

Holy Communion

8.00am 3rd January 2021 – EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Gathering

Attending this Service in Person in Church

If you are coming to church for this service, If you can, please bring this order of service with you on a device or print the paper copy at home and bring it with you.

No service books will be give out in church in order minimise risks of passing on infection. However people arriving in church without their own order of service will be given a shortened service sheet.

It is required that face coverings should be worn by everyone in church. We welcome this as part making church services as safe as possible for people to attend, and as a sign of our desire to protect others from possible infection.

Logging on to the Live Stream

1. The live stream will start at about 7.57am 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.

Welcome and Introduction

*The minister gives some NOTICES,
and INTRODUCES the service.*

Opening Prayers

All may kneel or sit, and the Lord's Prayer is said by the minister:

Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. **Amen.**

Then we pray together:

**Almighty God,
unto whom all hearts be open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:**

**cleans the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love thee,
and worthily magnify thy holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first commandment.

And the second is like, namely this: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**Lord, have mercy upon us
and write all these thy laws
in our hearts, we beseech thee.**

The Collect

O GOD, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles: Mercifully grant, that we, which know thee now by faith, may after this life have the fruition of thy glorious Godhead; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Listening for the Word from God

Epistle Ephesians 3.1-12

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.

Here endeth the epistle.

Gospel Reading Matthew 2.1-12

All please stand.

The holy Gospel is written in the second chapter of the Gospel according to St Matthew, beginning at the first verse. **Glory be to thee, 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 be to thee, O Christ.

Affirmation of Faith

**I believe in one God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,**

**begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God;
begotten, not made;
being of one substance with the Father
by whom all things were made:**

**who for us men
and for our salvation
came down from heaven:
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost
of the Virgin Mary.
And was made man.
And was crucified also for us
under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day he rose again
according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven;
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again with glory
to judge both the quick and the dead,
whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshipped and glorified;
who spake by the prophets;**

**And I believe one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one baptism
for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Sermon

Revd Canon Charles Jenkin, Vicar.

Holy Communion

Offertory Sentences

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
Matthew 5.16

Lay not up for yourselves treasure upon the earth; where the rust and moth doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven; where neither rust nor moth doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal.
Matthew 6.19

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*

The minister takes the collection plate and blesses it as a symbol of giving for the work of the church at St Mary-le-Tower.

Intercession

All may sit or kneel, while the minister prepares the Holy Table.

The minister offers some brief biddings, and then says:

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church militant here in earth.

Almighty and ever-living God, who by thy holy apostle hast taught us to make prayers and supplications, and to give thanks, for all men: we humbly beseech thee most mercifully to accept our alms and oblations, and to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy divine majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: and grant, that all they that do confess thy holy name may agree in the truth of thy holy word, and live in unity and godly love.

We beseech thee also to save and defend all Christian kings, princes and governors; and specially thy servant Elizabeth our Queen, that under her we may be godly and quietly governed: and grant unto her whole Council, and to all that are put in authority under her, that they may truly and impartially minister justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion and virtue.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops, priests and deacons, that they may both by their life and doctrine set forth thy true and lively word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy sacraments: and to all thy people give thy heavenly grace; and specially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

And we most humbly beseech thee of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all them, who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. And we also bless thy holy name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; beseeching thee to give us grace so to follow their

good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only mediator and advocate. **Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, by thought, word and deed, against thy divine majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.

We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us; the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honour and glory of thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him: have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to him: Come unto me, all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

Matthew 11.28

So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3.16

Hear also what Saint Paul saith: This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1.15*

Hear also what Saint John saith: If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins. *1 John 2.1,2*

The Great Thanksgiving

All may stand.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up unto to the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God;
It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

And now we give thee thanks because, in the incarnation of the Word, a new light has dawned upon the world, that all the nations may be brought out of darkness to see the radiance of thy glory.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee, and saying:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.**

**Blessed is he that cometh
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Prayer of Humble Access

All may sit or kneel.

**We do not presume
to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in thy manifold and great mercies.**

**We are not worthy so much as to gather up
the crumbs under thy table.**

**But thou art the same Lord,
whose property is always to have mercy:**

**grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies
may be made clean by his body,
and our souls washed
through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us. Amen.**

Prayer of Consecration

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death, until his coming again:

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood:

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake 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.

Likewise after supper he took the cup; and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. **Amen.**

Holy Communion

The minister raises the elements and says:

The Body of Christ. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ. **Amen.**

Communion will be administered to the people remaining in their places, and the minister will move to people around the church. Communion will be administered one kind only. The Bread will be carefully dropped into people's hands, so that there is no physical contact.

If you wish to receive, please hold out your crossed hands as the minister approaches. Please do not remove your mask to eat the bread until after the minister has passed by.

If you require a gluten free wafer, please remain standing but without holding out your hands, and the minister will return with gluten free bread.

Those in church who prefer to do so, are welcome to participate through Spiritual Communion, in the same way that as those participating online are doing. Whenever and wherever we are, in this Holy Communion we are united by the Holy Spirit in the Body of Christ, given to us in baptism.

Communion is administered strictly in accordance with Bishops guidelines. Communion is given in one kind only, and the Bishops assure everyone that this is entirely as spiritually beneficial as receiving in both kinds.

The Sending Out

All may sit or kneel.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Almighty and ever-living God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us, who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ;

and dost assure us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of the most precious death and passion of thy dear Son.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

Gloria

We stand to praise God.

**Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
We give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father almighty.**

**O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ:
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.**

**Thou that sittest at the right hand of God
the Father, have mercy upon us.**

**For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art the Most High,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Blessing

Please remain standing.

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 Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

After the Service

Under Tier 4 Coronavirus Regulations it is sadly not permitted for people to gather to chat either in church or in the churchyard after services.

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

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