



ST THOMAS IPSWICH

**THE HAVEN
PROJECT**



"He made the storms be still and the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad that the water was quiet and he brought them to their desired haven."

• Psalm 107 29-30

www.stthomasipswich.org.uk

ABOUT US



We are a welcoming, vibrant, friendly church with a congregation of all ages and a passion to provide more opportunities for our youth. We love food and eating together and are always looking for innovative ways to meet people in our community.

Who We Are

We are an energetic and dynamic congregation of around 70 people who worship together but are also like one big family, who love to have fun!

Our church was built in 1937 and is very versatile, we have no fixed pews and the space is large. We would love to see our space used more during the week to better serve our community in the North West of Ipswich.

Everyone is welcome here, we pride ourselves on our inclusivity and diversity and we are working hard on the Diocese vision to grow in number and grow younger.

Our vision is to develop the Church into a community hub, we have already started a wellbeing cafe and 'Top Up' shop (foodbank).

Our hope is the Haven is a continuation to be a place for the community to meet together, be nourished and experience the love of Jesus.

What We Do

We worked really hard during the pandemic to remain in contact with our families and young people. We did Messy church in a bag and offered children's activities at services in a covid friendly way!

As soon as we were able to, we started a Messy Church which has been running every 6 weeks since December 2021. We have seen good attendance at this with an average of 50 people joining us at each one. We would love to be able to offer them something else to attend once they move to high school and become too old for Messy Church! But we hope they will return to help us!

On Sunday mornings we run Talk and Toast where we eat together and talk about Jesus. We are about to launch a Youth Talk and Toast alongside the existing group. We run a youth group which meets every Thursday and have begun a monthly youth led worship evening.

St Thomas serves a population of around 11 000 people in the deanery of Ipswich (IMD 2364) and is part of the Inspiring Ipswich initiative across the town which aims to help 7500 people explore faith, 1500 become disciples and see 25 new worshipping communities started. The Haven would be one of these.



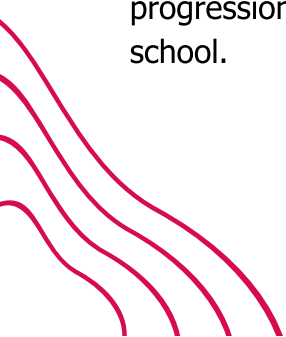
ABOUT THE HAVEN



We have a high school on our doorstep where lots of the children pass our church on the way home. We want to create a space where they can hang out and have fun, eat food, do homework, learn new skills, develop their spirituality and build a relationship with Jesus. Our vision is to create a safe space where teenagers can belong, flourish and grow. This will be known as The Haven Project as we hope to be a safe haven for teenagers in the storms of life.

'The Haven Project Plan

- Develop the existing church youth group
- Progress the All-age music band as part of youth ministry
- Engage more at Westbourne Academy and Whitehouse School
- Develop children and youth chaplaincy both inside and outside of school
- Start some detached youth work in the local area i.e. through the local skate park where children are vulnerable to grooming for example County Lines drug dealing
- Use the church building as a homework/chill/fun/well-being space on a daily basis
- Develop an Intergenerational Skills Sharing programme
- Enable young people to engage in an Enquirers Course
- Nurture new disciples
- A new youth worshipping congregation which will be sacramental and inclusive
- Linking to Christian Youth Ministries (CYM) and other local agencies like the Big Local Trust (BLT)



The vision is to develop the church building as a community hub so that it has a reach of at least 1,000 people by 2027. Architectural plans are in place. The church would once again become a focal part of the parish and community. This has already begun through a Wellbeing Café, new Messy Church and other community events like 'Beer and Carols'. A crucial part of this is the development of a youth hub, congregation and also detached youth work. This would provide progression for the Messy church families where children are leaving primary school for high school.

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We are looking for someone with:

A passion for young people

A pioneering heart who loves to start
new things

An appreciation of fun and joy

A love of the sacramental tradition

A deep prayer life

WHO'S WHO?

REV'D RACHEL REVELY

Priest in Charge

Rachel has been the Priest in Charge (0.8) at St Thomas since August 2021, after previously being a curate at Lincoln Cathedral. Rachel has a passion for mission and outreach, growing the church through hospitality, and enabling people to discover the love God has for them. With professional experience in music and art, Rachel is also passionate about helping people connect to faith through creativity and beauty.



PASSION LED US HERE





WHAT CAN WE OFFER YOU?

- A friendly, flexible and fun clergy team to work with
- A friendly congregation with a number of volunteers keen to get involved
- A visionary deanery who will provide support and friendship
- The support of the Inspiring Ipswich team, especially the Pioneer Developers
- A monthly 'Missional Leaders' Lunch'
- A mentor
- Amazing IME team
- Expenses paid in full
- The support of the nearby Suffolk Centre of Mission (evangelism)
- The prayer support of the deanery
- Access to the deanery 'Prayer Spaces in Schools' resources
- Diocesan CMD budget for your training
- The chance to be part of 'Together for Ipswich' (which covers 85+ churches) and an emerging town-wide youth gathering and CYM
- To be on the edge of a buzzing town with easy access both to London and the coast