

## SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

### PRAYER FOR THE DAY (The Collect)

Merciful God,  
you have prepared for those who love you  
such good things as pass our understanding:  
pour into our hearts such love toward you  
that we, loving you in all things and above all things,  
may obtain your promises,  
which exceed all that we can desire;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### FIRST READING: Romans 8.12-25

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh – for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for

what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

### GOSPEL: Matthew 13.24–30, 36–43

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, “Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?” He answered, “An enemy has done this.”

The slaves said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?” But he replied, “No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”

Then Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.’ He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.

Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!’

## INTERCESSION

*Kindle in our hearts O God, the flame of love that never ceases, that it may burn in us giving light to others. May we shine for ever, set on fire with your eternal light, your Son Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer*

We pray for the mission and unity of the Anglican Church throughout the World, remembering today the Episcopal Church in the Philippines. In our Diocese we pray for Parent and Toddler Groups, pre school children and their parents. And we remember Children in Kagera (Tanzania). We pray for Parishes in the Ipswich Deanery, and for the Inspiring Ipswich Project.

In our life at the Tower, we pray for one another, that we can all remain safe. We pray for all who will return to the Church this week. We pray for families as the Summer Holidays begin; remembering those for whom family life is difficult. We pray that everyone will be alert and safety conscious and remain safe on beaches and in the countryside.

We pray for our future ability to maintain our Choral Tradition, and to serve people in the Town Centre around us. We pray for the financial resources needed and give thanks for the generosity of all who give to St Mary-le-Tower. We pray for the staff of our church at an unsettling time.

We pray for those around the World who are finding it difficult to protect people from Coronavirus. We pray for those who because of shielding remain at home and for all who remain anxious or lonely. We pray for our Government, and the work of its Ministers and its advisers.

We pray for the World Health Organisation, for nations continuing to struggle with the Covid-19 pandemic amid poverty and conflict; especially for the people of Yemen. For the work of aid agencies and the United Nations and for international solidarity and peace.

We pray for those who as a result of the Covid-19 epidemic have been made redundant and have lost their livelihoods and the means to support their families. May they be comforted in their loss and be able to find alternative fulfilment and new employment.

We pray for those we know who are sick or otherwise distressed including: Angela Pantelis, Freyer, Andrew Hastings and John Wheeler. We continue to pray for Derek le May, Andy Courage, Ian Miller, Phyl Fisk, Cullum, Jaydon, Eileen Mayers, Jill Ganzoni and Stafford Patient.

We pray rest in peace and rise in glory for those who have recently died, among them Christine Redford, 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 Henry Hanley.

## NOTICES

**From today, our church has reopened and the 10.30am Parish Eucharists have resumed. Alleluia! Moreover we are now permitted to welcome over 70s to help to staff the church if they wish.**

There will be one service per Sunday at 10.30am and services will still be live streamed for those unable to attend or who feel it remains better for them to remain at home.

We will continue with spiritual Communion, in that only the celebrant will receive on behalf of the Body of Christ at St Mary-le-Tower. There are two reasons for this. Firstly it means that it is the same for people participating in church or at home. Secondly this practice avoids all the complications of distributing bread in a way that follows the best advice for avoiding Coronavirus transmission.

Generally, we are aiming for the service in church to be as safe as possible to encourage as many people as possible to attend.

Those who are attending the service in Church are asked to download the service at home and to follow it on their phone or tablet or print out their own copy. There will be some printed copies available in church for those who prefer not to do this, but it would be good to save printing and paper as much as possible.

## **CAN YOU HELP to staff the church for opening for private prayer and for services?**

We are looking to put teams of welcomers and church cleaners together on Saturdays from mid-July to enable the church to be open for private prayer for a few hours on Saturdays and to prepare the church for Sunday Services. If you would like to be part of this vital work for the future of St Mary-le-Tower, please get in touch with the Vicar.

## **SERVICES WILL CONTINUE TO BE STREAMED LIVE**

You do not need your own social media account, and you do not need to watch at the time of live streaming. Just go to the St Mary-le-Tower website and click on "LIVE" after the **Streamed Services** title, and this will take you to the St Mary-le-Tower Facebook Live page.

Then click on the service when it appears about five minutes before the time, and you will be logged on.

**To Access the Service when it is no longer being streamed live**, click on “RECENT” after the **Streamed Services** title, and this will take you directly to the video.

**Orders of service will continue to be downloaded in advance** to be viewed either on screen or printed off. Just click on the version you want.

**PLEASE LET ONE OF THE MINISTRY TEAM (Vicar, Elders, Churchwarden)** know of any pastoral needs amongst the SMLT Community, so that we can respond, especially news of anyone suffering from the Coronavirus, but also other illness, or death, or just loneliness.

**PLEASE PASS THIS ENEWS on to anyone you think would appreciate it.** However, if you are going to put it through someone’s door, please handle the paper with thoroughly washed hands and put it in an envelope before delivering it.

**DAILY HOPE.** The Church of England has launched a free dial-in worship service to bring prayer to people’s homes while churches are closed because of the coronavirus pandemic. The service offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The national line is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**.

## CURRENT PARISH CONTACTS

Please refer to the **Parish Website** for latest updates and downloads [www.stmaryletower.org.uk](http://www.stmaryletower.org.uk)

**Revd Canon Charles Jenkin**

Vicar 07789 633315

[charlesjenkin60@gmail.com](mailto:charlesjenkin60@gmail.com)

**Jo Jones**

Churchwarden 07813 543587

[jonesgriz01@gmail.com](mailto:jonesgriz01@gmail.com)

**Christopher Borrett**

Director of Music

[music.stmaryletower@gmail.com](mailto:music.stmaryletower@gmail.com)

**Sue Rudland**

Business Manager for Tower House

[towerhousedev@gmail.com](mailto:towerhousedev@gmail.com)

## FINANCE UPDATES

**EMERGENCY APPEAL** The PCC has launched an emergency appeal to sustain our church over the coming winter following all the disruptions of the Covid-19 pandemic crisis. Letters are being delivered to all regular members of the St Mary-le-Tower Church Community, and over the coming weeks we will be reaching out further to other contacts. You can download the appeal documents from our website.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH** for the response that has already been made to this appeal. We have already received over £20,000 towards the initial target of £50,000. This is fantastic progress!

**BUT THIS IS NO TIME TO RELAX.** No one should be in any doubt that our church faces a very significant challenge to sustain St Mary-le-Tower into the future. A good start has been made. Thanks be to God! But let’s keep it up.

**CUTTING STAFFING COSTS.** At the same as launching this appeal we have been seeking to cut operating costs in a meaningful way. This has forced the PCC to the sad conclusion that we had to make two posts redundant: the Parish Administrator and the Church Cleaner.

These redundancy processes are now complete and sadly Donna Joyce and Irina Alekhina have now left the employ of St Mary-le-Tower. We can report that these partings have both been amicable, as both care about our church and understand the challenges.

So we hold both Irina and Donna and their families in our prayers and in due course we shall be thanking them for all their work for St Mary-le-Tower in our usual way.

There are no further staffing cuts currently being planned by the PCC.

**WAYS OF GIVING TO SMLT.** Because of the Covid-19 restrictions, there will continue to be no plate collections in church. Donations can be made in the following ways:

- Via the Donations Cabinet in church
- Via the Contactless Terminal in church
- Via the Donation Button on our website
- Via regular giving by Standing Order
- Via BACS to 30-94-55, 00059383  
PCC St Mary le Tower Ipswich

*[The donations bank account is separate from the PCC’s operational account and is seen only by the Churchwarden, Donations Officer and Bookkeeper.]*