

MANCHESTER
VINEYARD



UNLESS THE LORD

— “ —————

**Unless the Lord builds
the house, the builders
labour in vain.**

Psalm 127:1

————— ” —

Our Next Step Of Faith

Since we planted the church in September 2016, we have been on a journey of faith, seeking to love Jesus and love Manchester with everything we've got. Our vision has always been to gather a community of individuals eager to follow in the footsteps of Jesus—extending His heart and hands to see lives transformed. We are committed to investing a substantial portion of our time, energy, and resources to reach beyond ourselves and to serve the needs of others. Each step of faith has demanded our all, and once again, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment.

Over the past eight years, a massive amount of time and effort has been spent on making “pop-up” church happen. Whilst we are truly grateful for each of the hired spaces that we have been able to gather in, in order to continue to effectively live out our vision, we believe that God is now prompting us to pursue a more permanent solution for us as a church.

We are excited to share our plans with you for the next step of faith that we believe the Lord is asking us to take—a step toward establishing a permanent home where we can truly fulfil our collective calling and mission.

We are acutely aware that **unless the Lord** builds the house, our efforts are in vain. So, it is with hopeful hearts that we long for this next chapter to be crafted by Him—reflecting His design, His purposes, and His glory.

With love,
Paul & Steph



2016

June: We gathered in the living room of a flat to worship and pray.

September: We launched Sunday gatherings at the Rampant Lion hotel.

2017

March: In the earliest days of being a church plant, we took our first ever offering to prioritise serving the needs of the city. The church gave £17,500 to invest in compassion projects.

April: We moved to the Dean Trust Ardwick school for our Sunday gatherings.



2019-2021

We acquired the 422 building through a Community Asset Transfer with Manchester City Council and began renovating it in 2019. Before this could happen, the church gave a staggering £209,571.

In August 2021, we opened the 422 Cafe through the generous support of many individuals, grant-making bodies, institutions, and businesses. Since then, the formerly derelict building has been fully reopened and is providing transformative opportunities and programmes to the local community. 422 was never intended to provide a meeting space for the church, but rather it has always been about prioritising the people of the local community—creating a home and fighting for a better future for them.



The Journey So Far

2022

The "Building For The Future" fund was created, and the church gave £44,680. This has allowed us to continue to function as a church without a permanent building, as well as enabling us to begin exploring options for a building of our own, by covering professional and legal expenses. Always committed to giving a portion away, this offering also enabled us to invest in several church initiatives in Albania.

2024



A fire at the Dean Trust Ardwick meant rapidly relocating to another venue for our Sunday gatherings. We had to move three times in the space of six months, each time fully reliant on the availability and suitability of hired spaces, as well as the extraordinary effort of our staff and volunteers.

January: We moved to The East Manchester Academy for our Sunday gatherings, for just three weeks!

February: Sunday gatherings were relocated again to St Bede's College.

June: We moved to our current Sunday venue, William Hulme's Grammar School, where we currently do church in the canteen!

Current Sunday Venue



Roughly, a collective 200 hours, on a Sunday alone, are poured into making the gathering space work. The demands of the logistical arrangements of making church happen limit the time and capacity we have to focus on the very people we aim to serve. Furthermore, lacking the stability and permanence of our own place means we often can't meet at key times of the year—this year being Easter Sunday.

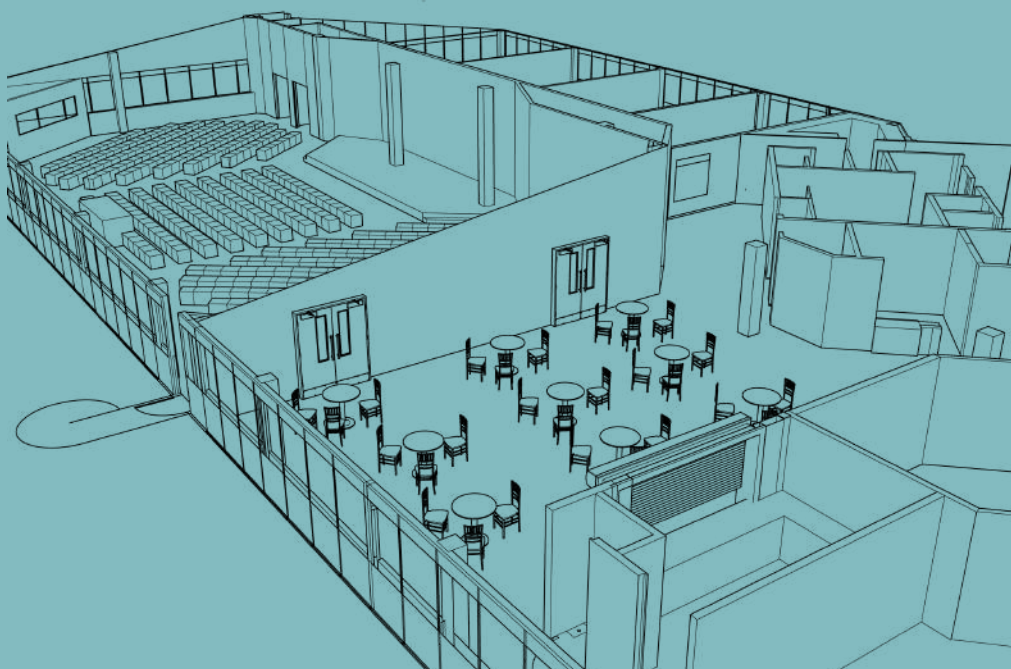
We face frequent disruptions, often with little warning. We've already dealt with a fire at one venue, a flood at another, and most recently, the loss of a substantial portion of our car parking. Currently, our kids and youth provision are all in separate buildings, and we incur significant costs to maintain this arrangement, which only provides us with a meeting space for five hours each week (including set up and set down).

Midweek Provision

We currently have no base for midweek activities, which significantly hampers our ability to offer the relational connection and resources we so long to extend to the church family and beyond. We hire a small amount of office space during the week, but it's far from what we need to be able to support the infrastructure of a growing church. Continually having to hire spaces to enable us to function throughout the week is financially costly, inefficient, and reduces the quality of the provision that we aim to deliver.

The Dream

As with every phase of our journey, **this is about people**. Our plan is to create a permanent church space, with an auditorium, welcome and cafe area, as well as numerous multi-purpose breakout rooms that could be used for kids and youth on a Sunday, and small groups and office space during the week. We'd love to facilitate kids and youth gatherings, worship rehearsals, prayer gatherings, Alpha, outreach initiatives, leadership development, training and equipping events, toddler groups, parenting courses, welcome dinners—the possibilities are endless.



Potential Design Concept

IMPORTANT UPDATE

As has so often been the case in our Sunday venue journey, over the last few months only *one* building option has opened up for us. This brochure outlines the details of this building, as well as our plans and hopes for this next stage.

However, just days before Vision Sunday (*just* after we had signed off and sent this brochure to print), we received the news that the landlord, who we had been in negotiations with for around a year and who had been more than favourable to us occupying their building, had changed their mind. They could have pulled out at any point during the last year, and yet it happened the very week we were going to share these plans with you. What a twist! With Sunday rapidly approaching, we contemplated our options: pull the plug, pause, or crack on? Our conviction was, and is, that we need to press on. Now is not the time to back off or back down.

Although this building was never guaranteed, it was a strong potential and allowed us to dream for what could be. **Therefore, the concepts and costs involved in a project of this nature still stand, and the need to prepare for what God has in store for us remains unchanged.** So, as the story continues to unfold, we can wholeheartedly trust that nothing is outside of God's attention and His sovereignty. As we pursue a more permanent home for us as a church family, we long for the Lord to shape this journey according to His plans and purposes. He is the One who builds the house, and we are in His hands!

With love,
Paul & Steph

Putting Plans Into Action

After nearly a year of searching for venues to buy or to lease, very few opportunities have opened up, in terms of suitability of location, affordability, and availability.

- **Location**

In order to best serve Manchester, we have always held tightly to prioritising a central location for the church, enabling the highest level of accessibility for people from across Greater Manchester. We also long to be a central hub for resourcing many of the offshoots that we believe will come from Manchester Vineyard in the days to come. Opportunities would certainly increase if we were to consider moving to the suburbs, but that would mean significantly altering the mandate that we believe God has given us, which just isn't an option.

- **Affordability**

Manchester is a very expensive city. Buying property, in the location that we have earmarked, is far beyond our reach. Whilst we have faith that God can move mountains, we also have to be realistic, and do not believe at this stage that buying is the wisest option. Therefore, long-term leasing looks to be the most feasible option for achieving a permanent space.

- **Availability**

Just because something may be on the market, does not mean that the council or the landlord have been open to considering its use as a church facility. Furthermore, some properties may be available, but the lack of key provisions we require, for example, not having a car park or locally available parking, mean that they are unsuitable for our use.

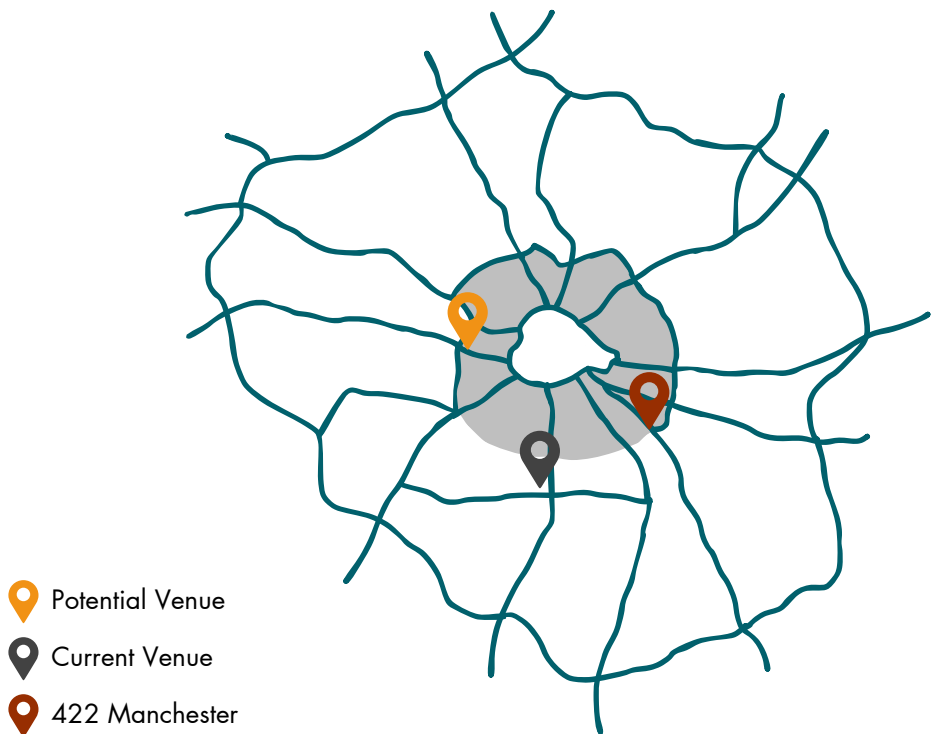
As has so often been the case in our Sunday venue journey, we currently only have one option on the table. This potential venue—Regents Court—is 10,600sq/ft, located just off the A57, opposite Regent Retail Park. This stretch of the A57 is often referred to as a “gateway to the city”, highlighting its significance as a key route into Manchester and its role in connecting various neighbourhoods.





“To be clear, the building itself is not the main focus; rather, it represents the opportunities it creates for us to fulfil our vision.

In terms of location and availability, Regents Court meets the criteria, with ample car parking and a blank canvas to shape the space according to our needs. In terms of affordability, it is double the amount we had in mind to bring to the church! That said, the deal on the table is one of the best prices we are going to be able to negotiate in the area we feel called to (as denoted in grey on the map below). The Lord may, in time, present another building option, but currently this is the only one available to us, and we feel stirred to explore this, in faith.



In order to pursue this particular building, we would be looking at committing to a ten-year lease, with a five-year break clause. This would require approximately £200,000 in upfront gifts, in order to secure and renovate the space, and a further £650,000 in pledges, ideally over a five-year period, to have financial security (beyond the current annual income) to enable us to commit to a minimum of five years. The hope would be that during that time the church will grow, allowing us to absorb the costs of leasing into the annual income, as we look beyond the five years.

Therefore, the size of the challenge is that **we need to raise a total of £850,000**. Whilst this is a significant amount of money for us as a church, and would require a major step of faith, we want to be faithful and responsive to His promptings. We feel we need to present you with this option, as it's currently the *only* one on the table, but we fully appreciate the magnitude of the ask. If God's not in this, we don't want it. But, if He is, we want to be bold enough to partner with Him and His plans. A leap of faith and sacrifice of this nature has the potential to release a preferred future for us and for those yet to come.

The money is not the only challenge on this venue, as we will also need to see favour with Salford City Council on change of use from employment space to being a place of worship. We have begun work with a planning officer to submit an application.



Should this current building option not be viable, or should the Lord close the door, we still believe it's time to prepare ourselves intentionally for the next steps. Furthermore, it has become clear over the last year that to even have any serious conversations about potential building options requires us to have a sum of money, in the region of £400,000. A significant portion given upfront would be hugely helpful, and a five-year commitment would position us well to move forward. Whilst this amount may not allow us to pursue the current building option, it would enable us to be ready for what the Lord may open up for us in the short-term. This would allow us to look at a more suitable temporary space to use now and assist us in pursuing a more permanent space for the future. We are in His hands!



"We have a huge part to play in the unfolding story of what the Lord is doing in this church, across this city and indeed the world."

As with everything we have done so far, 15% of the total offering we receive will be given to things that don't directly benefit ourselves as a church. Our intention is to use a portion of this money to facilitate us to plant churches, the first of which we are excited to announce will be Preston Vineyard Church.

We are also currently in the process of exploring options for establishing long-term provision for churches in Albania, with whom we have a long-standing partnership through members of our church family. During the pandemic, one of the Albanian churches we support lost its funding and was at risk of losing their building. Through your generosity, we were able to make a three-year commitment to help cover their costs and enable them to continue meeting. We would love to be in a position where we could explore buying their building for them or, at least, securing their longer-term future. As we seek to secure a facility here for Manchester Vineyard, we always long to bless others. This will cost us, but we have a huge part to play in the unfolding story of what the Lord is doing in this church, across this city, and indeed the world.

Just imagine, if we raised the full £850,000, this would mean having a staggering **£127,500 to give away to extend the kingdom!**



A potential building for a church in Albania

The Invitation

We are inviting you to partner with us in making this vision become a reality, in both upfront gifts and ongoing pledges. We anticipate the majority of the money will come from people within the church, and those connected to us, as opposed to the money coming from grants and external funders.

We realise that in the natural this may seem impossible, but if God is in this then we believe He can make a way. We would encourage you to give as the Lord prompts you and in accordance with the resources He has given you. We serve a radically generous God who calls us to be a generous people. We give as an act of worship, not out of obligation or guilt, but as an overflow of our hearts.

We will be holding a **Giving Day on Sunday 6th April 2025**, with plenty of opportunity to pray, fast, and consider the part we will each play. Our hope would be that on that Sunday, we would give our gifts and make our pledges as a church family (including the kids), with the total being announced on Sunday 13th April. We recognise that direct debits and bank transfers will be made online, but there is still something very powerful and symbolic, for those present on the day, to each be able to submit the form in this brochure into the offering basket. This will also help the finance team to easily calculate what people have given and pledged.

UPFRONT GIFTS

Gifts upfront will allow this project to advance without cash flow restrictions. We would prefer that this is made as an online donation using the church's bank details listed on the commitment form. Please identify your gift with the reference: [surname]/UTL.

It will also be possible to give through our website and on the Giving Day via card and cash payments. Please be aware that card payments cost the church a small transaction fee so doing a direct bank transfer is preferred, and we would also prefer to keep cash to a minimum, where possible, for security reasons.

ONGOING PLEDGES

As mentioned, we would also love to encourage you to consider making a pledge, which may be in addition to an upfront gift. Whilst we need a significant amount of upfront resource to make this project viable, we also need to increase our monthly provision to allow it to be sustainable.

You can decide on the monthly amount you wish to give towards the project and the end date of your pledge (you may wish to make it for more or less than five years). In the short-term, this project will be a stretch for us as a church. Our reason for five years is that it would allow us to have the security of getting to a five-year break clause, but with the full desire to not have to activate the break clause. Even if we don't go for the building we have mentioned, we need to increase the monthly provision to allow us to explore more permanent building options.

If you are already regularly giving to Manchester Vineyard, we encourage you to maintain your commitment to the church, treating a pledge towards the Unless The Lord project in addition to your regular giving.

Please complete the commitment form or email giving@manchestervineyard.org, providing the finance team with the details requested on the commitment form, to let them know the amount and length of time you intend to pledge. In setting up a separate standing order, please use the reference: [surname]/UTL.

GIFT AID

If you already regularly give to the church and have filled out a Gift Aid form, then we will apply this to your additional giving. It is important that you let us know if we can't claim your tax back on this additional giving. You can do this by emailing the finance team at giving@manchestervineyard.org.

For those that are not already regularly giving to the church, filling in the Gift Aid section on the commitment form will enable us to reclaim from the Inland Revenue the basic rate tax you have paid on the amount you give, which will increase the overall amount you give by 25%, at no cost to you. You can also do this at mvuk.org/GiftAid.

Key Dates

MAR 9



Vision
Sunday

MAR 15

Prayer
& Fasting

MAR 22

Prayer
& Fasting

MAR 31

SG Prayer
Night

APR 2

SG Prayer
Night

APR 3

SG Prayer
Night

APR 6



Giving
Day

APR 13

Total
Announced

Stepping Out In Faith

In Luke 12:45, Jesus tells us that: “When someone has been given much, much will be required in return.” Often God invites us to let go of the things we put our trust in and, instead, trust Him to provide for our needs in out-of-the-ordinary ways. In our experience, over and over again, He has been so faithful to provide for us when we have made sacrifices to further the work of His Church.

As you begin to consider what you might give, both upfront and over the coming years, it is important to make that decision prayerfully. For most of us, looking simply at what we could afford after all our outgoings are deducted, might not leave us with much flexibility, but for this project to happen, it is going to cost us. It will involve significant levels of sacrifice.

As you pray about this exciting next step for us as a church, you may find that God is inviting you to make changes to everyday spending choices in order that you can pledge to give.

For example, a weekly coffee might cost you £3.75 per week. Over the course of three years, this amounts to £585, which can be increased to £731 with Gift Aid, which could be a tenth of the cost of installing children’s toilets, or roughly ten chairs for welcoming new people, or a sofa for the youth space—the opportunities for each of us to play our part are endless. Each small change to our regular habits could add up to make a remarkable difference to creating space for those yet to come.

This is about each of us playing our part. We would encourage you to step into this as an act of faith, and as an act of worship, as we seek to partner with what God is doing in Manchester. To be clear, we want to be a community who give sacrificially, but also freely. What giving sacrificially means to each person is a relative thing. The important thing is that we each give what He has asked of us—He knows our hearts, our circumstances, and the cost of our sacrifice.



Commitment Form For Gift & Pledge

This form represents amounts separate to regular giving.

YOUR DETAILS

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

Phone:

UPFRONT GIFT

My gift is £ _____

☐ I have transferred my gift online

☐ My gift is enclosed

☐ I will send my gift by (date) _____

Please claim Gift Aid on this gift: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please complete the Gift Aid section overleaf.

Please make bank transfers payable to:

Bank: Lloyds

Account Name: Manchester Vineyard

Account Number: 67880768

Sort Code: 30-90-91

Reference: [surname]/UTL

PLEDGE

If making a recurring payment, please tick the following box:

☐ I have set up a standing order with my bank asking them to quote the following reference: [surname]/UTL

Please complete the following details overleaf...



Amount of additional standing order: £ _____

Frequency: ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Yearly

Start date: _____

For: _____ years _____ months

Please claim Gift Aid on this gift: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please complete the Gift Aid section below.

Bank: Lloyds
Account Name: Manchester Vineyard
Account Number: 67880768
Sort Code: 30-90-91
Reference: [surname]/UTL

You can give online at **www.mvuk.org/giving**

GIFT AID

If you are a UK taxpayer we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give. We claim this back in Gift Aid from HMRC. If you are unsure about whether you are eligible to claim Gift Aid, check the details on the Gift Aid Declaration Form. If you are, we would invite you to complete this form and return it to the church office.

GIFT AID DECLARATION (if applicable)

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

Signed:

Date:

☐ Please treat this (and all donations made to Manchester Vineyard in the last four years and all future donations) as qualifying for Gift Aid, until further notice. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount claimed on all my donations in a particular year, it is my responsibility to pay the difference.

By completing this form, you agree to Manchester Vineyard holding and using your personal details to manage your giving. These will be processed in order to facilitate the workings of Manchester Vineyard and held in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

Prayer & Fasting

As a church we will be praying and fasting in various ways prior to the Giving Day on Sunday 6th April 2025. In addition to this, we'd like to invite you to join us on two specific days of prayer and fasting on 15th & 22nd March.

Please pray, among other things, for:

- Faith and courage for us all as we step out in faith.
- The Lord's stirring of His people to give as He leads.
- Wisdom for those that will be leading and coordinating this project.
- Open doors with the council and landlord.
- God's favour in the local area as we seek to establish a presence.



Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we doing this now?

We are aware this is a huge step for us as a church, but also that we need to step into a preferred future. 2024 presented us with so much instability. We regularly had to change venues and on several occasions were not able to meet at all. Functioning in our current form places a strain on our ability to function as a community and inhibits our ability to effectively reach out to others. Further to this, we want to make Manchester Vineyard as strong as it can be and provide people with a space to take ownership of the vision.

Why is a building even important? Why can't we just continue as we are in hired venues?

Hiring spaces is incredibly expensive and offers little security. Over the past year, we have seen how fragile these rented venues can be. These venues have often limited our ability to gather in the way that we would want to, and at times, have prevented us from gathering altogether. Not having our own space, also means that we often can't meet at key times of the year, like Easter and Christmas.

Having a dedicated building brings a

presence that encourages community engagement, particularly for the more vulnerable members of society. A permanent space helps to safeguard the future of the church and gives us a facility to facilitate the vision. To be clear, the building itself is not the main focus; rather, it represents the opportunities it creates for us to fulfil our vision. We must also ensure that we have freedom to worship, speak truth, and share the gospel without restrictions.

What if more than £850,000 is given or pledged?

That would be wonderful! We would be able to proceed with everything we have planned and more!

Who will know what I am giving?

Other than our finance team, no one will know. Paul & Steph would like to acknowledge your gift but will not know the amount. What you give is between you and the Lord and we don't want anyone to feel pressurised.

Why are we giving away 15%?

As has been the case from the day we planted the church, we believe the Lord has asked us to give away 15% of

everything that comes in to things that do not directly benefit the church. This is no different and we are taking another step of faith, seeking to spend a significant portion of money on purposes beyond the benefit of Manchester Vineyard.

As a church, since planting, we've given away over £600,000 to things that don't directly benefit us as a church! We pray that we will always be a people that seek to be extravagantly generous with the resources entrusted to us.

When will work start?

If we are able to raise enough funds to make the project viable, we would start as soon as possible. Although, we are dependent on securing the building and getting the change of use to a place of worship, which is out of our hands.

Do we have the skills to manage a project like this?

The Lord has blessed us with people in the church, and contacts in the city, who are willing to give of their time and expertise to help facilitate this project. There are a few key people, with experience, who are willing to help shape the project, and we are sure many more will be drawn in once the project moves forward. We will also be working with architects, builders, and contractors etc.

Why this building and this location?

In many ways we believe the Lord has led us to this space. Also, as has so often been the case in our Sunday venue journey, we currently only have one option on the table in terms of location, availability, and suitability. The location of the building is highly accessible (with excellent transport links) for people joining us from across Greater Manchester, allowing us to be a regional hub that people from various locations can get to and, in the long-term, be sent from. We have a remarkable opportunity given the blank canvas nature of this building to shape its interior to suit and meet our many growing needs as a church.

Why are we looking at a property in the borough of Salford?

This property is within the boundaries of the location criteria that we have been discussing for a long time with our leaders. It is also currently, as has often been the case, the only building option available to us within the centre of Greater Manchester. Whilst 422 is in an area that has some of the highest levels of child poverty in the country, this building is in an area with some of the highest levels of overall deprivation in the country. Once again, it seems that God may be placing us in an area that desperately needs hands and hearts that are willing to make a difference.

What are the implications for 422?

A greater degree of permanence for our church will strengthen our ability to gather, train, equip, and resource the church community to serve the last, the least, and the lost. We believe having a home for the church will be a great complement to all we are already doing through 422. The more resourced and equipped we are as a church, the more we are able to give away and resource through 422.

Why are we leasing and not buying?

Steps of faith of this scale are significant and whilst we want to have faith, we are not willing to overstretch the church or be unrealistic. Buying a building costs multiple millions. Leasing provides us an achievable stepping stone for securing permanence for our mid-term future.

What are the terms of the lease?

We have a provisional agreement in place that would allow the building to work for us as a community, but as our ability to progress the negotiations has become money dependent, we are yet to fully land on the details.

How will this be sustainable?

The hope would be that over the coming years, the church will grow, allowing us to absorb the costs of leasing, and associated costs, into the annual

income. It is also our hope to be able to explore developing the space to be used for external hire, providing a further income stream to make this venture sustainable in the long-term.

What if we don't get enough money to do it?

As already mentioned, we need a sum of money to move forward in pursuing a building, even if not the current option. Any money given will be ring-fenced to allow us to explore securing a building. It might be that enough money comes in for us to initially secure the lease on the current building option, but with the need to proceed with renovations in multiple stages.

What if this building doesn't work out?

This building is not a certainty. Whilst we believe the Lord has led us to it and we've seen many doors open, it may not be right and we are trusting the Lord with this. If it doesn't work out, we believe this is a moment in our history where we need to step out in faith and place ourselves in the best position to step forward and create permanence for us as a church. Therefore, if this particular building does not work out, our intention would be to ring-fence the money given and continue to look for other options, as they become available.

What happened to the “Building for the Future” fund?

This has allowed us to continue to function as a church without a permanent building, as well as enabling us to begin exploring options for a building of our own, by covering legal and planning expenses. Always committed to giving a portion away, we have also been able to invest in several church initiatives in Albania.

How certain is being able to help the church in Albania?

As to whether we are able to progress with a purchase and renovation is hard

to know for certain, but without a doubt, we intend to increase our support as we continue to work through relationships with long-standing local partners.

What if I am reading this brochure after the Giving Day?

6th April 2025 is simply the day in which we hope to give enough to enable this vision to become a reality. However, we want everyone who would like to participate to feel very much part of our ongoing journey, by contributing to all that the Lord has called us to as a church.



Further Information

Vision Talk 2025:

www.mvuk.org/vision2025

Further Details:

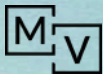
www.mvuk.org/UnlessTheLord

If you have any questions, email UnlessTheLord@manchestervineyard.org

For finance-related questions, email giving@manchestervineyard.org



Notes



hello@manchestervineyard.org / 0161 850 8905 /   

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