

## SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> May & Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### SERVICES

#### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May and Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> 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

live-streamed with in-person attendance in church.

#### Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May & 12<sup>th</sup> May

##### 10:30am Holy Communion (BCP)

live-streamed with in-person attendance in church.

### CHURCH NOTICES

#### 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, Sally Patient, Helen Burtonshaw, Andy Courage, Jill Ganzoni, Margrid Brooks and Mary Gurney.

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, Matthew Patient, Bernard Willey, Leslie Baldry and Ruth Pearce.

*Lord, may we live in faith, walk in love, and be renewed in hope, until the world reflects your glory, and you are all in all.*

### INTERCESSIONS

*Lord you are ever watchful and bless us with your gifts, as you provide for our needs, so help us to do what pleases you.*

We pray for the mission and unity of the Church throughout the World: praying today for the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East; and the Anglican Church in Kenya. In our diocese we pray for our Bishops Martin and Mike and the Staff and congregation at the Cathedral in Bury St. Edmunds.

*Lord Jesus Christ, Apostle, Priest and Servant, bless those whom you have called to ministry as Bishops, Priests and Deacons. May they lead your people courageously and with authority: and be heard with joy and understanding for your names sake.*

In our life at St. Mary-le-Tower we pray for one another. Teach us Lord to seek your will. Guide each of us to know the task which will bring purpose and joy: for in serving others we are serving you. Give us strength and wisdom to meet the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

We pray for the Nations of the World. Lord, be with those who bear the responsibility of government. Give them wisdom and integrity and resolve to seek your kingdom and your righteousness for all people.

We pray especially for the people of India, where medical staff are struggling to care for the many thousands suffering with Covid 19 infection. Grant them courage and to know your presence. Comfort all who mourn.

We pray for peace in the World. Break down the barriers of fear and hostility that divide nations. We remember those trapped amidst terrorist activity and those ensnared in extremism.

We pray for our homes and families, friends and all whom we love. For the elderly, especially those who now depend on others to care and support them. For all whose time is spent caring for others.

## CURRENT PARISH CONTACTS

Please refer to the Parish Website for latest updates and downloads [www.stmaryletower.org.uk](http://www.stmaryletower.org.uk)

Revd Canon Charles Jenkin, Vicar, 07789 633315  
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Christopher Borrett, Director of Music  
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Acting Manager for Tower House  
Sonia Docherty, Churchwarden 07376 551764  
[towerhousedev@gmail.com](mailto:towerhousedev@gmail.com)

## PARISH NOTICES

### Church Cleaning this week



We have been fortunate to have received a Cultural Recovery Fund grant for re-opening and this is enabling us to undertake a floor to roof interior cleaning of the church.

## 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

If you would like to sponsor a concert please contact the Music department or the Churchwardens.

## OneLife Suffolk



Thanks to Sue Rudland and Jo Jones, St Mary-le-Tower has been able to form a partnership with OneLife Suffolk, a local organization funded by Public Health England who provide a free service enabling local people to live healthier lives.



OneLife Suffolk carry our health checks, provide advice and training on how to lead healthier lives including weight management and stopping smoking. These services are available free to all members of the public but they particularly target the hard to reach groups. They have been using the church on Friday mornings to provide weight management group sessions and have also used the church and church House on Mondays to provide drop in health checks including emergency dental treatment to the homeless.

We are thrilled that we are able to support this critical service to the community.

Sonia Docherty *Church Warden*

## Lunchtime Concerts

Our Lunchtime Concerts are back! The summer series runs from Tuesday May 4th, weekly until October 12th. All concerts are 45 minutes from 1.10pm. Initially live stream only, but we hope to be able to welcome a socially distanced audience from May 18th (Government regulations permitting).

**May 4th - Christine Stevenson piano**

**May 11th - David Poulter organ**

**May 18th - Nathan Williamson piano**

**May 25th - Daniel Joy & William Saunders tenor and piano**

All concerts are broadcast live via facebook 'St Mary-le-Tower Church Community' and accessible from the website: [www.stmaryletower.org.uk](http://www.stmaryletower.org.uk) by clicking on the red 'Live Streamed Services & Concerts' button.

Full details for all our concerts can be found on the 'Concerts and Events' page of the church website.

Do spread the word!

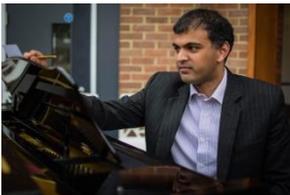
William Baldry

*Organist and Assistant Director of Music*

## Former St Mary le Tower chorister's success

It has been wonderful to return to singing in church after the lockdown. Having been a chorister at St. Mary le Tower since I was nine it felt very odd to be unable to sing in church or school for so many weeks. Many of us have relished the opportunity to sing again after a year with very few opportunities due to the pandemic. This has been true across the world; professional musicians have been hit particularly hard over the last twelve months. Many have taken the opportunity to compose some amazing new music during this time, and as performances are gradually permitted there will be many exciting new sounds to hear.

Former St. Mary le Tower chorister Ben Ponniah is a British composer whose classical works have been broadcast on BBC Radio 3. Ben was a chorister from age six under John Cooper, and music scholar at Ipswich School. He says the chorister experience was such an important part of his musical training, as the challenging repertoire he attempted rivalled many cathedral choirs at the time. This is still the case! Ben started composing in his GCSE year and mostly composes sacred music but his range includes classical music, musical theatre and jazz.



Ben wrote a new setting of the evening canticles this year for the BBC Singers in April 2021 called "Maida Vale Service" which was broadcast on 28<sup>th</sup> April at Choral

Evensong from St. Peter's Square, London. It is available to listen to on BBC Sounds here: - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000vhgc>

You can read more about Ben on his website: - <https://benponniah.com>

Archie Thompson *Choral scholar.*

## May Day and its place in Christian Tradition

This week sees the start of the month of May, traditionally a time of looking forward – a celebration of the summer to come. This year as the UK emerges from months of lockdown after year of restrictions, the hope is palpable as we anticipate a summer of increased freedom and optimism.

The spring bank holiday on the first Monday in May was created in 1978, May Day itself is 1<sup>st</sup> May and is not a public holiday in England (unless it falls on a Monday). In February 2011, the UK Parliament was reported to be considering scrapping the bank holiday associated with May Day, replacing it with a bank holiday in October,

possibly coinciding with Trafalgar Day (celebrated on October 21), to create a "United Kingdom Day".

The earliest known May celebrations appeared in Floralia, festival of Flora, the Roman Goddess of flower – held from 27<sup>th</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> May during the Roman Republic Era. A later May festival celebrated in Germanic countries, "Walpurgis Night", commemorates the official canonization of Saint Walpurga on 1 May 870. In Gaelic culture, the evening of April 30<sup>th</sup> was the celebration of Beltane (which translates to "lucky fire"), the start of the summer season.

Since the 18<sup>th</sup> century, many Roman Catholics have observed May – and May Day – with various May devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary. 1<sup>st</sup> May is also one of two feast days of the Catholic patron saint of workers St Joseph the Worker, a carpenter, husband to Mother Mary, and surrogate father of Jesus. Replacing another feast to St. Joseph, this date was chosen by Pope Pius XII in 1955 as a counterpoint to the communist International Workers Day celebrations on May Day.

In Oxford, it is a centuries-old tradition of May Morning revellers to gather below the Great Tower of Magdalen College at 6am to listen to the college choir sing traditional madrigals as a conclusion to the previous night's celebrations. Since the 1980s some people then jump off Magdalen Bridge into the River Cherwell.

The origins of the May morning celebration date from around 1505 when the Great Tower at Magdalen College was completed. The event has taken place each year in its current form since the 17<sup>th</sup> Century when "Hymnus Eucharisticus" was written by Benjamin Rogers, 17<sup>th</sup> Century Magdalen Choirmaster, musician and composer with an interesting biography! The event starts early at 6 am. with bells ringing, followed by the Choir singing the Hymnus Eucharisticus from the top of Magdalen Tower. The last section of the climb to the top of the tower is reportedly only a ladder, and not for the faint-hearted! For this reason choristers only wear short surplices over uniform rather than cassocks...

The choir traditionally also sings a madrigal, "Now Is the Month of Maying" following prayers for the city led by the Dean of Divinity. Large crowds of both students and Oxford residents normally gather under the tower, along the High Street, and on Magdalen Bridge. Students and fellows of Magdalen College gather in the college cloisters and on top of the other towers within the college grounds. Morris dancing and folk singing has also featured in Radcliffe Square as the choir "sing in" the Spring in this unique Oxford tradition.

Kate Thompson *Member of the PCC & SMLT Choir*