

## INSPIRING IPSWICH

### Project Summary

Through Inspiring Ipswich by 2025 we believe God is leading us to make 1,500 new Christian disciples in Ipswich (1% of the deanery population).

To do this we will:

- Make contact with 15,000 people currently outside the Church.
- Engage 7,500 people in exploring faith.
- Double the existing number of worshipping communities from 25 to over 50, through a combination of church planting, fresh expressions of Church and new congregations.

We will achieve this through:

- Inspirational missional leadership from an Archdeacon of Ipswich, leading a strong and energised team of clergy to deliver a deanery strategy and plan.
- An investment in intentional growth in all parishes, achieved through training, parish mission planning and a 2-year Parish Development Learning Community with individual missional support for incumbents.
- Development of fxC as part of the Suffolk Fresh Expressions Community (SFXC) with a particular focus on hard to reach groups, including children and families, youth and those living on outer estates. This will be catalysed by three new Pioneer Developers.
- An ambitious programme of church planting, through Church Planting Churches delivering church plants themselves and through working in partnership with other parishes.

We will deliver Inspiring Ipswich through 4 workstreams, as summarised below.

Workstreams	Resource (not all SDF funded)	Activity	Outcomes by end 2024
<b>Deanery leadership, strategy and planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archdeacon of Ipswich</li> <li>• Ipswich deanery strategy and planning events</li> <li>• Ipswich Resource and Innovation Hub</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deanery planning for growth and joined up Ipswich approach.</li> <li>• Delivery of activities for Ipswich.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful delivery of deanery plan for growing new disciples.</li> <li>• Transformed Ipswich deanery that is inspirational, missional, relational and pastoral</li> </ul>
<b>Parish Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mission Accompaniers</li> <li>• Ipswich Evangelist Lead</li> <li>• Ipswich Community Engagement Lead</li> <li>• Clergy Leadership training</li> <li>• Learning Communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning Community supports delivery of Parish mission plan with intentional focus on growth.</li> <li>• Mission Accompaniers support Incumbents to deliver plan and achieve growth.</li> <li>• Evangelist and CE lead support engagement of those outside Church.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15000 contacts with those outside the Church.</li> <li>• 7500 faith explorers.</li> <li>• Approx. 530 new disciples through congregation growth in all churches in Ipswich.</li> <li>• At least 5 new congregations contributing 140 new disciples.</li> </ul>
<b>Fresh Expressions of Church</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Pioneer Developers</li> <li>• Mission Shaped Ministry training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pioneer Developers set-up, develop and manage fxC as part of SFXC, and coach and support other leaders to do the same.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 18 fxC set-up across Ipswich.</li> <li>• Approx. 370 new disciples at fxC.</li> </ul>
<b>Church Planting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Associate Priests</li> <li>• 6 Pioneer Curates</li> <li>• Start-up and running costs (parish funded)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church Planting churches.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 6 church plants.</li> <li>• Approx. 480 new disciples.</li> </ul>

## Vision for Ipswich

Our vision is for a transformed Ipswich deanery, led by strong and energised ministry teams, communicating good news and growing new disciples. We will look outwards to the people who are not currently part of the church and look beyond parochial boundaries to what can be achieved for Ipswich, working supportively and collaboratively with each other and living creatively and confidently with change. As a deanery we will be inspirational, missional, relational and pastoral.

By the end of the project we will have developed a culture that is collegiate, outward looking, confident and innovative. We will achieve tangible numerical growth and will be more active and confident in becoming 'younger'. We will deliver considerable community engagement with church and secular partners, so we are regarded as a blessing to the wider community.

**Through Inspiring Ipswich, by 2025 we believe God is leading us to make 1,500 new Christian disciples (1% of the Ipswich population).**

To achieve this, we will:

- Make contact with 15,000 people currently outside the Church.  
10% of the population of the Ipswich deanery, through Church-led community events and programmes, and community engagement such as town pastors, winter night shelter, care home visiting, and mentoring schemes with young people.
- Engage 7,500 people in exploring faith.  
5% of the population of the Ipswich deanery. This could be for instance via Alpha, accessible and inspiring worship services, one-to-one conversations at work, home, school or in the community. The growth in disciples will be achieved through focus on intentional growth, increasing contact with those outside the church and providing more opportunities for journeys of discipleship.
- Double the existing number of worshipping communities from 25 to over 50.

We will increase the number of worshipping communities in Ipswich to provide access to worship in places, at times and in ways that are accessible, convenient and welcoming for people from across Ipswich. There will be a focus on areas of Ipswich that are under served. This means:

- At least 6 church plants across Ipswich led by Church Planting Churches with the strength and calling to plant.
- 18 fxCs coming from development of existing missional initiatives and new initiatives.
- And new congregations establishing and growing within at least five parishes within Ipswich to reach a different demographic to existing congregations.

Achieving this will require changes in the way clergy within Ipswich work, and leadership. By the end of the project we will have developed a culture that is collegiate, outward looking, confident and innovative, with strong leadership that reflects the size and potential of Ipswich within the Diocese.

Our aim is that the work done to achieve this by 2025 will provide foundations for future growth and strength within Ipswich, as well as a model that can be used elsewhere in urban contexts.

We will achieve all this remaining true to principles that emerged through our process of envisioning and developing this project:

- Discerning God's direction through prayer and worship will be central.
- Inclusivity: Available to and reaching everyone.
- Honouring and valuing each other's traditions.
- Celebrating and building on what we have, because our strengths are considerable.

## Approach

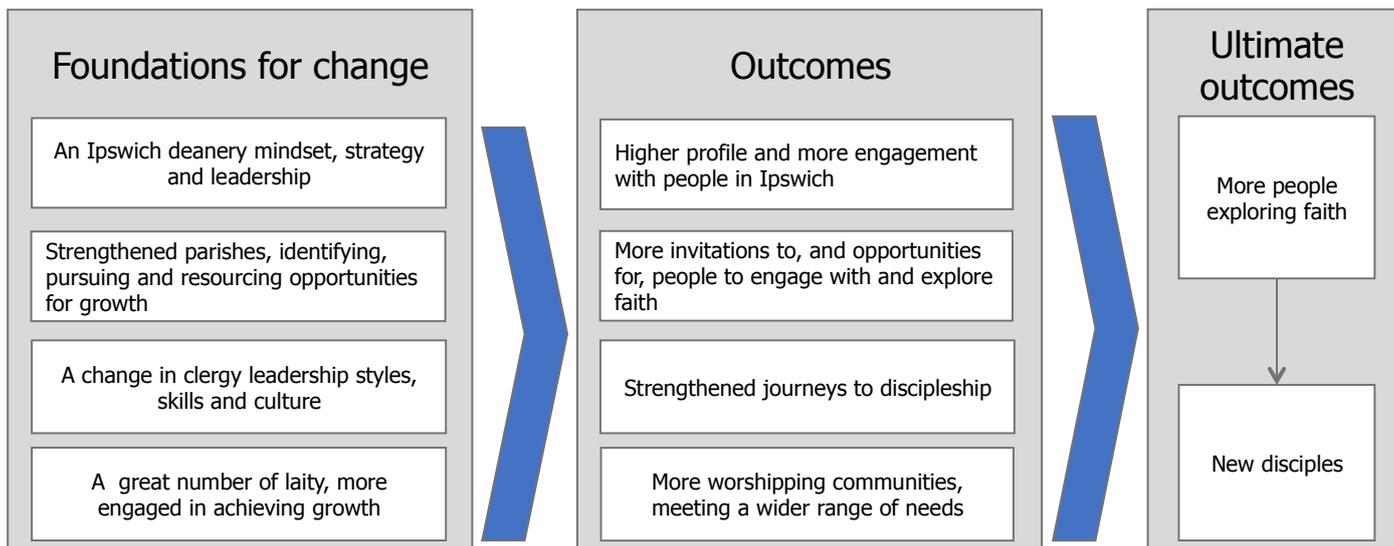
To achieve the primary outcome of 1,500 new disciples within Ipswich we must have an intentional focus on growth and deliver the following outcomes for **people** within Ipswich:

- Higher profile and more engagement with people in Ipswich, so that **people** see the relevance of the Christian faith to their lives.
- More invitations to, and opportunities for, people to engage with and explore faith, so that **people** act to explore and learn about the Christian faith.
- Strengthened journeys to discipleship, so that **people** are aware of what is available to help them along this journey and find it.
- More worshipping communities, meeting a wider range of need, so that **people** have worshipping communities that are accessible in geography, tradition and style.

To achieve these outcomes on this scale we must strengthen some aspects of the deanery and change some things about the way we work. We have called these changes foundations. Our foundations for change are:

- An Ipswich deanery mindset, strategy and leadership.
- Strengthened parishes with a focus on growth, identifying, pursuing and resourcing opportunities for growth.
- A change in clergy leadership styles, skills and culture.
- A greater number of laity engaged in achieving growth.

## Summary Theory of Change for Inspiring Ipswich



## Project Delivery

To deliver the Inspiring Ipswich project we have defined four workstreams which are different areas of activity within the project. They are different from the theory of change (approach), which describes the logic of how the outcomes will be delivered. The workstreams are a way of structuring the activities so that they can be delivered efficiently.

The four workstreams are:

1. Ipswich deanery leadership, strategy and planning.
2. Parish Development.
3. Fresh Expressions of Church (fxCs).
4. Church planting.

### Inspiring Ipswich workstreams



### Project Team

The SDF funded project team will consist of the posts of:

- Archdeacon of Ipswich
- Project Manager (part-time)
- Pioneer Developers (3 full-time equivalent)
- Communications Executive (part-time)
- Project Administrator (part-time)
- A team of Mission Accompaniers - engaged on a consultancy basis to support work within Ipswich.
- An Associate Priest/Pioneer Curate to support each Planting Church.

It is important that the project team links in with existing Deanery structures, and this link will happen primarily through the Deanery Leadership Team