

SUNDAY 16th May & Sunday 23th May 2021

SERVICES

Sunday 16th May and Sunday 23th May

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

live streamed with in-person attendance in church.

10.30am Choral Eucharist

live-streamed with in-person attendance in church.

5.30pm Evensong (5pm on 16th May)

live-streamed with in-person attendance in church.

5PM UNITY SERVICE TODAY

Places are limited for attendance in person because we are making room for representative numbers from the other town centre churches. If you would like to attend this service in person, please contact Jo Jones to reserve a place at churchwarden@stmaryletower.org.uk.

Wednesday 19th May & 26th May

10:30am Holy Communion (BCP)

live-streamed with in-person attendance in church.

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 Penny Parke. We continue to pray for Derek Le May, Helen Burtonshaw, Joyce Courage, and John Bradberry.

We pray rest in peace and rise in glory for those who have recently died and those 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 including, Simon Reeve, Maria Willey, Patricia Jones, Derrick Wood, Caroline Wheeler, Francesca Goss, and Julia Seaton.

Lord, in your great mercy teach us what we know not, grant us what we have not, make us what we are not, and all for your glory.

CHURCH NOTICES

8am Services PLEASE NOTE

Please note that on Sundays 30th May and 6th June there will be no 8am services, as the vicar will be on leave and the numbers at the 8am services do not justify bringing another priest in, when everyone is feeling so hard pressed. 8am services will resume on Sunday 13th June.

Services for Pentecost Sunday (23rd May) will be as usual.

The APCM is postponed to Sunday 11th July at 11.30am in church after the Choral Eucharist

The PCC has decided, with Bishop Martin's permission received, to reschedule the APCM as we are not sufficiently prepared for an APCM this coming week. There has been a lot else going on, and our administrative resources are significantly stretched. In particular we need more time to present reliable financial information on 2020, and we just feel it would be frustrating for everyone to meet without that financial material. The new date will allow the vicar to have a proper two week break over the bank holiday and return with sufficient time to be ready for the 11th July.

This does not mean that people who wanted to raise issues necessarily have to wait until then. If there are things you want to ask about or make representations about, please get in touch with the churchwardens, the vicar, or any member of the PCC.

Live Streaming

With the new equipment being installed this week, for which we are receiving substantial grant aid and a generous donation, we are also proceeding to develop a clear policy for this new aspect of SMLT mission. As restrictions are being relaxed and before it becomes a permanent feature at SMLT, we need in particular to

carefully look at how best to manage safeguarding in the context of live streaming. We will be carrying out a full risk assessment, taking safeguarding advice and looking at how Cathedrals and other major churches are managing this new style of mission, and learning from all our experiences. We will draft a policy and then consult widely on it before bringing it to the PCC for final ratification.

The proposal for upgrading equipment received significant discussion at the PCC and was approved because the PCC recognised that this was a strategic development that SMLT needed seriously to address. Having received generous funding, the PCC decided it was important to proceed with all speed because we do not know for how long Coronavirus restrictions for churches will continue, and the present equipment is temperamental at best, and most of it is currently just being lent to us. There are significant numbers of elderly and vulnerable people who have been much appreciating the live streams.

The installation of new live streaming equipment has been fully authorised by the Archdeacon for a period of experiment, including the new temporary control desk at the back of church.

INTERCESSIONS

To Christ, the Lamb who was slain, and now lives in the glory of the Father, let us lift our voices in praise saying: "Risen Lord, we bless you. Alleluia"

We pray for the mission and unity of the Church throughout the World, praying today for the Anglican Church of Korea and the Anglican Church of Melanesia. In our diocese we pray for Parishes in the Hadleigh Deanery. For the environment and care of God's creation in Suffolk.

We pray for the people in Jerusalem and the wider Middle East. That Jews and Muslims can live in peace with the Leaders of Israel

Heavenly Father, you have called your Church to proclaim the gospel in all lands, and to gather the people of all races into the fellowship of Christ's Church. Help us, in obedience to your call to participate actively in the Christian Mission, in our own country and overseas, and to commend the gospel of Christ by what we are, by what we say, and by what we do for others, to the glory of your name.

In our life at St. Mary-le-Tower we pray for one another as there is further easing of Covid restrictions when more of us can meet together. We pray for our ability

to serve the Community as we work with the organisations in Tower House.

God of compassion, as India faces the ravages of Corona virus we pray that the Nations of the world can share supplies of oxygen and medicines to help relieve their suffering.

God of justice, we pray for all who are unfairly imprisoned and for their abandoned families. Give them courage, and be with those who seek to achieve their freedom.

We pray for our Rural and Urban communities in Suffolk. For the those who work in our Ports, involved in International trade. For those recently entrusted with responsibility for Local government.

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
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Christopher Borrett, Director of Music
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Interim Tower House Manager: Sonia Docherty
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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.]

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

As you are aware, the lunchtime concerts have restarted, please see program below.

We have been fortunate to have secured a grant from the Culture Recovery Fund which supports our concerts until the end of June.

If you wish to sponsor any of the concerts from July onwards please contact our Assistant Music Director William Baldry at Will.Baldry@yahoo.co.uk or Sonia Docherty at Sonia.Docherty1@gmail.com and let them know which concert you would like to sponsor. All Concerts will be socially distanced audience & live broadcast

May 18th Nathan Williamson piano
Schubert, Beethoven & Brahms

May 25th Daniel Joy & William Saunders tenor & piano
On Wenlock Edge & Songs of Travel

June 1st Brenda Dykes & Christopher Moore flute & piano. Flute Flourishes— Quantz, Schubert & Martinu

June 8th Thomas Hawkes organ. Bach to the Present!

June 15th Melanie Woodcock & Andrew Leach cello & piano. Shostakovich Cello Sonata

June 22nd Richard Cook organ. Music for the King of Instruments
Sponsored by the Suffolk Organists' Association

June 29th Matthew Heyburn piano. Howells & Prokofiev

July 6th William Saunders organ. Triumphant Organ—
Music from the Victorian Town Hall

July 13th William Dore organ. Praetorius, Saint-Saëns, Humperdinck, Piazzolla & Arnold
Sponsored by an anonymous member of the audience

July 20th Oliver Pigram clarinet & piano. The French Clarinet— Debussy, Saint-Saëns & Poulenc

July 27th Erdem Misirlioglu piano. Works by Franz Schubert

August 3rd Christopher Moore organ. Music on the lighter side!

August 10th British Army Band Colchester. Brass Quintet

August 17th Joel Cooper & William Saunders trumpet & organ. Summer Serenade

August 24th Adam Chillingworth organ. All roads lead to Bach.
Sponsored by the Suffolk Organists' Association

August 31st Goldcrest Ensemble flute, violin, viola & harp. Ibert, Fauré, Donizetti & Alwyn.

September 7th David Newsholme organ. Music for the King of Instruments.
Sponsored by a member of the St Mary le Tower congregation

September 14th Kathryn Parry & Ben Parry violin & narrator. Bach, Telemann & Rimmer

September 21st Jonathan Hanley & Gavin Roberts tenor & piano. Schumann, Brahms & Britten

September 28th Mary Pells viola da gamba. Music from the 17th & 18th centuries— Telemann & Abel

October 5th Andrew Leach piano. Schubert Sonata in B flat D 960

October 12th William Baldry organ. Music by Dupré, Duruflé and Widor

The Winter Concert Series begins Tuesday 30th November

Rogation and Love at Ascension

Rogation days are days of prayer and fasting in Western Christianity, observed with processions and the Litany of the Saints. The so-called major rogation is on 25 April whilst minor rogations are on Monday to Wednesday preceding Ascension Thursday.

Rogation in History

Historically Rogation has been merged with pagan rites, the Christian major rogation replaced a pagan Roman procession known as Robigalia, at which a dog was sacrificed to propitiate Robigus, the deity of agricultural disease. A common feature of Rogation days in the middle ages was the ceremony of beating the bounds, in which a procession of parishioners, led by the minister, churchwarden, and choirboys, would proceed around the boundary of their parish and pray for its protection in the forthcoming year. The central theme was protection and in the Christian faith this is derived from our relationship with God. As in any healthy relationship, love is required in both directions - God loves us unconditionally, but requires us to love one another in the same way.

The word rogation comes from the Latin *rogare*, meaning "to ask", which reflects the beseeching of God for the appeasement of his anger and for protection from calamities.

Rogation and Love

It is pertinent therefore that the days preceding Ascension Thursday are rogation days, following the Sixth Sunday of Easter when we remember Jesus' commandment that we love one another as selflessly as he loved us.

John 15.9-17 says: "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

Jesus calls his disciples "friends"; those who make clear choices and do not merely follow orders. He commands them to make a choice to follow his lead, to love as he has loved. But what does he mean by this? Love is complex, yet straightforward. True love is "**of** God", and therefore a divine gift. But God **IS** love, as St. John tells us in 1 John 4:7 "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God".

Love is a free gift which cannot be coerced or manipulated. God sent his Son into the world says St. John, "so that we might have life through him." So when we beseech God for the appeasement of his anger and for his protection, we are asking him for a divine gift; that of love - which is the embodiment of God, and He is our gift and salvation. God IS love. I think we are making a choice, without coercion or manipulation, to enter into a contract of love. We agree to follow His commandment, to love one another in a selfless way as He loves us and in this relationship we receive Him, His love and protection.

But what of Ascension?

Having completed his earthly ministry, Jesus returned to his Father in Heaven on Ascension Day. Having taught us about God's love and his commandment that we love one another Jesus leaves us to prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The fortnight preceding Pentecost is in many respects similar to Advent, or Lent. It is a time of penitence and growth as we focus on God's love and prepare to receive the Holy Spirit. It is a time of *Rogation*, beseeching God to love us.

Music for Sixth Sunday of Easter

Our anthem this morning was Richard Shephard's "A new commandment", beautifully simple and simply beautiful! Perhaps this epitomises both the instruction, and the love of God. Whilst incredibly challenging to sing well in a church with little acoustic, it's one of my favourites nonetheless. It's a perfect anthem for today.

Dr. Richard James Shephard MBE, DL, FRSCM was a British composer, educator, and Director of Development and Chamberlain of York Minster. There is a tribute to him and his wonderful music [here](#) and his obituary from The Guardian [here](#).

Kate Thompson

Member of the PCC & SMLT Choir