

**SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – Trinity 16**

## SERVICES TODAY

10.30am Choral Eucharist

5.00pm Choral Evensong

## PRAYER FOR THE DAY (The Collect)

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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.

## TODAY'S READINGS

**Philippians 2.1-13; Matthew 21.23-32**

Please refer to today's order of service for the texts.

You can download this from our website.

## INTERCESSION

*O gracious and Holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to find you, and a life to proclaim you.*

We pray for the mission and unity of the Church throughout the World: remembering today the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan. In our Diocese we pray for Parishes in the Clare Deanery. We pray for those who today are to be licenced as Readers and Lay Ministers at the Cathedral.

In our life at the Tower, we pray for our links with other Town Centre Churches. That we can support and learn from one another. We pray for our own congregation remembering those who are still unable to come into Church: that we can care for one another: a Church family in this place. We pray that all who come in search of God's presence will meet him here.

We pray for the World. Grant us to look with your eyes of compassion: that we can play our part to care for our environment and avoid damaging climate change.

We pray for Governments, Ministers and advisers as colder weather approaches and it becomes more difficult to control the Covid 19 virus, that everyone will help to avoid the need for further restrictions. For Health Service workers caring for those who are seriously ill. For Schools and Colleges that staff and students can safely continue their education.

We pray for our Local Government officers and Community Leaders as they maintain our local services under current restrictions. For our own neighbourhoods, that we find unity and friendship as we endeavour to support one another. For all who are still anxious, afraid or lonely.

We pray for those we know who are sick or otherwise distressed including Andrew Haywood Smith and family, Sally Patient, Mary Trythall Bob Tostevin, Simon Hulme, Sylvia Serlie-Thomas, Angela Pantelis, and John Wheeler. We continue to pray for Derek le May, Andy Courage, Tony Brook-Carr, and Grace Chandler, Eileen Mayers and Jill Ganzoni.

We pray rest in peace and rise in glory for those who have recently died, including Linda Haywood Smith, and we pray for all who mourn. We give thanks for the lives of those whose remembrance falls at this time of year.

## NOTICES

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHURCH SERVICES.** From today, Choral Evensong will be offered at 5pm on Sundays, and will be live streamed from next Sunday. We are actively looking at whether the "Rule of Six" can be used to assist a degree of social interaction after services, and will make an announcement about this next week.

**HOLY COMMUNION.** From next week we will be resuming the administration of Holy Communion to the congregation in church. This will be Communion in one kind and the minister will move around the church to do this while everyone remains in their places.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

Very many thanks to those who completed our short survey on the website and social media accounts. The feedback was really helpful and will inform our planning going forward.

### To summarise briefly:-

- 1) The increased output on social media during lockdown has been greatly appreciated, with comments that it is now relevant, up to date and interesting. More content from the wider church community is being considered to build on this, with updates from all groups planned.
- 2) The current website is in need of a refresh, having become cluttered by virtue of being continually added to, rather than updated. There is a new webmaster who is building a new site. This takes time, and it is important to get it right, but it is on the way!
- 3) Respondents would like to see more content on prayer and ministry, with engagement around this on social media.
- 4) Lockdown has provided a welcome impetus to improve our online presence, this is something we plan to grow and maintain, even as life (eventually!) returns to normal.

Kate Thompson

**PARKING PERMITS** are now available. Please contact Mary Baldry, [marybaldry55@btinternet.com](mailto:marybaldry55@btinternet.com), to get one.

**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.

## 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. We have now

**exceeded** our initial target of £50,000. This is really fantastic progress but we need to keep going!

**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.]*

## CURRENT PARISH CONTACTS

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

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