



# Inspiring Ipswich



Be inspired. Be inspiring.

# Where we began

The Inspiring Ipswich project resources and facilitates the priorities of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich and its vision to see flourishing congregations making a difference.

The Ipswich Deanery has a population of around 150,000 and comprises 25 churches. In 2018, after consultation, a funding bid was put together in order to resource an ambitious vision which would see the deanery re-energised and transformed.

Rhiannon King was appointed as the Archdeacon of Ipswich and director of the project.

A project team was appointed, including Pioneer Developers who were put in post to enable Fresh Expressions of church.

The Church Commissioners recognised that the plans for growth in Ipswich could see a transformed deanery with more people coming to faith, and we received funding on an unprecedented scale to equip us to 'grow in God.'

A core group of leaders - a learning community - was formed in each parish or benefice to realise the vision of Inspiring Ipswich in their communities. Each was also given a Mission Accompanier to enable and equip them in plans for growth.

# Where we're going

We're aiming to...

Make **1,500** new disciples through existing church communities, and 25 new worshipping communities through Church Plants and Fresh Expressions.

Make meaningful contact with **15,000** people through increased community engagement, serving and loving our town.

Help **7,500** people explore faith through Alpha and other courses and events.

'Our vision is new and existing church communities growing in number and younger through increasing local impact and deepening faith.'

## 2018

## 2024



# The inspiring journey...

Nine steps to inspire



Because to grow  
confidently we  
need to think  
differently

An imaginative leadership  
culture in our churches  
would see people asking  
the question

**'How can we do this  
better?'**

Investing in leaders is  
about valuing the  
difference they can make  
in our communities when  
they are given the  
opportunity to think big.

# Imaginative Leadership

# New opportunities to explore faith

With online resources and social media, **churches have the tools at their disposal** to make it easy to offer others an invitation to explore faith.

Running more exploring faith courses like Alpha gives every person the chance to address their questions head on.



Everybody has questions...they just need a pathway to explore them

Getting 'hands-on' in our response to the difficult circumstances others face gives more people access to programmes and support networks that make a **real and lasting impact**.

This project seeks to increase community activity in and around our town.

So that more people in the toughest circumstances can find lasting hope



# Serving and loving Ipswich

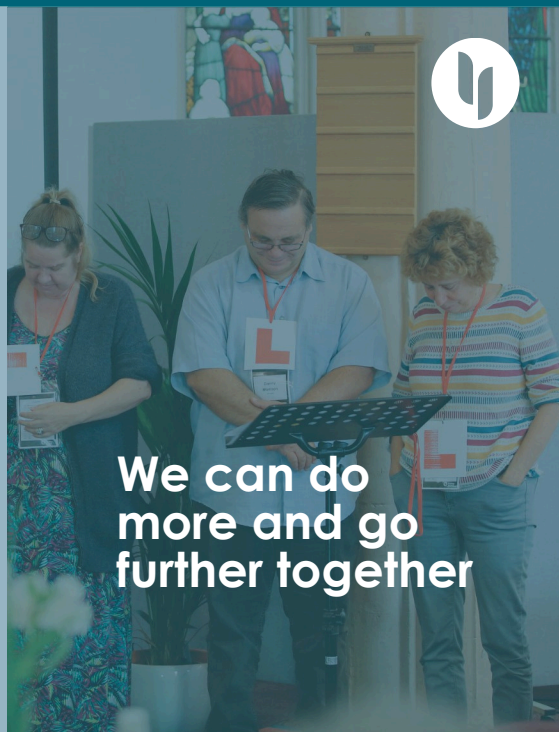


# p Partnering with others

There are opportunities on our doorstep for churches and church-led activities to draw on the experience of those who have already been paving the way.

**'How can we learn from you?'**  
**'How can we help you?'**

These are the sorts of questions that make partnering with others invaluable.



**We can do  
more and go  
further together**



**Children and  
young people  
need our  
focused  
attention**

Prioritising investment in younger people means equipping churches to serve them in appealing, meaningful and relatable ways.

This project wants to ensure that there is a whole new generation of people being **inspired by a heavenly father who loves them.**

## ● Inspiring children, young people and families

# R

## Reaching new people in new places in new ways

Our approach is  
to think of those  
outside our four  
walls



It's proven that **intentional planning sees growth as its fruit**, as it enables churches and church-led groups to create effective environments for those they want to engage.

We want to hold each other accountable to acting with non-church people in mind.

We need Churches, Church Plants and Fresh Expressions that are constantly adapting and looking for ways to communicate the gospel to a fast-changing world.

We want to be communities who take the initiative in becoming **accessible and irresistible** for people of all backgrounds and ages.



We want to connect  
with people in  
familiar and  
understandable  
ways



# Intentional Mission

# n Nurturing disciples



Your heart follows the direction of your treasure, and we want our heart to be for connecting with new people

Fostering an inspirational vision means **developing a generous culture** where people are empowered to give what they can, to see healthy growth happen.

We want to keep putting our money where our mouth is, and that's the mission to make new disciples.

It's through community groups, prayer, serving as a volunteer, and defined pathways for spiritual growth that those already within church communities develop in faith.

We want to see **individuals being emboldened in their faith** so that they can invite others onto a faith journey of their own.



We want to help people move forward in their faith journey

# g Giving for growth

Praying for our  
deanery



# Be inspired Be inspiring

What does it mean to be inspired?

We've all had a 'moment of inspiration.' Whether it came from a song, a role model, or a conversation, there was a time when our imagination lit up and our heart beat a little faster. In actual fact, the word 'inspire' was originally used to describe the unique breath of God; his Spirit at work.

What would it look like if people of every generation in and around Ipswich started to experience that kind of inspiration, not just for a moment, but for a lifetime?

We are on a mission to help people in and out of churches be inspired by God.

Inspired people are a catalyst for the kind of change we want to see happen in Ipswich. Why? Because inspired people inspire people.

We hope this brochure helps you and your church to dream, plan and pray.

The Inspiring Ipswich Team



# Are you in?

## A prayer for Ipswich

'Faithful and holy God, in whom all things are made whole, you sent your Son, our Saviour, to heal a broken world. Visit this town of Ipswich with your salvation. Forgive us our sins, bring hope where there is despair, bring peace to our bodies, hearts and minds and bring life in all its fullness; that this town may flourish and its people thrive.'

## Next Steps

For more information and to find out how you can get involved

[www.inspiring-ipswich.org](http://www.inspiring-ipswich.org)



**Connect** Connect in with the project online, through our monthly update, and on social media



**Pray** Pray for your church, your local community, this project and our town



**Serve** Get involved in serving at your church and in the community



**Invite** Invite others along to groups and events and help them discover a new or renewed faith



**Champion** Take this vision one step further, for example by starting up an Alpha Course, or being part of a Fresh Expression or a Church Plant



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**Inspiring  
Ipswich**

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THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of St Edmundsbury  
and Ipswich

