

Sunday 21st & 28th November 2021

SERVICES

All services are in person attendance in church

Sunday 21st November & 28th November
9.30 am Choral Matins

Sunday 21st November & 28th November
10.30am Choral Eucharist
Live-streamed

Sunday 21st November & 28th November
17.30pm Choral Evensong
Live-streamed

Wednesday 24th & 31st November
10:30am Holy Communion (BCP)

Morning Prayers

Everyone is welcome to join morning prayers in church. These are said Monday to Friday at 8.30am.

Midweek Evensong Services

As the choir are preparing for Advent and Christmas, the midweek evensong services will be temporarily suspended. These services will resume in January on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

SERVICES DURING TREES AT THE TOWER

Wednesday 1st December Opening Event at 19.00
For Sponsors, Participants and Guests

Thursday 2nd December to Wednesday 8th December
The Festival is open to all.

Monday 6th December Christingle Service 17.00

Tuesday 7th December Festival Lunchtime Concert 13.00

COVID AWARENESS

Please be aware that the Covid infection rates have increased locally. Can we ask everyone to respect others by continuing to wear a mask and use the hand sanitizer provided when in Church. A mask needs to be worn when moving around church and when sitting in the central aisle but if you sit in the side pews then you are exempted from wearing a mask.

HOLDING PEOPLE IN PRAYER

We pray for those we know who are unwell or in difficulty including Frazer and Jenny Bell, Andy Courage, Jaydon Mc Connachie, Simon Hulme, Peter Mayes, Mary Trythell, Carolyn, Eileen Mayers and Robert Jones. We continue to pray for Derek le May, Sally Patient, Phyl Fisk, Margrid Brooks and Mary Gurney.

We pray rest in peace and rise in glory for those who have recently died; Peter Matthews and all who are bereaved. We give thanks for the lives of those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Edna Baldry.
O Lord our God, accept the prayers of your people, and in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion on all who turn to you for help.

INTERCESSIONS

Keep us O Lord, in purity of heart and faithfulness to your commands, that your servants may walk before you in the way that is perfect.

We pray for the mission and unity of the Church throughout the World remembering the Church of Bangladesh and the Anglican Church in Brazil. In our diocese we pray for Parishes in the Waveney and Blyth Deanery and the Clare Deanery. We pray for all who work in the NHS as pressures increase during the winter months.

In our life at St. Mary-le-Tower we pray for one another as we prepare for the Christmas Tree Festival. We pray for all who will visit that they may find God's presence here. We pray for our celebrations of Advent.

We pray for the Nations of the World. Lord God, all wise, all merciful, hear us as we pray for those who bear the responsibility of leadership. Give them in their deliberations wisdom to know your will, regard for your laws, and respect for human rights: that they may seek to lead in the paths of truth, freedom and peace.

We pray for the Queen, as she rests, that she will regain her strength, and be able to enjoy Christmas with her family.

We pray for the work of Aid agencies throughout the world, and all who they support, who live in poverty or under oppression.

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, a bereavement, or just loneliness.

CURRENT PARISH CONTACTS

Please refer to the Parish Website for latest updates and downloads www.stmaryletower.org.uk

Rev. Tom Mumford 07851684467
vicar@stmaryletower.org.uk

Jo Jones, Churchwarden 07813 543587
churchwarden@stmaryletower.org.uk

Sonia Docherty, Churchwarden 07376 551764
Sonia.Docherty1@gmail.com

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

Sonia Docherty, interim manager of Tower House
towerhousedev@gmail.com

Danny Cooch, Caretaker 07376 745519
caretakerSMLT@gmail.com

WAYS OF GIVING TO SMLT



During the pandemic we have suffered a serious loss of income and hope that the plate collection will help us to recover some of this loss.

We are grateful for your continued support.

You may also use the following ways for giving if you wish.

- 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.]

CHURCH NOTICES

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

Dear all,

Firstly, thank you so much to EVERYONE who has wished Laura and I well with cards and gifts in the last fortnight. Thank you also to everyone who came to the cathedral for the ceremony, and especially to the choir who came and sang so beautifully. My family and friends were absolutely amazed and thought the choir were so fantastic. Laura especially appreciated the anthem that was sung – she's always wanted that sung at her wedding so it was particularly special to me that she was able to have her wish. Thank you. We enjoyed a short honeymoon away in 'the other county' before returning to Remembrance related parish duties. I also wanted to share with you that we have become the proud parents of a little ginger kitten we've called Dave (I petitioned hard for the name!). For those of you I haven't shared a picture with, please see below. He is the cutest thing in the entire world and I am totally besotted. Lord knows what I will be like if we ever have an actual child!



More good news to share: Celia has just this week received a licence with 'Permission to Officiate' in the Diocese from the bishop. Now she has left the hospital as Chaplain (who no doubt are mourning their loss!) she is exploring what else God might be calling her to in her priestly ministry and I am delighted that that will happen here. She doesn't have a 'job title' at the Tower, and will not be here on a day-to-day basis, but she will be preaching on a regular basis, sharing in the leading of worship, and discerning with me how we might reach out to those on the margins in our parish much better. MORE good news, a member of our congregation, Jo Gunn (also headteacher of St Margaret's School) is being installed as Lay Canon at the cathedral on Sunday. This is fantastic news and a recognition of Jo's God-given gifts and ministry she has offered the diocese and will continue to do so. Please

hold Jo in your prayers this weekend as she is installed. I will be there to support her, along with others from the Tower. We really should be very proud!

As you know the Christmas Tree Festival, Trees @ the Tower is nearly upon us. I was on BBC Radio Suffolk on Sunday giving it a plug and the response has been fantastic. The presenter was so enthusiastic I almost need not have come on. I just want to say publicly a gigantic thank you to all on the committee who have put this year's festival together. You are absolutely fantastic and real heroes of the church this Christmas! If there is anyone who would feel able to help volunteer at the festival, welcoming on the door or at the café, please be in touch. We can't have too many helpers!

As well as various Remembrance Day related engagements, I have also had the pleasure this last week of enjoying a fantastic Tower Chamber Choir concert – a huge thank to Chris Borrett, Will Baldry and all involved in making that happen. I have also had the honour (although slightly daunting experience!) of addressing a full Ipswich Borough Council meeting to give a sort of 'thought for the day'. It has been clear from the various civic engagements I've been involved in the last seven weeks how proud and supportive the town are of their civic church which has been so encouraging to hear and experience.

My final notice this week is on a quite serious matter. At the moment, St Mary le Tower is without a treasurer which is just simply not tenable long term. I know there have been challenges with this role in the past, but we are now in a fresh chapter with much to look forward to, despite our financial challenges. We do not need a treasurer to do the bookkeeping or banking. We have someone in this role already. But we do need a treasurer who can act as a sort of financial manager/overseer to work closely with me as we chart a positive, strategic, and secure financial future. This would not be onerous on a day to day basis and you would get all the support you need. So I just want to put this out there. Please think and pray about whether this could be something God is calling you to for a reason, or indeed if there is anyone you can think of that might be good for this role.

I leave you with the fun fact that this Sunday, as well as being the feast of Christ the King, is 'Stir Up Sunday', traditionally the day when people begin to prepare their Christmas Puddings! The tradition stems not only being a sensible time to start loading your pudding with alcohol, but also because of the words of the Collect for the Last Sunday before Advent that goes as follows: *Stir*

up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May this be so, and may your Christmas puddings be delicious! Mine will be, but that's because it'll be from M&S!!

With my prayers as ever,

Tom

THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

The choir's new carol CD, *The Road to Bethlehem*, is now available for purchase (£12) from choir members and parents after Sunday Eucharist and Evensong. The disc was made with the Gramophone Award-winning label Delphian Records and has already been warmly received in the national press, being the lead review in the December issue of *Choir & Organ Magazine*.

The recording includes both traditional carols as well as more recently composed ones, mostly with a local connection. The new carols include pieces by Ipswich-born Ben Parry; former St Mary le Tower chorister, Ben Ponniah; and current choir member and choir assistant, Matthew Heyburn. Furthermore the two images used in the CD booklet, were painted by local artists, Wendy Brooke-Smith and our very own choral scholar Kitty Thompson.

Local and national radio stations have received copies, so keep your ears peeled in case we crop up on the radio!

AN APPEAL FOR UNDERWEAR FOR PATIENTS IN IPSWICH HOSPITAL

Patients in Ipswich Hospital are in need of all sizes of both male and female underwear. This is because of visitor restrictions so some patients have no visitors. Jo Jones is willing to collect the underwear – which must be new – and take it to the Mothers Union at St Marys Stoke



Beryl

Secretary/Administrator

St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese
Mothers Union

LUNCHTIME CONCERT

Our winter series of concerts will begin on Tuesday 23 November and run weekly until 21 December.

***** Please note: These concerts will begin at 1pm *****

November 23rd Colin Walsh *organ*

November 30th Zoë Todd & Andrew Leach *mezzo-soprano & piano*

December 7th Duke Dobing & Caroline Finlay *flute & piano*

December 14th Yalda Davis & Andrew Leach *cello & piano*

December 21st The Choir of St Mary-le-Tower

If you would like to sponsor one of our winter concerts, please contact:

William Baldry - will.baldry@yahoo.co.uk

or Sonia Docherty – sonia.docherty1@gmail.com

TREES @ THE TOWER

2nd December – 8th December

The count down has begun to the eagerly anticipated opening of this years Christmas Tree Festival on Thursday 2nd December 2021.

Offers of help to give a warm welcome to visitors to the festival as well as helping to serve food and drink in the Festival Café would be very welcome.

Please contact any of the T@TT team:-Jo Jones, Keith Faull, Sally Graham, Kate Thompson, Vicky Faull, Ian Lord, Mary Baldry and Tracy Bose

Thursday Lunchtime Forums at Christ Church Tacket Street

A series of Forums will be held at Christ Church Tacket Street Ipswich (next to Cox Lane car park) Refreshments will be available at a low cost 12 noon – 12.45 followed by a short talk from 1.10 – 1.5-pm You are welcome to either or both Here are the dates of the Forums, all of which look very interesting.

November 25th - My Time Serving as a Royal Naval Chaplain

Neil Coulson

December 2nd - Folk Music

David Stainer & Diz Deacon

www.christchurch-ipswich.org.uk Thursday Forum can now be followed on Twitter at @ThursdayForum

CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES

The Cards for Good Causes Christmas shop is now open in Tower House from Monday-Saturday, 10am-4pm.

Cards for Good Causes is a charity organisation representing national charities including Cancer Research, The British Heart Foundation, Save the Children, Parkinsons and Alzheimer's. As well as over twenty national charities the shop also stock cards for local charities such as Somersham Ward, East Anglian Air Ambulance and Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

You will also find a variety of gifts, stocking fillers, tree decorations, Advent Calendars and all the paper, bows, tags and ribbon you will need for your wrapping!

This year the Scouts will be resuming their special Christmas postal deliveries to addresses in the local area. Cost will be 30p per card. If you have cards for collection, please put your cards and money together in the special Scout Xmas Post Box which you will find in our shop. Collection dates for this year will be from Thursday 25th November until Tuesday 7th December 2021.

IPSWICH CHAMBER CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Pickled Boys and Sublime Christmas Music

Saturday 4th December at 7.00pm in Ipswich's beautiful St Margaret's Church, Soane Street IP4 2BE.

Tickets £15, students free, from: choir members, Musicworld, Queen Street, Ipswich, Woodbridge Violins, Market Hill, Woodbridge or from WeGotTickets via www.ipswichchamberchoir.org.uk

Ipswich Chamber Choir's Christmas Concert is a joyful celebration of singing together and includes Palestrina's Tribus Miraculis (The Wonderful Gifts), Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on Christmas Carols and Britten's delightful St Nicolas which, in its first recording in 1955 featured boy trebles from St Mary-le-Tower Choristers and Ipswich School. We are recreating this group of "Pickled boys" and the boy Nicolas from both choirs.

Stuart Grimwade, one of the boy trebles on the first recording, recalls Benjamin Britten coming to rehearse them: "He wanted us to sing with our mouths as wide open 'as if you had the biggest gob-stopper in it', especially when singing 'alleluia' with long emphasis on the 'ia' for the mouth open bit. At the end of the rehearsal he just said cheerio and threw us a bag of gob-stoppers, so we would remember to sing loudly with our mouths as wide open as possible".

A patron saint of children and of sailors, Nicolas' story is divided into nine sections. The fourth requires lots of percussion to depict a stormy sea and the sailors jeering at Nicolas kneeling in prayer. William Baldry will leave the organ loft to play the various instruments including drums, cymbal, gong and whip as part of the orchestra, The Façade Ensemble, with tenor William Searle.

The climax of the story is the seventh movement, "Nicolas and the Pickled Boys". A group of weary travellers mourns three boys who have gone missing. It is a time of famine and when they sit down in the tavern to eat, Nicolas tells them not to touch the food. It's the boys, "slaughtered by the butchers' knife"! Nicolas performs a miracle bringing the boys back to life: the three boys enter singing "Alleluia", then the women's voices and finally the men join in. It's a special moment reflecting the relief and joy of the boys' mothers.

The death of Nicolas and the hymn "God moves in a mysterious way" brings the work to a moving end and with the audience joining in, reminds us how bonding it is to sing together, as we did in childhood.

TREES @ THE TOWER ANGEL PROJECT

St Mary le Tower is working with other Ipswich churches this Advent and Christmas seasons to "Angel Bomb" Ipswich.

There will be all sorts of Angel projects going on, and as part of our preparations for the Christmas Tree Festival: "Trees @ the Tower" we have chosen to try to make a chain of Angels holding hands and encircling our church.

We will be able to display these around the boundaries of the St Mary le Tower. The Choristers and Choral Scholars will be getting involved, but we wanted everyone who can to make some.

We will laminate them to make them weatherproof and join them all together in a continuous chain. The hope is that we can make enough to go right around the boundary. We hope that the Angel chain will be a joyful symbol of caring and unity and say something about how we can work together to bring God's peace and joy to others.

Please do pick up a set of instructions and some paper from church, (available from this Sunday 7th Nov) or download a set of instructions from the website.

Vicky Faull on behalf of "Trees @ the Tower"

STIR UP SUNDAY

Here are some interesting snippets about Stir Up Sunday along with a well-loved Christmas Pudding Recipe that has been passed down from generation to generation.

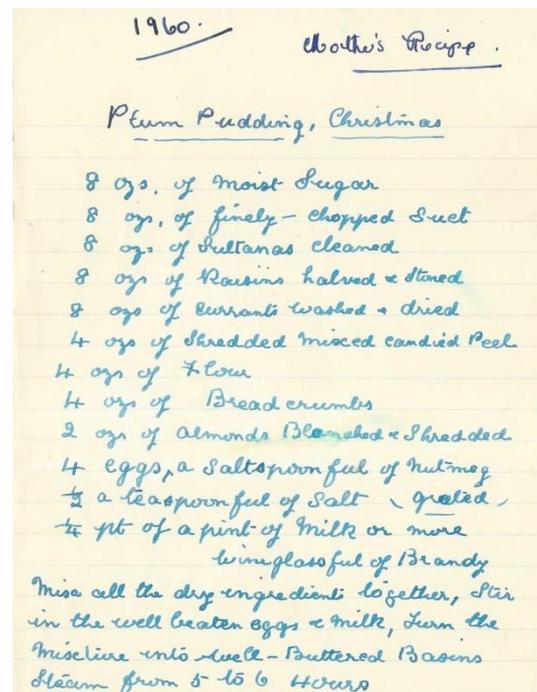
Christmas puddings would traditionally contain 13 ingredients to represent Jesus and his disciples.



The lucky stir has a prescribed direction. Traditionally, Stir-Up Sunday families stirred the pudding from east to west, to honour the wise men who journeyed in this direction to meet...

Every family member gets a wish. Traditionally, when a family whips up a Christmas pudding together, each family member will make a wish on their turn to stir.

Puddings once included symbols for good luck. Some traditional puddings in past times included a thimble for a lucky life or a ring for luck in upcoming marriage.



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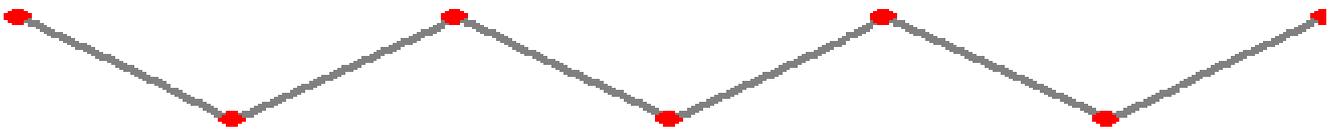
A Chain Of Angels holding hands around St. Mary le Tower.

As part of the preparations for our Christmas Tree festival, we would love you to make angel paper chains to encircle the perimeter of St Mary le Tower.

How to do it!

Ideally the paper chains should be made from A3 paper cut lengthwise, which is available in church.

Each strip of paper makes 3 Angels so you need to fold your paper in 6 like a zigzag. Each section is then 7cm wide and 15cm high.



Then draw an angel shape on the top layer of your zigzag. There is a plain one here as an example, or you can pick up a template from church, or design your own.

Please decorate them if you wish. We can post pictures of the most glamorous on the Trees @ the Tower website

Please bring your finished Angels back to church.

All the Angels will be laminated and attached together around the church railings. We are hoping to get all the way round!

Many Thanks for your contribution to this project.

Vicky Faull on behalf of Trees @ the Tower.