

A New Monastic Community at St Thomas's, Ipswich

Community † Prayer † Mission



Our vision is to create a Christian **community** with residential and non-residential members in North West Ipswich, located at St. Thomas's Vicarage. The community will be **rooted in a regular pattern of prayer** as we want to be a prayerful presence in the neighbourhood we are part of. We will develop a rhythm of study, eating together, hospitality, mutual support and also aim to engage in God's **mission**

within the wider community in which we are located, for example through work with children, young people and those who are isolated. The area includes the Whitehouse estate with many families, a large primary school and a secondary school and we would seek to make a difference to their lives.

At the heart of the project is the recognition that with God, the Holy Trinity, 'community is the deepest and most foundational reality that exists' (*Leonardo Boff*). Therefore, being part of an intentional Christian community enables us to meet our longing to deepen our relationship with God, with one another and the wider world into which God leads us. It provides an alternative way of life in a culture that is dominated by individualism and consumerism.

For more information contact: **The Revd Jutta Brueck, St Thomas's Vicarage, 102 Cromer Road, Ipswich IP1 5EP. Tel: 01473 743341 Email: jutta.brueck@cofesuffolk.org**

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The community is open to anyone, irrespective of church background or circumstances in life, and we welcome enquiries from anyone who is excited by our vision. The exploration process for the community started in February with prayer meetings attended by people of different backgrounds and ages, with one person beginning the process of becoming a residential member and a dozen non-residential members. We are starting to develop a rule for a rhythm of life for our community which will take into account the diverse circumstances of our members.

If you would like to find out more and to explore whether you could be part of this community you are warmly invited to join us for one or all of the **community prayer meetings** (bring some food to share): **Dates: 8 & 23 June; 6 & 19 July; 3 & 18 August; 7 September @ 7.00-9.00pm at St. Thomas Vicarage, 102 Cromer Road, IP1 5EP**

for future dates see www.stthomasipswich.org.uk or www.facebook.com/St-Thomas-Ipswich-Developing-a-residential-community



St Thomas's, Ipswich is a Church of England parish whose Priest in Charge, the Revd Jutta Brueck, brings experience of living in and supporting Christian residential communities. She has a calling to develop a new monastic community that would be open to Christians and seekers of all denominations, drawing on the experience of ancient and present religious communities.

This project is supported by St Thomas's Parochial Church Council and the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.