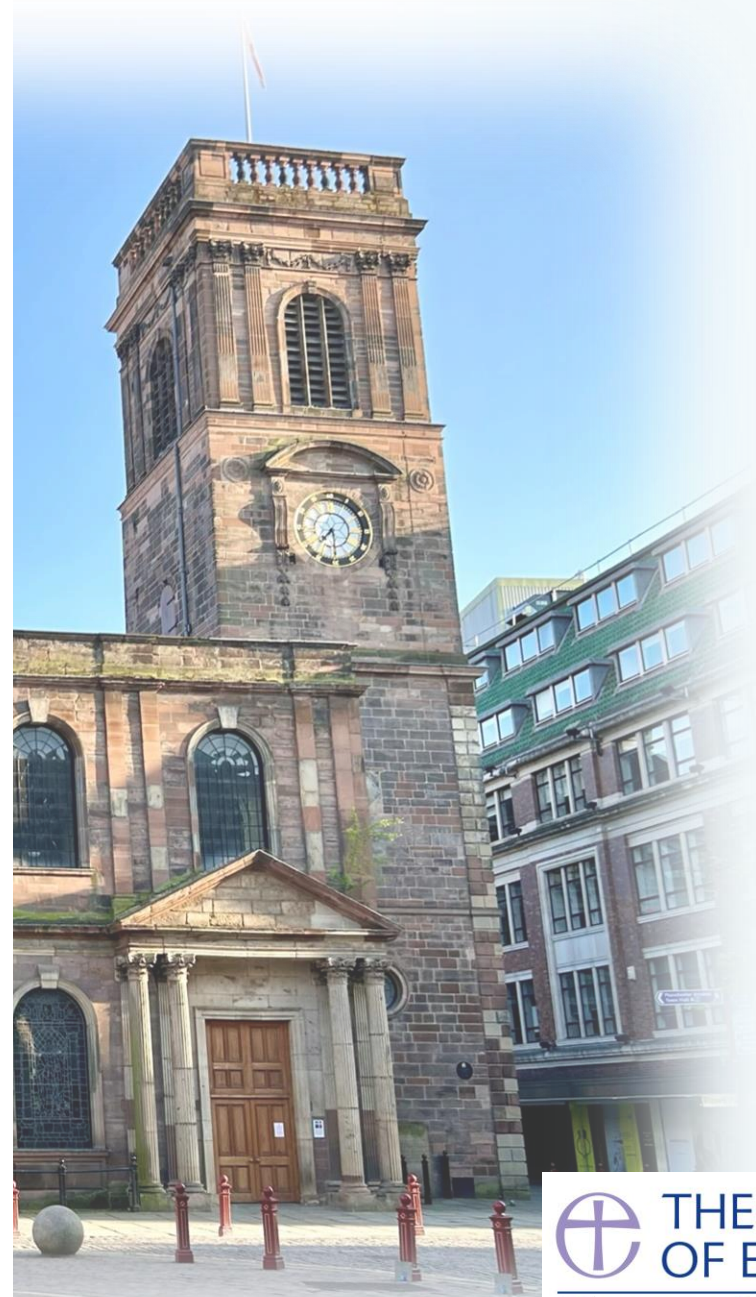




# St Ann's Church Manchester

[www.stannsmanchester.com](http://www.stannsmanchester.com)



 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Manchester





# A message to you, our prospective Rector

St Ann's has the vision to be at the spiritual heart of the vibrant, growing city of Manchester. We are praying for the right Rector to lead us to build on and develop our existing strength in worship rooted in central Anglican choral tradition. We are open to God's lead to extend and deepen our spiritual life together and to reach out to our many varied communities in a parish with rapid population growth.

We want to grow our congregation spiritually and in number and make even more use of our wonderful, ideally-located building as a spiritual resource and a venue for music and other events. In doing so, we seek to consolidate and improve our financial position and secure our heritage.

We offer a welcoming and supportive congregation and PCC, keen to encourage you to develop your own particular gifts and enthusiasm in ministry. You will be part of a wider Mission Community, including adjoining parishes and the Cathedral, seeking more and more to work together to build God's kingdom for the good of our city.

If you believe that you are the person God is calling to lead us into exciting times ahead, please read further!

With our warmest blessings and gratitude for taking an interest in our parish.



St Ann's  
Church  
Manchester



# Our Mission

To welcome all who come into our church and let them know they are valued by God, whatever their origin and situation.

To proclaim God's kingdom through regular reverent and engaging acts of worship.

To attract and support new Christians, helping them to discover and develop their faith, teaching and nurturing that faith at every stage of their spiritual journey.

To respond to human need through loving service.

To show love for our neighbours by challenging injustice and violence as we encounter them.



Jesus the Homeless



# Our Position and our Parish

St Ann's is in the very centre of the city, at the head of a busy pedestrianised square. It is surrounded by businesses, catering outlets, shops and offices. Among its many functions, it is often used for civic events and city-wide celebrations – on occasion in recent years, it has been a focus of city-wide mourning.

The resident population of our parish is 30,000 and is likely to increase still further as planned development is realized, which presents an enormous opportunity to grow our church.

Many residents are transient; young people in the early stages of their working lives, affiliated with other religions or none. Those that do identify as Christian have a vast array of different styles of worship available to them. Our local communities include students at local universities and colleges, a large business community, a large and growing community recently arrived from Hong Kong, a vibrant LGBTQ+ community strongly represented locally, and a community of dislocated, homeless and others in extreme need.

Many of those who live and work in the city centre visit St Ann's, either once or from time to time, and are welcomed into the building throughout the week. Some stay and attend our weekday services, or even become part of our Sunday congregation. However, many walk by, or briefly visit and move on. There is a huge opportunity to review and develop our outreach to these people, and to look to involving them more closely in the life of our church.



# Our Church Building

St Ann's is a Grade 1 listed landmark building, designed by John Barker in the neo-classical style and consecrated in 1712. The interior was extensively re-modelled in the 1880s by Alfred Waterhouse; it was at this time that the choir stalls and most of our much-admired pre-Raphaelite stained glass were installed. The church also contains other fine artworks and ornaments, for example, the original pulpit (lowered by Waterhouse) and altar table (now in the Lady Chapel), an 18th-century window by William Peckitt, and a large oil painting of the Descent from the Cross attributed to the school of Annibale Carracci.

Our church is open six days a week for visits, prayer and quiet reflection, and is used by a wide range of people - locals on a lunch break or shopping trip, tourists (it is a rare day which does not include encounters from those visiting the UK), or people looking for a deeper spiritual experience. Some come out of curiosity, some for a peaceful escape from the bustle of the city, some in search of emotional support. Some come for prolonged prayer or a profound encounter with God.

If we are to achieve our vision, our building will require some improvement and modernisation. This offers a real opportunity for someone with the collaboration and facilitation skills – and the energy – to help us unlock our building's full potential. Such a major project might best be undertaken by a suitably qualified lay person under the incumbent's supervision.





# Our Congregation

We have a lively, diverse and committed congregation. It is of all ages, including young families, students, those of working age, and retired members through to their nineties. All are welcomed into the fellowship of worship. We offer a play area to pre-school age children.

There are currently 96 members on the parish Electoral Roll. On average, 120 people in total attend the weekly services, of whom around 65 attend the 10:45 am Sunday Eucharist service.

A high proportion of our 10:45 congregation come in from different parts of Manchester and beyond, drawn by our style of worship and the quality of the music. While this is a welcome testament to the success of the church, it also provides us with a strong incentive and opportunity to reach and attract more people from within our parish.

Many people from our congregation take an active part in the life of the church. For example, our popular Saturday Café is provided with delicious home-made cakes and plays an important part in our outreach; our lay-led Lent study group has been very successful, and there is a wish to continue with more; an army of welcomers and sidespersons ensure that visitors are welcomed, the church cleaned, flowers arranged and events and services fully and safely stewarded.

There is a desire to continue and develop this, to widen the areas in which members of the congregation feel able and empowered to lead in specific areas of the church's mission, both through training and encouragement.





# Our Worship

St Ann's worship is rooted in the Eucharistic Anglican tradition using the liturgy of Common Worship and the Book of Common Prayer. Members of the congregation take part in leading the weekly Services, in the reading of scripture and leading intercessions.

Our regular Sunday Services are a said Communion at 9 am, a Sung Eucharist at 10.45 am and Choral Evensong at 5 pm. There are Services at lunchtimes on Tuesday and Thursday when a said Communion is celebrated.



At special times of the Church's year, additional Services and events are held. These include Services throughout Holy Week and Easter, a Whitsun walk of witness and numerous additional Services during the Advent and Christmas periods, including well-regarded Advent and Christmas Festivals of Carols led by our own choir.

During December, we also host about 20 other carol Services and Christmas events involving local schools and professional businesses and charitable organisations – a high point of our relationship with the city centre community.

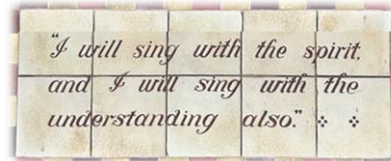
We are aware of the potential to broaden our worship offering. In the past, we have offered Taizé worship, healing Services and daily lunchtime prayers.



# Our Music

Worship is led by St Ann's Choir, under our Director of Music Alexander Rebetge, who previously worked at the famous Windsbacher Knabenchor in Bavaria and at St George's Berlin and is now following a postgraduate conducting course at the Royal Northern College of Music.

The choir, which is around 30 strong and leads worship at our 10.45 am Eucharist and 5 pm Evensong, offers music in the traditional style covering five centuries. Typical repertoire can be reviewed in the "Music" section of the St Ann's website.



The church welcomes visitors to an hour of music on Wednesday lunchtimes. This is usually an organ recital given by our Director of Music, our St Ann's organ scholar or a visiting organist. The Royal Northern College of Music provide soloists or small chamber groups on some Wednesdays during term time. These events have a regular following, with audiences ranging from 20 to 50+.

The church is regularly used for concerts by outside groups, including Piccadilly Sinfonietta, Manchester Camerata and Manchester Baroque. We have also welcomed musicians taking part in the Manchester Jazz Festival and other organisations. These events often attract large audiences, which both increases the number of people aware of St Ann's and brings in funds.



Steinway B Piano

Scholar at the organ console



St Ann's Choir on tour in Ripon Cathedral August 2022



# Our Staff and Voluntary Officers

Our Verger Paul Campion is the face of St Ann's. He welcomes visitors, answers questions, and supports and encourages those in need. Importantly, he also solves practical problems within the building. In the 2021 New Year's Honours, Paul was awarded the BEM for his service to his local community.

Our Church Manager, William Jeavons, is employed to discover and enable commercial opportunities for the church within its overall mission. He is an experienced and capable administrator who runs many aspects of the church's life and affairs and also acts as a bookkeeper for St Ann's.

Our Director of Music, Alex Rebetge, is assisted by the Deputy Director of Music, James Hume. We also support an Organ Scholarship and have two Organ Scholars in post.

Our four Churchwardens, Jennifer, Andrew, Michael and Alan, together with our PCC have been working hard together to ensure the church ministry continues during the Interregnum. They have recently dealt with some challenging situations relating to church property and this has led to reflection on the decision-making process, resulting in a more focused and energized PCC.

The PCC is supported and advised by our Strategy and Stewardship Committee comprising the Churchwardens, the Church Treasurer and PCC Secretary. Other members of the PCC may be invited or co-opted to this committee. The Incumbent would normally lead this group.

We acknowledge and are grateful for the help of Canon Alma and Father Keith, retired clergy who support St Ann's. This has been especially true during the months without a Rector, when their work and support have been invaluable.

We are also grateful for the goodwill and high regard that the many clergy from the diocese, some of whom trained here, have shown us by stepping in to cover Services during this time.



Paul Campion, Verger

Alex Rebetge, Director of Music



St Ann's Church Wardens





# Our Vision

St Ann's is at the physical heart of Manchester. We like to think of it also as the spiritual heart of the city. We would love to build on and develop this idea. Much more could be done.

We could:

- Bring in more members of the local population, encouraging them to join a regular congregation and become core members of the church community;
- Do more to specifically serve the local business and commercial community, looking to attract them into church with events at strategic times of the day;
- Consider offering a wider range of external events, both sacred and secular;
- Develop our charitable activities, perhaps including offering more practical help to the needy and homeless close to our doors.

Achieving all that would not be easy. Our congregation is already stretched, and our financial resources are limited. However, there are real opportunities to grow both, attracting larger numbers of younger people and financial support from local communities and businesses.

An even more ambitious and exciting possibility, given the position of the church and the affection in which it is held by many of the people of Manchester, would be to embark on a radical building program to make the building into a vibrant multi-purpose space, transforming the cultural and spiritual life of the city centre.

This is a really challenging idea. Fulfilling it would require prayer, hope, determination and hard work – as well as enormous energy and commitment and a very strong vision so that we could present potential financial supporters with an exciting opportunity. But under the right circumstances, and with the right leadership, it could become a reality.





# Our Ideal Candidate

Our congregation is diverse and inclusive and is happy to work with an Incumbent who embraces that diversity.

## Essential talents

- Able to lead the spiritual life of the congregation in worship and teaching.
- An experienced team player and leader with the enthusiasm and skill-set to develop the resources of people, building and finance required to grow our church, encouraging and nurturing the many talents and skills within our congregation.

## Desirable talents

- The energy and enthusiasm to take us to a new phase in our development as a church community, moving forward towards the fulfilment of our vision.
- Approachable and down to earth, with pastoral sensitivity, empathy and compassion for those who might be going through difficult times; able to inspire and relate to Christians and non-Christians alike.
- Understanding the power of music to reach out to our congregation and beyond, sympathetic to the traditional style of music and worship currently offered but open to exploring new avenues.
- Understanding the needs of the various communities we support and able to respond appropriately to a range of circumstances.
- Comfortable with the attention that comes with the high profile of a city centre church, able to deal with the civic and occasionally national duties which come with the post and at ease with building relationships with the powerful business and civic communities around us.
- Resilient, self-confident and with a sense of humour, comfortable in their own identity and able to work with and lead a diverse range of people.