

## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021 & Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### SERVICES

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:

#### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January Epiphany Sunday

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

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

#### Sunday January 10<sup>th</sup> Baptism of Christ

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

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

### COLLECTS

#### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January Epiphany

O God,  
who by the leading of a star  
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:  
mercifully grant that we,  
who know you now by faith,  
may at last behold your glory face to face;  
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

#### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January The Baptism of Christ

Eternal Father,  
who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling  
as your adopted children;  
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.

### SERVICE READINGS

#### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

Ephesians 3 1-12

Matthew 2 1-12

#### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January

Acts 19 -1-7

Mark 1 4-11

Texts for these services can be found in the 10.30am order of service for Holy Communion, which is available on our website.

### INTERCESSION

*Almighty God, who by the light of a star led Wise men to Jesus: by the light of your Word lead us to him; the Saviour of the world.*

We pray for the mission and unity of the Anglican Church throughout the World. Today we remember the Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria. In our Diocese we pray for those in the Clare Deanery; for the Staff and all in Prisons in Suffolk.

For those responsible for the UK Aid budget that supports many of the world's poorest people.

At St. Mary-le-Tower, as a new year dawns we pray for our vision for the future. That God's work is seen to be done by us his servants. We pray especially for the work of Charities supporting refugees.

*O God, you bring hope out of emptiness. Energy out of fear, new life out of grief and loss.*

We pray for peace in our troubled World: for those living amidst conflict and an uncertain future. Hear us as we pray for those who bear the responsibility of leadership as we work to overcome the Covid 19 pandemic. Give them wisdom beyond their own and

integrity in all their dealings. We pray for our own Government, Ministers of State and all members of Parliament.

We pray for our new relationship with our European neighbours. For all who will continue to trade between the nations.

Almighty and ever living God, whose Son Jesus Christ, in his earthly ministry healed the sick and the distressed we pray especially for Mike and Sally Graham, Helen Burtonshaw, Grace Chandler, and Liz Todd. We continue to pray for Derek le May, Sally Patient, Andy Courage, Peter Gotts, John Wheeler, Eileen Mayers, Mary Trythall and Mike Graham.

We pray rest in peace and rise in glory for those who have recently died including Bob Tostevin, David Todd, and Lesley O Connell and we pray for all who mourn. We give thanks for the lives of those whose remembrance falls at this time of year.

## **FROM THE VICAR**

Dear Friends,

Firstly, I sincerely wish everyone a better year than 2020. With vaccines on the way and the threat of a No Deal Brexit averted, and despite the challenges of the UK variant of Covid-19.... Happy New Year! We look forward to better and less divided times. Thank you once again for all the work that went into our Christmas festivities at St Mary-le-Tower.

The churchwardens and I have agreed that St Mary-le-Tower should continue the service pattern of Christmas Day for at least the first two Sundays of January. The only difference will be that the choir will revert to singing in adult octets only for a time. Now we are in Tier 4, we are again not permitted to operate any out-of-school activities in-person for young people.

Generally, following the PCC decision in December, we consider that having a said Holy Communion service at 8am with in-person attendance, followed by a 10.30am Choral Eucharist which is live-streamed only, is the safest and most appropriate way to continue the worship of the St Mary-le-Tower Church community in the current circumstances.

We will review this pattern in the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> January, by when we hope that more will be understood about the increased transmission of the UK variant of Covid-19, which is now spreading so quickly.

At present it seems that a lower exposure to this UK variant is enough sadly to become infected, and with all the hope that the vaccines are now giving us, it really doesn't seem like the right time to be taking unnecessary risks.

## **SANCTUARY PLASTER REPAIRS**

St Mary-le-Tower will not be opening for private prayer in January, but this is for a different reason. Work on repairing the damaged plaster in the Chancel Sanctuary begins next week, and the schedule is very tight. We are fortunate to have a grant from Historic England Cultural Recovery Fund, but the last chance to submit invoices for this funding is 31st March. The work must therefore be completed by then, and we do not want to hold up the work in any way, especially in the early stages.

The project involves comprehensive boarding up of all the panelling and floor tiles in the sanctuary, erecting scaffolding and dust screening from floor to ceiling, repairing the areas of damaged plaster, stripping off all the rest of the non-porous paint that helped to cause the degradation of the plaster in the first place, repainting with appropriate paint, cleaning the windows, dismantling everything and tidying up.

The work in January will see many contractors in church and most of the noise and dust. February will be quieter and involve drying times. March will involve 6 coats of lime wash, window cleaning, and finishing off. The result will be a fully redecorated sanctuary which will give us a sense of what the whole church could look like when we can find the funds to do the rest of it.

Depending on the overall coronavirus situation, we hope once more to be opening for Private Prayer on Wednesday mornings in February.

Looking further forward in 2021, we can all look forward to resuming the life of St Mary-le-Tower, perhaps with a renewed appreciation for all that it can mean for us. Meanwhile, please do not tire of maintaining the disciplines of safety from the coronavirus, and looking after and encouraging one another. Now is not the time to weaken. Much is being planned, God is faithful, and we all need to keep faith ourselves in what God has in store for us.

With my prayers and best wishes for the new year,

Charles

**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](http://www.stmaryletower.org.uk)

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## 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.]*

