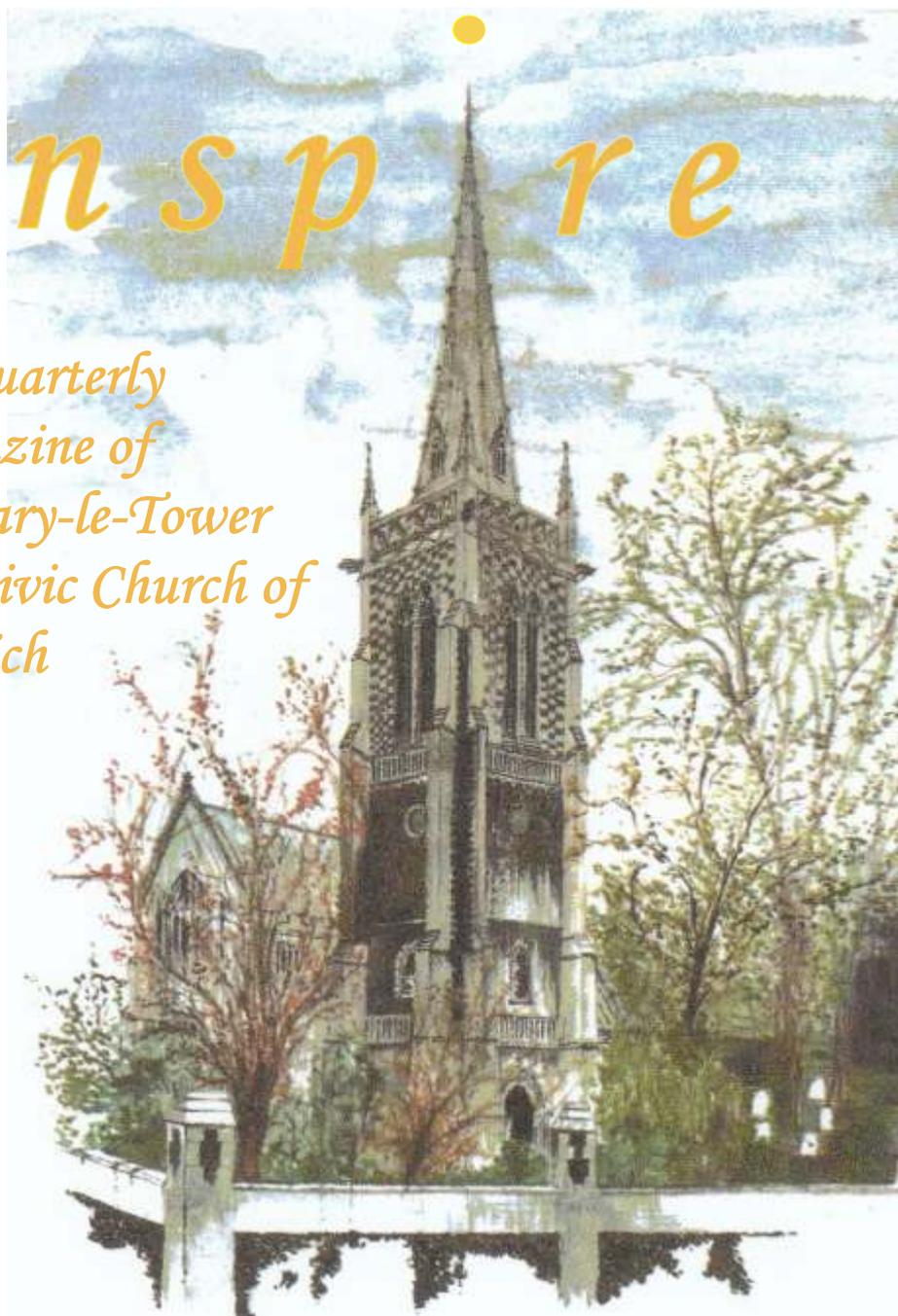


Michaelmas 2017



I n s p i r e

*The quarterly
Magazine of
St Mary-le-Tower
The Civic Church of
Ipswich*



www.stmaryletower.org.uk

Dear Friends,

Waiting on God.

One of the things that a faithful Christian community learns to do, is wait upon God. It is a given that, often, the most important things to which God calls Christians and churches, are those things that we cannot hope to do on our own. God calls us to do these difficult things partly because this teaches us about our basic need of himself. Christians are not just self-made people, but God-made people (and churches) who depend utterly on the grace of God and the empowering of the Holy Spirit; who must learn, time and again, to wait on God.

This is not a passive kind of waiting, as in just waiting around for God to do something. It's is much more like expecting something vitally important, and living faithfully, even strenuously, in that expectation. So that when God acts, there is a sense of being met on the way. Waiting hopefully on God makes people and churches become the kind of people with whom God can do business. And in such active waiting our hearts and minds become tuned to what God desires for us.

St Mary-le-Tower church is embarked on a major process of development. It began six years ago when the PCC started prayerful work on a vision for the future. That vision was announced in the spring of 2012, and was about growing our musical activity especially with young people, and about being a welcoming presence in the town centre day by day, and about growing our community engagement. Although there have also been setbacks, this vision has been blessed and confirmed in many ways.

We have now reached a point when we must faithfully and prayerfully wait upon God for the next stage of this journey. This concerns finding the strategic funding that will sustain the choral tradition of St Mary-le-Tower into the future. This could take many forms: increased regular giving, bequests, grants, donations, large and small; but it's no good just waiting around for something to happen. We must leave no stone unturned

There is a mountain to climb, but God is faithful. And if it is in God's purposes that the choral tradition at St Mary-le-Tower is to endure, then our primary task is to keep faith with God and to wait on him. Then we shall know the right ways to go and what each of us is called to do. And in all this, whatever happens in the end, we will have grown closer to God and will know ourselves to be more deeply held in his love.

Canon Charles



FORTHCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES AT ST MARY-LE-TOWER

SUNDAY 15TH OCTOBER

6.30pm Mayor's Annual Civic Service

SUNDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

6.30pm Requiem Mass for All Souls

Choral Requiem Eucharist with Full Choir; *Requiem by Fauré*

SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

10.30am Christ the King; All-age Communion Service

SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER

6.30pm Advent Festival Service of Hope and Light

TUESDAY 5TH DECEMBER

4.30pm Christingle Candle Carol Service

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER

10.30am All-age Crib Eucharist

CHRISTMAS EVE

7.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30am Christmas Eucharist

PLEASE NOTE: On Sundays 12th November and 10th December, the Choral Eucharist will be at 9.30am. There will be no Choral Matins

Answers to Crossword on P 17 **ACROSS:** 1 Bartholomew. 9 Evil one. 10 Adore. 11 Ran. 13 Oreb. 16 Zinc. 17 Entail. 18 Hung. 20 Lehi. 21 Joshua. 22 Pity. 23 Wide. 25 Age. 28 Alarm. 29, Partake. 30, Sennacherib.

DOWN: 2 Alive. 3 Took. 4 Over. 5 Onan. 6 Emotive. 7 Jehoshaphat. 8 Melchizedek. 12 A light. 14 Beg. 15 Strong. 19 Not have. 20 Law. 24 Iraqi. 25 Amen. 26 Epic. 27 Free.

Parish Diary

OCTOBER

- Sat 14th 11am – 3pm St Mary-le-Tower Open Day
Sun 15th 12n Presentation on the Tower House Project by Prof Julia Häusermann
6.30pm The Mayor's Annual Civic Service
Sun 22nd 3pm St John Ambulance County Service and Awards
23rd/24th Half Term. No Choral Evening Prayer services
Sun 29th British Summer Time ends. Choral Evensongs now at 5pm

NOVEMBER

- Sun 5th **All Saints Sunday.** 6.30pm Requiem Eucharist for All Souls (Fauré)
Sat 11th 7.30pm Tower Chamber Choir Concert
Sun 12th Remembrance Sunday. (No Choral Matins.)
9.30am Choral Eucharist (shortened service)
Fr1 17th 12n for 12.30pm Sanctuary Guild Lunch
Fri 24th 8.30pm Choral Compline
Sun 26th **Feast of Christ the King.** Usual services except:
10.30am Choral Eucharist with All-age Address
Mon 27th Christmas Tree Festival Setting up begins in Church
Wed 29th 7pm Festival Opening Event (by ticket only)
Thurs 30th 10am – 6pm Grand Christmas Tree Festival Open

DECEMBER

- 1st/2nd 10am – 6pm Grand Christmas Tree Festival Open
Sun 3rd **Advent Sunday.** Usual services except:
6.30pm Advent Festival of Hope and Light
12.30pm – 4.30pm Grand Christmas Tree Festival Open
4th/5th 10am – 6pm Grand Christmas Tree Festival Open
Tues 5th 1.10pm Festival Lunchtime Concert
4.30pm Christingle Candle Carol Service
Wed 6th 10.30am Holy Communion (in the Chancel)
11.30am – 4pm Grand Christmas Tree Festival Open
6/7/8th Christmas Tree Festival clearing down
Sun 10th Choral Eucharist at 9.30am (No Choral Matins)
4.30pm Handel's Messiah (Choral Foundation Concert)
Sun 17th **10.30pm Crib Eucharist.** 5pm Choral Evensong

The Winter Concert Series will start on Tuesday 21st November. Featuring Taylor London *Soprano & Voice*; Colin Walsh *Organ*; Tom Raskin & Chris Weston *Tenor & Voice* and Andy McColloch *Clarinet & Piano*.

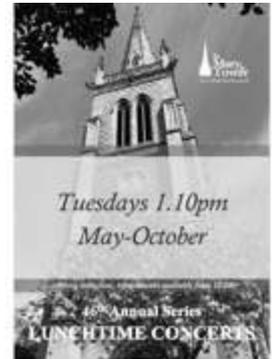
The series will culminate on Thursday 21st December with the annual Christmas Concert given by the Choir of SMLT. Concerts start at 1.10pm and admission is free of charge. Refreshments are available from 12.20pm



Music Notes

It is wonderful to be back after the summer break; refreshed and raring to go.

I am most grateful for all those who stepped in to help with the Tuesday lunchtime recitals whilst Rhiannon, Will and myself were away. The recital team work tirelessly throughout the year and I am very grateful for all they do – but especially so for their efforts in August.



The choir have returned in great shape after their holiday. We have had many choristers change schools over the summer, as well as other members who are bracing themselves for the challenges of impending public exams. Despite the upheaval, their singing has continued to be brilliant.

Those of our choral scholars who have had GCSE results over the summer have done very well indeed. Congratulations to you all.



The new term has brought with it a few changes to the structure of the Music Department. Now that the girl choristers are part of the woodwork, and some of their number have already graduated to become Choral Scholars, I felt the time was ripe for some clarity within the various sections of the choir.

We have adapted the structure of the choir to try and create as equal opportunities as possible for the choristers and choral scholars. Our choristers and choral scholars

are split into four distinct groups: boy choristers, girl choristers, ATB (alto, tenor, bass) choral scholars and Soprano choral scholars.

It is our intention that the girl and boy chorister sections are for individuals from year 1 to year 8. Head Choristers will be appointed for both the girl and boy sections. Choristers will sing and rehearse for their midweek service and either in the morning or the afternoon on a Sunday. There may be the occasional Sunday free depending on the natural cycle of the choir schedule. Often the choristers will join together for All-age Eucharists, church festivals and important occasions, such as Patronal Festival, Civic Service, All Souls, Christmas (and associated concerts) and Easter.

Those from year 9 to year 13 will be choral scholars (assuming they are of a sufficient standard after their time as a chorister). They receive increased bursaries and also singing lessons with our singing teacher, Katie Smith (for which funding we are very grateful to the Ouseley Foundation and the Choral Foundation for SMLT). The ATB choral scholars will rehearse on a Friday evening and sing when required on a Sunday. This will often be for all three services, except for occasions such as All-

Liturgy For All Souls

6.30pm Sunday 5th November

Choral Requiem Eucharist

with Full Choir

Requiem by Fauré



age eucharists. The Soprano choral scholars will also rehearse on a Friday and sing with the adult soprano section and girl choristers on Sundays, this will include All-age eucharists. All Choral Scholars will take part in the Compline services on a Friday evening when they arise.

As a result of these adjustments, we have been able to make some new choir member appointments. The Head Boy Chorister is Archie Thompson, the Head Girl Chorister is Veronika Cutting and the Gibbs Award has been given to Adam Scoggins. The Gibbs award has previously been given

to deputy head choristers. However this award has now been re-assigned to mark an outstanding, long-term contribution to the choir. As in Adam's case, it will usually be awarded to a choral scholar in their final year.

We have also had a change of personnel in the Music Department. At the end of last term, Isolde Cutting decided that she wished to step down as Choir Assistant for the girl choristers. Having three children involved in the choir is a huge family commitment - not to mention all the other ways Isolde and James give to the life of our church. I am personally very grateful for her hard work and care of the choristers, both in the day-to-day running of the choir and excursions further afield. I know the choristers will miss her day-to-day input but I am glad that she will still be an active part of their spiritual development. Thank you very much indeed to Isolde.

Isolde's replacement for the year will be our new Senior Music Scholar – Taylor London. Taylor has recently completed her A-levels at Royal Hospital School, Holbrook. She hopes to gain a place to a music conservatoire starting next year. During this academic year Taylor will be helping with running of the Music Department, including helping Donna and myself in the office, and giving individual piano lessons to the younger choristers.

Taylor has a fantastic soprano voice and will be performing with the choir and as a soloist in many events over the course of the year. We are very lucky and delighted to have her on the team!

As always, we have an action packed term ahead, including the Mayor's Service, All Souls Requiem, Advent Vigil, Christmas Tree Festival, Messiah, Christmas concerts, Britten's Ceremony of Carols and our favourite: Nine lessons and Carols.

The choir can't do any of this without William, Donna in the office, the committed parents and our Choir Assistants, Lis and Taylor. Thank you for all your support.

Christopher Borrett



Sanctuary Guild Lunch

Friday 17th November

In Church House at 12.00 for 12.30pm

Sherry, 2 courses, coffee £7.00

Raffle

Speaker: Mr Christopher Moore

a humorous presentation about the history of Church Music and his personal experiences.

Church noticeboard gaffes

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours"

There is a sign-up sheet for anyone wishing to be baptized on the table in the foyer.

Music

Two young vegetarians were getting married and had to choose their wedding music. The minister suggested the voluntary: 'Sheep may safely graze.'



DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT JUNE 2017



*Bishops Martin and Mike
Dunwich*

After uplifting worship led by Richard Hubbard, Music Development Director at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, and the InHarmony Ensemble, Bishop Martin announced during his presidential address that a phenomenal £50,000 has been raised in just six weeks through his and Bishop Mike's Lent appeal to help the people of Kagera.

Synod delegates took part in four short workshops, focusing on creative mission within the priorities of the Diocese's vision to Grow in God.

The Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) was authorised by Synod to spend up to £8,283,000 during 2018. Anna Hughes, Diocesan Secretary and Archdeacon Ian, Chairman of the DBF, spoke of greatly improving finances within the diocese. Anna advised Synod that

losses are reducing. Synod approved £7,100,000 to be provided from the Centenary Share to the Diocesan Board of Finance in 2018 to meet budgeted expenditure. Archdeacon Ian thanked all those across Suffolk who give so generously to support the work of the diocese.

Synod heard of the cathedral's exciting project to enrich music in worship at churches throughout the diocese, with the question asked would you like a visiting choir? Only a third of churches now have a choir and Synod heard that introducing new music would not mean abandoning traditional music.

Archdeacon Ian, Chair of the Project Board, and Gavin Stone, Head of Transformation, gave reflections of the Suffolk Show. Ian said it is fundamentally important for the Diocese to be at the Show, being where people are, and it provides a tremendous opportunity to have meaningful conversations with others about faith. He said 2,500 cups of coffee and tea were served! The annual Centenary Fund Concert will be held on Saturday October 7th 2017, with the Suffolk Philharmonic Orchestra event being at The Apex, Bury St Edmunds. The Centenary Fund aims to raise £1 million over five years to support work in our parishes.

MUSTARD SEED APPEAL - BRINGING HOPE TO THOSE IN DEBT



This Harvest, the Archbishop of Canterbury is asking churches to support the Mustard Seed Appeal, set up last year to respond to the desperate growing debt problem that so many in the UK are facing.

At present, about 600,000 families are spending more on repaying debts than on food. One in four adults have less than £500 saved to cover an emergency. Nearly nine million adults are over-indebted, but only one in six are currently seeking help.

The impact of financial distress can be devastating, creating stress and anxiety, hardship and hopelessness. Relationships, family life and mental health suffer as people become stuck in a spiral of debt and end up spending more of their income on paying back loans. Without support, people become vulnerable to loan sharks and pay-day lenders.

In 2016 the Archbishop of Canterbury's Mustard Seed Appeal was set up to respond to this desperate need and to launch the Just Finance Foundation. Archbishop Justin's vision for a fairer financial system is inspired by the parable Jesus told where a tiny seed grows into something big. Your donation is helping to sow seeds of hope.

The money that is raised through the Mustard Seed Appeal will help to fund the Just Finance Foundation's two streams of work. The aim is to both help people already in financial crisis, and to create a new generation who can manage money wisely.



More details at: <https://www.cuf.org.uk/mustard-seed-appeal>

TOWER HOUSE PROJECT UPDATE



Professor Julia Häusermann will be giving a talk about progress in the Tower House project after the 10.30am service on Sunday 15th October at 12 noon. Much has been happening both in terms of the departure of La Tour Cycle Café and also behind the scenes in Tower House. Julia is the Director of Development for Tower House.

So in overview, what has been happening? The most obvious thing is that La Tour Cycle Café has departed. It's disappointing that this partnership did not work out as everyone had hoped, as the café had helped put Tower House on the map during its time with us. But they decided that their future best lay elsewhere (the Cycle Café has moved to the Ipswich waterfront) and we wish them every success in their new location.

A GROWING COMMUNITY

So the feel of the building as you enter it now is very different. We now have seven charities and community interest groups that have taken offices and based their work in Tower House. Everyone is pulling together marvellously to create a positive atmosphere and a good sense of welcome and cooperation in Tower House. Particular thanks go to Julia Häusermann for the part she has played in drawing everyone together and to Donna Joyce, Katrina Robertson, Tracy Bose and her colleague Sue Woods for all their hard work in tidying up the look of the entrance and reception area. There is also a new member of staff, Andy Gray, who has recently taken up a caretaking role, and he is being shared between Tower House and 19 Tower Street (where the CAB and DAB are).

The departure of the café has meant that the café lounge is now available to be the multipurpose community meeting room that was originally planned. With new eyes and

with the consultations undertaken by Julia, the plans for the building have again been modified and we are now confident that we have a very good plan indeed for refurbishing the building. Now that the community meeting room is available again, plans for a separate parish hall in the north wing have been put on hold, and two separate refurbishment projects are now being advanced in tandem – the Song School and the Shared Community Space.

THE NEW SONG SCHOOL

The new Song School project is a priority so that the choir can move in there, enabling the value of Church House to be realised in the best way possible, to support the ongoing life of St Mary-le-Tower church. The budget for this project is just over £97,000 with half being found from Tower House project funds, and with the other half to be raised in donations and grants. This will be an external fundraising process from trusts and the like, and there are no plans for active fundraising from the congregation for this project.

The New Song School Refurbishment project has two main aspects; an attractive Music Room rehearsal space on the first floor of the North wing for use by our own choirs and other community music groups, and alterations to the second floor to contain a tuition-room/music-office and the music library. There will also be separate girls' and boys' toilets to enable the song school to operate securely with young people. In addition, there will be a multipurpose parish meeting room on the first floor.

SHARED COMMUNITY SPACE

The project to refurbish Shared Community Space is a much larger undertaking. As well as having strong community aspects, this project also has strong heritage restoration aspects, in that Tower House is one of the few genuine historic Georgian buildings in Ipswich. This project will see a comprehensive refurbishment of the ground floor with a lovely Community Room, and associated kitchen, toilet and storage facilities.

It also includes restoration of the portico, and restoration of the original front reception room (where the coffee bar has been) to be the new location for the Parish Office (moving downstairs). The ground floor refurbishment will also see the new Disabled Advice Bureau Internet Training Room moving sideways to become an integrated part of Shared Community Space.

Upstairs in Shared Community Space, will be offices and meeting rooms for community organisations and charities. Much of this work will be straight forward, but there will need to be some significant restoration in the largest office following the discovery of Dry Rot in the bay window. The root cause of this was some very poor design of the roof, which was only put right when the external repairs were done in 2015. The Dry Rot has since emerged from its hiding place, but thankfully it has not infected any other part of the building.

Do come and hear Julia speak about the interesting groups now using the centre, and about how this exciting project is progressing, on 15th October at 12 noon after the 10.30am service.

Canon Charles

NEWS FROM THE BELFRY - ANNUAL OUTING

On Saturday 2nd September a group of about twenty ringers from St Mary-le-Tower, together with friends, set out on the traditional annual outing. As in the previous two years, Norfolk was the destination and when we arrived at our first stop, Kenninghall, the sun was shining with the promise of a lovely autumn day. There are eight bells here and within our 45 minute visit everyone had a ring. A bonus was the fact that there was a coffee morning taking place in the church, so refreshment was available for those in need, having missed breakfast because of an early start. Next stop was the magnificent Wymondham Abbey, with its glorious ring of ten – well worth the climb of nearly 100 steps to reach the ringing chamber!



After this we proceeded to Mattishall, with its ring of just six bells. Here we encountered the only rain of the day, but this was only short-lived. It was late morning by this time, so after ringing here we travelled a few miles to Swanton Morley, where a most agreeable lunch was consumed in a local hostelry.



Suitably refreshed and re-energised we arrived at Gressenhall, being another tower with ten bells. This church is unusual inasmuch that it is of cruciform design with the bells in the central tower.

Heading back in a homeward direction now we next visited Saham Toney (just outside Watton), where a fund-raising ‘handbag sale’ was just finishing in the church. Just six bells here, and quite a quick stop just allowing everyone a chance to have a quick ring before our last tower of the day, Thetford (St Peter’s). This is a Grade II listed building now in the care of the Local Authority. Its eight bells are a complete eighteenth century ring, and although difficult to handle proved very rewarding for everyone.

Thus ended an excellent day’s outing, except for one last item – light refreshment in the 15th century Bell Inn right outside the church before heading home!



REAP A GOOD HARVEST



If you’ve been out and about in the countryside in recent months, you’ll have noticed that there was a bumper crop of blackberries and other fruit this year. That was no accident. It was because, from Spring onwards, there has been just the right amount of heat and cold, rain and sun, to make the plants bring forth their best.

It’s the same when we are making Jesus known. Only God knows if the people we meet are ready to respond to the Gospel. We might be simply planting a seed, and that person still has years to go, or it may be that the person is finally ready to become a follower of Jesus.

This autumn, as we prepare for Christmas, let’s be intentional – praying for friends and family members who don’t yet know Jesus. Let’s ask God for opportunities to sensitively share the Good News of Jesus. And let’s be ready to serve and speak in Jesus name.

by Roy Crowne, executive Director of HOPE 2018.

THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION



31st October marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 Theses to the Wittenberg church door in 1517, signaling the start of the Protestant Reformation. He was protesting against the practice of indulgences, where the good deeds of the saints could be purchased to reduce time spent in purgatory, before arriving in heaven. For Luther, this cheapened grace, repentance and forgiveness: ‘You can’t buy God’s friendship!’

Luther rediscovered the truths of God’s grace: ‘For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed – a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith.’ (Romans 1:17). He recognised that righteousness (being right with God) and forgiveness is not earned by good works, but faith. The undeserved love of God and His acceptance is a matter of trust. This challenge to the Church of Luther’s day remains so today! At the Diet (Council) of Worms, he refused to recant his views: ‘Here I stand; I can do no other!’

Luther stood for the free forgiveness of the gospel, by which God accepts us because of the death of Jesus on our behalf to deal with our sin. Is this what we believe? Only trusting Jesus can make us right with God. In what ways can we slip into a mindset that seeks God’s approval for what we achieve in our spiritual lives, rather than in how we can serve as a response to all He has done for us? We will continue to get things wrong, but God never gives up on us!

‘Be a sinner, and let your sins be strong (sin boldly), but let your trust in Christ be stronger, and rejoice in Christ who is the victor over sin, death, and the world.’ (Martin Luther).

CHOIR MEMORIES OF THE MID '30's

It was in 1934 that I first entered St. Mary le Tower church. I had started having piano lessons with Miss Margaret Job, daughter of Jonathan Job, and one evening after a lesson she took me down to the church to sit in on a practice and decide whether I would like to join the choir. In those days several of the town churches had a male voice choir, but it was an honour to be a member of the Tower choir, because then, as now it had a fine reputation. (I recall that at the time the church was combating the scourge of Death Watch Beetle. Pieces of worm eaten timber lay around, and the building reeked of the smell of a treatment being used to eradicate the pest).

As I was already in the school choir at the Central School in Tower Ramparts, I knew that I would enjoy it, so I decided to join. At that time there was a large body of singers. There were at least seven basses, four counter tenors and eight tenors. During my time I suppose there was an average of twenty boys.

Boys choir practices were held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 5pm to 6pm, (On these days I would often leave school at 4.30pm and call in Lyons teashop in Tavern Street for a cup of coffee and an iced bun to keep me going until I arrived home for tea about 6.30pm) Saturday morning 9-10am and on Friday evening from 7-9pm (the gentlemen joining us at 8pm for the last hour). These times were almost without exception exceeded by at least a quarter of an hour. The vicar at that time was Canon Streeten who regularly joined us at 8.30pm and took his part in the rehearsal of the Versicles and Responses. This was the routine 52 weeks of the year. For these practices which were always held in church we robed in our black cassocks. Red cassocks on special occasions with freshly laundered surplices and ruffs always seemed to me to heighten the sense of Festival.



The screen now situated at the end of the North aisle in front of the organ pipes used to be positioned at the entrance to the chancel rather isolating us from the congregation.

In the '30's, Matins at 11am was the best attended service and it was the custom to conclude with the singing of the National Anthem. On one

occasion this was inadvertently omitted and upset one particular military gentleman in the congregation who complained bitterly!

Matins and Evensong always commenced with the unaccompanied singing in the Vestry of the Introit "Lead me Lord," by S.S.Wesley.

Being a member of the choir ensured that you were able to take part on Civic occasions. We would annually attend the Remembrance Day service in Christchurch Park. For the Assize Services, funerals or special events held during the week I would have to request time off from school to attend. The headmaster did not always approve, but permission was never withheld.

Mr Job also held the position of Borough Organist and was responsible for the music arrangements for the Pageant held in Christchurch Park in 1937 at the time of the Coronation of King George VI, so we were very much involved in that.



A packed Public Hall in 1928 pictured from the stage

He was also choirmaster of the Ipswich Male Voice Choir, and each year gave a concert at the Public Hall on the site now occupied by Primark in Westgate Street. The choirboys were able to volunteer to act as programme sellers and there was great competition to be chosen. I suppose it was here that my enjoyment of orchestral music began because on several occasions the renowned Boyd Neel Orchestra was engaged.

The Ipswich Choral Society was another choir with which Mr Job was associated and I remember taking part in a performance of The Messiah when some of the boys were introduced to augment the lady sopranos.

From time to time we would attend the Diocesan Choir gatherings when choirs from various parts of Suffolk would assemble in one of the larger churches in the area on a Saturday afternoon for rehearsal followed by tea then a full Evensong. One visit I particularly remember was to the Chapel of the Royal Hospital School at Holbrook soon after it opened, I believe about 1936. Singing there in the gallery with the great organ behind was quite an experience.

Another visit which was memorable was to Blackheath - an estate overlooking the River Alde between Snape and Aldeburgh. There was an organ installed in the house and Dr George Thalben-Ball an eminent organist from Temple Church, London was also invited to give a short recital. We sat on the steps of the grand staircase. I cannot recall who the residents of the house were at the time.

A highlight of the year was the annual choir outing. Invariably in the summer we would travel by train to Great Yarmouth where we would spend most of the day (and our pocket money) on the funfair. I remember being coaxed on to the stage of one of the side shows to assist the conjurer who produced money out of my mouth! Our day included a slap up lunch and tea at Arnolds, a Department Store.



*Footman and Pretty' & Co (now Debenhams)
Entrance in Lloyd's Avenue*

When Debenhams was known as Footman and Pretty there was a resident musical trio in the restaurant. In 1938 in their place for one week commencing 18th December, 6 or 8 choirboys from the Tower appeared at 4.45pm and 6.15pm billed as the Pickwick Boy Carollers singing carols to a teatime audience. We were dressed as street urchins in garish trousers, jackets and floppy hats which were made specially in the Stores workroom. Our “payment” consisted of a meal of our choice between performances.

Being affiliated to the School of English Church Music my outstanding memory was participating in their Festival at the Crystal Palace in June 1936. We were part of a choir of 4000 and some of the festival was broadcast. It says a great deal for our reputation that we were informed that we would be positioned near the microphones. Sir Sydney Nicholson the Director of SECM conducted and the organists were Dr. Ernest Bullock from Westminster Abbey and Dr Stanley Marchant from St. Paul's. The sermon was preached by Archbishop Cosmo Lang.

I particularly remember the singing of the first hymn “Lights Abode Celestial Salam” when alternate verses were sung by processions approaching the central area from each end of the Palace. The service included nine anthems and concluded with the Hallelujah Chorus. We arrived back in Ipswich at about 1.30.am after an exhausting day, but were still expected at the 9.am Saturday morning practice.

When I first joined in 1934 my”pay” was 2/6 (121/2p) per quarter and when I left as leader of Cantoris in 1939 I was receiving £1 per quarter.

This article was first printed in Tower Times in the mid 90's. It was written by the late Jeff Bishop who was a Churchwarden at the Tower in the early 1980's.



Princess Ileana of Romania and a great grand daughter of Queen Victoria after much suffering wrote:

'I have learned what is the one thing that we have to give to God.

Our possessions are too transitory to give Him.

We can hardly be satisfied with offering Him ourselves for he gave us those selves.

The only thing we can give Him is our love

All else is already His'.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES CAN LEAD TO A 'VERY BRIGHT' FUTURE

If your teenager has chosen to do Religious Studies (RS), then they are in good company: RS is still the fastest-growing A-level subject among the arts, humanities and social sciences in the UK. It is the second fastest after Further Maths.

Now the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) and the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC) have emphasised the importance of the subject in the UK. They stress that universities and employers are increasingly recognising the value of religious literacy. They also say that career prospects are 'very bright' for those studying RS or theology at degree level.

STARVATION HAUNTS EAST AFRICA

East Africa's hunger crisis will reach catastrophic proportions without immediate action from the global community, Christian Aid has warned.

The spectre of starvation continues to hang over some 20m people severely short of food in parts of South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. This figure could rise further still, Christian Aid has said. Ethiopia's seasonal rains have failed once again, Kenya's were very poor, and both put yet more strain on national and international relief efforts. In Kenya and Ethiopia, livestock are dying in their thousands, leaving pastoralist families with no animals, no food, and no assets.

CA is reaching tens of thousands of people with life-saving help, but warns that this is the tip of the iceberg. Through local partners, it is providing safe, clean drinking water to over 21,000 people, distributing food vouchers to 600 families, feeding hundreds of livestock owned by nearly 1,250 pastoralists, and providing support cash 1,600 families.

If you can help the Christian Aid fundraising appeal for the East Africa crisis, please go to: www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/east-africa-crisis-appeal

Grand Christmas Tree Festival 2017

Thursday 30th November - Wednesday 6th December

The Purpose of the Festival

- ❖ Raising the profile of St Mary-le-Tower church in the community by holding an attractive visitor event with a real 'wow' factor
- ❖ Welcoming visitors to our church, especially children
- ❖ Growing relationships with community groups, businesses and charities
- ❖ Bringing together our congregation in a great outward facing event
- ❖ Raising funds for the Music of St Mary-le-Tower and other charities.

2017 Festival Highlights

- ❖ Opening Celebration: 7pm Wednesday 29th November
- ❖ Advent Festival of Hope and Light: 6.30pm Sunday 3rd December
- ❖ Christingle Candle Carol Service: 4.30pm Tuesday 5th December
- ❖ Festival Café
- ❖ Children's Activities

Getting Ready – How you can help

- ❖ Encourage groups/businesses/charities you know to enter a tree
- ❖ Encourage businesses you know to sponsor the festival
- ❖ Help with publicity
- ❖ Sign up to volunteer during the festival (*rotas available early November*)

During the festival – How you can help

- ❖ In the Festival Café
- ❖ Welcoming people at the door and selling programmes
- ❖ Cleaning and tidying at the end of the day

The Festival Charities this year

- ❖ Lighthouse Women's Aid, a Suffolk charity providing emotional support to women and their children suffering domestic abuse.
- ❖ Help our Homeless Ipswich, directs funds to a group of agencies in Ipswich helping those who are homeless.
- ❖ The Music of St Mary-le-Tower, especially for our work with young people.

THE HOBBIT – CELEBRATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY

J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy novel *The Hobbit* was first published 80 years ago, on 21st September 1937. With a number of revisions, it has remained in print ever since. Today it has sold 100 million copies and been translated into about 50 languages, including Icelandic and West Frisian.

It has also spawned a trilogy of films which, although flawed, are spectacular in scope.

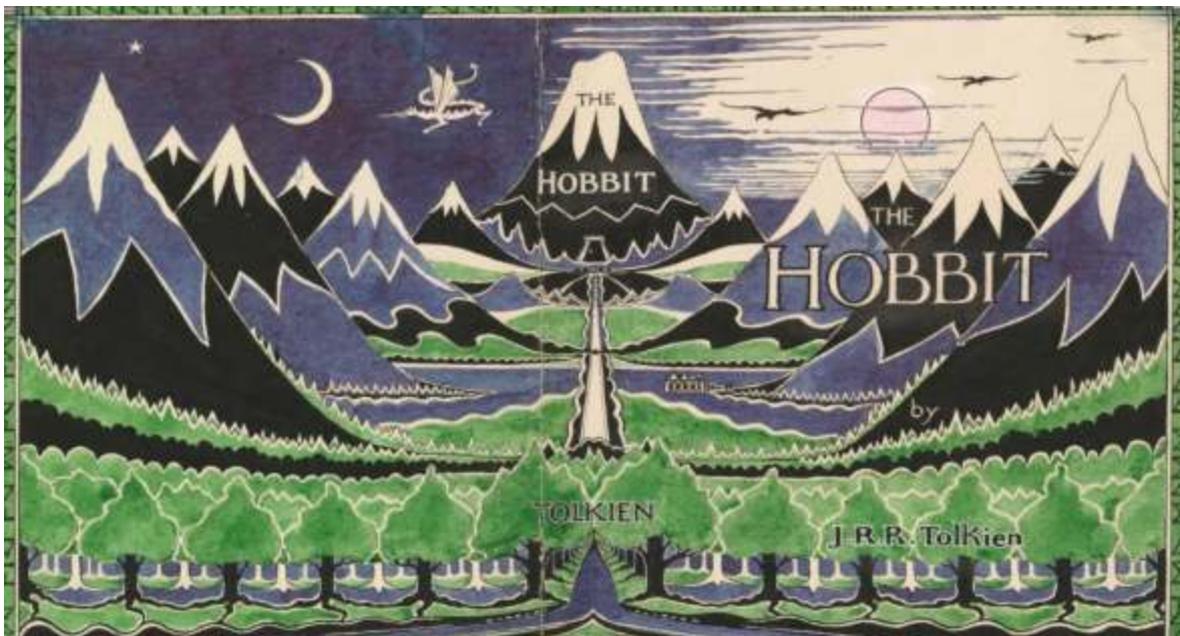
Tolkien was Professor of Anglo-Saxon at the University of Oxford. He was also a devout Roman Catholic, whose vision of Jesus' story as a 'true myth' helped convert his friend C. S. Lewis to Christianity.

Tolkien had an academic fascination for ancient languages, particularly Old Norse, but he also produced a series of amusing poems and stories for his children. All this came together in *The Hobbit* which, while primarily a children's book, created a rich fantasy world that was a precursor of the one underlying his major, profound fantasy epic, *The Lord of the Rings*.

The original manuscript of *The Hobbit* was two years in the making, and circulated originally among his friends. Through contact with one of Tolkien's students at Oxford, the publisher George Allen & Unwin obtained a copy, and the 10-year-old son of the owner gave it an enthusiastic thumbs-up.

The initial run of 1,500 copies sold out within three months, and further runs proved similarly popular.

Tolkien wrote that in creating these stories, his allegiance was to Christ and the Church. He felt myths generally were part of our God-created imagination.



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SUNDAY SERVICES

08.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

09.30 am Choral Matins (BCP)

10.30 am Parish Communion (CW) *followed by coffee served in Church*

6.30 pm* Choral Evensong (BCP) *1st Sunday including Holy Communion*

** From Oct 29th Choral Evensong will be at 5.00 pm for the Winter months*

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Monday:

12noon Midday Prayers for Light and Peace (20min) *during term time*

6.40pm Choral Evening Prayers (Girls' Voices) (20min) *during term time*

Tuesday:

6.40pm Choral Evening Prayers (Boys' Voices) (20min)

Wednesday:

10.30am Holy Communion (BCP) (45min) *followed by coffee in Church House*

Friday:

8.30pm Choral Compline by Candlelight (20min) *twice per term - watch the church paper or website for details*