

## SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020 & Christmas Day 25<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

With considerable sadness, but given the developing Coronavirus situation, we have reluctantly taken the decision to restrict services at St Mary-le-Tower to live streamed services only, and not to continue with attendance in person in church in the congregation for the time being. We realise this will be a great disappointment to many people but we are doing this as part of our duty of care to protect vulnerable people. This policy will be reviewed after Christmas.

You are warmly invited therefore to join us on line for:

#### Sunday 20th December

10.30am Family Crib Eucharist

3.00pm Family Crib Service

#### Tuesday 22nd December

1.00pm Christmas Carol Concert

#### Christmas Eve (24<sup>th</sup> Dec)

7.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols

#### Christmas Day (25<sup>th</sup> Dec)

10.30am Christmas Choral Eucharist

(No services on Sunday 27th December)

### COLLECTS

#### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December - Advent 4

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him  
when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

#### 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day

Eternal God, who made that Christmas night to shine  
with the brightness of your one true light

bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on  
earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory:  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### SERVICE READINGS

#### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December:

Romans 16.25-end

Luke 1.26-38

#### Christmas Day 25<sup>th</sup> December:

Hebrews 1. 1-4

John 1. 1-13

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

### INTERCESSION

*O God the Son, highest and holiest, who humbled  
yourself to share our birth and our death: bring us with  
the Shepherds and Wise Men, to kneel before you, that  
we may come with the angels to share your glorious  
praises in heaven.*

We pray for the mission and unity of the Anglican  
Church throughout the World. Today we remember the  
Mothers' Union. We pray for Christians of other  
denominations, and the work of the Ecumenical  
Movement. In our Diocese we pray for Parishes in the  
Waveney and Blyth Deanery. For residents and staff in  
Care Homes: for their health, safety and well being.

In our life at St. Mary-le-tower we pray for our  
Celebration of Christmas with friends and families. For  
all attending our Christmas Services on line, that they  
may be strengthened in faith and love: and we pray for  
grace to celebrate and share a lively and courageous  
faith in Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

We pray for peace in our troubled World: for those  
living amidst conflict and an uncertain future. For those  
developing nations which rely on tourism as a source of  
income.

Give the Nations the will to use the resources of the  
earth for the good of all people. Teach us to safeguard  
your gifts in creation for future generations.

We pray for the Homeless and the lonely. *O God, in Jesus you walked this earth, you had no place to call your own, no place to lay your head, may we support those who struggle to make a safe secure home and livelihood.*

We pray for those we know who are sick or otherwise distressed including: Helen Burtonshaw, Grace Chandler and Liz Todd. We continue to pray for Derek le May, Sally Patient, Ian Miller, Phyl Fisk, Joyce Courage and John Bradberry.

We pray rest in peace and rise in glory for those who have recently died including 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 including Stanley Barnes, Dorothy Parnell, and Michael and Doris Fiddaman.

## NOTICES

**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)

Rev'd Canon Charles Jenkin, Vicar, 07789 633315  
[charlesjenkin60@gmail.com](mailto:charlesjenkin60@gmail.com)

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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.]*

## LETTERS OF THANKS

These letters have been sent on behalf of the congregation to Charles and Chris. They have been organised by our churchwardens in consultation with others concerning the content. We have wanted to show our appreciation for all their vision and hard work during an extraordinary and unprecedented year.

Dear Charles,

We, the congregation, would like to sincerely thank you for all your ideas and hard work over this difficult year. You have provided spiritual leadership in dark times. Covid has presented a huge challenge to everyone but particularly the church and therefore yourself.

Thank you for your continuing work in producing inspiring liturgy for our services even in the absence of secretarial help.

We appreciate your skills in the new technology and thank you for your work in producing on-line services to keep many of us in touch, something that has clearly been appreciated by a wider congregation than we might think.

This year we have had to meet difficult financial challenges. We realize the concern that this must have generated for you, and thank you and the PCC for the thought you have put into finding a solution. Your efforts have paid off.

We appreciate and thank you for your dream for Tower House, much of which is gradually being fulfilled. We are beginning to see, through your efforts, a way forward.

We thank you for your support for the PCC and all those who help in the church, particularly our

churchwardens and including those who are largely unseen, the bellringers.

Finally, we thank you for your support for the choir and its inspirational Director of Music who have brightened our services, even in the worst of times.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Susan and your family, and may you have a happy and peaceful Christmas.

With best wishes,

On behalf of the congregation of St Mary-le-Tower.

Dear Chris,

We, the congregation, would like to thank you for all your work with the choir during this difficult year. You have managed to find novel ways of bringing music and singing to us despite the restrictions and we appreciate all the work this must have involved.

We are grateful to you for your encouragement to the young people of the choir and your support of the less young.

We thank you for your unending encouragement for those who sing, your support for William and all those who help run the music department.

With best wishes to yourself, Alice and your family for a happy and joyous Christmas.

On behalf of the congregation of St Mary-le-Tower.

