

SUNDAY 28th February & 7th March 2021

CHURCH NOTICES

Following Government announcements about a roadmap out of lockdown, we will be keeping a close eye on regulations regarding attendance at services in person and choral singing. It is likely that the current pattern will continue at least until the end of March.

There are three reasons for this. Firstly, the "Stay at Home" guidance is like to remain in place until the end of March. Secondly, the government is urging people to continue to be cautious about relaxing Covid disciplines. Thirdly, until the regulations about choral singing at services are relaxed, restarting in-person services would mean that there could only be a single cantor.

Services for the next two Sundays remain therefore as follows:

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 Emma, Chris, Jillian Lofts and Penny Parke

We continue to pray for Derek Le May, Sally Patient, Carolyn, Tony Brook-Carr, Grace Chandler, Eileen Mayers and Mary Trythall.

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

We give thanks for the lives of those whose remembrance falls at this time of year including Barbara Bellamy and George Pipe.

Grant O Lord to all who are bereaved the spirit of faith and courage, that they may have the strength to meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience.

INTERCESSIONS

Jesus said, "There shall be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety nine righteous people who need no repentance".

We pray for the mission and unity of the Church throughout the World: remembering today the Anglican Church in the Central Region of America: and the Anglican Church in the Congo. In our diocese we pray for Parishes in the Lavenham Deanery. For Hospitals and Hospices staff and patients. That we take care of God's creation and prevent climate change.

In our life at St. Mary-le-Tower we pray for one another. For our observance of Lent. For the work being undertaken to upgrade our live streamed Services in Church. For Christopher and Choir members who continue to enhance our worship. For our children and young people as more of them return to School. For those who are confined in their homes and those who care for them.

We pray for peace in our troubled world: for those living amidst conflict and an uncertain future: especially for the people of Myanmar and the Yemen. For all who have been affected by recent flooding.

We pray that everyone will take care as the pandemic restrictions are gradually lifted. We pray for all whose livelihoods are uncertain.

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

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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.]

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.

Commencing with a prayer on Ash Wednesday 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

The Royal School of Church Music 'Voice for Life Scheme'.

What's in a ribbon?

Regular members of our congregation during more normal times will be used to celebrating the presentation of chorister ribbons. With so many colours from an extensive syllabus it can be quite confusing – not least for new choristers! Our choristers all participate in the RSCM "Voice for Life" scheme, which provides a framework for choral singers to develop their vocal skills, their musical understanding and their knowledge of repertoire. It is comprised of internally assessed coloured ribbon awards, and three externally assessed awards of Bronze, Silver and Gold.



Ribbons and Awards



White, Light Blue and Dark Blue help a candidate prepare for their Bronze award, Red for the Silver award, and Yellow for the Gold award.

Singers with singing and choral experience who join an RSCM affiliated choir may enter at an appropriate ribbon level, not everyone has to start from the beginning.

The Awards

The Bronze (formerly Dean's) Award, Silver (formerly Bishop's Chorister) Award and the Gold Award are externally assessed and have an extensive syllabus – particularly the prestigious Gold Award. Candidates must perform a wide repertoire and demonstrate appropriate knowledge of music theory and aural ability. They must also demonstrate an understanding and engagement with the liturgy and church year; for the Gold Award, candidates must plan a service with carefully selected music choices showing liturgical awareness.

In our choir we currently have choristers and choral scholars preparing for all three of these awards, waiting for lockdown to end so they can rehearse and sing in

church once more. Our church community has benefitted from a socially distanced group of adult singers permitted to sing for live-streamed services, but we have all missed the sound of young voices and look forward to welcoming them back as soon as we are able.

'Singing lies at the heart of worship.'

Voice for Life has a valuable part to play in giving life and soul to us all as we worship and learn.'

Dr John Rutter, composer and conductor

Kate Thompson

Member of the PCC and the SMLT Choir