

SUNDAY 9th August 2020 – 9th Sunday after Trinity

PRAYER FOR THE DAY (The Collect)

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
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 10.5-15

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.' But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?"' (that is, to bring Christ down) 'or "Who will descend into the abyss?"' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

But what does it say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.

The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

GOSPEL: Matthew 14.22-33

Immediately after feeding the crowd with the five loaves and two fish, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray.

When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

INTERCESSION

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary, his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

We pray for the mission and unity of the Church throughout the World: remembering today the Province of the Anglican Church in Rwanda. In our Diocese we pray for Parishes in the Mildenhall Deanery. For the work of Licensed Lay Workers. And we thank God for the work of the Mothers' Union both here and around the world.

In our life at the Tower, we pray for our families during the Summer Holidays: remembering families for whom family life is difficult. We pray for all who will be travelling, that everyone will be alert and safety conscious. That we can enjoy the countryside and the coast.

We pray for our future ability to maintain our Choral Tradition: and to serve people in the Town Centre around us. We give thanks for the work Christopher has continued to do with our Choristers, Choral Scholars, and other Choir members. For the virtual music al contributions that have enhanced our Services during recent months. We give thanks for the support shown for our Emergency financial Appeal, for the generosity of all who give to St Mary-le-Tower.

We pray for victims of abuse and violence, intolerance and prejudice; who are trapped in difficult relationships.

In the World we remember those who live in fear of conflict, persecution and poverty. For the work of the World Health Organisation, for Aid agencies and the United Nations; and for International solidarity and peace. We pray for our Government, Ministers and advisers.

We pray for the increasing numbers of those who as a result of the Covid-19 epidemic are being 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, Freya, Andrew Hastings and John Wheeler. We continue to pray for Derek le May, Andy Courage, Phil Fisk, Cullum, Jaydon, and Eileen Mayers.

We pray rest in peace and rise in glory for those who have recently died, among them 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: Terry Robertson.

NOTICES

10.30am Parish Eucharists have resumed. Please note that everyone is required by the Government to wear a face covering in church. We are pleased to support this in making the church as safe a place as we can for worship.

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 stay at home.

We are continuing the practice of Spiritual Communion at least for now, where only the celebrant receives on behalf of the whole Body of Christ. There are a number of reasons for this. The main reason is in order to make the service in church as safe as possible and this is achieved partly by having the minimum of movement around the church. It also means that it is the same for people participating in church or at home on line. This policy will be kept under review.

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.

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 available in advance to be viewed either on screen or printed off. Just click on the version you want.

SMLT WEBSITE SURVEY

Please let us know what you think!

The new Social Media team at SMLT are keen to have your opinions on our website, to help inform updates and proposed improvements. To that end we have designed a

very brief survey and would be really grateful if you could fine a minute or two to complete it. It is just five short questions. To access the survey, click this link: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/G6C8RQ6 or hover your smartphone camera over the QR code above.



CONGRATULATIONS and PRAYERS for EUNICE FORSYTH an elder at St Mary-le-Tower who has been accepted for ordination training for stipendiary ministry in the Church of England. As a result Eunice will be moving on from Ipswich and St Mary-le-Tower to begin theological training at Ridley Hall Cambridge in September. We wish Eunice well together with her husband, Fenton, and son, Joseph who has been a chorister at SMLT. We shall miss you!

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.

CURRENT PARISH CONTACTS

Please refer to the Parish Website for latest updates and downloads www.stmaryletower.org.uk

Revd Canon Charles Jenkin
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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 have been 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, and the total continues to grow towards the initial target of £50,000. This is really fantastic progress!

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.

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.]