

**CHURCH OF ENGLAND**  
**St Mary-le-Tower Ipswich**

**VICAR**

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Dear Friends,

I warmly commend the enclosed letter and information from the PCC's Emergency Fundraising Team and urge you to give it your very best and prayerful consideration. Thank you so much for all the financial support that so many people have given over the years. Now however, it is time to be even more generous if you possibly can.

I must tell you that the need is real and great, and the threat to the future of St Mary-le-Tower church as we know it is real and serious. The Covid-19 crisis has come upon us when we were already in a vulnerable financial situation and already planning vital major fundraising. Not only is the crisis making things worse for us financially, but it is also making the work of fundraising more difficult too. There is a very real risk is that we will move into 2021, as a going concern no longer.

So the PCC is launching an emergency appeal for £50,000 to get us through this winter. Will you help St Mary-le-Tower reach or even exceed this target? Every contribution will help. Please do all you can. Serious and painful cost savings are also being implemented too.

This emergency appeal is being focused on the choral music of St Mary-le-Tower because this is what is most at risk, and our choral music lies the heart of the life our church and our work with young people. Of course our church is about more than just choral music, and donations to this emergency appeal will also help the PCC continue to maintain services and pastoral care, and to care for the church building as an inspiring place for visitors and special events.

What this emergency appeal is not about in any way, is the Tower House project. Thanks to a very large legacy specifically for the Tower House project last year, the project has no need of general church funds, and none of this emergency appeal will go to Tower House.

This is a time when everyone with any connection to St Mary-le-Tower needs to come to the aid of our church. We have always had faith in God for the future of our Church and we feel blessed and grateful in so many ways. Now every single one of us needs to play our part as generously as we can and according to our means.

Yours in faith and hope,

**Revd Canon Charles Jenkin, Vicar**