



**St Augustine's
Ipswich**

My greatest
adventure

Parish Profile

St Augustine's Church, Ipswich

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Overview

Welcome to our parish profile. In this document we set out a description of our church, our parish and our mission. We hope this will form a good basis to help you discern as to whether we are the right church for you to lead.

Who are we?

We are a Charismatic Evangelical Anglican Church, part of the **HTB Network**, based in Ipswich, the County town of Suffolk. We have around 140 adults and 30 children who are regular Sunday worshippers. We are a very **sociable, welcoming church**, embracing to all and we value a close sense of **community**. As of October 2019 our Electoral Role has 202 members, of which 78 are not residents of the Parish.

Where are we now?

Significant spiritual growth has been achieved over the last few years and we are keen to continue to develop so we can better serve the community and live out our mission statement; **To Know Jesus, Show His Love and Make Him Known**.

Where do we need to go from here?

We are **excited** about and expect to see further significant growth. We are continually developing all of our ministries and **Inspiring Ipswich** (see later comment) is providing a supportive network for growth, including **church planting**. We want to create more disciples so that God can build His church.

What are our greatest challenges?

We need **encouragement, teaching, guidance** and **leadership** in order to continue in our mission. We have an **intergenerational congregation** and communication is a challenge. We need help to ensure all the congregation is supported as we continue to change and grow.

What do we need from our new vicar?

We are looking for a vicar with **fresh vision**, who will work with us to build upon what we have already achieved. They need a strong personal faith and to be **spirit filled**. It is essential for the appointee to be a **leader of leaders**, and to be a collaborative team player who is able to **nurture** and **empower others**. The vicar will take on the role of **training incumbent** for a planting curate and ordinand.

What can we offer our new vicar?

We are a **supportive** and **hospitable** PCC and leadership team. We encourage personal development and appreciate the need for a **good work life balance**. There is a four bedroom detached vicarage. We employ two part time office staff.

Mission and Strategic Vision

Our mission statement is:
To Know Jesus, Show His Love, Make Him Known

This shapes our focus on developing a **personal** relationship with Jesus, sharing His love in a very practical way with those around us and inviting others to also develop that relationship.

Our vision is to play our part in the evangelisation of the nation, the revitalisation of the church and the transformation of society

St Augustine's has recently taken on a Curate and an Ordinand as part of the **Inspiring Ipswich** project. With their support the intention is to grow the church and plant a number of new Churches in the near future.



We believe that the church needs to focus on the following areas in order to achieve this vision:

- Building the systems and structures that will support and sustain the church as it continues to grow
- Developing an invitational culture where church members are confident to invite others and share the Gospel
- Encouraging members of the church to support and serve each other through Connect Groups and serving on Teams
- Growing in discipleship across the church

Reflections from the Church

In preparing our Parish Profile the congregation was invited to share their thoughts and prayers about our church. Whilst an online survey was available, the majority of responses were on paper and the total number of responses only represents a relatively small number of our congregation. A facilitated session was also run with the Youth.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We offer a warm welcome, we are inclusive, sensitive to others needs particularly those new or unfamiliar with church. • Loving /caring of each other and those around us. • Intergenerational, Nurturing families, children and young adults as they explore their journey with God. • We have a strong prayer focus and a wide variety of services to meet all preferences. • Opportunities for people to interact through groups such as Alpha, Music and Rhyme, Happy Hippos, Luncheon Club, Sisterhood, Ladies Group and the Middle Men etc. • Engaging all ages in appropriate tailored worship and praise. • Outreach into our community at care homes, schools and a local supermarket. • We have a wide range of outreach and missional activities, local, national and international. • Strong administrative team supporting our daily activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicating internally and externally (other than social media and emails). • Busy lives and finding time for stillness and prayer. • Converting activities into making disciples • Reluctance to take risks • Too few doing most of the work / sourcing volunteers for outreach work • Fear of change, wide gap between early implementers and doubters, too much too soon!
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extending community involvement eg prison visiting, drug and alcohol misuse. • Building connections between groups / different ages • Involvement in Inspiring Ipswich • Growing in depth of knowledge and discipleship • Planting churches • Active and united church. • Developing outreach activities eg university • Drawing in people through social / hospitality events. • Utilising individual talents to benefit the growth of our church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear or resistance to change • Limited resources of time, people, venues etc. • Finance • Changing too quickly • Continuing division of the congregation due to change.

Who are we? How the congregation describes itself

Hard Working
Paid staff and
volunteers

Knowledgeable
Professional and
lay ministry team
Good biblical
teaching

Supportive
Sense of family
and belonging.
Pastoral care wherever
it is needed.
Inclusive of all
age groups.

Hospitable
Strong sense
of community
both internally
and through
outreach

Diverse
Equal and diverse
congregation who
worship in a variety of
ways that meet
their needs
All welcomed and
accepted

Loving
Open nonjudgmental
care
Listening
Praying together

Welcoming
Open, welcoming,
friendly,
hospitable
and social

Talented/Creative
Puppets
Music
Art/ Banners
Technology
Excellent teaching
and preaching



Our new Vicar What the congregation said

- St. Augustine's has a sense of enthusiasm about where God is leading us and who will walk with us and guide us through the next stage of our journey.
- A leader who is prayerful, servant hearted and compassionate.
- Is interested in the needs/views and opinions of all ages and is able to listen with patience and empathy.
- Has a passion for The Bible and is able to communicate, teach and inspire others to grow spiritually by showing them how to apply The Bible to modern life.
- Has the ability to manage and motivate a staff team and a wide range of volunteers.
- Is a good shepherd who enables pastoral care and support for all to take place.
- Is someone who is not daunted by change and has the ability to discern the direction that God is calling us to take and the communication skills and drive to lead us there.
- Is approachable and friendly with a good sense of humour.
- Is able to communicate with all age groups and can manage difficult conversations and conflict in an appropriate caring manner.
- Is sympathetic to different styles of worship and expressions of church.
- Is able to use and develop new skills within the congregation to enable people to experience God.

Cool and trendy like Jesus! [Youth]



Parish & Local community

St Augustine's is at present a **single parish benefice** serving a population of over 14,000. It is the 3rd largest benefice in the Ipswich Deanery.

There are a number of other places of worship in the parish: Nansen Road Baptist Church, The Priory Centre (Queensway Salvation Army), The Ark of the Lord Church, a "closed" Brethren Meeting Hall and other smaller Christian groups meeting without a fixed venue. We have good relationships with the Baptist Church and the Salvation Army.

The housing is extremely varied ranging from Local Authority built in the 1920s to more recent large executive style homes. Building of new houses is still continuing.

There is a **wide social mix** and cultural diversity. The employment is typical of the town, predominating in insurance, IT, health, local authorities, retail and service industries. There are also quite a lot of retired people who have lived for a long time in this area of the town, with long histories of their families living in the area. Part of the parish was and still is greatly affected by the fatal stabbing 18 months ago of a local teenager.



The Ipswich Nuffield Hospital is situated in the Parish and the St Elizabeth Hospice and the East Suffolk North Essex Foundation Trust (Ipswich) Hospital are close by. Opposite the church is **The Treehouse Children's Hospice**. The Church has close links with most of these, with the previous vicar acting as an unofficial chaplain to The Treehouse.

The parish is served by a number of local Primary and High Schools and although they are not in our parish, the church has strong connections with most of them through Open The Book and the work of our Youth Lay Minister.

A number of local charities have their bases within the parish, including Headway, The Genesis Project and Inspire Suffolk.

Several care homes and supported living settings are visited by Church members for services or to take Communion to the residents.

Trinity Park, Ipswich Golf Club and part of a large retail and industrial warehouse estate are also within the parish.

History of the Church and its Buildings

The church of St Augustine's is a familiar landmark in east Ipswich. In 1927 it was built at the junction of two small roads with no other buildings in the vicinity. At the time of the church's opening, the development of this part of Ipswich was only just beginning. The site was donated by a local rich landowner and the church was paid for by Charles Bantoff, an Ipswich shop owner, in memory of his mother.

St Augustine's is considered to be the most significant of the three churches built by local architect Henry Munro Cautley. In 2018 the **award winning** "Lantern Room" extension to the church was opened. This is very well equipped and is used by many church and community groups during the week as well as on Sundays. The lighted cross on the tower is a well known landmark, which is a source of encouragement and inspiration to many people.



The Church Hall and Parish Office are directly opposite the church and are used on a daily basis. The modernised Vicarage, built in the 1950's, is located next to the church. It is a well presented 4 bedroomed house which has a good sized study and a large garden.

Sunday Services

The theological stance of St Augustine's is "Charismatic Evangelical". St Augustine's offers an extensive variety of services to cater for a **wide and diverse** worshipping community. These include traditional robed services of Holy Communion through to our monthly service of "Encounter" which is a Spirit led service with a contemporary focus.

Our Sunday services are currently:

- The Eight (8am)
A service of Holy Communion
- The Ten Thirty (10:30am)
An accessible service with either streams for different age groups then communion or all ages together throughout
- Sunday At Four (4pm on 4th Sundays)
A 'Cafe Style' service
- Encounter (7pm on 1st Sundays)
Contemporary and Spirit led

Contemporary sung worship forms a major part of The Ten Thirty. We have a talented **Worship Team**, including an organist. The music is usually band led using a mixture of modern songs and hymns. Pianists are usually available for smaller services.

There is a weekly communion service held at Broke Hall House at 10am on a Thursday attended by approximately twenty people.

Average attendance across all Sunday services in 2018 was approximately 138 adults and 28 children which has remained constant. In 2018 there were seven baptisms, two weddings, a number of confirmations and twenty-one funerals. There were significant road closures and building work at the church which adversely affected the numbers last year.



Prayer Ministry

St Augustine's has a strong belief and culture surrounding the importance of prayer as an absolute foundation in everything we do. There is a prayer ministry team who have received training to support others and are available around service times and there is also a prayer list held in confidence.

There are a number of organised prayer events held throughout the month, with church leaders encouraged to attend at least one weekly prayer meeting. This includes an early morning prayer breakfast, an evening prayer meeting and a liturgical service of Morning Prayer.



Groups

Connect Groups usually meet twice a month for a couple of hours and around eighty adults attend. Connect Group Leaders or Facilitators meet every term under the guidance of the Coordinator who liaises with the Vicar.

There are two groups for ladies, a monthly meeting for men, a Christian Book Group and a Mother's Union Branch.

Regular Courses

We have a long history of running the Alpha Course and there are at least two courses run at different times of the year, including Youth Alpha. We run a Parenting course and a Bereavement course.



Festivals and Events

As an HTB Network Church we attend Focus, the HTB Leadership Conference and other events throughout the year. We encourage people to attend other Christian festivals and events.

Church Structures

The Ministry Team meets monthly for prayer, support and planning. It consists of a self supporting Associate Priest in full time employment, a retired member of the clergy with PTO, a Reader with PTO and, with licenses from the Diocese, a Lay Minister, a Lay Youth Minister, a Lay Children's And Families Minister, an experienced Elder and the Church Wardens during the vacancy. There is also an active retired member of the clergy who assists in priestly ministry when needed.



The Ministry Team and Children and Youth Stream Leaders meet termly to plan the themes for the 10.30am Sunday Service so that the respective age group teams can plan the content of their sessions to link in with these.

There are Vergers and many teams of volunteers who make sure that the Sunday services are well organised and supported.

The Prayer Ministry Teams are available to pray with people when needed and there is a trained and commissioned team of Pastoral and Bereavement Visitors.

Family Life Group keeps in touch with families who have had children baptised at the church, and plan special annual services e.g. Mothering Sunday.

The Church Office is staffed by a part time paid Church Administrator, a part time paid Treasurer and several Church Volunteers.

The PCC currently meets eight times a year, as does the Standing and Finance Committee.

Children's Work

- Our regular term time groups are Happy Hippos and Music & Rhyme, which focus on reaching children aged 0-5 and their adults. Jointly these groups see approximately 80 children and their adults each week.
- There are Open The Book teams who, over the course of a month, bring stories from the Bible alive to around 1,700 children in four local Primary schools.
- We have held three Messy Churches so far this year, with an average attendance of 30 families, the majority of whom don't normally attend on a Sunday morning.
- Our recently licensed Lay Children and Families Minister visits local schools alongside others to help with the RE curriculum and delivering Experience Easter and Pentecost. She also helps with Christian Exhibitions such as the LIFE Exhibition run for local schools.
- We have a number of uniformed groups connected with our church from the Scouting and Girl Guiding movements. They are encouraged to attend parade services and take it in turns to be the duty group by assisting with the leading of the service. Where possible we try and visit the groups, taking part, to rehearse and learn songs.



Youth

Since our full time Licensed Youth Minister joined us in 2016, we have seen steady growth in the number of young people we have contact with. We have a presence in two local High Schools, where we run weekly lunchtime Christian Unions, and we host a twice monthly youth cafe. Our youth have attended Soul Survivor for the past two years as well as other local events such as Gather, held each year at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral and regular youth events held at local churches. We recently ran Youth Alpha for ten young people. Our youth are getting more involved in serving on teams.



Other Outreach Activities

In the summer we hold a very successful Holiday at Home event for the over 55's which takes place over a week. The programme includes outings, a cream tea, musical and other entertainment. Those who have attended are invited for a Get Together in December.

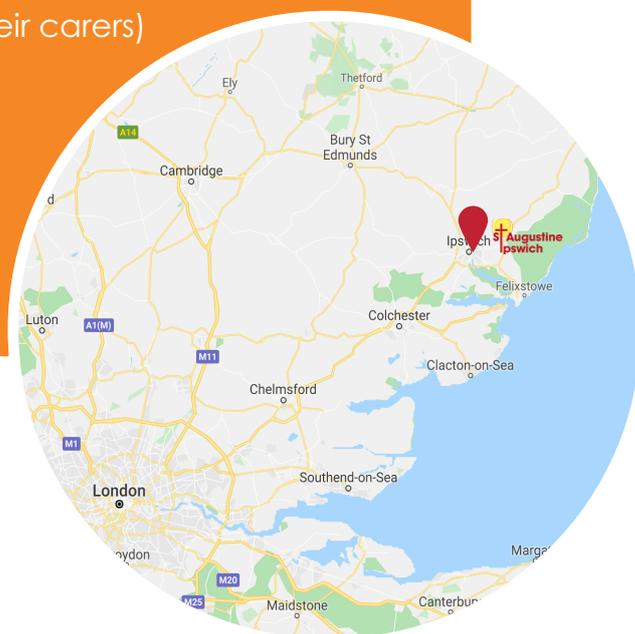
We run a monthly Lunch Club in the Church Hall for the more mature members of our parish and transport is provided for those unable to get themselves there.



Social Action

Local

- Sainsbury's (supporting staff of our local store)
- The Winter Night Shelter Project in Ipswich Town Centre (Homeless Shelter)
- FIND Families in Need in Ipswich (Local Food Bank)
- EACH (Each Anglian Children's Hospice - Tree House)
- Home For Good: Suffolk (We are a Home For Good Church)
- Headway (acquired brain injury and their carers)
- Hollesley Bay Prison
- Town Pastors
- Children's Society
- CYM
- Love Early Years



Worldwide

- The Church is contributing financially to our link missionaries Pat & Peter Wyard who are working in the DR Congo for a three year period (2018-2021).
- We actively support at least twenty Christian organisations and tithe 10% of our income.



General Information

Further Information

Further information about St Augustine's Church, Ipswich can be found on our website staugustinesipswich.org.uk

Any requests for information should be sent via the Parish Office office@staugustinesipswich.org.uk and marked for the attention of the Parish Representatives

Communications

Facebook: facebook.com/staugustinesipswich

Twitter: **@StAugustinesIps** / **@YouthworkerStA1**

Instagram: **@staugustinesipswich** / **@youthworkerstaugustines**



Inspiring Ipswich is an imaginative and exciting new initiative of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. It spans six years from early 2019 to early 2025 and during this period it seeks to strengthen the existing 24 churches within the deanery of Ipswich, helping them 'to communicate good news and make new disciples', as well as adding 25 new worshipping communities into the mix. Front and central is the overall aim of praying for and nurturing the faith of 1500 new Christians across the town.

With the help of a substantial and unprecedented grant from the Church Commissioners and a central Inspiring Ipswich team the project aims to support every parish with regular learning community gatherings and with a highly skilled Mission Accompanier. Central courses such as 'Leading your Church into Growth', 'Mission Shaped Ministry', Evangelist training, Alpha training and the 'Growing Leaders' course are part of the offer and the support of three full-time Deanery Pioneer Developers is available for those leading fresh expressions of Church.



The Deanery aims in everything to be 'relational, pastoral, missional and inspirational' and aspires to offer a good welcome and ongoing support to all its clergy, primarily through its Deanery Leadership Team, its Deanery Chaplains, clergy chapter meetings and through the Archdeacon's ministry, which is focused solely on this one area.



One of the primary goals of Inspiring Ipswich is to help at least 5% of the population (around 7,500 people) enjoy an opportunity to explore faith, and partly inspired by St Augustine's use of Alpha over the years, our prayer is to offer Alpha to over 1000 people each year across the town.

Inspiring Ipswich is also helping a few congregations in their desire to be planting churches and St Augustine's is one of these. The Project is helping by resourcing two church-planting curates, Amy and Matt Key, and by supporting Ian and Julie Daniels in other ways as they seek to plant in their local neighbourhood.

In short, we believe that any prospective Incumbent at St Augustine's would not only find themselves warmly welcomed within the church and parish but would also find themselves at the heart of an inspiring vision and team in the deanery.



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

Where are we?

The Diocese covers the county of Suffolk, excluding the area around Lowestoft in the north-east, and one parish in Essex. It is a mainly rural Diocese with a large number of small villages, plus market towns including Woodbridge, Halesworth, Sudbury and Beccles and the cathedral town of Bury St Edmunds with its historic ruins of the old Abbey. Ipswich is the county town with a population of about 137,000. Suffolk's population is c 650,000. The county embraces historic places of interest such as Sutton Hoo, culture at Snape with the famous annual Aldeburgh music festival, is on the Heritage coast and is a haven for lovers of natural history and birdlife. The busy port of Felixstowe is at the end of the A14 which runs via Cambridge to the Midlands and the A12 which gives access to London and the Norfolk Broads.

Who are we?

We are often known as 'the Church of England in Suffolk'. The diocesan bishop is the Right Reverend Martin Seeley, and the suffragan bishop is the Right Reverend Dr Mike Harrison. Both work from the Bishop's House in Ipswich. They work together closely to help us shape our vision and strategy, and amongst a plethora of other tasks offer regular teaching mornings to nurture the faith of people in our congregations – and a regular Vlog which can be found on Facebook. There are 3 archdeaconries and over 450 churches where visitors will find a wide range of worshipping styles, from the traditional to contemporary, as well as Fresh Expressions and growing numbers of 'Lightwave' groups for those who haven't connected with traditional church previously. The Cathedral of St Edmund and St James in Bury St Edmunds is the mother church of the Diocese and is proactive in offering support to clergy and parishes including welcoming parishes on pilgrimage. We also work closely with our 88 Church of England primary schools. All this is, of course, supported by a small and committed diocesan staff based in the diocesan office in Ipswich.

What is our vision?

Our diocesan vision is to be 'Growing in God', aiming to grow 'flourishing congregations making a difference'. This vision was accepted by Diocesan Synod in 2014 and since then we have been focussing on four key priorities:

- Growing in Depth: responding to the call of Christ in every part of our lives
- Growing in Number: drawing the contacts we have into the life of God's kingdom
- Growing in Influence: reaching beyond ourselves in our impact on the wider world
- Growing Younger; building churches whose age-range reflects our communities

Parishes are encouraged to use a simple Mission Action Planning tool to help us all to focus on these priorities and how they might be worked out in each different context. We are trusting God that this vision, underpinned by a commitment to Christian stewardship, will bear fruit as we look to the future.

As part of this vision, we have recently received Strategic Development Funding for two major projects: Inspiring Ipswich, overseen by the Archdeacon of Ipswich which aims to grow the church in Ipswich through church planting and reaching out to those who live in the town, and 'Growing God in the Countryside', overseen by the Archdeacon for Rural Mission, which focusses on developing Rural Resourcing Churches and nurturing and discipling new Christians through small Lightwave groups.

We have also been part of a pilot scheme exploring how we can use our church buildings more creatively both for those who worship regularly and for the benefit of our communities and many churches have benefitted from this.

We are broadening our vision through a growing partnership with the Diocese of Kagera in Tanzania, with fruitful visits and links being established.

How can we do this?

We value our huge range of different ministries: we have over 100 stipendiary clergy, plus many SSM and PTO clergy as well as lay and ordained chaplains who can be found in such diverse places as schools, prisons, hospitals, hospices, the army, RAF and the police. Some clergy are ordained to serve in their local benefice through our pioneering 'auxiliary ordination pathway' which enables people's vocations to ordained ministry to be discerned within the Diocese.

All clergy work alongside lay ministers – Readers, elders, and the growing number people exercising recently introduced licensed ministries: pioneer ministers, evangelists, youth ministers and children's and family workers. Our ministry deployment principles encourage teams or clusters of lay and ordained ministers to work together so that clergy feel less isolated and ministry resources the mission of the church more effectively. We are just beginning to develop the principle of 'local ministers' in our benefices, releasing people's gifts to serve in their locality.

We are excited about these new developments which are playing an important part in our diocesan vision of Growing in God.

So, in summary:

As our Growing in God vision states, we aspire to be people who know that 'God is with us, gathering us as Christ-centred communities, calling us to make Christian disciples, sending us in loving service, empowering us by the Holy Spirit'.

We hope you will come and join us on our journey!

To find out more, visit www.cofesuffolk.org