

Holy Trinity **Platt**

VISION

BUILD THE BASE, REACH THE CITY



‘make the
most of every
opportunity’

Colossians 4v5b

INTRODUCTION

This booklet explains the Holy Trinity Platt vision and sets it in the context of our identity, purpose and values. We believe we are being challenged by God to use the opportunities we have been given more fully and faithfully. In addition to our commitment to our church, parish and area we now take a bold step forward and pray and work towards the creation and encouragement of loving, healthy gospel communities across Manchester, so that the city can be reached for Christ.

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OUTLINE



This is an outward looking vision to seek God's blessing on the city and our Anglican Diocese of Manchester in a more definitive way than we have ever expressed it before.

This gives a more distinct role for Platt and a much more challenging future scenario to pray and work towards.

This will take us out of our comfort zones more than we have known in the past. It will have implications in terms of being serious about our discipleship and sending gifted people out to other gospel ministries. We encourage our members to commit to this in ways such as living locally and giving more generously.

OUR VISION

comes as four prayers for the next few years:

1. A growing number of thriving, evangelical churches across our city
2. Platt itself as a hub for imaginative Christian outreach
3. A congregation equipped and engaged for wholehearted service
4. Resources that fully support this ministry.

OUR IDENTITY

Like any church we should centre our lives on Jesus Christ in worship, discipleship, care and outreach. However, the following characteristics give us a distinct identity.

We are:

- **Evangelical** – convinced that the Bible is authoritative for contemporary life
- **Anglican** – part of the Diocese of Manchester
- **Large** – with a weekly congregation (all ages) of over 500
- **Strategic** – because of our particular age profile, location, diversity and heritage
- **Younger than most** – with the majority under 40 including a significant student group
- **Urban** – when most large Anglican churches are city centre or suburban
- **Diverse** – ethnically and socially, giving us links throughout the UK and the world
- **Nationally recognised** – with a heritage of long-standing Bible ministry.

We are a church that welcomes, resources and is committed to all of our different groups: children, teens, families, students, younger and older adults (single and married). It is this, along with our ethnic and social diversity, that enriches our life together. Students gain from being part of a family church, older members from a lively student component in the congregation, young professionals from those with greater experience of life, all from the social and ethnic mix, and so on.

Given God's blessings and what he has taught us down the years, we are aware of the responsibility that we have: *"from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."* **Luke 12:48**

PLATT'S UNIQUE AND STRATEGIC ROLE



● PLANTS ● HOME GROUPS (illustrative only)

OUR PURPOSE

We help people meet and know Jesus. We have two main aims. **We believe we are called to:**

BUILD THE BASE



This means we **disciple** people so that they **develop** a growing:

- love for Jesus
- love for his word
- love for one another
- love for the lost and the needy

&

REACH THE CITY



This means we **send** people out to:

- witness to their families, workplaces and networks week by week
- serve our parish, locality and city
- support and plant other churches in Manchester
- impact cities throughout the world with the gospel

So we are both a **teaching/training** church and an **outward-looking** church. We seek to present people mature in Christ (**Colossians 1:28**), so that they may go out and bless our parish, city and world (**Jeremiah 29:7**).

OUR VALUES



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We are here to bring glory to the Trinity by adoring the name and person of Jesus Christ. Because Jesus lives, we build our life together on the following principles.

The gospel

This is the good news of Jesus Christ who has come into the world to change the world. He confronts our rebellion towards God and offers us, by grace, his forgiveness through his death on the cross in our place. We are no longer forever condemned but are forever declared right with God and brought back to him. From this springs our worship.

The Bible

The Bible is God's written word. It is all we need in order to know what to believe and do. The "seed of the word" is the power by which, with the Holy Spirit, God's life is generated and grows in us. We seek to engage our minds with the Bible, wanting everyone to be convinced for themselves of the truth of what it says. From this springs our loving obedience to His word.

Changed lives

The gospel changes us from the inside out. Through the in-dwelling power of the Holy Spirit, the gospel forms our true identity in Christ. Our purpose now is to serve Jesus and to live in the light of His coming. From this springs our desire to live like Christ and see his kingdom come.

New people

The gospel produces a new, worshipping community of God's people who, transcending age, race and gender, are brought together under Christ. From this springs our desire to be one people under God.

Loving service

Christians must be known by their love for all, and especially each other. We expect acts of mercy to be manifested in a church that lives out the gospel. From this springs our love and care for the weak, vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Mission in the City

The gospel is for sharing and living out in the city. We believe that the gospel moves people outward into the wider context: parish, workplace, school/university, neighbourhood, the city of Manchester. From this springs our passion for God's mission to our city.

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OUR VISION



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We pray that, if we are faithful in discipling and sending our congregation, and true to our stated values, God will build His Kingdom in the following way:

Over the next ten years:

1 **A growing number of thriving, evangelical churches across our city with**

- trained and equipped members of Platt sent to serve in those churches
- identified and developed leaders from Platt and beyond to resource them.
- Platt itself as a robust healthy Church in the Diocese, able to sustain and support this vision.

And so, within the next five years we pray that we shall see:

2 **Platt itself as a hub for imaginative Christian outreach**

- evidence of growth in workplace, university, school, etc. ministries
- direct engagement with the parish in word and deed
- growing numbers of visitors each week, especially as members bring others
- increasing numbers of new Christians in all age groups
- internationals impacting their home communities with the gospel.

3 **A congregation equipped and engaged for wholehearted service**

- clearly understanding the gospel, and confident to share it
- reading and knowing and teaching the Bible rightly so that we love Jesus more
- showing the fruit of the Spirit in Christ-like behaviour and practical love for others
- realising our gifts from God, and his purpose for our daily lives
- identifying and training future gospel workers
- depending on God in prayer.

4 **Resources that fully support this ministry**

- a congregation committed to this work, moving into the area
- generous financial giving that enables this ministry to be sustainable
- a staff team of sufficient number and quality to spearhead this work
- sufficient and effectively trained lay leaders
- effective organisation and structures that can support this programme
- welcoming and accessible buildings that are suitably equipped for this purpose

We wish to draw each of the groups in our church within our purpose, values and vision: children, teens, families, students, younger and older adults (single and married). We pray that everyone will feel known and valued within our church community and commit to Platt as their means of discipleship and their opportunity for service.

Most of all we pray that the whole congregation will become committed to this great vision.

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VISION

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