



4+2 COMMUNITY HUB

A project of
Manchester Vineyard



The journey so far



Having met in Manchester over 20 years ago, Paul and Steph now lead Manchester Vineyard, a local church that has taken on the transformation of 422.

Our community experiences some of the highest rates of poverty, not just in Manchester, but in the UK. Manchester Vineyard meets on a Sunday just up the road from 422 and has a heart to love Manchester in practical ways and make a difference on issues of injustice in our city, particularly around child poverty.

In the earlier stages of the pandemic, as a community, we established a food bank taking referrals from the local council, supporting 1,126 households by providing 26,775 meals. We continue to find ways to practically meet local needs.

In February 2019, we shared our vision with the church to take on the old Longsight Youth Centre through a community asset transfer with Manchester City Council. We knew this abandoned building needed a lot of work, but could see so much potential for it to become a welcoming hub to provide activities that boost

well-being, practically meet local needs and create a space for organisations to bring in expert support and advice to help our community thrive.

Within two months, Manchester Vineyard generously gave over £200k to get the building project started. Since then we have received generous grants, in-kind donations and volunteer time alone that has been worth over £250k.


As Manchester faced continual restrictions, we were able to open 422 each week as a space for volunteer working groups to begin transforming the space. For some, this proved to be a lifeline, providing somewhere to meet others safely and be a part of something bigger than themselves.



Since August 2021, the 422 Cafe has been open and various rooms have hosted activities such as music lessons, support for local women and an NHS Flu Vaccination Day in the hall.

We are so thankful to the huge number of supporters, organisations and volunteers who have helped 422 get this far and we cannot wait for all that is ahead!

Paul & Steph Lowe
Manchester Vineyard Church Leaders

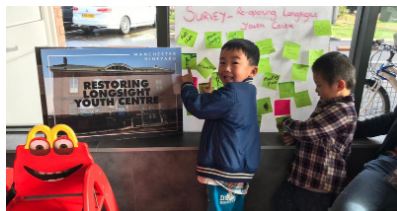
-  [ManchesterVineyardUK](#)
-  [Manchestervineyard](#)
-  [ManchesterVnyrd](#)

Community listening

We have spoken with many people in our community to gather ideas and hopes for 422. We have had hundreds of doorstep conversations and hosted pop-up consultations in Longsight Library and McDonalds.

During a focus group, local school children reflected on the headlines that child poverty was rampant in our city, and that some families have to choose between eating or heating their homes. They discussed the change they would love to see:

“[We need] a place for young kids to enjoy, like a youth centre where you can discuss your struggles and where you can talk about things that can help you, have fun and learn. There needs to be shops where food doesn’t cost too much for families who are struggling and if they can’t pay their rent and bills.”



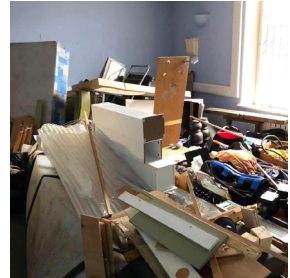
For families or individuals experiencing poverty, whether through joblessness, chronic low income or physical or mental illness, this can create immediate practical challenges, as well as feelings of hopelessness, isolation and anxiety, only exacerbated by the pandemic.

As we create programmes such as the Community Pantry, Lunches and After-School Clubs, and invite other like-minded groups to hire spaces in 422, we plan to see hope restored and a community transformed.

Tackling social isolation and building community was one of the most prominent themes to come out of conversations with our community. Having an affordable cafe space, free groups to join and a warm space for activities is a priority.

By practically providing through programmes like a Community Fridge & Pantry, we hope to be able to alleviate some of the pressing needs people face.

Support for the long term. Whether through providing opportunities, boosting confidence, physical and mental well-being or being a space our community can be proud of, we seek to not only meet immediate needs, but help loosen the grip of poverty on our community for the long term.



Renovation

The transformation of 422 began in July 2019 and some parts of the building are now unrecognisable! Various teams shifted the mess left by squatters and began the renovations.

Many organisations have given free or discounted labour and materials to 422 which has made so much of this possible.

Training

422 has been a space where individuals can receive training and gain experience to help them step into further employment or training.

Dylan a joinery apprentice, joined us for work experience. Whilst completing college he continued to volunteer, demonstrating his skills and expertise. He has since built up the skills and confidence to work on other projects too!

£250k worth of volunteer time

8000 bin bags filled

20 walls knocked down

17 huge new windows

2 stages removed

1 tree uprooted from roof

7 toilets installed

28 new doors

250sq/m of 150 year old lath and plaster removed



“ I came here in the mid-late 80s for badminton and weight training. It was really good! It kept us off the streets and kept us out of trouble, so I’m really pleased it’s going to reopen again! **Local Resident** ”

A rich history

422 was built in 1850 by the Mechanics Institution as a Public Library & Hall for the education and entertainment of the community, with almost half the funds raised by donations. It was the second free Public Library in England and Alexander Ireland was a driving force in its creation. More recently it was a Youth Centre but after funding dried up, it stood empty for around 10 years.

Manchester is steeped in historic justice. Edwin Chadwick was born directly opposite 422. He worked hard to ensure the poorest children in the 1800s, who were set to work, also had an education. We seek to continue the story!

Restoring the beauty

Great care has been taken to restore beautiful parts of 422, like the staircase and balustrade. This has helped to reduce the waste and ensure we are using resources efficiently. We have removed false ceilings and created a sense of space. We hope that 422 can be a Hub that people enjoy, find beauty in, can be proud of and take care of for generations to come.



@james.s.patterson drone image (And front cover)

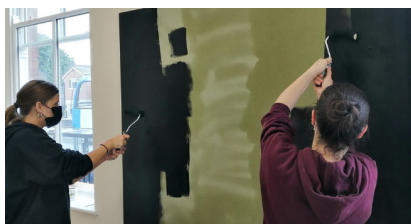


**Now Open
Mon-Fri 9-3**

Hot Drinks & Cake	£1
Jacket Potatoes, Soup, Sandwiches, Toasties	£1.50
Breakfast	£2.50
*Halal Menu	

Since opening in August, we have had 947 customers, served 707 hot drinks, 522 pieces of cake and given away 135 free drinks! Our Pay it Forward scheme for drinks and lunches means that no-one has to go without.

The transformation of the Cafe and kitchen has been remarkable! The space is already being used to bring our community together, tackle social isolation, boost well-being and tackle poverty.



Community lunches

Up to 30 people, each week, have joined us for our Community Lunches. These run from 12-2pm every Tuesday lunchtime, for anyone to join.

Each session is intentional in building community, being a friendly, warm space to meet others over a game, enjoy a free activity or get some expert advice from professionals on health, safety and well-being.

“ Thank you for giving me something to come along to! **Local Resident** ”

Purposeful Partnerships

Pure Innovations

We are thrilled to be partnering with Pure Innovations, a charity that supports people facing challenges due to learning disabilities, autism or mental health related issues. They work alongside people to develop their sense of purpose and belonging.

Pure Innovations enables their clients to connect and contribute to their local community through serving in the field of hospitality, among lots of other opportunities.

Pure Innovations cover all the staffing costs for the 422 Cafe, meaning that our menu can be highly affordable.

Clients of Pure Innovations are able to develop new, essential skills, whilst also gaining independence, raising aspirations, confidence, and ultimately improving their health and well-being.



www.pureinnovations.co.uk
@PureInnovations

Jacob's story

Just two weeks into Jacob joining the 422 Cafe Team, we asked him what he was enjoying the most:

"I like the people and the work I do here, the customers, cleaning and woking on the iPad till... I also really do enjoy baking too!"

As one of Pure Innovations clients, Jacob spends a few days a week at the 422 Cafe. He has been thriving in learning new skills and bringing service with a smile.

All of this experience has helped build his confidence, with customers and in trying out new activities. Come by and enjoy a delicious lunch made by Jacob and the team!





**We want to build
a community that finds
and understands the
needs of the city and
seeks to practically and
compassionately
respond to them.**

Purposeful Partnerships

Olympias Music Foundation

Olympias Music Foundation have been one of the first groups to hire spaces in 422 each week. They are passionate about bringing communities together through music.

The Learn to Play programme hosted in 422, is teaching 46 local children how to play violins, violas, cellos, flutes, clarinets and saxophones. Each child has learnt how to take care of their instrument and takes it home to practice in the week.

A recent report by Olympias shows how these lessons are so much more than learning to play an instrument. Music can give 'comfort or emotional support during difficulties, as well as structure.' Children reported 'improved confidence and well-being as a result of taking violin lessons. Despite feeling nervous or finding it difficult to begin with, many felt learning to play the violin helped build their confidence.'



www.olympiasmusicfoundation.com
[@OlympiasMusic](https://twitter.com/OlympiasMusic)



Life-changing opportunities



“ I am so grateful to OMF for offering this amazing and life-changing opportunity for Hiba and Hooria. Hooria is learning flute and Hiba is learning cello. I see every week, they come out of their music lessons with the most proudest smile on their faces. It is just priceless for me to see that as a mother.

I always wanted for them to have a chance to learn about music and musical instruments, as it offers holistic learning alongside their school education, but it always felt out of reach because of the extortionate prices of music lessons. With OMF offering free lessons in our community, this has made a dream come true for us as a family.

Local Resident



We are so thankful to everyone who has made 422 possible so far, whether you have given time each week to volunteer, championed 422 by giving generously of your organisations' resources, or just supported the Cafe by buying a coffee! We would love for you to stay involved.

There's still a huge amount to be completed at 422. We have received generous support to install a passenger lift to make the whole building accessible, to finish transforming the hall and to build a carpark in the coming months.

The basement is an enormous project that we plan to undertake as resources allow. This space will eventually provide a sustainable source of income through multi-use office rooms and hopefully a digital room with a recording studio to benefit the community!

Programmes and activities are already springing up in 422 that provide such important opportunities in our community, and we cannot wait for what lies ahead.

How you can support 422

Volunteer

Join in with regular volunteer groups to transform the space. Sign up at: mvuk.org/422WorkParty.

We also host volunteer days for companies looking to give back. Get in touch to see how this could work for your organisation!

hello@422manchester.org

Give financially

To give financially towards 422, you can visit mvuk.org/give

Our bank details are:

Bank: Lloyds Bank

Sort Code: 30-90-91

Account Number: 67880768

Account Name: Manchester Vineyard

Reference: 422



Spread the word

We would love for as many people as possible to know about 422.

Could you bring a friend or colleague for lunch in the 422 Cafe? Who else could you invite to be part of the 422 vision of seeing our community thrive?



Stay in touch

Sign up to receive our newsletter to stay in touch with the latest news, events and progress with 422.

mvuk.org/422updates

Hire a space

To enquire about hiring a space at 422, drop us an email.

hello@422manchester.org



422 COMMUNITY HUB

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A project of
Manchester Vineyard

