



# PARISH PROFILE

APRIL 2023



# **ST AUGUSTINE'S IS A CHARISMATIC EVANGELICAL ANGLICAN CHURCH, PART OF THE HTB NETWORK, BASED IN IPSWICH, THE COUNTY TOWN OF SUFFOLK.**

We have a weekly worshipping community of around 100 adults every Sunday, rising to 140 thanks to a popular midweek communion service. Adding in regular children's, youth and community activities, the weekly reach of our gospel ministry is well over 300 people.



## **WE ARE AN INTENTIONALLY MISSIONAL CHURCH.**

We believe God has called us to make disciples of Jesus as we gather in his name, grow deeper in his Word and give away what we've been given.

We are committed to doing whatever it takes to see God bring us growth in three key areas: children, young people and families, discipleship to the Lord Jesus through small groups and especially Alpha, and ministries of compassion to our community.

God is giving us unprecedented opportunities to reach out to children through our under-5s groups, a phenomenally popular Messy Church and more. A wellbeing café started shortly after lockdown has been a tremendous blessing to the isolated. We are seeing adults and children saved and added.

In the last two years we have sent two church plants into our town: River Church, a new HTB church focussed on reaching young adults in the Waterfront area of the town; and Lindbergh Road Community Church, a small missional community focussed on a neighbourhood within our own parish. Both are seeing the fruit of new disciples of Jesus.

We are now in a new phase of rebuilding and growth, and though we have no immediate plans to plant again, we are eager to continue to play our part in growing the kingdom beyond our own parish.



## GOD HAS GIVEN US A PASSIONATELY MISSIONAL TEAM.



**Al Metcalfe**, our Vicar, is a northerner in exile. He is a grateful alumnus of The Message Trust and chair of The Oasis Centre in Manchester, which informs both his commitment to sharing the gospel with the next generation and compassionate care for our local community.



**Lesley Brett** is our Operations Manager and holds together the complex administration of a large and busy church in the heart of our parish. She is assisted by a skilled team of volunteers overseeing our finances and facilities.

Our Wardens, **Nigel and Tim**, are just two members of a superb leadership team and a united PCC, committed to seeing the church increasingly come alive in prayer, worship and the ministry of the Spirit.



**Like so many churches we have felt the numbing and wasting effects of three years of Covid and its aftermath, and we long to see a rebirth of faith, hope and courage in our church and our town.**

## RIGHT NOW WE ARE SEEKING TO STRENGTHEN OUR TEAM.

We are seeking a full-time Associate Vicar for Mission and a part-time Youth Pastor.

Both roles offer huge opportunities for bold evangelists who want to come and join us in accelerating what God is already doing – people of courage and faith who will be committed to loving, teaching and praying this remarkable church into a new season of growth and blessing.





## **WE ARE EXTREMELY WELL SITUATED AND EQUIPPED FOR MISSION.**

Our location is excellent, positioned on the intersection of two busy roads and public transport routes. St Augustine's has a reputation as 'the church with the lighted cross' because of an illuminated cross on our tower, visible from distance at night.



As well as a medium-sized church, we have an airy and spacious meeting room (the Lantern Room), and a nearby hall complex (the Hub) where our office is based. We have plentiful parking on site.

St Augustine's is a single parish benefice serving a population of over 11,000 people in 4,500 households. It is the third largest benefice in Ipswich Deanery.

Housing in the parish is varied, ranging from local authority housing built in the 1920s to new executive style homes. There is a wide social mix and some cultural diversity. The employment is typical of the town, including insurance, IT, health, local authority, retail and service industries. Those who are retired often have long history in the area, and historic links to the church.

We're ten minutes from the centre of Ipswich, less than twenty to Felixstowe and the beautiful South Suffolk coast, and just over an hour by train from London.

Historically we have had missionally fruitful links with local schools, residential homes and nearby hospices and we are eager to renew them.

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“Everyone is welcome, whoever they are and wherever they’re from. We mean it.”

## WHAT WE SAY ABOUT OURSELVES – FROM OUR WEBSITE.

We’re a ‘*bring your Bible*’ kind of church.

We believe God speaks to us through the Bible, and that what he has to say to us is the most important thing we could hear. You don’t need to know anything about the Bible before you come, but be prepared to be inspired and challenged by it when you do.

We’re a ‘*come as you are*’ kind of church.

Everyone is welcome, whoever they are and wherever they’re from. We mean it. We are a diverse bunch, from many parts of the world and with very different backgrounds brought together by the encounter we’ve all had with Jesus.

We’re an ‘*it’s all about Jesus*’ kind of church.

We’re not very churchy in many ways – our music is informal, we don’t dress up for Sundays and we try not to use too many confusing words. But we love to talk about Jesus who has changed our lives and who changes them a little more every day as we follow him and share life together.







## PARTNERS.



### Inspiring Ipswich

Inspiring Ipswich is an exciting seven-year initiative, focusing on strengthening the 24 churches within Ipswich Deanery and adding 25 new worshipping communities by 2026. Front and centre is the overall aim of praying for and nurturing the faith of 1500 new Christians across the town.

[inspiringipswich.org](https://inspiringipswich.org)



### Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

The Church of England in Suffolk. The Diocese vision is 'Growing in God ... aspiring 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.'

[cofesuffolk.org](https://cofesuffolk.org)



**ST AUGUSTINE'S** IPSWICH

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