

Brief to Artists

**for the provision of public art at
The Minster Church of St Andrew, Plymouth**



3 December 2014

VISION FOR THE PILLARS

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1. The Commission – Vision for the Pillars

The Art Commissioning Group of the Minster Church of St Andrew, Plymouth, announces a new and exciting commission, entitled 'Vision for the Pillars', to achieve the creation of an iconic work of art for the City of Plymouth. The architectural site-specific public artwork will adorn the existing pillars, on the boundary of the public open space, at the entrance to the thoroughfare that links the city to the Minster Church of St Andrew.

The Art Commissioning Group seeks to commission an artist, or collective, to develop a work of public art, which will reflect the unique position of St Andrew's as the spiritual focal point of the city, while considering its mission, its inspiration and its future. The work of art should stimulate generations to reflect and respond to the unique link between the heritage of the minster and the city, whilst encouraging exploration of further cherished art inside the minster. The artwork should also aspire to bring the city and the minster closer together, both in the emblematic sense and by providing a gateway between the two.



The artwork should be innovative and representative of the best artistic practice of today. The artist will need to work closely with local parishioners to encourage their ownership of the artwork, and ensure its sustainability, while taking account of their vision and theological themes.

The artist should take into account the following points when reflecting on the heritage and aspirations of the minster:

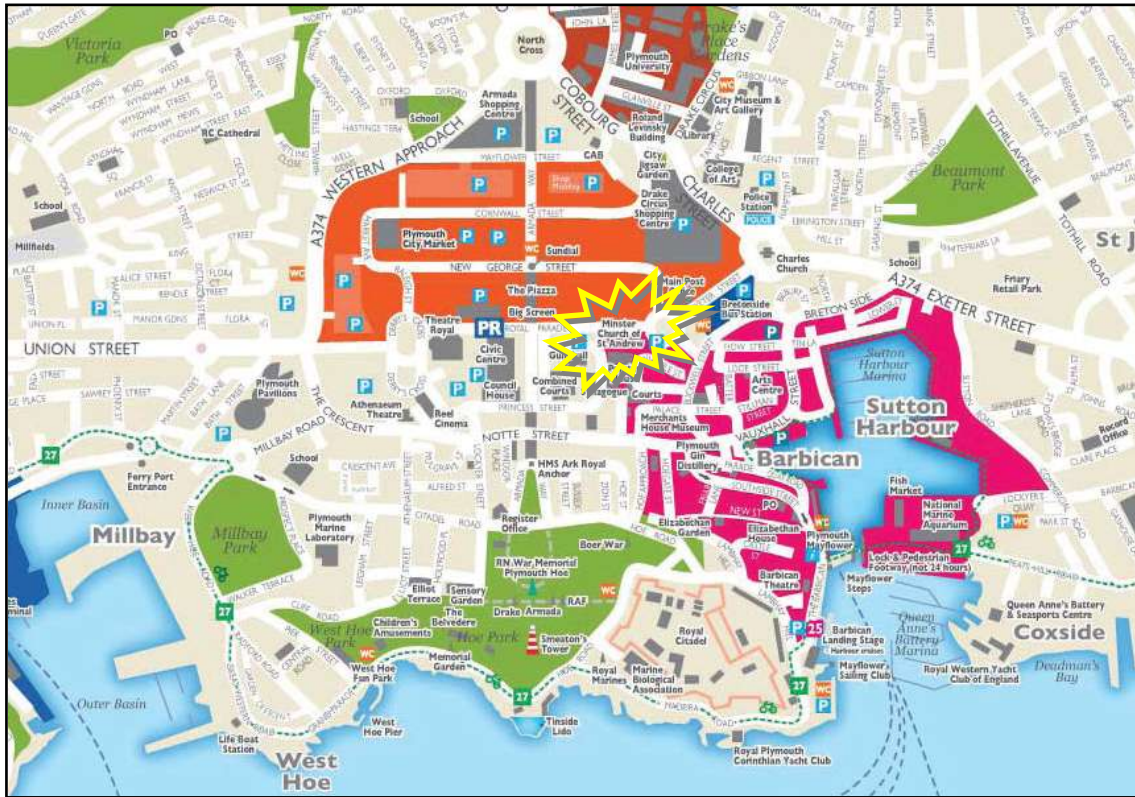
- The building is dedicated to Andrew, one of Jesus' disciples, and that Andrew was a fisherman.
- There has been a lasting presence of the Christian faith at St Andrew's for more than 1,000 years.
- The historic symbolism of "Resurgam" (meaning "I will rise again") in the restoration of St Andrew's and the development of the city after World War II.
- The role of the minster as "a place of living faith in the heart of the city where all can belong and be known".
- The special relationship between the City and the Minster.

Artists are not restricted to any particular materials or resources, provided that all items are well sourced and neither illegal nor unsustainable. The site offers the opportunity for an artist to investigate any number of creative and material approaches. The resultant work could comprise of one or more of the following elements: sculpture; metalwork; glass; stonework; lighting etc. Artists are free to form multi-disciplinary collaborations with other design professionals and technical experts if they so desire.

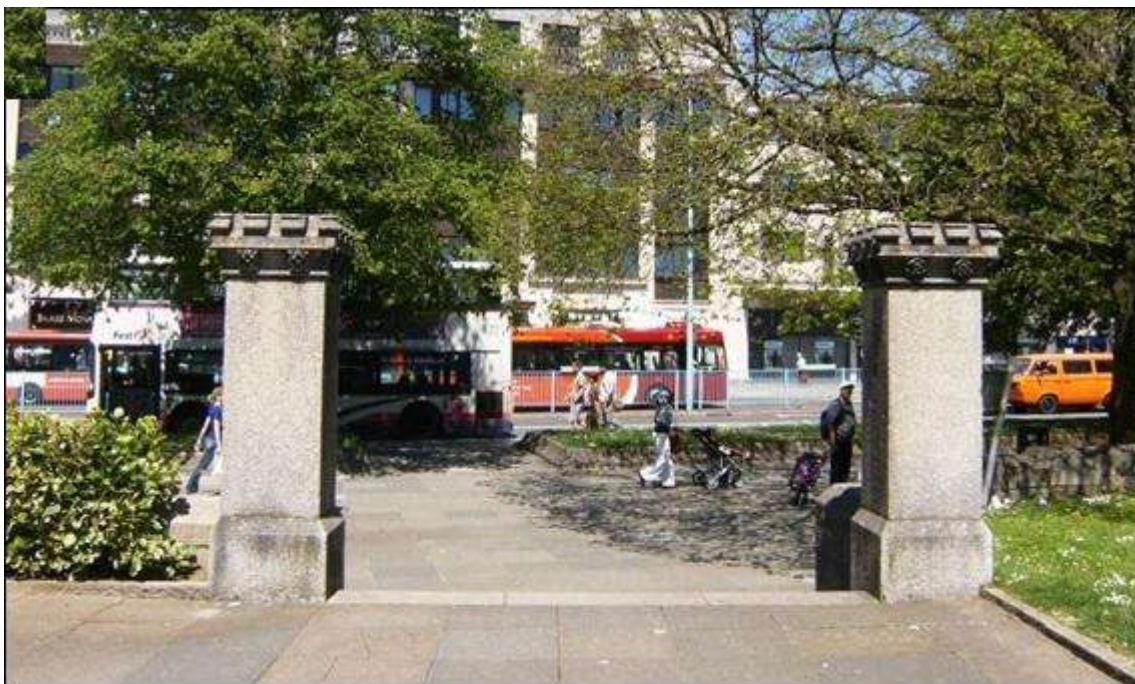
Should an artist believe that a different part of this public space be suitable for their work of art and submit sufficient justification for their decision, the artist's view will be given due consideration.

2. About the Public Open Space

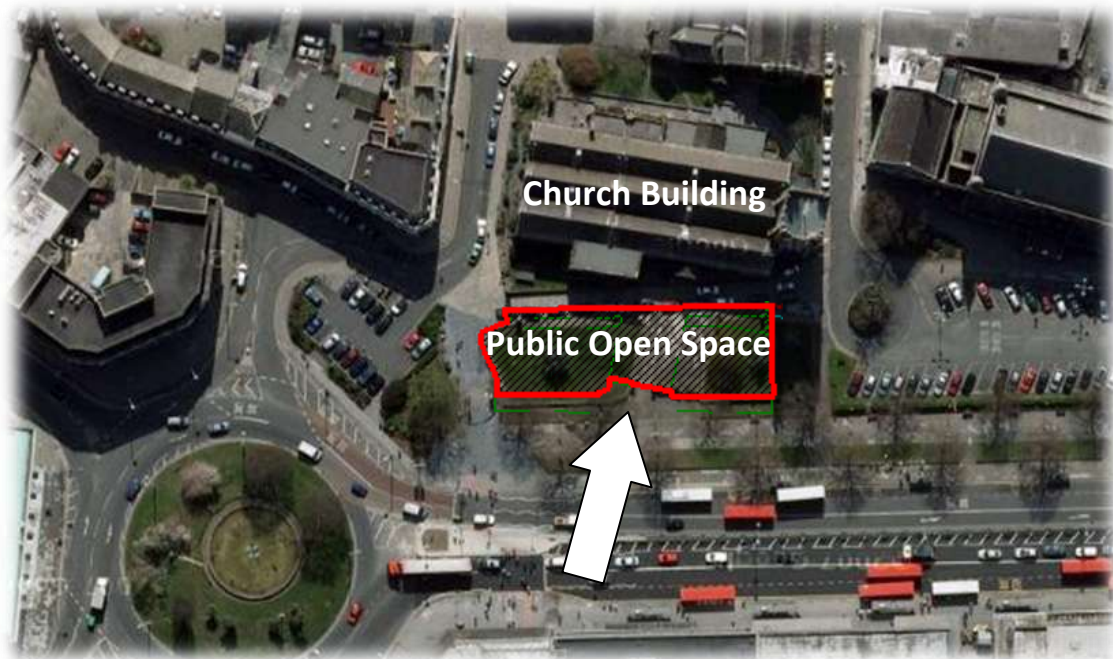
The Minster Church of St Andrew is located in the St Peters & Waterfront ward of the City of Plymouth and is the parish church of the Sutton parish of the Diocese of Exeter.



The Pillars stand on the boundary of the public open space in front of the minster.



The public open space, in front of the church building, is the chief interface between our bustling City Centre and the church building.



The steps between the pillars provide the principal pedestrian access to the paved forecourt from Royal Parade, the major thoroughfare and transport hub in the centre of Plymouth



View indicated by arrow above



Pillars viewed from the tower

The forecourt is in front of the North entrance door to the church building and above this door the “Resurgam” plaque. On either side of the forecourt are grassed areas with trees and memorial plaques.



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3. About the Minster Church of St Andrew, Plymouth

For more than 1,200 years St Andrew's has stood at the heart of the community that was once called Sutton but which we now know as Plymouth. During these centuries the church and the city have, in a sense, grown up together, witnessing periods of war and destruction, peace and restoration, while always working together for the spiritual and material wellbeing of the community. The history of the minster may be regarded as the history of Plymouth.

In February 2008 a senior city councillor called for St Andrew's Church to be made a minster. He tabled a motion for debate inviting the council to ask the Bishop of Exeter to grant the title. He stated that the reconstruction of the church after the devastation of the war was seen as a symbol of the city's rebirth. In his view a minster was a church which had influence beyond its parish boundaries, like York Minster and Westminster, and he believed St Andrew's came into that category. As the Diocese of Exeter was about to celebrate its 1,100th anniversary, it seemed an appropriate time to confer the honour on the mother church of Plymouth. The council accepted the proposal and recommended that St Andrew's be granted the designation because of its remarkable post-war inspiration to the city and the very great esteem in which the church was held. On 1st March 2009 the Bishop of Exeter announced that St Andrew's had been awarded minster status.



In October 2011, the Church Buildings Council invited parishes within the 42 dioceses of the Church of England to apply for a one-off prize of £10,000, generously funded by The Jerusalem Trust, to be awarded for the best developed proposal for commissioning a new work of art in their church. The Art Commissioning Group entered the competition and won the prize, which was shared with another church, in November 2012.

The Art Commissioning Group now aims to fulfil its vision to create a work of art of the highest quality in 2015 that marks the award of minster status and the affirmation bestowed by the Jerusalem Trust.

4. Project Partners

- Parochial Church Council of the Minster Church of St Andrew
- Plymouth City Council
- Plymouth Arts Centre
- Plymouth College of Art
- Church Buildings Council

5. Budget

Seed funding of £9,000 has been raised to date. The Art Commissioning Group anticipates that the selected artist will have a budget of £20,000 (including VAT), which will take account of all travel, accommodation, development time, construction and installation costs, artist's time and fees. A schedule of payments will be worked out between the artist and commissioning group once the work has been commissioned.

In order to achieve the budget of £20,000, the selected artist must assist the Art Commissioning Group in making successful grant applications to awarding bodies, including Arts Council England.

6. Commissioning Process

Selection of the artist will be by way of a two-stage process. Funding is in place to achieve the completion of Stages 1 and 2.

The commissioning process will be recorded in order to produce an audio-visual presentation to be used for information and educational purposes in the exhibition area of the minster.

Stage 1

In Stage 1 the selection panel will look at the history of the artist's practice, the quality of delivery and appropriateness of the proposal. A maximum of 3 artists will be shortlisted and receive a Stage 2 invitation.

Information required for Stage 1

Artists are required to submit by email:

- A completed application form, which can be found on the Minster's web site at www.standrewschurch.org.uk
- Email attachments of up to a maximum of 10 images (no more than 10MB in total) of recent work.

Criteria for selection for Stage 1

- Quality of previous work
- Concept, artistic merit and distinctiveness of proposed artwork.
- Perceived ability to realise the commission vision.
- Experience of project management including managing budgets and deadlines.

CLOSING DATE FOR STAGE 1 – 30 January 2015

Stage 2

In Stage 2 the selection panel will judge the artist's ability to realise the conceptual artwork as well as the perceived ability to fulfil the commission vision.

A Stage 2 payment will be granted to each of the shortlisted artists for the amount of £500. This payment may be used to cover costs incurred by the artist whilst attending the interviews and preparing the Stage 2 information/presentation.

Information required for Stage 2

In Stage 2 we require a detailed proposal for the proposed artwork, to include;

- A project summary including a visual representation of the proposed artwork.
- An explanation of the conceptual ideas and proposed materials of the artwork.
- Outline details of all technical issues related to construction and installation of the artwork.
- Required ongoing maintenance for the artwork.
- Timescale for realisation of the artwork.
- A detailed itemised budget setting out costs, artist's time, maintenance costs, VAT, tax, expenses, sub-contracting (if applicable) and likely installation costs.

Criteria for selection for Stage 2

- Artistic concept.
- Artistic merit and distinctiveness of proposed artwork.

- Perceived ability to realise the commission vision as detailed.
- Consideration of installation issues relevant to artwork.
- It is desired for the artwork to have minimal management and maintenance, however estimates of costs to be included in budget.
- Artist to comply with logistical requirements, including Health & Safety considerations and Diocese of Exeter requirements.
- Artwork to demonstrate value for money.

CLOSING DATE FOR STAGE 2 – 17 April 2015

Disclaimer

The Art Commissioning Group reserves the right not to commission work if none or only parts of the proposals are suitable.

Stage 3

In Stage 3 the Art Commissioning Group will require the artist to complete the commission and to:

- Assist in making successful grant applications to awarding bodies, including the Arts Council England.
- Spend time engaging with the local community (see section 7 below) and planning the project.
- Outline details of all technical issues related to construction and installation of the artwork.
- Provide a timescale for realisation of the artwork.
- Set out a detailed itemised budget for costs, artist's time, maintenance costs, VAT, tax, expenses, sub-contracting (if applicable) and likely installation costs.
- Present the final design for approval.
- Liaise with the commissioning group in drawing up a contract for the commission.
- Complete the commission on time.

7. Artistic Engagement

The selected artist must engage creatively with the local community. Parishioners will bring to the project local knowledge, wisdom and experiences, which must clearly influence the artwork, but it is not proposed that ideas from the parishioners should be directly implemented by the artist. Although the work must be themed around the vision and theological themes, it is proposed that the artist should take lead responsibility for the creative content of their pieces.

There will be the opportunity for the artist to liaise with project partners and other links in the city to further the commission.

The artist must have good reporting and engagement relationships with the commissioning group and partners throughout the duration of the project.



8. Applicant Schedule:

Stage 1:

- Open call for Expressions of Interest – 3 December 2014.
- Open Day on 16 December 2014; opportunity for artists to make a site visit when members of the Art Commissioning Group will be on hand.
- Expressions of Interest closing date 30 January 2015.
- Shortlisted artists for Stage 2 informed by 20 February 2015.

Stage 2:

- Site visit by shortlisted artists to meet the Art Commissioning Group, dates by arrangement.
- Submission of proposal closing date 17 April 2015.
- Artists' interviews and presentations during week commencing 27 April 2015 as well as public display of shortlisted artists' designs.
- Selected artist informed by 6 May 2015.

Stage 3: (dates to be confirmed)

- Assist in making funding applications.
- Project Planning and Artistic Engagement Period.
- Presentation of final design.
- Signing of contracts on 1 September 2015.
- Commission completion by 11 November 2015.
- Official launch on 30 November 2015.

9. To apply:

The Expression of Interest application form can be obtained by sending an email to the Secretary at artattheminster@gmail.com. The complete application form should be returned to the Secretary at artattheminster@gmail.com by the deadline of 5pm on Friday 30 January 2015. Shortlisted applicants will be contacted by 20 February 2015.

For queries and any other information about the 'Artist Brief', please use the above email address.

This Artist Brief can be viewed at artattheminster.org