



**THIS IS
JUST THE
BEGINNING**



**UNLESS
THE LORD
BUILDS
THE HOUSE,
THE WORK
OF THE
BUILDERS
IS WASTED.**

PSALM 127:1

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. From the very beginning, our vision has been to cultivate a community of people eager to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, extending His heart and hands so that lives might be transformed.

We have always believed that the church exists not for itself, but for others. Because of that, we have chosen again and again to invest significant time, energy, and resources beyond ourselves, trusting God as we seek to serve the city He has placed us in. Each step of faith has required obedience, sacrifice, and trust — and once again, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment.

For many years, as we have sought a place of permanence for us as a church, we have lived with the awareness that "Unless the Lord builds the house, the work of the builders is wasted." (Psalm 127:1, NLT). We have tried to hold our

plans lightly, trusting God for provision in His timing and His way. We are deeply grateful that the Lord has now provided us with a building — a remarkable gift, and an answer to many prayers.

For over nine years, a considerable amount of our time and finances has gone into making "pop-up" church possible — relying on hired venues, portable resources, and extraordinary levels of volunteer commitment. While we are thankful for every space we have been able to gather in, these limitations have often restricted our ability to gather consistently and to live out our calling as fully as we long to.

Now, with grateful hearts, we want to share the next step of faith we believe the Lord is inviting us into — not simply owning a building, but forming a permanent home. A place that will enable us to deepen discipleship, strengthen community, and serve Manchester with greater faithfulness and sustainability.

This moment does not mark the end of a journey — it marks the beginning of a new

chapter. A home of our own — a space that will serve the church, shape our community, and support all that God is calling us to do beyond these walls.

So, we step forward with hope — trusting the Lord who has brought us this far, and longing for this next season to be shaped by Him, reflecting His design, His purposes, and His glory.

With love,

Paul & Steph



THE JOURNEY SO FAR

June 2016

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

March 2017

The church gave **£17,500** to invest in compassion projects in the city. (2)

2019-2021

We acquired the 422 building through a Community Asset Transfer with Manchester City Council and began renovating it in 2019. In August 2021, we opened the 422 Cafe through the generous support of many individuals, grant-making bodies, institutions and businesses. Since then, the building has been fully opened and is providing transformative opportunities and programmes to the local community.

The church gave a staggering **£249,700** to facilitate this vision. (4&5)

September 2016

We launched Sunday gatherings at the Rampant Lion. (1)

April 2017

We moved to the Dean Trust Ardwick. (3)

January 2024

A fire at the Dean Trust Ardwick meant rapidly relocating to another venue. We had to move three times in the space of six months, each time fully reliant on the availability and suitability of hired spaces.

We moved to East Manchester Academy. (6)

June 2024

We moved to our current Sunday venue, William Hulme's Grammar School. (8)

March 2022

Building the For The Future fund was created and the church gave £49,043. 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, professional and planning expenses. Always committed to giving a portion away, we have also been able to invest in several church initiatives in Albania.

February 2024

We relocated again to St Bede's College. (7)

March 2025

We shared a desire to raise funds toward exploring a property, and just a week before we shared the vision, the potential leasehold option we had been exploring fell through. In hindsight, it's clear that even that closed door played a part in the journey that led to this opportunity opening up.



(1)



(2)



(3)



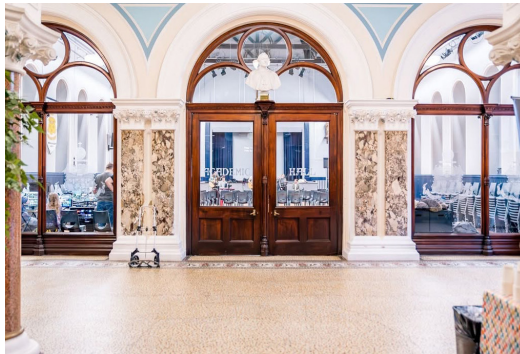
(4)



(5)



(6)



(7)



(8)



VISION BECOMES REALITY

In March 2025, we shared the vision to take a step of faith toward making this dream a reality. At that point, we had no certainty about where a building might be, or even whether the right opportunity existed within what we believed was a realistic budget. Yet, in an extraordinary act of faith, you gave a staggering £347,400, releasing the capacity for us to begin exploring what the Lord might open up.

Because of that faith and financial backing, we were able to work with a property consultant — and it wasn't long before a remarkable, God-shaped opportunity began to emerge. A building became available within the very area we had been praying and searching for, and even more remarkably, the owner was really pleased that the building would become a church once again. At first, the opportunity felt almost too good to be true — far beyond what we imagined we could afford.

AND YET, IN THE LORD'S EXTRAVAGANT KINDNESS, A WAY WAS MADE. THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF THE CHURCH AND PROVISION OF A MORTGAGE, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PURCHASE THE BUILDING.

Around this same time, a further £100,000 was given in quick succession by people outside of the church family — individuals who believed in what God is doing here and wanted to help see this vision become a reality.

FOLLOWING THE LORD'S LEADING



A while back, before this building was known, one of you shared something with us and we asked if you could draw it on a map.

You described an area of the city known informally — and even by the council — as the forgotten triangle. An area often overlooked. A place marked by significant need and limited provision. A community in need of long-term presence, compassion, and gospel-shaped hope.

You said that you sensed our heart as a church had always been for the area you marked in orange, and that the Lord was leading us to have a building in the area marked in green. As many of you will know, 422 sits firmly in the orange. And it turns out that the building the Lord has opened up for us is in the green.

When we realised this, there was a deep sense of peace — as though the Lord was quietly underlining what He'd been saying for some time.

The building the Lord has provided is only around 600 metres from 422 as the crow flies — close enough to feel connected, yet positioned to extend our presence further into the neighbourhoods around us.

What's been fascinating is that our hearts have always been drawn to the area around 422. That's where the story began for us. That's where we walked the streets and prayed over more than 10,000 homes.

Over the years, so many of you have shared prophetic words and pictures — images of heart and lungs, of proximity and breath, of a building just off a main road, down a smaller street, right in the heart of a housing estate. Those words stayed with us.

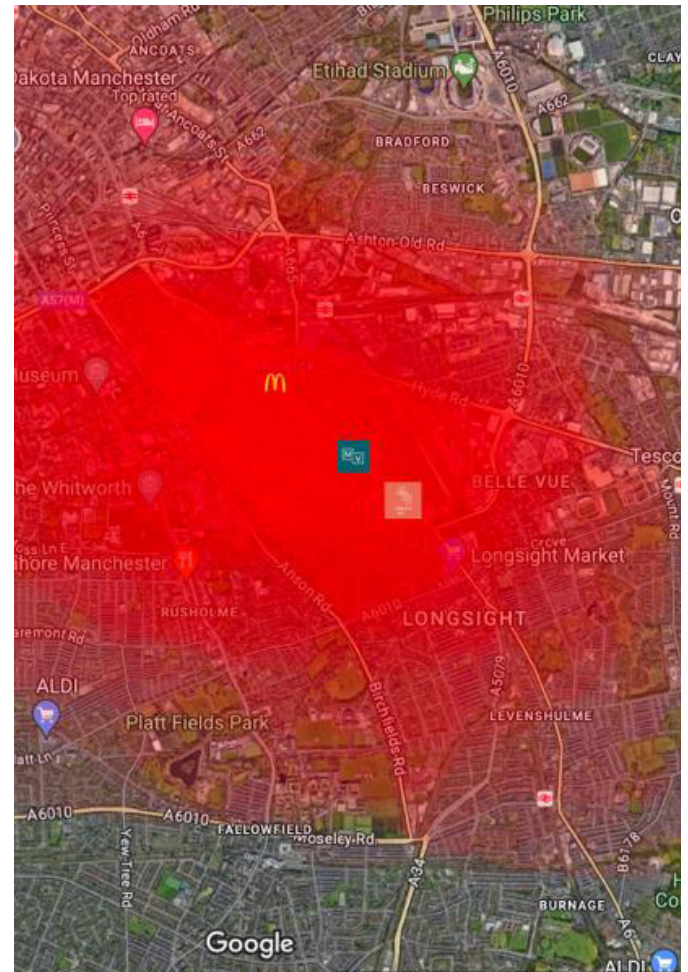
At one point, we asked some of our leaders where they sensed the building might be, and together we created a heat map of the areas they felt drawn to. Alongside that, we were working with our building consultant and said, “Here’s our general search area — but within that, there’s an even smaller area we’re really praying for.”

What so often happens when you take a step of faith happened again. God moved — suddenly and powerfully. What we had been praying for and dreaming about began to unfold.

For those of you who were here back in March 2025, you’ll remember that moment when, together, we held up our loaves and fish. You gave an extraordinary amount in faith. When Gift Aid was added, along with a further £100,000 that came in shortly afterwards, the total was just below £450,000.

YOU GAVE THAT WITHOUT KNOWING WHICH BUILDING IT WOULD BE, OR EXACTLY WHERE IT WOULD STAND. THAT IS REMARKABLE FAITH — AND WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL.

Several others had shared similar pictures and words over time — that the building would be located within a housing estate, along a quieter street coming off a major road into the city. Looking back now, the kindness and clarity of the Lord in those words feels deeply significant.



A HOME OF OUR OWN TAKING SHAPE

Back in 2002, a man with vision took on a church building that had originally been built to serve the people of Ardwick. While technically just over the boundary in West Gorton, its heart and purpose were always to bless that community.

As the church declined, the building became derelict, until it was purchased and transformed into a climbing centre — one that has since developed a strong reputation across the North West.

Over the years, the current owner has invested significantly in the building — from fire regulations and roofing work to heating and structural improvements. And now, at the very moment we have been praying and preparing, the building has reached a crossroads.

The footprint is around 17,000 square feet — just under a quarter of the size of a Premier League football pitch.

Once again, it feels as though the Lord has gone ahead of us. We never imagined this would be the answer, yet here we are — entrusted with something far greater than we expected. What we're stepping into is bigger, more beautiful, and more full of possibility than anything we dared to hope for.

PHASE ONE

**PREPARING
THE BUILDING
FOR USE**



The building has most recently been used as a climbing centre, and while significant investment has already been made, it is not currently configured for the purposes we intend to use it for as a church.

In this first phase, our focus is on making the building usable, safe, and welcoming. This will include modernising the existing toilets, adding appropriate facilities for children, and completing essential compliance and safety requirements. We will also need to furnish the space with chairs, create a welcoming entrance area, and install a simple kitchenette to support hospitality and community life.

To see this become a reality we will need to raise further funds so that we can make the space usable. Alongside exploring other income streams, this will also require sacrifice from many of us, while we don't know any details we know some will have given as much as they can, while others may be able to give more, others were waiting until we had a building or you may have joined recently and now find themselves with

an opportunity to step into the story alongside so many who have already given so generously.

We estimate that this first phase will require around £220,000.

For some, it may be helpful to see how specific gifts contribute to tangible outcomes. We want to do this well. Having never had to provide seating ourselves before, we need chairs for the main space — chairs that will serve us week in and week out, are comfortable to sit on, and will last for many years. Chairs of this quality cost around £80 each, and we will need approximately 300, costing a total of £24,000.

FOR SOME, THIS MIGHT LOOK LIKE GIFTING A CHAIR FOR YOURSELF AND A CHAIR FOR SOMEONE YET TO COME.

There are also essential upgrades, such as modernising the toilets and installing dedicated children's facilities. Welcoming children well is central to extending hospitality — not only to those already among us, but to the wider community. We are currently exploring options for children's toilets, with an estimated cost of £7,500.

In order to create a welcoming space on Sundays and enable us to eat together, run Alpha, and host gatherings for both the church and the wider community, we also plan to install a basic kitchenette, along with the associated chairs and equipment needed to make the welcome space genuinely hospitable. This is expected to cost around £8,700.

Some of the costs are simple and practical. For example, the existing climbing wall needs to be safely removed — work that must be carried out under very strict regulations. We will also need to construct some new internal walls and remove others, ensuring that all work is completed in full compliance with building and fire regulations.

Our heart is that, together, we are helping to form a space where people will gather, belong, encounter God, and be sent out to serve the city.

As has always been our commitment, 15% of everything given by church members will be given away to things that don't directly benefit us as a church. Even as we prepare a home of our own, we remain determined to be outward-facing, generous, and faithful to the wider Kingdom of God. With the 15% from this offering our intention is to prioritise funding a schools worker, as we believe this building gives us a remarkable opportunity not only to gather, but to reach deeply into the neighbourhood and extend our hearts well beyond ourselves.

We've been here before —standing in front of something bigger than our resources, yet completely within God's reach. Every significant step in our story has required faith, sacrifice, and a deep trust that the Lord would provide what we could not.

**OUR
PART IS
OBEDIENCE.
HIS PART IS
PROVISION.**

**LOOKING
AHEAD**

While our immediate focus is on getting into the building and making it functional, our vision extends well beyond this first stage. Our hope would be to develop the various worship, community and ministry spaces over time, ideally within the first five years of moving in.

This gives us the opportunity to begin functioning as a church in the building while holding a clear and hopeful vision for what it could become in the years ahead. Everything we need in terms of footprint and potential is already there, though in the early days there will inevitably be some limitations. As the space begins to serve the life of the church, we also anticipate many new people joining us, enabled by the capacity this building provides. We are hopeful and expectant for the long-term shaping of the space into all that it has the potential to become.





HOW WOULD THIS BE FUNDED?

It's important to say clearly that our intention is not for this to become another major church giving moment. While there will always be opportunities for individuals who feel prompted to contribute, especially those who are yet to join us, we are very aware that there are grants available for church buildings like the one we are buying — particularly for Grade II listed buildings — that are designed to help facilitate work of this nature.

When we embarked on the journey of 422 back in 2019, the church gave an extraordinary £249,700. That generosity became the seed money for the project. In the months and years that followed, through a combination of donated time, materials, and substantial grant funding, almost £2 million came in to transform the building and create the platform for all that 422 has since become.

We believe that the seed we are sowing in Phase 1 has the potential to create a similar moment here — enabling us to access wider funding, steward larger opportunities, and see the space grow into all that God intends it to be.

THE INVITATION

We are inviting you — and anyone else who would like to — to partner with us in making this vision a reality. This moment is primarily about upfront gifts, rather than ongoing pledges, as our hope is to complete this first phase of work within a three-month period, enabling us to move into the building as quickly as possible.

For phase 1 we anticipate that the majority of the funding will come from within the church family and those connected to us, rather than through grants or external funders. This feels like a moment for us, together, to respond to what God has placed in our hands.

We would encourage you to give as the Lord prompts you, and in accordance with the resources He has entrusted to 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 grateful hearts.

GIVING DAY

We will be holding a Giving Day creating space to pray, fast, and consider the part each of us might play. Our hope is that on that day we would bring our gifts — and where appropriate, our commitments — as a church family, including our children. The total will then be announced a few Sundays later.

While many gifts will be given online via bank transfer or direct debit, there is something meaningful and symbolic about physically responding together. For those present on the day, there will be an opportunity to place the completed response form from this brochure into the offering basket.



UPFRONT GIFTS

Upfront gifts will allow this work to move forward without cash-flow restrictions and enable us to prepare the building swiftly and safely. We would prefer gifts to be made online using the church's bank details listed on the commitments page, with the reference: [surname]/UTL26.

If you already give regularly to Manchester Vineyard, we encourage you to continue that commitment, treating any gift toward 'Unless The Lord' as additional to your regular giving.

Gifts can also be made via the church website, or on Giving Day by card or cash. Please note that card payments incur a transaction fee, and for security reasons we would prefer to keep cash giving to a minimum.

ONGOING PLEDGES

While we would never want to discourage regular giving, and you may wish to split your contribution over a few months, our intention is that this phase is not an ongoing financial burden. The focus is on enabling us to move in quickly, with the essential work completed and the space ready for use from day one.

GIFT AID

If you already give regularly and have completed a Gift Aid declaration, this will automatically apply to your gift. If you are not currently Gift Aiding, completing the Gift Aid section on the commitment form allows us to reclaim an additional 25% on your gift from HMRC, at no extra cost to you.

STEPPING OUT IN FAITH

Jesus reminds us that when much has been entrusted to us, much is required in return (Luke 12:48). Often, God invites us to loosen our grip on the things we rely on, and instead trust Him to provide in unexpected ways. Time and again, we have seen His faithfulness as we have stepped forward in obedience.

As you consider what to give, we encourage you to make that decision prayerfully. For many of us, simply giving from what is left over will not release very much. For this to happen, it will cost — and it will involve sacrifice.

You may find that God invites you to make changes to everyday spending habits, or to commit to something tangible — perhaps a row of chairs, or contributing toward a specific part of the work.

We are very aware that this ask comes on the back of significant generosity already shown. To put it into context, this phase represents the equivalent of 220 people giving £1,000. We do not say that lightly, and we fully recognise that not everyone will be in a position to give in that way.

This is not about equal gifts, but each of us playing our part — stepping forward in faith, as an act of worship, partnering with what God is doing in Manchester.

EQUAL SACRIFICE, NOT EQUAL GIFTS

We want to be a community that gives sacrificially, but also freely. What sacrifice looks like will be different for each of us. We give in proportion to what God has given us, trusting that He knows our hearts, our circumstances, and the true cost of our obedience.

**THE MOST
IMPORTANT
THING IS NOT THE
AMOUNT, BUT THAT
WE EACH RESPOND
TO WHAT THE LORD
IS ASKING OF US.**

GIFT COMMITMENT FORM

YOUR DETAILS

This form represents amounts separate to regular giving

Name

Address

Postcode

Email

Phone

Cheques should be made payable to Manchester Vineyard or bank transfer to:

Bank: Lloyds

Account Name: Manchester Vineyard

Account Number: 67880768

Sort Code: 30-90-91

Reference: [mysurname]/UTL26

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

UPFRONT GIFT

My gift is £

I have transferred my gift online

My gift is enclosed

I will send my gift by (date)



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

Signed

Address

Date

Postcode

Please treat this (and all donations I have 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.

Email

Phone



PRAYER & FASTING

As a church we will be praying and fasting at various levels prior to the Giving Day. We'd love to invite you to join us in these moments and you can find all the details on the website.

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 the money that is needed.
- Wisdom for those that will be leading and coordinating this project.
- For the people yet to come.
- God's hand in the local area as we seek to establish a presence.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are we doing this now?

Because the Lord has provided an opportunity that is far beyond what we ever imagined. Through the gifts given so far and the provision of a mortgage, we have been able to purchase this building — something we never assumed would be possible.

Now that we are here, the question before us is not whether we move in, but how we steward what God has placed in our hands. This first phase of work allows the building to become usable, safe, and welcoming, so that it can function as a springboard for all that God is calling us into — strengthening the life of the church and serving the city with greater faithfulness and sustainability.

What if more than £220,000 is given?

That would be wonderful if this did happen! We would then be able to proceed with everything we have planned and we would allocate it towards enabling further works.

Will anybody 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.

Since planting the church, we have given away — or committed to giving — well over £147,000 to causes that do not directly benefit us as a church. Our prayer is that we would always be a people marked by

extravagant generosity, faithfully stewarding the resources entrusted to us for the good of others.

This figure does not include specific giving campaigns over the years — such as food bank appeals and other initiatives for the city — where 100% of what was given away for the benefit of others.

Last time we gave some of the 15% towards projects we intend to facilitate in Albania, are we still committed to that?

Our commitment to Albania remains very much in place. The funds ring-fenced toward that work are still a work in progress, and we are fully committed to seeing that commitment worked through faithfully and responsibly. At the same time, this moment presents a significant opportunity to invest locally. With a permanent base in this neighbourhood, we have an increased ability to build long-term relationships with

surrounding schools and to sow into an emerging generation right on our doorstep. This is not a shift away from global mission, but a recognition that the Lord is opening a timely door for deeper local impact alongside our wider commitments. We believe both matter, and that generosity expressed globally and locally reflects the heart of the Kingdom. Our desire is to steward this season wisely — honouring what we have already committed to, while also responding to the opportunities God is placing in front of us now.

When will work start?

If we are able to raise enough funds, we would start as soon as possible and envisage it taking around 3 months before we can safely move in.

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 and across the country 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.

What are the implications for 422?

We believe having a home for the church will be a great complement to all we are already doing through 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. The more resourced and equipped we are as a church, the more we are able to give away and resource through 422.

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

As already mentioned, we estimate we will need around £220,000 to move forward in facilitating us moving in. Whilst in phase 1 we are intending on only doing what is needed to get us in, it might be that we have to significantly scale back to absolute essentials. We'd have to review this should the situation arise. Our hope would be that we could move in with the work done well enough for it to be a welcoming space for you and those yet to come.

Is this building too big, and is the scope of the project beyond us?

We've certainly asked ourselves this carefully. In one sense, the building is bigger than we were naturally seeking, and parts of the project will stretch us. But it is not beyond God, nor beyond what we believe He has entrusted to us in this season.

We are not attempting to do everything at

once. Our approach is deliberately phased and prayerful. Phase 1 focuses simply on making the building usable, safe, and welcoming. Any further development will only be pursued as clarity, capacity, and provision allow.

We also recognise that we are not meant to carry this alone. We are drawing on professional expertise, appropriate governance, and the church community. We have walked journeys like this before — moments that initially felt larger than our resources, yet proved to be within God’s provision when taken step by step.

So, while this building stretches us, we believe it does so in a way that invites dependence, wisdom, and trust — not pressure or overreach.

Has God definitely said to do this?

We’ve always been cautious about using language like “God has said” in absolute terms. We believe we only ever see and

know in part, and that discernment is something we do together, over time, with humility.

Rather than a single moment of certainty, this has been a journey of prayer, conversation, and collective wisdom. Alongside many others, our leaders, trustees, and trusted voices both within and beyond the church have sought to discern what is wise and faithful. Again and again, this opportunity has presented itself as a door that has opened — often in unexpected ways.

We recognise this as a remarkable opportunity, and while we hold our plans lightly, we have sensed a growing peace and alignment as we’ve taken each step. We move forward not claiming absolute certainty, but with faith, accountability, and a shared desire to respond well to what God appears to be placing before us. We’ve had moments where it would have been easy to take control or try to shape this in our own strength, but we chose instead to

pause, step back, and wait — and each time so far, the door has remained open and the opportunity has been strengthened rather than reduced.

What might it look like longer term?

Further upgrades to the building are a significant undertaking, particularly within a Grade II listed building. It would require careful planning, close collaboration with specialist professionals, and engagement with appropriate funding bodies. This is not unfamiliar territory — others have undertaken similar projects, and this particular building has previously had a partial mezzanine installed, which gives us encouragement.

That said, we want to be clear that all plans are held lightly. While we believe further works are possible, it will require further exploration, permissions, and discernment as the journey unfolds.

Our hope is to undertake this work while the

building is already in use. This would likely involve careful phasing, aligning some of the more disruptive elements with quieter periods such as the summer months, and being creative for a time as work takes place. As with every step so far, our desire is to move forward wisely — balancing vision with stewardship, faith with patience, and progress with care for the church community.

How does this building serve our mission, rather than become the mission?

We've never believed that buildings are the focal point — the church is people, not property. This building doesn't change our mission; it supports it. It gives us stability so we can live out our calling more faithfully, not more inwardly, freeing us from constant set-up and hire costs so more of our energy can go into discipleship, compassion, and mission beyond ourselves. This is not about becoming a building-focused church, but about using a practical tool to invest more

deeply in people, serve Manchester, and bless the wider community.

Can I offer my practical skills?

Absolutely — we would love that. We long to see the church community practically involved in this project wherever possible. The journey of 422 was a remarkable moment of shared effort and ownership, and we hope this season will carry a similar sense of togetherness.

At the same time, we need to work within clear parameters. Some elements of the work must be carried out by qualified professionals and approved contractors to meet safety, compliance, and insurance requirements. We will steward that carefully. Alongside this, we fully expect there to be moments where a practical, hands-on response from the church will be both appropriate and invaluable. While the financial offering is a significant way for us to release something beyond ourselves in this phase, a day will come when practical

help — time, skills, and energy — will be very much needed.

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

The Giving Day 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 and 2026:
www.mvuk.org/Vision2025
www.mvuk.org/Vision2026

Further details:
www.mvuk.org/UnlessTheLord

If you have any questions email
BuildingTeam@manchestervineyard.org

Or finance-related questions email
giving@manchestervineyard.org

NOTES



hello@manchestervineyard.org
0161 850 8905



Registered Address:
Manchester Vineyard
Colony
5 Piccadilly Place
Manchester
M1 3BR

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Affiliated to  **vineyard churches**

