

Thirty seven**MANCHESTER – ST ANNE’S SQUARE.**

A bustling part of Manchester, there are a myriad reasons to take this short trip from Victoria Station, but here we concentrate in the impressive Royal Exchange, and the delightful St Anne’s Church.

Take the train from Eccles and alight at Manchester Victoria. Cross the road outside the station concourse and go left. Turn right onto Long Millgate and proceed along the side of Chetham’s School.

Go along Cathedral Street between the Corn Exchange and Manchester Cathedral. Then ascend the steps opposite Sinclair’s onto Exchange Square. On the right is Harvey Nichol’s and on the left is Selfridge’s. *Both are monuments to wealthy indulgence. Do take a look inside. Especially interesting is the basement food section in Selfridges.*

Carry on along the Square and on your left is the Royal Exchange building. Go up through the main doors. *You are now standing on the former trading floor of this cotton exchange. The Royal Exchange Theatre auditorium occupies the centre of the vast and impressive hall. The cotton trading price board is high above you. As well as the plays, there is a bar ahead, and a restaurant behind you.*

Next continue along the square which has a Boer War memorial and a statue to Cobden. *This square is used when the European Markets are on. There are usually buskers providing entertainment. Do you think the bollards and balls clutter the elegance of this square?*

At the far end of the square is St Anne’s church (1712). *The simple, elegant appearance is typical of the early eighteenth century architecture. Inside there are steeply raked galleries with round-topped arcades. Compare this restrained elegance to the extravagance of gothic architecture in churches. Any artistic indulgence is to be found in the stained glass windows and the painting in the small side chapel.*

St Anne’s church has a good reputation for its musical offerings. *There are free organ recitals on Tuesdays 12.45 to 13.30; Lunchtime concerts by Royal Northern College students on Wednesdays at 13.00, and piano recitals on Saturdays at 15.00*

Retrace the route to return to Victoria Station.

CLASSIFICATION: A DODDLE. SHORT.
ARCHITECTURE, MUSIC, WORSHIP, THEATRE,
SHOPS, FOOD AND DRINK

RAIL FARE: category one.