

# ST. ANDREW'S WATERSIDE MISSION CHURCH AT GRAVESEND

## Home to the Fourth Portal

Stepping into this former seafarer's chapel by the Thames in Gravesend immerses visitors in a calm beauty — a place of stunning stained glass and a ceiling representing an upturned boat hull.

Originally built to serve Gravesend's bustling waterside community, St. Andrew's stands as a reminder of the town's vibrant 19th-century shipping industry, where local families supplied vessels bound for distant shores. Connections to innovation run deep here, from Admiral Francis Beaufort, creator of the wind scale, to tributes to the HMS Terror and Erebus, two pioneering ships lost in the Northwest Passage in 1845.

St. Andrew's Waterside Mission Church construction was to promote education, health, and wellbeing. Today, the Fourth Portal continues this legacy, showcasing how innovation and technology can inspire people, change lives and reduce environmental impact.

Discover more at [www.fourthportal.com/gravesend](http://www.fourthportal.com/gravesend).



**F**ourth Portal newspaper Issue 2 explores the resistance individuals, communities, businesses, and institutions face in adapting to the dramatic technological disruption of our time.

One theme that stands out throughout the newspaper is the rising importance of personal wellbeing in both work and private life.

We begin with institutional intransigence and its role in slow or flawed decision-making, highlighting the journey of the Church of England to ordain women priests — an example of how even the oldest institutions can embrace positive change.

The paper examines the power of statistics and big data to drive social and community transformation, followed by how data-driven technologies improve health outcomes and daily life for those with medical conditions. As individuals adopt new tools to enhance their lives, we ask how organisations are adapting to changes in customer and colleague lifestyle expectations while still addressing the climate emergency.

Concluding with a nod towards our first edition, we revisit the enduring relevance of materials with interviews about adapting traditional industries and giving old objects new purpose in a fast-moving world.

Enjoy!



The Fourth Portal's Innovation Showcase 2024, held across Gravesend town centre, provides a glimpse into the emerging economy, featuring demonstrations of advanced technologies, talks, and interactive sessions focusing on AI, robotics, creativity, wellbeing, and community engagement.

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