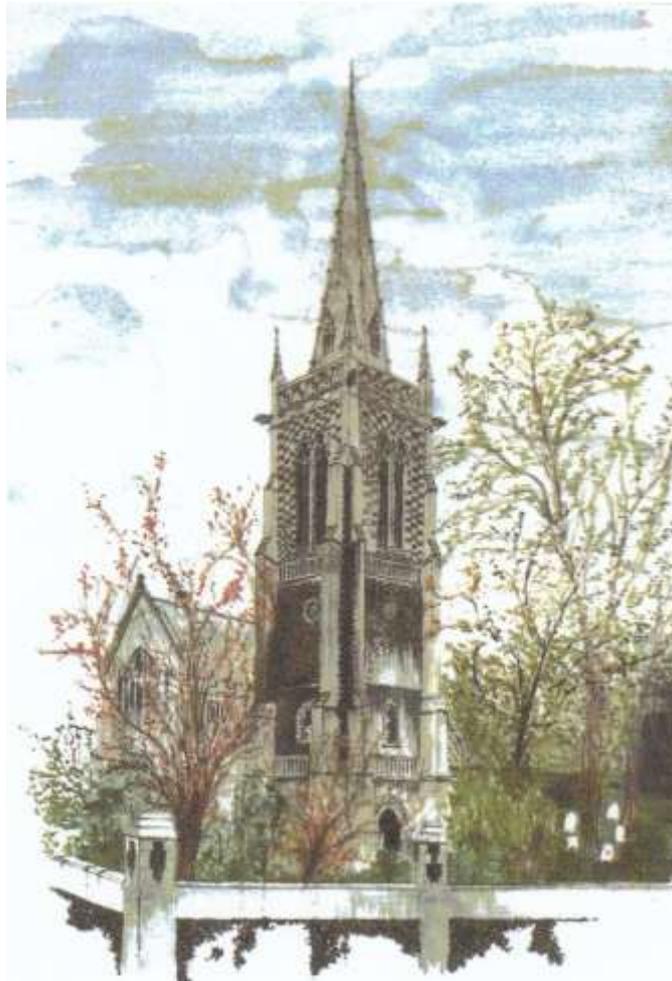


ST MARY-LE-TOWER CHURCH PAPER

SUNDAY 16th DECEMBER 2018



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www.stmaryletower.org.uk

INTERCESSIONS

Lord Jesus, light of the world, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people in trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmas and show to all the world God's love.

We pray for the mission and unity of the Anglican Church throughout the World, remembering today the diocese of Kivi (Rwanda) and the growing Church in our link diocese of Kagera (Tanzania). In our diocese we pray for Joe Hawes (Dean) and the Cathedral Chapter and Staff.

In our life at the Tower we pray for all taking part in the Messiah performance this afternoon. That throughout our Christmas Celebrations God's glory may be seen in this place. We pray for all who will be celebrating the season in the Town Centre: for the Town Pastors out on the streets engaging with them: that everyone will remain safe.

We pray for the needs of the World: for those living amidst conflict and an uncertain future. Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory; and for the good of all people, and teach us to safeguard your gifts in creation for future generations.

We pray for our own nation, for unity, wisdom and commitment to the common good. For Civil Servants and members of Parliament, as progress is planned for the future.

We pray for those who are sick or otherwise distressed including: Jean Goodson, Christopher Browne, and Jaydon McConnachie, We continue to pray for, Adrian Parry, Barbara Bellamy, Grace Chandler and Ian Miller.

We pray for those now unable to be regularly with us in Church, including this week: Joyce Courage, Lilian Caudle. *Be with them and those who care for them.*

We pray rest in peace and rise in glory for those who have recently died among them Robin Silver, and we pray for all who mourn. We give thanks for the lives of those whose remembrance falls at this time of year, among them, Ursula Adair and John Norman.

Names and Topics for the prayer lists should be given to the Administration Office.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY (The Collect)

**O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen**

BIBLE NOTES

Today's readings contain both warnings and promises. And both are undergirded by the promise that 'The Lord is near.' The Lord is near to change the game, and to usher in a new life reflecting his own loving generosity. No more will it matter, who you are or where you belong, but how much you allow yourself to become a true child of God.

The early Church was for a time confused by this language of immediacy, thinking that it meant the imminent return of Jesus. But in fact it meant the immanence of the Kingdom, that in Jesus God is always near, seeking to renew his Creation, his people and his Church.

The promise involves warnings because we need to know that normal moral behaviour is not enough. It's not enough just to be devoutly religious, let alone continuing a life of exploiting others. Rather we must be ready to become children of God reflecting his generously loving nature in all things. This is a supremely joyful thing.

Such joy should suffuse the life of the Church, whatever problems and confusions beset us. The Lord is near, bringing new life and love in every situation however frustrating or desperate they may be. It is our joy at all times to be ready for such promises.

Canon Charles

FIRST READING

Philippians 4. 4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL

Luke 3. 7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what

should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

ANTHEMS SUNG BY THE CHOIR TODAY

9.30AM, Vaughan Williams:

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is: blest is the man that trusteth in him.



St Mary Tower

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

MESSIAH

Cantabile Performance

The Choral Foundation

4:30pm, TODAY

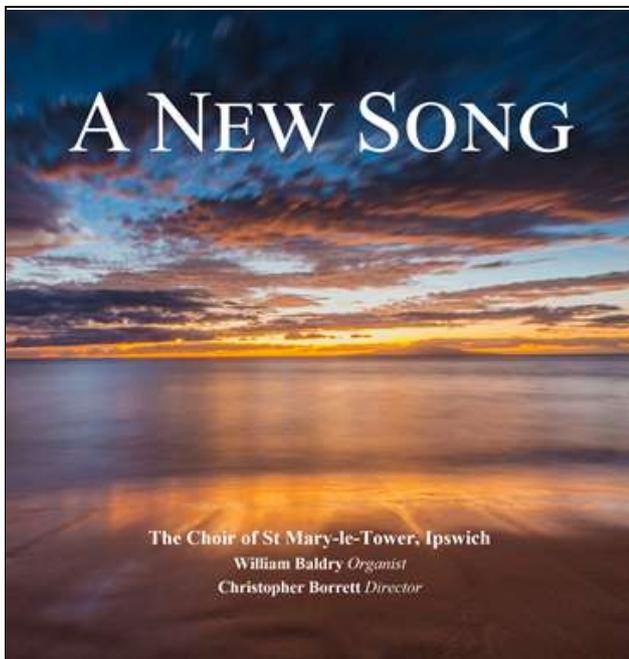
Tickets £12 available on the door

ST MARY-LE-TOWER ADVENT APPEAL

In aid of the Children's Society.

Boxes are available at the back of church. Please take one.
The due date for the return of the boxes will be 25th December.





New CD out now

A NEW SONG

**An Advent Festival Service
of Hope and Light**

a sung service complete with readings,
prayers and lessons

Copies £12 (*£10 each for multiple
purchase*)

VICAR'S STUDY LEAVE Canon Charles will be taking extended study leave next year from Monday 7th January until the end of March (12 weeks). Arrangements are being made to cover Sunday services which will continue as usual. Midweek Choral services will not take place until after Easter. Monday Prayers and Wednesday Communion will continue as usual. Overall, the parish will run for these 12 weeks on the same general principles as though we were in an interregnum.

This is not an extended holiday! Rather it is a structured period of rest, refreshment and resourcing in preparation for the next years of Charles' ministry at the Tower. Charles will be supervised by Bishop Mike. Extended leave has three main elements: a time of intentional rest and recovery, a programme of spiritual refreshment, and a specific area of study.

The subject for Charles' study is looking at how parish churches can be more intentionally encouragers and resourcers of people's spiritual pilgrimages, as they come into contact with the Church in multiple ways, meeting them where they are rather than just expecting them to join in with congregational life and groups.

Please pray for the parish officials teams who will manage the parish in the vicar's absence and for Charles too.

Lunchtime Concert:

1.10PM Thursday 20th December

The Choir of St Mary-le-Tower sing seasonal favourites including works by Howells, Willcocks, Chilcott, Tavener & Gardner

Mince Pies and Refreshments served

Christmas Services at St Mary-le-Tower

Sunday, 23rd December

10.30am All-age Crib service with Holy Communion

Christmas Eve (Monday 24th)

7.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
with the Choir of St Mary-le-Tower

Christmas Day (Tuesday 25th)

8.00am Christmas Communion (BCP)
10.30am Christmas Festival Communion



**CHRISTMAS JOY
AND
PEACE TO ALL!**



Carols For Christmas



East Anglian Daily Times & Ipswich Star

6pm Tuesday 18th December at St Mary-le-Tower
Tickets £3

*Tickets can be purchased by visiting the EADT & Ipswich Star office,
Portman House, 120 Princes Street, Ipswich IP1 1RS*



LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

Please remember we will need some mince pies
for the final concert by the
Choir of St Mary-le-Tower on
Thursday 20th December!

WHAT'S ON AT THE TOWER 17th – 25th December

The church is normally open to visitors 10AM – 12NOON

Mon 17th	St Joseph's School Rehearsals and Concert (all day)
Tues 18th	6.00PM East Anglian Daily Times Carol Service (Ticketed)
Wed 19th	10.30AM Holy Communion (BCP)
Thurs 20th	1.10PM Lunchtime Concert: St Mary-le-Tower Church Choir
Sun 23rd	8.00AM & 9.30AM Services as normal 10.30AM Crib Eucharist (CW) 4.00PM St Elizabeth Hospice "Light up a Life" Service
Mon 24th	Christmas Eve 7.00PM Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Tues 25th	Christmas Day 8.00AM Christmas Communion (BCP) 10.30AM Christmas Festival Communion

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed from the 24th December to 2nd January. Normal service will be resumed from 3rd January 2019.

ADMINISTRATOR (Church and Tower House): Mrs Donna Joyce.

See Parish Office contact details on the front page.

Outgoing Letters: Remember to check the letter rack at the back of church.



THE CHORAL FOUNDATION FOR ST MARY-LE-TOWER

Patron: Ed Sheeran MBE Hon Doc Mus

The Choral Foundation is an independent charity whose purpose is to promote, preserve and expand the choral tradition at St Mary-le-Tower, including its outreach programme encouraging choral singing amongst young people in the wider community.

Ed Sheeran says, 'I appreciate the benefits which singing brings to young people both physical and emotional. Singing teaches you lots of skills and provides many opportunities which will help, enrich and sustain you throughout life.'

www.choralfoundationipswich.org.uk