

SUNDAYS 16th & 23rd August 2020 – 10th & 11th Sundays after Trinity

Sunday 16th August

PRAYER FOR THE DAY (The Collect)

Let your merciful ears, O Lord,
be open to the prayers of your humble servants;
and that they may obtain their petitions
make them to ask such things as shall please you;
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 11.1-2a,29-32

Then Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them,
'Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the
mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of
the mouth that defiles.'

Then the disciples approached and said to him, 'Do you
know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard
what you said?' He answered, 'Every plant that my
heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let
them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if
one blind person guides another, both will fall into a
pit.'

GOSPEL: 15.10-28

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one blind person guides another, both will fall into a
pit.'

But Peter said to him, 'Explain this parable to us.' Then
he said, 'Are you also still without understanding? Do
you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters

the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what
comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and
this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil
intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false
witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to
eat with unwashed hands does not defile.'

Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. A
Canaanite woman from that region came out and
started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of
David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he
did not answer her at all.

And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her
away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I
was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.'
But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help
me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's
food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet
even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their
masters' table.'

Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith!
Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter
was healed instantly.

Sunday 23rd August

O God, you declare your almighty power
most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace,
that we, running the way of your commandments,
may receive your gracious promises,
and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;
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 12.1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the
mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living
sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your
spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so

that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16.13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’

He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’

Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

INTERCESSION

Father as we turn aside from the busy world with its clamour and distractions, quieten our hearts in your presence, that we may be still and know that you are God.

We pray for the mission and unity of the Church throughout the World: remembering today the Scottish Episcopal Church; and the Church in the Province of South east Asia. In our Diocese we pray for Parishes in the Stamford and Stowmarket Deaneries. We pray for Service Personnel serving overseas and their families.

In our life at the Tower, we pray for our young people who are receiving exam grades at this time; and making future choices. We pray for families and all who are on holiday. 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 remember those who work in in the tourist industry under the current restrictions. We give thanks for the generous response to our emergency financial appeal. We pray for strengthening of our faith and mission and a deepening understanding of God’s purpose here.

We pray for the World. For the people of Lebanon: and those in Beirut following the catastrophic explosion in the port. For a swift international relief effort. For those who have died and for the bereaved. We pray for Governments, Ministers and advisers who continue to make decisions upon so much depends to control the Covid19 pandemic.

We pray for all involved in Commerce and Industry. For the large numbers of people whose jobs and livelihoods are under threat. For the many charity workers supporting those in need. O God give us work ‘till our life shall end; and give us life ‘till our work is done.

We pray for those we know who are sick or otherwise distressed including Simon Hulme, Revd Geoff Colmer, Angela Pantelis, Freya, Andrew Hastings and John Wheeler. We continue to pray for Derek le May, Andy Courage, Bob Tostevin, Linda Haywood Smith, Carolyn, Jill Ganzoni and Stafford Patient.

We pray rest in peace and rise in glory for those who have recently died, 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 Pam Miller, and Joan & Walter Lofts.

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.

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. 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.

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!

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 find 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.



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.

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. 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.]