



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
SUFFOLK

YOUTH MINISTER

THE HAVEN AT ST THOMAS

We have an exciting opportunity for an Associate 0.5 Priest who is passionate about young people and developing their relationship with Jesus, to join us at St Thomas in Ipswich as part of a new project developing the Haven youth congregation. In conjunction with Inspiring Ipswich you will work with us to develop a Youth programme which could be rolled out across the Diocese.

"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

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 a 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 Haven, a youth congregation, in the building we already have, and we are looking to employ a half-time Priest (currently a Curate, see later) who feels called to help us explore God's vision for us.

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.

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 40 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 also lead the Inspiring Angels project for the town, which this year is being rolled out throughout the county.

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

- a. Develop the existing church youth group**
- b. Progress the All-age music band as part of youth ministry**
- c. Engage more at Westbourne Academy and Whitehouse School**
- d. Develop children and youth chaplaincy both inside and outside of school.**
- e. 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**
- e. Use the church building as a homework/chill/fun/well-being space on a daily basis**
- f. Develop an Intergenerational Skills Sharing programme**
- g. Enable 125 young people to engage in an Enquirers Course (about 25 each year for 5 years)**
- h. Nurture 60 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?



ROLE DESCRIPTION

We are looking for a priest who is comfortable working in the sacramental tradition, to develop a youth congregation and help over 100 young people to explore the Christian faith, and find a safe space/ a haven where they can fully be the people God has made them to be.

This person will work alongside the current Priest in Charge, the Rev Rachel Revely, and will also act as Associate Priest at St Thomas, assisting with Sunday services and occasional offices. This post is 0.5 (three days and Sunday)

This post is subject to sponsorship funding and is for a term of five years in the first instance. The post is funded by the Archbishop's Council and Ministry Division and, because of funding, is only open to final year curates.



PERSON SPECIFICATION

We are looking for someone with:

- A passion for young people
- A pioneering heart who loves to start new things
- A desire for young people to become disciples of Jesus Christ
- Experience of growing new things and
- An ability to grow and manage a team of volunteers
- Experience of working effectively with a secondary school
- An ability to work within a sacramental tradition
- A deep prayer life
- A will to help grow and nurture a congregation



WHAT CAN WE OFFER YOU?

- **A chance to make a real difference in the lives of hundreds of teenagers**
- **A 3-4 bedroom house in or near to the parish, or a housing allowance.**
- **A half-time post for five years (we will do our best to signpost you to part-time jobs nearby that might help to make this up to a full-time post. Eg if you have significant comms skills there may be a part-time post available at Inspiring Ipswich the SDF project focused on the Deanery of Ipswich).**
- **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**
- **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**
- **The ability to apply for resources from the Elizabeth Walter Charity**
- **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**
- **The chance to be on the edge of a buzzing town with easy access both to London and the coast**

OUR TEAM



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.



REV'D JOHN IRWIN

Assistant Curate

John has been a self-supporting curate at St Thomas since September 2021. He moved to Ipswich from London in 2021. John works as Finance Director for the Royal St Katherine Foundation and also acts as the Deanery Organiser as well as offering a few days a week to St Thomas. John has a heart for social justice, especially for helping those trapped in food and fuel poverty. He is part of the team setting up our Top Up shop.



EMMA KNIGHT

Children's Work Lead

Emma has been a member of our congregation since her first child was born in 2006. She has a passion for sharing Jesus' values with our children and youth. She set up Messy Church in 2021 and helps to run our Sunday Talk and Toast. She is also interested in the wider activities of the Diocese and collaborating and communicating ideas so we aren't reinventing the wheel everywhere!



MALCOLM GIBBS

Evangelist

Malcolm has been a server in our church for over 20 years. He more recently has been licensed as our evangelist and is passionate about church planting and finding new ways of being church. He is a key member of the team alongside with his wife Alison, one of our Assistant Church Wardens, who set up our Well Being Cafe.



ROGER ELMER AND STEPHEN MARGINSON

Church Wardens

We have two wonderful Church Wardens who alongside the PCC are always willing to help. They have a passion to see the church and the community we serve flourish and grow in faith.



**WHAT
NEXT?**

**If you would like to apply for this post please fill in the application form found on the diocesan website:
www.cofesuffolk.org/vacancies.**

For an informal conversation please contact

**Suffragan Bishop of Dunwich
The Rt Revd Dr Mike Harrison
bishop.mike@cofesuffolk.org**

**The Archdeacon of Ipswich
Ven Rhiannon King
archdeacon.rhiannon@cofesuffolk.org
07595880584**

**The Revd Rachel Revely
rachel.revely@outlook.com
07429325559**

Closing Date: 30th September

Interviews: TBC

www.stthomasipswich.org.uk

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