



# St Mary-le-Tower

Civic church of Ipswich

Vision and Strategic Plan  
2022-2027



# Message from the Vicar

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St Mary le Tower has been at the heart of Ipswich for more than a thousand years, and since the year 1200 has been its Civic Church. It holds a special place in the history of the town, and I believe, in its future. Though financial challenges, worsened by the COVID pandemic, cannot be denied, since my arrival in late 2021 I have been enthralled by the enormous potential of this community and place. Harnessing this, and nurturing treasures such as our choral tradition, I am convinced that the Tower, with its mission to love and serve God, will play a central role in the flourishing of the town as a whole.

It is into this context that I am delighted to present our vision and strategic plan for the next five years. Emerging out of a period of prayer, listening, and consultation, it sets out a series of aims that will guide our mission. It is rooted in the Christian values that have shaped us for more than a millennia, but is also a vision of a renewed church, inspired to share God's love through welcome, worship, faith, and action, all in a sustainable way. Formed by our particular vocation as a town and Civic Church, as well as a Major Church in Suffolk and England, we aspire to lead in, resource, and inspire the renewal of Christian life not just in our parish, but throughout Ipswich, east Suffolk, and beyond.

Ultimately, we have a dream, to be a place where people are able to experience the warmth and love of God, and in doing so discover what it means to truly flourish, to become who God calls them to be.

I commend this vision and plan to you.



Tom Mumford  
Vicar of St Mary le Tower





## **Mission Statement**

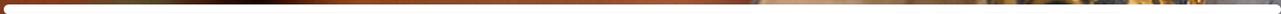
St Mary le Tower, Town and Civic Church of Ipswich

A welcoming, inclusive, and open church, offering peace and sanctuary in the heart of Ipswich, flourishing through prayer, faith, and positive action.

# To achieve our vision

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The Tower has five key areas of work that will help it achieve this vision: welcome, worship, faith, act, sustain.



# Welcome

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*We will provide a peaceful sanctuary for all through:*

An open church 7 days a week;

Welcoming, accessible, and safe space;

Hosting events and organisations for  
culture, learning and fun.



# Worship

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*We will enable all to experience the love and presence of God through exceptional worship*

Offering daily prayer for the people and town of Ipswich;

Developing and sustaining choral excellence, with a particular focus on future generations;

Creating a monthly service tailored to and led by young people.

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# Faith

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*We will be a place where people can encounter, deepen, and grow in faith.*

Providing multiple opportunities for people to explore and enquire about Christianity;

Holding regular events promoting the discussion of the Christian faith in contemporary life and the public square;

Nourishing and deepening people's existing faith across all ages.

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# Act

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*We will discern and respond to local need using pilot projects in the areas of:*

Health;

Loneliness;

Poverty.



# Sustain

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*We will secure a financially, environmentally and socially sustainable future through:*

A coherent and ambitious giving and fundraising project to fund our plans;

Working towards attaining the highest possible Eco Church status;

Adopting an intergenerational approach to mission and ministry, seeking partnership with local organisations, and developing the next generation of church leaders.

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[www.stmaryletower.org](http://www.stmaryletower.org)



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