

SUNDAY 14th & Sunday 21st March 2021

CHURCH NOTICES

The PCC is meeting this week and will discuss how best we may start opening up services at St Mary-le-Tower following the expected ending of "Stay at Home" after 28th March. Arrangements for Holy Week and Easter will be announced next weekend.

We are all of course keen to open up as soon as we sensibly can, but we are mindful that the government continues to urge everyone to be cautious about relaxing Covid disciplines. Also, as we are not expecting regulations about choral singing at services to be relaxed before 12th April at the earliest, there remain issues about combining in-person attendance at services with choral singing.

The pattern of our services will therefore remain as they are until and including 28th March, Palm Sunday.

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

10.30am Choral Eucharist live-streamed only.

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 Emma, Chris, Jillian Lofts, and Penny Parke.

We continue to pray for Derek Le May, Sally Graham and family, Sally Patient, Ian Miller, Phyl Fisk, Andrew Hastings and Jill Ganzoni.

We pray rest in peace and rise in glory for those who have recently died including Jean Rogers.

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 Edgar Jenkinson, Russell Jarvis, John Richardson, Christopher Horne, and Susan Robertson.

Help us to think not of the darkness of loss, but the splendour of the life everlasting in your presence.

INTERCESSIONS

Father of all, you gave your Son to share the life of a family in Nazareth. Help us to value our families, to be thankful for them, and to live lovingly within them.

We pray for the mission and unity of the Church throughout the World: remembering today the Anglican Church in Chile, and the Anglican Church in Australia. In our Diocese we pray for Parishes in the Mildenhall Deanery.

On Mothering Sunday we pray for all Mothers, Fathers, and Carers. We give thanks for their care, patience and love in childhood's earliest days, for the prayers they offered, the counsels they gave and the examples they set.

We pray for the Clergy and congregations in our Link diocese of Kagera (Tanzania).

In our life at St. Mary-le-Tower we pray for one another; for our continuing observance of Lent: that we may grow in faith. During this season of Spring, with signs of new life around us we pray for our work with children and young people. We remember those working to understand climate change. Give wisdom to those who can prevent damage to God's wonderful creation. That we do what we can to care for our environment.

We pray for peace in our troubled world. For those living amidst conflict and an uncertain future. For all affected by extreme weather conditions.

Have mercy on Rulers and statesmen who bear the responsibility for our way forward as we endeavour to overcome the Covid 19 epidemic: and hasten the coming of your kingdom, when nations shall be at peace.

We pray for the Queen and all members of the Royal Family, during this time of sorrow and sadness. Give them your guidance, your comfort and peace.

CURRENT PARISH CONTACTS

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

Revd Canon Charles Jenkin, Vicar, 07789 633315

charlesjenkin60@gmail.com

Jo Jones, Churchwarden 07813 543587

jonesgriz01@gmail.com

Christopher Borrett, Director of Music

music.stmaryletower@gmail.com

Sue Rudland, Business Manager for Tower House

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.]

Bishops' Lent Appeal for Kagera 2021: Supporting key workers

The Bishop's Lent Appeal for 2021 is aimed at supporting some of the most important key roles and responsibilities in Kagera, and will focus on extending the care and compassion which has been shown to communities here in Suffolk during the pandemic by supporting Kagera farmers, doctors, and priests, so that they can continue to help their local communities and encourage self-sufficiency. Every year the Bishops encourage reflection and giving through their Lent Appeal. It is important to help fund these essential roles where possible.

In the Kagera Lent challenge booklet you are invited to take on different daily challenges if you wish. This is a good way to accumulate your donation whilst reflecting on the lives of the people in Kagera as you save your challenge donation.

A Message from Bishop Mike:

"We are learning so much from our partner diocese of Kagera about mission and Christian life, about passion for the gospel, generosity of spirit and intense prayerfulness. How can we support Kagera? We know well how important key workers are from our own experience in 2020 with Covid-19 - here's a great opportunity to support some key workers in our partner diocese."

For more information about Kagera and the Lent appeal and to download the lent challenge booklet visit cofesuffolk.org/bishops-lent-appeal. Alternatively, you could email kagera@cofesuffolk.org or ring Chris and Anji Dawkins on 01473 831423

CHURCH COMMUNITY NEWS

How well do you know your church?

Repair works are ongoing both inside and outside the church which made us wonder how well do we know our church building?

Q. Why is our church called "St Mary-le-Tower"?

A. There were six churches in medieval Ipswich dedicated to St Mary, so each was given a unique name to differentiate it from the others. Our St Mary's became St Mary le Tower. The name derives from the Norman church having three towers (as depicted on the seal of the town of Ipswich) with a corresponding French influence, St Mary Trois Tours.

Q. How long has there been a church on the site of St Mary-le-Tower?

A. There has been a church on the site of St Mary-le-Tower for over 1,000 years, probably since Saxon times. The Domesday Book of 1086 includes records of a church being on the site; which had over 26 acres of land and was probably built of wood.

A second, Norman church, was built in the late 12th century. One of the most important events in the history of Ipswich took place in the churchyard of St Mary le Tower when, in 1200, King John granted the townsfolk Royal Charter which created the Borough of Ipswich. The first official public reading of the Charter took place in the churchyard after which St Mary le Tower became the Civic Church, a role it has fulfilled ever since.

Q. Which 18th century composer, local music celebrity and church organist is buried by the organ stool in church? Clue: there is a Senior Chorister Title which still

bears his name. (Note: the organ at that time was at the west end of the church.)

A. Joseph Gibbs – you can read more here on The Holds website tinyurl.com/y8oe6yrz.

Q. How old is the present building?

A. The present (**fourth**) church was almost totally rebuilt in phases beginning with the chancel, between in 1850-1870.

Q. Which is the oldest part of the church?

A. The South arcades in the nave and the Lady Chapel, the memorial brass of Robert Wimbill in the Chancel and the Font date from the mid 15th century. You can read more on Historic England's website at tinyurl.com/yuwt5y3r.

Q. How many bells does St Mary Le Tower have?

A. A ring of 13, plus two older bells- the Sanctus bell and the Passing bell.

Q. How tall is the church?

A. St Mary Le Tower is 53.5m tall. Until the Cranfield Mill tower was built SMLT's spire made it the tallest building in Ipswich. It is in fact still the tallest spire!

In 1860 the church was rebuilt from the ground up, thanks to a large donation by a wealthy banker named George Bacon. The new church rose from the foundations of the medieval building and was built to a traditional design by the diocesan architect, R.M. Phipson. Next time you are in church, you might like to look at the 19th-century floor tiles which are inlaid with the symbol of a boar - Mr Bacon's humorous family symbol!