

**SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

## CHURCH NOTICES

Please note the changes to our services and be assured that, as soon as it looks sensible and safe to return to in-person service attendance at all services at St Mary-le-Tower, we will be more than ready to do so. Services for the next two Sundays are therefore as follows:

8am Holy Communion (BCP) live streamed with in-person attendance in church

10.30am Choral Eucharist live-streamed only with small adult choir octet

**PLEASE LET ONE OF THE MINISTRY TEAM KNOW (Vicar, Elders, Churchwarden)** 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.

## HOLDING PEOPLE IN PRAYER

Amongst those who are unwell or facing difficulties, we pray particularly for Sally Graham and family, Jan Tostevin, Liz Todd, and Helen Burtonshaw.

We continue to pray for Derek Le May, Sally Patient, Carolyn, Tony Brook-Carr and Jill Ganzoni.

We pray rest in peace and rise in glory for those who have recently died including Mike Graham, Bob Tostevin, David Todd, and Lesley O'Connell.

We pray for all who mourn the passing of those they have loved but see no longer.

We give thanks for the lives of those whose remembrance falls at this time of year. : Barry Hunt, Dorothy Adair, Vernon and Muriel Molloy, Lilian Caudle, Millicent Fisher, Peter Norman, William Richardson and Thomas Goss.

## INTERCESSIONS

*Jesus said "I am the light of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." May the light of Christ our Lord shine in all our hearts.*

We pray for the mission and unity of the Anglican Church throughout the World. Today we remember the Anglican Church of Australia and the Church of Bangladesh. In our diocese we pray for those in the Gipping Valley Deanery, for our Emergency Services, and the Clergy and people in our link diocese of Kagera (Tanzania)

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we pray for good relationships with other denominations.

At St. Mary-le-Tower we pray for one another as we live through the current Lockdown, that we remain safe. We pray for all involved in the distribution and giving of vaccines.

*Creator God, may every breath we take be for your glory; may every footstep show you as our way, that trusting in your presence we may be with you who is alive and reigns forever.*

We pray for peace in our troubled World: for those living amidst conflict and an uncertain future. Hear us as we pray for all who bear responsibility for leadership as we work to overcome the Covid 19 pandemic, especially our Government Ministers of State and their advisers.

We pray for our new relationship with our European neighbours. For all who work to maintain trading between nations.

## 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  
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**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)

## WAYS OF GIVING TO SMLT

Because of the Covid-19 restrictions, there will continue to be no plate collections in church. We are grateful for your continued financial support. 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

*[All donations go into a private PCC account seen only by the Churchwarden, Donations Officer & Bookkeeper.]*

## FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

This week we have been reviewing the service pattern we have been offering during this third Lockdown. We are acutely aware of the growing pressures on local health services from the UK variant of the coronavirus, and also of the importance of not relaxing Covid-safe disciplines in any way at this stage. The vaccination programme well under way; there is light at the end of the tunnel; and we all need to be very patient and very resolved.

However, we are also very aware that this is a time for the Church to be offering a vital ministry of hope, encouragement and spiritual comfort. Ministering to the wellbeing of people is very much the Church's mission in a time of national crisis. Moreover, the government has come to recognise the value of this spiritual ministry for people's fundamental sense of wellbeing, and has framed its regulations accordingly. The Government has done this also, because churches have been among the most reliable organisations in operating Covid-safe venues.

So firstly, attending worship in person locally remains a proper exemption from the Stay at Home directive, though vulnerable people are strongly advised not to take this up but to wait for their vaccinations. And secondly, those who are essential to broadcasting worship in a church's normal style, are properly permitted to gather in church to do so, though numbers must be kept very much to a minimum.

These two are now separate areas of regulation and, as it happens, this is a distinction that we have already been following at St Mary-le-Tower since Christmas. It has also been confirmed by Bishop Martin

in an email to clergy and churchwardens yesterday. There can be no choir singing at services with in-person public attendance, but a small SATB choir can still take part in services that are live streamed only, provided strict social distancing is carefully observed and where such choral ministry is an important part of a church's usual style of worship.

So the Churchwardens and I have decided to continue with the current pattern of Sunday services at St Mary-le-Tower, with an in-person Holy Communion (BCP) at 8am, and a live-streamed-only Choral Eucharist at 10.30am. Both services will continue to be live streamed. We will of course be keeping our pattern of services under close review, and will be ready to change in response to new circumstances.

We are also making our Covid-safe protocols at the Choral Eucharist even stronger. Singers gathering in church are already only those who are neither vulnerable nor under 18. They already well understand the Covid-safe disciplines that are absolutely required for this activity, but they now have the specific support of their families to continue to take part in this choral ministry.

In addition from Sunday 17th January, a small SATB choir will be singing from the south aisle of the nave where there is rather more room than in the chancel, and each singer will now be spaced 3.0m rather than 2.0m apart. The church is of course a large and well ventilated space, and singing has been shown in a number of scientific studies to project aerosols no more than speaking does, (unless you happen to be a very highly trained opera singer!)

We have concluded therefore that continuing the present pattern of services in this way is the right thing to do for the Christian mission of St Mary-le-Tower at this time. And we have concluded that the risk of transmitting the coronavirus at SMLT with all the Covid-safe protocols we now have in place remains very low. It is of course possible to take a different view on these things, but after considerable discussion we have reached this settled view.

If anyone wishes to discuss these matters with myself or the churchwardens, you are more than welcome to get in touch. We remain deeply grateful to all those who are continuing the ministry of St Mary-le-Tower in various ways at this time in difficult circumstances.

With my prayers and best wishes,  
**Charles**

## CHURCH COMMUNITY NEWS

Two more charities currently working from Tower House:

### The Caribbean and African Community Health Support Forum (CACHSF)



This charity has been in operation for 10 years. Its main objectives are to address the health and wellbeing issues which impact disproportionately on the Caribbean and African community living in Suffolk. They enable people from these communities access culturally appropriate health and wellbeing information via seminars, health awareness courses, projects and community events. They try to reach the more vulnerable and isolated members of the community living in Suffolk.

[info@cachsf.org.uk](mailto:info@cachsf.org.uk)



### BME Suffolk Support Group

providing practical support for black and minority ethnic families and individuals, helping to achieve social integration and well-being. They signpost families and individuals to mainstream services for social and mental well-being and supporting them with accessing specialist organisations.

They provide assistance to minority families in crisis and help them integrate by organising social events and trips workshops and awareness programmes.

**Tel: 07492 691 190**

**or send a message on [Bmesuffolk.org](https://www.bmesuffolk.org)**