a new church building on Brunswick Street.

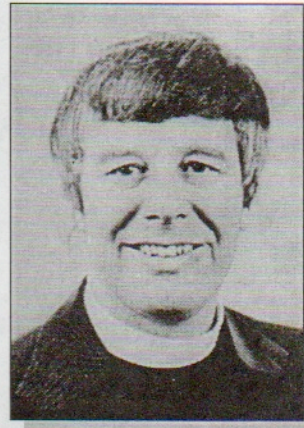


The site of St. Saviour's at the end of Plymouth Grove

Many in the congregation who had been involved in raising the money to build St. Saviours said: "If that church goes... we go!" Fortunately there was a small nucleus who had the faith and courage to realise that acceptance of the Diocesan plan was the only way forward if we wanted to maintain a witness for the Gospel in the area.

Demolition

By this time our parish of 8000 people was systematically being destroyed by the bulldozers until by about 1972 we were left with just 300 people and a tiny congregation of 20. Then we joined with St. Paul with St. Lukes which stood on the proposed site of the new church



building on Brunswick Street. That had an even smaller congregation of just 7 people. We then had a crazy few years of trying to run two tiny churches single-handed, until CPAS helped us out by providing money for a Curate. Looking back on it we were crazy to believe that God's church could ever be rebuilt from such small beginnings. But we dared to believe that "with God, nothing shall be impossible".

New Brunswick Parish Church

At long last in 1974 St. Paul's was demolished and the new Brunswick Parish Church began to arise in its place. The sign over the scaffolding read: "This is the Lord's doing and it is marvellous in our eyes". At the same time that small nucleus of about 30 Christians visited every person who moved into the new Brunswick community. Slowly but surely the congregation began to grow until at its height it reached 200.

Brunswick Church members are now scattered all over the world. But for those of you who remember those early days, Carol and I look forward to meeting many of you again at this 25th Anniversary. We thank God for the foundation of courageous faith upon which this church - building and people - was built.

Martin L. Gooder



Highlights



Just a few of the many memorable happenings over the last twenty-five years. To see many more photographs, and stir up memories of good times, lots of fun, and younger, trimmer versions of Brunswick members past and present, check out the exhibition in the Church over the Anniversary Weekend.

◀ Brunswick Festival, September 1981, about to be officially opened by Rt. Hon. Gerald Kauffman MP.

The Roadshow ran in 1982 and 83. Mayhem with a Message. Of course, according to some people, being a Christian means being boring and miserable... Wrong!



Yes, well...





◀ The Whit Walk, 1985. It had to be the world's loudest alarm clock. The church with the walls removed. Good weather guaranteed.



Brunswick
Activity
week



"Angel at Large", the 1989 Christmas Panto. Oh yes it was!



Summer Activity Clubs have run most years in the 90's. Can you spot the wig?



And where would a Church be without the odd wedding? Em, let me rephrase that...

Looking back

Some of our long-term members, and two ex-members, write about their time at Brunswick



I can remember moving into the area in 1972. My house was brand new and many houses around it were still unfinished. My friends found it hard to find my house as everything was so different. I couldn't just direct them - I had to go and meet them and show them where I lived! I was brought up to go to church regularly in Jamaica but I stopped this when I

came to the U.K. I went to St. Saviours sometimes for special occasions like friends' weddings or my older children's christenings. When the new church in Brunswick Street was opened I just went on and off. It's a long story but I committed myself to the Lord Jesus as my Saviour and so I started to go to church regularly on a Sunday as a sign of my commitment and faith. I love the Lord Jesus Christ because he died for me.

Merle Lloyd.

David Donnelly, has had a long involvement with Brunswick Parish Church. In fact he was there when it was built 25 years ago.

David, how long have you lived in Brunswick and what brought you here?

31 years. We moved here from North Manchester on 2nd March 1968, this was due to our old house being demolished, during the 60s and 70s regeneration. We went to St. Saviours from 1968 to 1974.

You saw Brunswick Church being built - what was your first impression of the building?

It was a great answer to prayer. After having to vacate St. Saviours, due to a proposed road scheme that never happened, to have a multi-purpose complex was the best thing that could have happened, and to see it being built was even better.

What are your fondest memories (so far)?

Having seen so many changes it's hard to pick one. Seeing many people come to Christ and grow up to become leaders. Also I can still remember the opening service as if it were yesterday.

You have been very active in the life of the Church - what have you been involved in?

I went to Boys Brigade between the ages of 11 and 15, then I began to help out and eventually became a warrant Officer (a leader). Boys Brigade was a uniformed Christian organisation, when we disbanded we re-launched it as Explorers. The other areas I have been involved in are Sunday School, Fellowship groups and the Worship group. I have also held the positions of Sidesperson and Warden and am currently an assistant warden.

What are your hopes for the next twenty-five years?

I want to see Brunswick grow spiritually and become a beacon, where God is still worshipped and people are won for Christ. I also want to see people grow in faith and today's children become leaders.



Interview by Mary-Lou Boyd

The opportunity to be involved in planning a new church building is a rare event. When I look back to all the discussions and meetings that took place I don't think that I realised how things would develop.

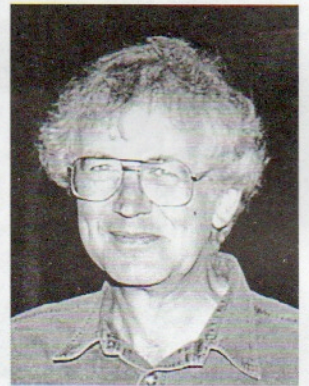
We started as a congregation of about 60 which grew slowly until the students 'discovered' us. Then we grew quite quickly to about 200; now we are back to about 80 but growing again.

Some might regard this as a story of failure but I don't think so. God has been at work in different ways over the years and many former members are serving him in similar church situations elsewhere.

On a personal level, Sylvia and I have made many friends during the last 25 years and it will be great to see so many of them again at the Anniversary celebrations.

To God be the glory, great things he has done.

John Wilson



I moved here with my wife June and family on the 1st of April 1972. It was because of the compulsory repurchase of my house in Moss Side. We were offered several



different properties but chose to accept one of the new houses in Brunswick and we have lived there ever since. In fact we were one of the first tenants to move into the area. When I moved to Brunswick I started going to the Parish Church. I like the fellowship and

friendship at the church. There is a constant flow of young people which is great and there is a good mixture of age groups and backgrounds

I've helped with the building maintenance, become a 'server' at Communion and have been a part of the church Mission group which looks at how the church can be more effective in the local community.

I have also been very involved with helping the students who attend the church to feel welcome. I believe that the church needs young people - they have a special role to play. I also think that young students need encouragement in their faith. It's not easy standing up for being a Christian when you are a student and they need encouragement and to find a 'home from home' wherever they go. My wife and I like to have students over for meals and to support them in various ways.

Jim Owen

Our memories of Brunswick - Stephen and Sandy Waldron

I (Stephen) arrived as a student of architecture, in 1974. I had walked straight into a mission in the university, organised by the Christian Union, and met Martin Gooder, Rector of Brunswick, who had been allocated my hall in which to work. I immediately was struck by his absolute commitment to what I only saw as a grubby estate next door, but which he saw through different eyes. To him it was full of people who had suffered at the hands of the politicians, having been moved out of now-demolished areas of Manchester and thrown together in this relatively new estate - a brick wilderness. He saw it as a failed social experiment - 100% council tenants and no mix of any other groups of society to make it a really living community. He was a man with a vision and a passion for the estate. He would brook no discouragement to ensure that the good news of Jesus made a practical difference to these thousands of people.

And so I started to go along to the new church complex. Because I could play the guitar, organ and piano I quickly got sucked into things. I began to learn how most people on the estate wanted to move out as fast as they could, how there was a steady stream of people from the estate to the leafy suburbs. Few seemed to care about the area, but quickly, with Martin and Carol's enthusiasm and vision a group of students joined the faithful core who had remained committed to the church at the heart of the community.

I remember every year the Whit Walk. The church hit the streets, speakers blaring out songs of God's love and local people's testimonies of God's goodness. Dances at every gathering spot with all the children we could lay our hands on, and shaking hands and waving to everyone we could see. I remember learning to love the people of that estate, to see beyond the differences to their hearts. I married Sandy and we decided to stay and give some of our selves back to these people. We were privileged to set up and to be responsible for Barnabas, the first Christian Community the Church planted. Those who lived there had one aim - to be available to the people of Brunswick for Jesus sake. The message of Martin went deeper. Today we still live in the inner city of London... I am a Director of a large Housing Association, committed to ensure that in future we design and produce mixed, living communities of hope throughout our cities.



Steve, Sandy & family on a recent visit to Manchester



Barnabas House, 1979. Steve, left; Sandy, head of the table

Brunswick 1980-1990

- A personal recollection - Ross Hayes

Ten years of Brunswick Church - street events, whit walks, house-parties, youth events, fun days. Worship, friendships, laughter, and in time a wife! What was so different? What, looking back, made Brunswick - its Church and its Community - so special?

I think for me it was the bringing together of worlds which otherwise would neither have met nor understood each other. The breaking down of barriers between the academic world on the church's doorstep, and the local community surrounded by the three universities and other colleges. Before 1980 there had been some students in the life of the church - some of those are still here as the editor will no doubt remind me - but the numbers were small and the connections and relationships loose. Yet in the universities was a group of Christians often unaware of the city around them, but being prepared by God to be a part of his church.

Here too was a new community. The new housing was complete by the time I arrived in 1980. A community unsure of what the student body was; perhaps suspicious of the ever increasing numbers of young people from all around the world living in halls of residences and even moving into local flats, for Coverdale was to become home to many of them in the next years. But again a group being prepared by God.

Two groups who wouldn't normally meet each other, who in the eyes of the society around would be quite separate and apart, combined to form the Brunswick of the 80's - and still do.

Students became involved in the life and lives of Brunswick and its people. Residents of the area accepted, encouraged and formed friendships across the barriers. The church supported those students who felt they should work within the Universities bringing the Good News of Jesus to their student friends; other students supported the church as it brought the same offer of Jesus to the community in Brunswick. How and why is really God's success story, but the impact on us all was enormous and has lived on.

There was a third piece of the jigsaw. A small group of us, for I was one, had made Manchester their home while they worked in the city. They wanted to be part of the city, to live in it and not be part of the normal commuter life and suburbs. Many had been students at Manchester but others just arrived. We too were welcomed into the community that was Brunswick.

We miss much if we overlook the importance of all of this. One of the Church's roles is to bring unity and understanding between those who might otherwise not find it - my recollections of those years in Brunswick is seeing it happen.




New Beginnings

The opening of the new church building was announced in the Brunswick Broadsheet of January 1974 together with news of a month of special events under the banner "New Beginnings".

"1974 will be a year of New Beginnings for the church in Brunswick. After many years of prayer and planing and union schemes, we now stand on the threshold of the opening of the new

Brunswick Parish Church. At 2.30pm on the 16th of March, the united congregations of St. Luke, St. Paul and St. Saviour will gather for the first time in the new church for the Dedication and Commissioning Service to be taken by the Bishop of Manchester. Tickets, which will guarantee you a reserved seat for the opening ceremony, can be obtained from the Rev. M. L. Gooder, 23 Plymouth Grove, Manchester M13 9LU. Obviously present and past church members will be given priority in the allocation of tickets, but we are hopeful that it will be possible to accommodate everyone who applies for a ticket.

THE BRUNSWICK BROADSHEET



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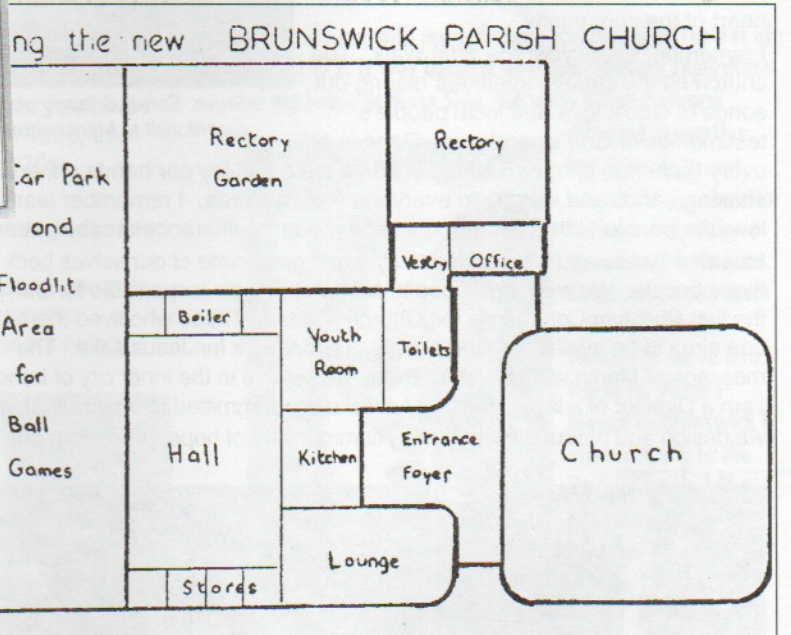
But the Opening Ceremony is only the "curtain-raiser" - it will usher in a whole programme of events - in fact a month of "New Beginnings" which will take us right up to Easter Sunday. Further details of the programme and the people taking part will be given in the next issue of the Broadsheet.

NEW BEGINNINGS
"BEHOLD I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW
IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST
HE IS A NEW CREATION."

NEW CHURCH Many people are following the actual construction of the church with great interest. In almost every home I visit people say - "well, where is the entrance?" "Which bit is the church?" "Can you get from the Rectory into the halls?" etc. etc. To help answer queries we are reprinting the outline plan (on centre page). It is encouraging the church has been built exactly according to plan - so next time you look at the site, the plan will help you work out the details.



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[Editor's Note: The Dedication Service was later re-scheduled to June]

FREE CUPPA!

The **Drop-in**
Brunswick Church Tuesdays 10 - 2pm

Brunswick Drop-In is open every Tuesday from 10am to 2pm. Bring this voucher along any week in May, June and July and exchange it for a free cup of tea or coffee.

the mouths of babes by Roy Mitchell

