

Choral Eucharist

10.30am 3rd January 2021 – EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Gathering

This service is being live streamed only, and there is no attendance in church in person in the congregation. The choir for this service is just an octet.

Logging on to the Live Stream

1. The live stream will start at about 10.25am in preparation for the service.
2. Go to our website www.stmaryletower.org.uk and find the “**LIVE Streamed Services**” title and click to go to our **Facebook Live** page.
3. Click on the service video. When the video opens you will need to click on the loudspeaker icon to unmute it and hear the sound.

Music before the Service

Prélude sur l'Introït de l'Epiphanie – Maurice Duruflé

Organist: William Baldry

Welcome and Introduction

The minister gives some NOTICES, and INTRODUCES the service.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

From the rising of the sun to its setting your name is proclaimed in all the world.

The Lord of glory be with you.

The Lord bless you.

Prayers of Penitence

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us confess our sins.

God be gracious to us and bless us, and make your face shine upon us: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May your ways be known on the earth, your saving power among the nations: Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You, Lord, have made known your salvation, and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon us,

pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria (Mathias)

Sung by the choir

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand
of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

Prayer for the Day (The Collect)

Grateful for the glory revealed at this time through God made flesh, let us pray.

We keep a time of silent prayer together.

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Listening for the Word from God

Ephesians 3.1-12

read by Katrina Robertson

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles. For surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding

of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

For the gift of his living word,
Thanks be to God.

Gradual Psalm 72.10-15

Sung by the choir

The kings of Tharsis and of the isles shall give presents :
the kings of Arabia and Saba shall bring gifts.

All kings shall fall down before him : all nations shall do
him service.

For he shall deliver the poor when he crieth : the needy
also, and him that hath no helpe.

He shall be favourable to the simple and needy : and
shall preserve the souls of the poor.

He shall deliver their souls from falsehood and wrong :
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

He shall live, and unto him shall be given of the gold of
Arabia : prayer shall be made ever unto him, and
daily shall he be praised.

Please stand

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the
Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Gospel: Matthew 2.-12

read by Richard Hanley, Elder

Hear the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

Glorry to you, O Lord.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief

priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."' "

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Gifts of the Magi

As the Magi are placed in the crib:

At the offering of gold:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As gold in the furnace is tried
and purified seven times in the fire,
so purify our hearts and minds
that we may be a royal priesthood
acceptable in the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

At the offering of incense:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As our prayer rises up before you as incense,
so may we be presented before you
with penitent hearts and uplifted hands
to offer ourselves in your priestly service.

Blessed be God for ever.

At the offering of myrrh:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As you give medicine to heal our sickness
and the leaves of the tree of life
for the healing of the nations,
so anoint us with your healing power
that we may be the first-fruits of your new creation.

Blessed be God for ever.

Sermon

Revd Canon Charles Jenkin

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine,
**he did not cling to equality with God,
 but made himself nothing.**

Taking the form of a slave,
 he was born in human likeness.
**He humbled himself
 and was obedient to death,
 even the death of the cross.**

Therefore God has raised him on high,
 and given him the name above every name:
**that at the name of Jesus
 every knee should bow,**

and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Intercession

Written by Hilary Norman, Elder

Read by Sonia Docherty, Elder

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

The Magi came from the East to worship your Son; Father grant to Christians everywhere the spirit of adoration. The infant Christ received gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh, accept the offering of our hearts and minds.

We pray that Christ may be seen in the life of our Church. We pray for the Church throughout the World – remembering today the Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria. We pray for the Church in our Diocese: for those in the Clare Deanery. For those 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 your servants. We pray 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.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Nations of the World. For Countries still torn apart by conflict and violence. For the International Community, that together we seek to bring reconciliation – that Nations can be drawn together in understanding – that in unity of purpose we may find peace.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death. Father, look in mercy on all who are poor, powerless, and homeless. Protect all families, friends and neighbours; the communities of which we are a part. Be close to all who are sad, frightened or lonely.

We pray for all who are currently in Hospital and for all the Staff who care for them. Give them the strength they need to carry on at this very difficult time. That together we can fight to overcome the Covid 19 pandemic. For those producing and distributing vaccines.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Almighty and ever living God whose Son in his earthly ministry healed the sick and brought comfort to those in distress, we bring to you 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 and Mary Trythall.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Hear us as we remember 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.

Almighty God, you judge us with your infinite mercy and justice, turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life, and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Eternal Father, help us to entrust the past to your mercy, the present to your love, and the future to your wisdom, in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the same today and forever.

Merciful Father;
**Accept these prayers,
 For the sake of your Son,
 Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Gifts of the People

St Mary-le-Tower faces considerable financial challenges at this time and everyone is invited to make a generous contribution by one method or another.

Donations may be made using as follows:

- Regular giving by Standing Order
- The Donation Button on our website
- Via BACS to 30-94-55, 00059383
PCC St Mary le Tower Ipswich

Offertory Anthem (Cornelius)

Sung by the choir.

Three kings had journeyed from lands afar,
to Jordan led by a guiding star,
in David's city they ask men to tell
where the new-born King whom they seek doth dwell.
Fine gold and myrrh and incense they bring,
an offering to the promised new-born King.

*How brightly shines the morning star
with mercy, beaming from afar;
the host of heaven rejoices:*

The guiding star shining on before,
the kings then led to the lowly door,
they see the Child in a manger bare,
and fall before him in worship there.
Fine gold and myrrh and incense they bring,
an offering to the promised new-born King.

*O Righteous Branch, O Jesse's Rod!
Thou Son of Man and Son of God!
We, too, will lift our voices:*

And still the star, shining bright and clear
to those who seek it doth yet appear;
the star of mercy in peace will bring
the pilgrim who seeketh the heavenly King;
and failing incense, myrrh and gold,
bring thou thy heart to the Saviour's fold,
give him thy heart!

*Jesus, Jesus! Holy, holy,
yet most lowly, draw thou near us;
great Emmanuel, come and hear us!*

The minister takes the collection plate. Recalling our giving for God's work of in the life and mission of our Church, the minister says:

Lord, accept your people's gifts, not gold, frankincense or myrrh, but hearts and voices raised in praise of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is here:

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God,
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:

for at this time we celebrate your glory
made present in our midst.
In the coming of the Magi
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.
In the waters of baptism
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,
the Saviour sent to redeem us.
In the water made wine
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

The Sanctus is sung by the choir (Mathias)

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Benedictus is sung by the choir (please sit):

Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

We kneel or sit.

Lord God, you are the most holy one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
you reveal the power of your love
made perfect in our human weakness.

Lord, we believe.

Embracing our humanity,
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us;
dying for his own, he set us free from the bonds of sin,
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

Lord, we believe.

On the night he gave up himself for us all
he took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

Lord, we believe.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup
and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Lord, we believe.

Therefore we proclaim the death
that he suffered on the cross,
we celebrate his resurrection,
his bursting from the tomb,
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high
and we long for his coming in glory.

Come, Lord Jesus.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice
of our redemption,
Father, by your Holy Spirit
let these gifts of your creation
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Look with favour on your people and in your mercy
hear the cry of our hearts.
Bless the earth, heal the sick,
let the oppressed go free
and fill your Church with power from on high.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth
to feast with Blessed Mary and all your saints
at the table in your kingdom where the new creation
is brought to perfection in Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Breaking Bread

Believing the promises of God,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come;
your will be done;
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, are yours
now and for ever. **Amen.****

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**God among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Agnus Dei (Mathias)

Sung by the choir:

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

Holy Communion

*Before receiving Communion, the minister proclaims
and all respond:*

The Body of Christ; the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ; the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

*The Minister receives the Bread and the Wine on
behalf of the Body of Christ at St Mary-le-Tower.*

*The People may make a sign of the cross to affirm their
participation in the Body of Christ, and in the blessing
of this Eucharistic celebration.*

Prayer after Communion

**Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men have been drawn
by your light
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Sending Out

Mission Hymn

Do join in at home if you wish!

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.**

**Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness:
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy
prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness;
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**

**These, though we bring them in trembling and
fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.**

Blessing and Dismissal

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

We have seen his glory, the glory revealed to all the nations. Go in the peace of Christ
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Organ Voluntary

Les Mages (La Nativité du Seigneur) – Olivier Messiaen

The livestream continues until the end of the voluntary.

After the Service

If you wish to speak to the vicar or another member of staff, it is best to do this currently by phone or email:

Revd Canon Charles Jenkin, Vicar, 07789 633315
charlesjenkin60@gmail.com

Mrs Jo Jones, Churchwarden, 07813 543587
jonesgriz01@gmail.com

Mrs Sonia Docherty, Churchwarden, 07376 551764
sonia.docherty1@gmail.com

Mr Christopher Borrett, Director of Music
music.stmaryletower@gmail.com