



Tower Times

5th & 6th Sundays of Easter
28th April and 5th May 2024

From the Vicar...

Curate Update

Earlier this week I had the joy of visiting Westcott House in Cambridge to see Gregor, our incoming curate, at his theological college (training college for clergy!). It was a really interesting day hearing from him, his tutors, and the college about how he has spent the last two years, and how the college has sought to help him in his formation for ordained ministry. It has made me more excited to welcome him as a colleague in June not least because I know what a brilliant community I will be welcoming him in to. Having a stipendiary curate is a special responsibility for a parish. They are not another member of staff in the traditional sense. For example, we don't advertise or recruit, or even choose them ourselves. Instead, they are entrusted to us by the Bishop in order that through their time with us they may be made ready to serve the Church in posts of responsibility. So Gregor's time with us will be one of training and formation for him, and that is something that each and every one of you will play a part in. And I say that with great relief, because if it were all up to me as his Training Incumbent he'd be very short changed! But as well as the coming 3 years (the traditional length of a curacy) being a time of training and formation for Gregor, I hope also it will be a time of growth and formation for us as a community. Gregor will bring his own

gifts and experiences that I know will help shape me as a priest and as a Christian, and I hope will impact upon each of you as well. So please do pray for him as he prepares to move to Ipswich this summer, and to be ordained Deacon on 29th June.

Charter825

2025 sees the 825th anniversary of Ipswich being granted its charter by King John. This was granted to the town in the churchyard of St Mary le Tower. Therefore, I believe 2025 presents us with an opportunity, on this significant anniversary, to build on the town's great past and help create a new and exciting future. To enable this, the PCC has decided to initiate a town-wide festival in 2025 with a particular focus of events taking place at the end of June to coincide with the exact 825th anniversary. A number of schools are already excited about being involved in a number of proposed musical and literary activities that the Tower will facilitate. However, I am convinced that there is potential for this to be more wide-reaching and so am in the process of consulting and convening other churches, faith and community groups, civic institutions, businesses, and charities to discern the potential for this event across the town. If you have ideas and would like to be involved in this exciting event, please get in touch. There will be an open reception for community leaders and interested parties at the church on 20th May at 6pm. You would be very welcome to attend. I really feel that a Charter825 festival can make a lasting contribution of the growth, development and flourishing of the town we love and serve. Exciting times ahead!

Communication

When I first arrived at the Tower two and a half years ago I was very aware of the desire for improved and more effective communication. In the intervening years the PCC, Churchwardens, staff and I have made great efforts to realise this (the institution of the newsletter being one of them!). However, as the church has grown and its operations have necessarily complexified, I am aware that there will always be the potential for improvement. Therefore I would like to ask: What sort of things about the life of the church would you like to know more of? And how would you like to be communicated with? As we all know, communication is always a two-way thing, especially with churches, and

so I'd love to know how you are finding it and how we might be able to better communicate with each other.

APCM

Another reminder that the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting – basically the church's AGM/Annual General Meeting) will be held after the 10:30am Sung Eucharist on May 19th. At this meeting there will be elections to 3 places on the PCC, as well as a review of the Jan-Dec 2023 Annual Report to the Charity Commission (a legal obligation for us as a charity). The Annual Report to be submitted to the Charity Commission is now available to view on our website under the 'about us' tab and on the page 'APCM 2024'. There will also be two hard copies of this placed at the back of the church for those who want to read it when they're in church. Because the report is such a large document (36 pages!) we felt it kinder to the environment and our printing costs to let people read it predominantly online. If you would like a hard copy and have no access to printing at home, please let me know and I will do my best to provide you with one. I am also having a briefer and more reader-friendly summary produced in time for the APCM for those who find the official reports, especially on the finance, hard going.

With all that said, APCM's are an opportunity to review, as a whole church, the year that is passed and look ahead to the future. It is also an opportunity for existing members of the PCC to ask questions about the running of the church, its mission, its finances, etc. Of course, on the latter point, the APCM isn't the only time when members of the church community can do that, so if there are questions to be asked please don't wait until then – my inbox is always open! The APCM will be followed by a bring-and-share lunch which I hope will become another social occasion for the whole church family to celebrate each other together. Might you feel a call to serve on the PCC and want to know more? Get in touch!

That's probably all from me just now...though I've just had a thought...next time I write this letter we will know if Ipswich Town get automatic promotion to the Premier League!!

As ever, Tom.



St Mary Le Tower
TOP UP SHOP
Living out God's love in Ipswich

**St Mary le Tower
Church, Tower Street
Every Wednesday
9am-10am**

**£2 for a bag to fill
with the things
you need.**

All are welcome!



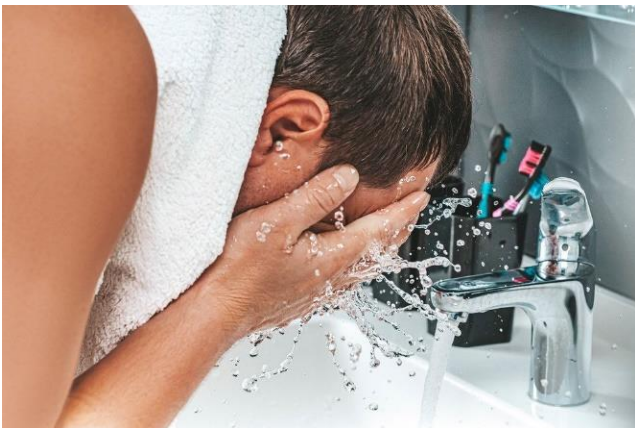
SMLT Top-Up Shop Volunteers

The Top-up Shop (TUS), offering of a bag of shopping for £2 and free café, is certainly popular with a very mixed group of people on a Wednesday morning. We have managed to open every week, without pause, since the first week of May 2022, two whole years ago, with the addition of the free cafe becoming important for customers socially, as well as for the food.

We set up TUS on Tuesday afternoon from around 3.00 pm. Then, each Wednesday morning, we gather to set up the café from 8am, pausing for Morning Prayer at 8.30, before opening the doors to customers at 9am.

As holiday time is approaching it would be very helpful for a few more people to volunteer. This does not have to be every week, as the tag line says, “every little helps”.

Please contact Jo Jones, or just turn up.



Please prioritise donations of Toiletries and Toilet rolls household cleaning materials and personal hygiene products, these are not provided currently by our partner organisations.

Thank you.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Dear Friends,

This year's APCM will take place on Sunday 19th May 2024 in church after the 10:30 am service. In preparation for this meeting there needs to be a period of revision of the church electoral roll. In order to stand for office or speak at the APCM, you need to be on the electoral roll of St Mary-le-Tower. For this revision, if you are already on the roll you do not need to apply again.

A notice for the formal period of revision of the electoral roll, plus a listing of the current roll will be displayed in the south porch of SMLT as well as at the back of church. The application forms for joining will also be available at the back of church or from the Verger, Jim Robinson, or myself. If you are regularly participating in our services online that will count in the same way as if you were attending in church. Please indicate in the form if your attendance is via online services.

With Thanks, Rosemary Caudle (Electoral Roll Officer)

APCM Shared Lunch

There will be a shared lunch held in church after the 10.30 service just before the APCM on Sunday 19th May. If you are able to contribute towards this, please can you sign the sheet which can be found at the back of church, indicating what you are able to bring. Please also remember that a list of ingredients for home made items needs to be included. We will need savory items, fresh salads and desserts!

Many thanks

Richard Hanley

Celebrating our young people at the Tower



The reverend Tom and our director of music, Christopher Borrett, recently accompanied a group of our choristers to Portland Road to see Ipswich Town v Middlesbrough. This was something of an in-house derby match with Mr Borrett, a Middlesbrough supporter, amid a sea of young Town supporters in the choir.

Last week we also welcomed over 400 young people representing Squirrel, Beaver, Cub, and Scout Groups from all over Ipswich to the Tower for the annual St George's Day parade.

"An amazing group of young people, newly committed again to serving God, King, and country, enabling our whole community to flourish. A wonderful example!"

Rev. Tom Mumford

Pictured above with choristers and Christopher Borrett at ITFC, and pictured right, welcoming the St George's day parade at the Tower



Prayer and Pastoral 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. In our diocese we pray for Parishes in the Loes Deanery. We pray for the Vulnerable children of Rwanda

In our life at St Mary-le-Tower we pray for one another that we may continue to grow in faith, and for those who regularly visit our Top-up Shop.

We pray for the Nations of the World especially where conflict continues. We ask God's blessing on the United Nations in all its work. We pray for the leaders of nations.

We pray for all who live and work in Ipswich. We pray particularly for all who find life difficult, for those who live in poverty or under oppression and for all who offer support.

We pray for those who are unwell or otherwise distressed, that they may know God's power to heal. We pray for Roy and Maureen Butt, Jean Bradberry, Jenny Liston, Rachel Davey, Joyce Courage, Richard Hulme, Margrid and Benedicta Brooks, for Michael Warren, Michael Watts, Maureen Bonsall, Maggie Angell, Anne Smith, Rosalind Haynes and Peter Gotts. We continue to pray for Ron and Florence Fisher, Tony Brook-Carr, Phyl Fisk and for all those unable to be in Church.

We give thanks for the lives of those who have recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including Grace Chandler, Jill Ganzoni, Leslie Baldry, Matthew Patient, Bernard Willey, Ruth Pearce, John Bannyon, Angela Bannyon and Beatrice Crane.

May the love of God enfold you, may the mercy of God absolve you, may the strength of God support you, may the peace of God console you.

Please let one of the ministry team know

of any pastoral needs amongst the community, so that we can respond to news of anyone suffering from illness, bereavement, loneliness, or any other need.

(Ministry team: Vicar, Churchwardens, Verger)

Weekly at the Tower

Monday - **Church Closed**

Tuesday-Friday **Morning Prayer 8.30am**

Wednesday - **BCP Holy Communion 10.30am**

Friday – **Choral Evensong - 5.45pm**

Sunday

BCP Holy Communion 8am

Choral Matins 9.30am

Sung Eucharist 10.30am

Choral Evensong 3.30pm

Parish Giving Scheme

<https://www.stmaryletower.org/donatenow>



To set up a regular gift online go to
<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/ipswich-st-mary-le-tower-ipswich/>

Or point your phone or other device at the QR code below.



You can also set up a regular gift over the phone by calling

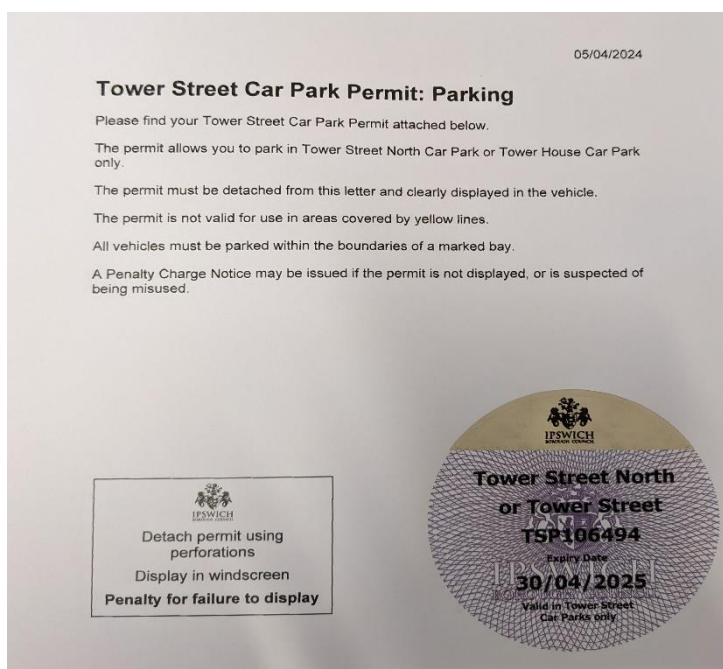
0333 002 1271

(In that case you will need your personal bank details and your parish PGS Code: Ipswich St Mary-le-Tower, 330633087, St Edmundsbury & Ipswich)

If you would rather give by Standing Order the leaflet tells you how, or drop me an email at treasurer@stmaryletower.org.

Andrew Gosden, Treasurer

Parking Permits and Protocol from April 2024



Permits are now being issued. If you have registered for a permit and paid for it, permits can be collected from David Matthews in person after the Sunday 10.30am service or from the verger during Church Office opening hours.

Parking is for those engaged in church business. To apply for a permit, fill in the appropriate form on the table at the back of church. The cream form is for Tower Street car parks but note that **during normal office hours, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, parking is not guaranteed.** The white form (with blue text) is for the Ipswich and Suffolk Club carpark **for Sundays only.** Completed registration slips are to be posted in the donations box.

If you do not have a permit and need to park for a one-off reason, it will be necessary to request a discretionary permit at least **one week in advance**. Email the verger at operations@stmaryletower.org and he will liaise with Tower House and advise where to collect and return your permit on the day requested.

Lunchtime Concerts 2024



William Baldry at the St Mary le Tower organ console

This year's summer series of Lunchtime Concerts will begin on Tuesday May 7 with an organ recital by David Poulter. The series will continue every Tuesday until October 15. We have a varied array of artists on this year's programme, details of which can be found in the poster (previous Page).

We are currently looking for sponsors for our concert series. Sponsorship enables us to continue to invite outstanding recitalists to perform in the heart of Ipswich at a time when arts funding, both locally and nationally, is being reduced and withdrawn. If you are able to consider sponsorship of a concert, please contact William Baldry at organist@stmaryletower.org to discuss.

Many thanks,

Will.

ST MARY-LE-TOWER IPSWICH
LUNCHTIME CONCERTS
SUMMER SERIES 2024

TUESDAY LUNCHTIMES 1.10-1.55PM

7TH
MAY

David Poulter organ
'Te Deum'
Music by Reger, Langlais & Tournemire

14TH
MAY

Christine Stevenson piano
'Chopin and Liszt - the Patriot and the Pilgrim'
includes Mazurkas, a Nocturne and a Polonaise by Chopin,
& pieces from Liszt's *Années de pèlerinage (Years of Pilgrimage)*

21ST
MAY

John Chillingworth cello & Tim Carey piano
'The Magic of Beethoven'
Seven Variations on *'Bei Männern, welche Liebe fühlen'*
Sonata No. 3 in A major, Op. 69

28TH
MAY

Anthony Gritten organ
Duruflé: Prélude et Fugue sur le nom d'Alain, Op. 7
& music by Vierne, Roth & Maxim

4TH
JUNE

Jenny Haxell soprano & Peter Willsher piano
Songs by Barber, Quilter, Strauss & Wolf
exploring themes of landscape, memory, and emotion

11TH
JUNE

**Claire Baughan clarinet, Imogen Retey soprano,
Yalda Davis cello, & Andrew Leach piano**
Schubert: *Shepherd on the Rock, D. 965*, Reade: *Victorian Kitchen
Garden Suite*, Beethoven: *Piano Trio in B flat major, Op. 11*



Light refreshments served from 12.45pm
Free admission with retiring collection

ST MARY-LE-TOWER IPSWICH

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS SUMMER SERIES 2024

CONCERTS BEGIN AT 1.10PM

18TH
JUNE

Matthew Heyburn *piano*
Works from the 18th & 19th Centuries

25TH
JUNE

Timothy Parsons *organ*
Bach: Six Schübler Chorales
& music by Muhly & Messiaen

2ND
JULY

Lewis Kingsley Peart *piano*
'From introspective depths to celebratory heights'
Grieg's piano sonata takes centre stage in this programme, flanked
by evocative miniatures and Grainger's vibrant folk-inspired gems

9TH
JULY

Gainsborough Quartet with Andrew Leach *piano*
Schumann: Piano Quintet in E flat major, Op. 44
Matthew Sheeran: Languet Anima

16TH
JULY

Zephyr Baroque
A selection of 17th & 18th Century pieces, including works by
Handel, Telemann & Vivaldi, for Recorder, Bassoon & Harpsichord

23RD
JULY

Adam Chillingworth *organ*
'The English Organist'
Music from the Middle Ages to the present day



Light refreshments served from 12.45pm
Free admission with retiring collection

ST MARY-LE-TOWER IPSWICH

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS SUMMER SERIES 2024

CONCERTS BEGIN AT 1.10PM

30TH JULY	Rebecca German mezzo-soprano & Thomas Carr piano <i>'Vienna: Fin de Siècle'</i> Early works by Berg & Korngold
6TH AUGUST	Kay Dawson horn, John Jermy trumpet, & Owen Dawson trombone Poulenc: Sonata for Horn, Trumpet and Trombone & music by Plog & Bach
13TH AUGUST	Nicholas Freestone organ <i>'British & Irish Anniversaries'</i> Music by Bairdstow, Stanford, Mathias & Weir
20TH AUGUST	Debbie Rogers flute, Rob Rogers oboe, & Daniel Law piano Music by Telemann, Kalliwoda & Dring: At times serene and then witty and cheeky!
27TH AUGUST	Finlay Bloore bass & Özel Günhanlar piano Schumann: Dichterliebe Quilter: Seven Elizabethan Lyrics
3RD SEPTEMBER	Jill Crossland piano Selections from Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier & works by Chopin



Light refreshments served from 12.45pm
Free admission with retiring collection

ST MARY-LE-TOWER IPSWICH

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS SUMMER SERIES 2024

CONCERTS BEGIN AT 1.10PM

10TH SEPTEMBER	Francesca Massey organ Schumann: Six studies for pedal-piano, Op. 56 & music by Hollins, Vierne & Fletcher
17TH SEPTEMBER	Katherine Williams soprano & Gretel Dowdeswell piano Music by Bach, Mozart & Musgrave
24TH SEPTEMBER	Jonathan Hanley tenor & Gavin Roberts piano <i>'Shakespeare in Song'</i> Settings of The Bard from across the centuries
1ST OCTOBER	Anghia Baroque 17th & 18th Century music for Court & Theatre
8TH OCTOBER	Colin Walsh organ Stanford: Fantasia and Toccata in D minor & music by Elgar, Harwood & Whitlock
15TH OCTOBER	Alessandro Bianchi organ Music from Europe and the New World



Light refreshments served from 12.45pm
Free admission with retiring collection

The Winter Series
begins on
Tuesday 21 November

Verger and Parish Office hours

	Morning 9am-12 noon	Fixed Duties Non-Contact	Afternoon 1pm-5pm
Monday	Off all day		
Tuesday	Contact by Phone or email	Weekly meetings 11am-1pm	Contact In person - Office
Wednesday	Contact by Phone or email	Holy Communion 10am-12 noon+	Contact In person - Office
Thursday	Off all day		
Friday	Contact In Person - Office	Evensong 5-6.30pm	Contact by Phone or email
Saturday	Special Services and Events		
Sunday	Church duty 7am-4.30pm		