

SUNDAY 12th September 2021 St Mary-le-Tower Patronal Festival

SERVICES

All services are in person attendance in church

Sunday 12th September

9.30 am Choral Matins

10.30am Choral Eucharist

Live-streamed

5.30pm Choral Evensong

Wednesday 15th September

10:30am Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 19th September

9.30 am Choral Matins

10.30am Choral Eucharist

Live-streamed

5.30pm Choral Evensong

Wednesday 22nd September

10:30am Holy Communion (BCP)

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

We pray for those we know who are unwell or in difficulty including: Jaydon Mc Connachie, Simon Hulme, and Felix Todd. We continue to pray for Derek le May, Sally Patient, and Jill Ganzoni.

We pray rest in peace and rise in glory for those who have recently died; and all who are bereaved. We give thanks for the lives of those whose remembrance occurs at this time including Paul Barker, Ellie Dowding, Christine Metters, Andrew Mc Nabb, Meg Lant, Rachael Moss, Kevin Bryant, Ralph Pallant, and Sydney Fisher.

O Lord, our God, accept the prayers of your people. Look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help.

INTERCESSIONS

Give us grace, Almighty Father, to address you with all our hearts as well as our lips. You are everywhere present: from you no secrets are hidden.

We pray for the mission and unity of the Church throughout the World, remembering the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan. In our diocese we pray for Bishop Martin and Bishop Mike: for all Clergy and Lay Ministers as they care for their congregations.

In our life at St. Mary-le-Tower we pray for Revd. Tom Mumford as he prepares to move to Ipswich, to lead us forward in our ministry. For Jo and Sonia, our Churchwardens as they co-ordinate services and meetings during September. For our celebration of our Patronal Festival. We give thanks for the many years of praise and worship in this place. For the PCC meeting on Tuesday 14th September.

We pray for Katherine & Ben Parry providing the Lunchtime Concert on Tuesday 14th September.

We pray for all who participated in, the "Ride and Stride" Historic Churches Fund event on Saturday 11th September, we give thanks for the money raised to support the upkeep of Churches throughout Suffolk.

We pray for the people of Afghanistan: who have been left under Taliban Leadership after American and British Service Personnel have left the country.

We pray for all the Nations of the World where natural disasters and political unrest have caused destruction and loss of life. Give political leaders wisdom and integrity in their dealings with one another. We give thanks for the wonders of creation. May we care for our environment so that further climate change can be avoided.

We pray for Schools and Colleges, Staff and students as they begin a new academic year.

We pray for victims of abuse and violence, intolerance and prejudice. For those in the midst of famine and disaster. For the unemployed, and those whose work is unfulfilling, stressful or fraught with danger.

CURRENT PARISH CONTACTS

During the interregnum:

The Churchwardens are coordinating the life of St Mary-le-Tower and, except for music department matters, all general church queries should be directed to them. Jo Jones, Churchwarden 07813 543587
Please refer to the Parish Website for latest updates and downloads www.stmaryletower.org.uk

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

Sonia Docherty, Churchwarden 07376 551764
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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.]

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

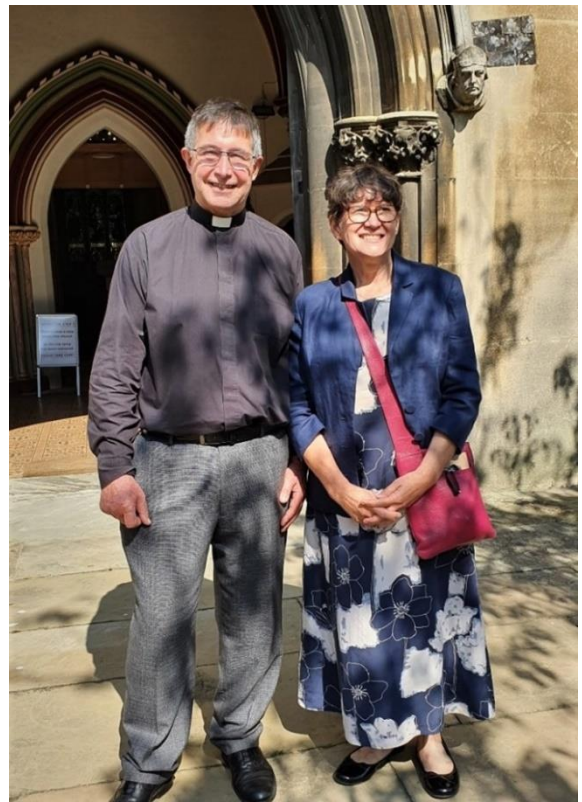
On the 5th September we bade farewell to Charles and Susan after 13 years at the Tower

Amongst many things, Charles will be remembered for promoting the growth of the music department, achieving the high standards of our cathedral style choral tradition, facilitating the return of women and the introduction of girls in the choir. He was also instrumental in the formation of the Choral Foundation and maintained our offering of both Choral Matins and Evensong on a weekly basis. Charles played a key role in the acquisition of Tower House which has enabled

partnerships with our wider community and was responsible for the birth of our hugely successful annual Christmas Tree Festival.

Susan will always be remembered for her tireless efforts and constant practical and emotional support to members of the congregation.

Thank you and Goodbye to both of you and have a long, healthy and happy retirement. Do please continue to pray for Revd Tom Mumford, who will be licensed as interim priest in charge for St Mary-le-Tower for a period of 3 years, on Monday 4th October with a service at 7.30pm.



Charles and Susan's new address in Bury St Edmunds is now 7 Briarwood Ave, IP33 3QF.

Jo Jones and Sonia Docherty

FAREWELL

The PCC would like to thank all who planned, helped and contributed to Charles' Farewell Service and for the excellent baking. Thanks also to Charles and Susan for the provision of prosecco and elderberry fizz, most welcome. It was a beautiful service and wonderful to be able to meet together after the service. The opportunity to talk and share thoughts and memories with one another was a joy. It was a truly poignant time after so many months of restriction. We continue to hold Charles and Susan in our Prayers. You will find Charles' Farewell Sermon at the end of this eNews.

NOTICES

PINS and NEEDLES



The Pins and Needles group has begun to meet once again. They meet at Church House on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month between 12 and 2 pm. All Welcome crafty or not!

The group meet to knit, crochet, sew, sketch, make lace, pen some calligraphy or just enjoy a chat with other crafters. Both experts and beginners are welcome. The sessions are held on a come and go basis, stay for ten minutes or the full group meeting. Packs are available to make a small project at most sessions. Absolute beginners can make use of basic materials to experiment with knitting, crochet and patchwork. Accompanying children are welcome.

The next meetings are on Friday 17th September and Friday 1st October.

To find out more call June Molloy on 07879 874224.

HOSPITALITY FOR TOM MUMFORDS' LICENSING

After Tom's Licensing Service on Monday 4 October we will welcome guests with a finger buffet and drinks. Please can you 'sign up' to provide refreshments, using the usual Allergens Chefs Recipe sheet and /or help serve at the event. Please can you consider making savouries for the occasion e.g. sausage rolls, mini quiche, cheese straws, sandwiches, sausage or cheese on sticks etc. or, if you are not a cook, consider making a donation towards the provision of foods.

Thank you!

Jo and Sonia.

THE AFGHAN REFUGEE SITUATION IN SUFFOLK

An Update on Afghan refugee situation in Suffolk from Martin Simmonds Fundraising & Communications Officer -Suffolk Refugee Support

Dear Friends,

Our thoughts remain with all our Afghan friends and clients and those affected by events in Afghanistan. We are extremely grateful for all the amazing offers of support we have received – the response to this crisis really has shown the best of Suffolk! We just wanted to give you an update on the current situation here with Afghan refugees and how you can help.

Current situation in Suffolk – In the last six weeks we have welcomed four Afghan interpreters and their

families to Ipswich under the ARAP (Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy) scheme, with a further three individuals arriving in Lowestoft. The women have had English assessments with us and are raring to learn, we are helping the children get into school and exploring employment options with the Dads.

We are not taking any donated items such as clothes or toys at the moment as we do not know what future needs will be (and we have no storage space!). Likewise we are not offering specific volunteering opportunities at this stage. We will put out appeals as and when we need items or extra volunteer support.

We are providing additional support to our existing Afghan clients, including families we have worked with for some time and more recently arrived Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASCs). We are providing up-to-date information and guidance, as well as a sympathetic ear, listening to people's fears, worries and even feelings of guilt for loved ones in danger back home.

What happens next – We welcome the commitment from Suffolk's local authorities to play their part in the recently announced Afghan resettlement scheme, but at the moment we are waiting for further details. We do not yet know what Suffolk's role will be, or the potential numbers or timescale. We do know that the scale of displacement, suffering and need is already great and will only increase. We stand ready to provide a warm welcome and are in this for the long term to provide support to vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan here in Suffolk, however they arrive and whatever their needs.

How you can help - we know that demand for our specialist services, already extremely high, will only increase further as a result of these terrible events, so the most practical way to support our long term work with refugees from Afghanistan and elsewhere is to make a donation. We are a small, independent charity and anything you can give will make a real difference. You can find details of how to donate here: <https://suffolkrefugee.org.uk/what-you-can-do/donate/>

The resettlement scheme will be organised through central government and local authorities, so if you want to show the level of support there is for Suffolk to play a full and generous role in this, please do write to your elected councillors or MPs.

If you are a landlord and can offer an entire property to let, this may well be very useful, so please do contact

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Suffolk County Council. We will share more details on this as soon as we have them. If you would like to offer a spare room in your house, for now it is best to wait and see whether this might be useful. Please bear in mind that many Afghans families have several children, so larger family properties are likely to be most useful.

If you are looking for other tangible ways to support refugees and small refugee charities like ourselves at the moment, we recommend

<https://medium.com/@bridgetlchapman/i-work-for-a-small-refugee-charity-64cce013ba84> which has some brilliant suggestions.

Further background info - Some of the first people we worked with at Suffolk Refugee Support when we started in 1999 were Afghan refugees fleeing the Taliban regime in power at the time, including a doctor we supported in our very early days who is now a senior GP and medical advisor to NHS England. We have supported hundreds of Afghan people and their families since then, while others have been friends, staff team colleagues, volunteers, or served on our Board of Trustees. We remember the cardiologist who sat in our waiting room kissing a photo of the wife and children he had lost, the young woman who had not left her house in three years for fear the Taliban would force her into marriage, and colleagues who were persecuted for being members of the Hazara ethnic minority. Without exception they have been dignified, polite, warm, generous, honest and resilient. We have shared with them their hopes and fears for the future of their country, and to see the Taliban back in power and yet more innocent Afghans uprooted and fleeing for their lives is heartbreaking. We hope the basic wish of the Afghan people for peace and freedom will one day soon be realised.

You can hear us discuss the situation on BBC Radio Suffolk <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p09rvcg5> (from 20 minutes in), watch the powerful testimony of one Afghan refugee in Suffolk

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-suffolk-58282815> and read about the fears and concerns of an Afghan man we work with in Ipswich who interpreted for the British Army

<https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/afghan-interpreter-on-taliban-takeover-in-kabul-8245132>



Thanks again and all the best
Martin

Suffolk Refugee Support

Registered Charity 1078794

Suffolk BME Charity of the year 2019

John Coleridge Patteson **1 April 1827 – 20 September 1871** **A man truly ahead of his time.**

John Coleridge Patteson was an English Anglican bishop and missionary to the South Sea Islands. He was an accomplished linguist who learnt 23 of the islands' more than 1,000 languages. There is a large memorial to him in our churchyard, near the south entrance.

The 20th September 2021 marks the 150th anniversary of his death.

Patteson grew up in Feniton, East Devon. He went to school in Ottery St. Mary and later attended Eton College and then Balliol College, Oxford. By September 1854, he had been ordained a priest at Exeter Cathedral and he soon began his missionary work, travelling from Devon to Melanesia (in the South Pacific) as a Christian missionary in 1855. Patteson was consecrated the first Bishop of the Diocese of Melanesia and head of the Melanesian Mission in 1861 and was martyred on the island of Nukapu in 1871. However the church he created in the South Pacific lives on, Christians in Melanesia still revere him as a martyr and the Diocese of Exeter retains close links with the Anglican Province of Melanesia.

So why, might you ask, does St. Mary le Tower have such an ostentatious memorial to Patteson and what is its relevance a century and a half after his death?

Attempting a narrative of his life might seem relatively straightforward, establishing the facts about or reasons for Patteson's death is much more of a challenge, involving a mix of indigenous histories, eye-witness accounts, and subsequent interviews. Writer Charlotte Yonge was Patteson's cousin. She had provided financial support for her cousin's missionary work in the Pacific by sharing the profits from two of her romantic novels and she used her skills to write a two-volume biography (1873, 1874) of the martyred bishop which made use of a rich collection of family letters. It is a complex story with relevance to the current debate about Britain's colonial history.

At first sight there was little to differentiate Patteson from the multiple colonial evangelists at the time. A talented linguistic with a thirst for adventure, Patteson learnt Latin, Greek, German, Hebrew, and Arabic and travelled in Europe before venturing further afield to New Zealand and the islands of the Pacific. Patteson sailed around the islands preaching to the communities he discovered and setting up schools. But here was the key difference which was to mark him out from the crowd. He held a deep respect for the cultures and

customs he encountered and learnt 23 of the local languages (even translating the Gospel of Luke into Mota). His ambition was to educate local boys in Christianity so that they could lead the next generation, to inspire and share – not to indoctrinate and rule.

Patteson had been living in Auckland but he set up home on Norfolk Island in 1867. His own house served as a school, a mission station, and a chapel. His ultimate goal was to have a native ministry and he campaigned tirelessly to suppress the slavery and ‘blackbirding’ (kidnapping people to work as poorly paid labourers) that were commonplace in Melanesia.

On 20 September 1871, Patteson was aboard the missionary boat, the Southern Cross II. As they approached a Reef Island called Nukapu, Patteson took the decision to transfer to a native canoe and land alone on the island. Here he would receive fatal wounds to the head.

It is unclear exactly why Patteson was killed, but it is thought to have been a case of mistaken identity: a revenge killing for the abduction of five young men by blackbirders only days earlier. It is said that local people realised their mistake and treated his body with respect, covering it with palm leaves and sending it out to sea in a small boat. It was found by the crew of the Southern Cross.

Whilst Patteson did not see his vision realised, his death had a significant impact. On hearing the news back home, the British Government resolved to stamp out slavery in their Pacific territories. The slave-trade was technically illegal in the South Pacific at that time, but the laws were only laxly enforced and in fact slave-raiding was a flourishing business. Patteson was actively engaged in the effort to stamp it out.

On the Islands themselves, Patteson’s legacy is evident. The church of St Barnabus was erected on Norfolk Island in 1882 in his memory and is still used today; the ‘Bishop Patteson Theological College’ in the Solomon Islands is a thriving institution; and, in 1963 and 1975 respectively, the first Melanesian Bishops and Archbishop were consecrated. A new boat – the Southern Cross IX – now travels around the islands, continuing the Mission’s work.

Relevance today

Most people are a product of their time and status, but Patteson was blessed with something quite unique for the time he lived in. He held a deep respect for his fellow human beings and does not seem to have suffered the same delusions of white superiority, and viewed the people he met as equals. He valued and

respected difference, learning new languages to engage better with others on common ground.

Today this seems obvious, although far too many fall short of this ideal. One hundred and fifty years ago, in the golden age of the British Empire, this was revolutionary. The entire machinery of Victorian Britain depended on the foundation of national superiority - slavery might have been abolished in official in 1807, but it was not until the late 1960s that most of our former colonies gained independence.

This is why Patteson holds such relevance for Christians today. Differences of skin colour, language, belief, and opinion should never be cause for lack of respect. Our humanity is what matters - in the eyes of God, family, society, and the world. Without respect for each other we cannot hope to share ideas, work together or connect.

At a time when we are seeking to grow our congregation and renew our Mission here in Ipswich, we should perhaps first look inwards, at ourselves. The way we connect with people is founded on our view of ourselves and our place in the world. If we hope to inspire others and make a difference here, then we must lead by example. Spreading Christianity is about sharing and inspiring, not telling. Mission and growth can never be sustained without respect and equality.

Kate Thompson Member of the PCC & SMLT Choir

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

If you wish to sponsor any of the concerts please contact our Assistant Music Director William Baldry at Will.Baldry@yahoo.co.uk or

Sonia Docherty at Sonia.Docherty1@gmail.com and let them know which concert you would like to sponsor.

All Concerts will be socially distanced audience & live broadcast

September 14th Kathryn Parry & Ben Parry violin & narrator. Bach, Telemann & Rimmer

September 21st Jonathan Hanley & Gavin Roberts tenor & piano. Schumann, Brahms & Britten

September 28th Mary Pells viola da gamba. Music from the 17th & 18th centuries— Telemann & Abel

October 5th Andrew Leach piano. Schubert Sonata in B flat D 960

October 12th William Baldry organ. Music by Dupré, Duruflé and Widor

The Winter Concert Series begins Tuesday 30th Nov

SUNDAY 12th September 2021 St Mary-le-Tower Patronal Festival

Farewell Sermon

Revd Canon Charles Jenkin – 5th September 2021

One of the difficulties that we liberal western Christians have in reading the Bible, is that we tend to hear it with an individualistic mind-set. We hear it as primarily directed to people individually, whereas sometimes, often, the real meaning can only be accessed by realising that the text addresses faithful and unfaithful communities, not so much faithful individuals.

A good case in point is this deeply inspiring passage from St John's Gospel with the image of the vine which we heard this morning. If you hear it as basically addressed to individuals, it is frankly pretty harsh: removing fruitless branches; throwing them away to be burnt; and even the pruning sounds pretty unpleasant. Not much redemption there, is there? So an individualistic hearing of this text is actually at odds with the main thrust of the Gospel, the Good News, which is all about God's love and embracing in Christ of fallible human beings, despite all our sin and weakness and inadequacies.

Moreover, if we only hear the positive message individually too, then we miss the core teaching about the kind of faithful communities that churches need to be in order to grow, and to bear much fruit. It is churches that God prunes; it is churches that need to abide in the true vine, in Jesus. And it is fruitless churches that wither, and are thrown away, not the people within them. God does not throw away people.

Moreover, the "ask for whatever you wish" bit makes rather more sense of too, when you realise that it is not about individual people's desires, but about whole churches asking God for what they need in order to fulfil the mission of God. Why would God not grant such faithful prayer to those whom he calls? This is what the promise of answered prayer is really about.

It is plainly not true that individual Christians are granted whatever they pray for. We all have to learn that and deal with it. But when whole church communities pay real and faithful attention to what God is saying to them about their mission; and when they seriously pray together for what they need in order to carry out the mission of God; then the promise that such prayer will indeed be answered is valid; and faithful communities find that God is indeed faithful. And so it is that whole church communities are commanded by Jesus to love one another as he loves them. And so also in our first reading, the writer implores people to bear with one another, that the Body of Christ may be built together in love, and bear much fruit.

As I move on from St Mary-le-Tower after 13 years in post, it is clearly the case that although much has been achieved, much also remains to be done. Much is still to be done to ensure that St Mary-le-Tower is a fruitful church, which can flourish through this deeply testing time for the Church generally in our land; which can endure. Many challenges remain, and my successor, Tom, will need everyone's wholehearted support.

Our Choral Ministry, especially with young people, has been greatly blessed. But the challenge remains to fund this work in the long term. It is the case that as we have expanded our Choral Ministry over the last eight years, at the same time regular giving to St Mary-le-Tower has steadily fallen. This is plainly not sustainable in the long term. It has to change if the level of choral ministry with young people is to be sustained. This is a nettle still to be grasped, and it needs to be grasped by the community of St Mary-le-Tower as a whole, with everyone playing their part.

It might help to realise just how radical the Choral Ministry of St Mary-le-Tower is, in the way that it puts the involvement of young people to the fore. Choral Ministry is at the heart of this church, and young people are at the heart of that ministry, both in ministry to young people in developing their skills, faith and character, and also with young people leading, actually leading our worship week by week. Jesus said let the children come to me. How many churches can genuinely say, as we can do, that our work with young people is at the heart of our church life? How exciting is that! How absolutely is it worth everyone's generous support in so many ways!

A church cannot of course be just about music. God calls this his church, not only to inspiring worship, but also to be a community of welcome in the name of Jesus; welcoming people to this house of prayer on a daily basis, and caring for this historic house of prayer in the centre of Ipswich. And so we have invested in a CCTV system to make the church a safer place for staff and volunteers and visitors when the church is open to the public. And so we took advantage of a government grant to repair and redecorate the chancel sanctuary with all the disruption that meant at the time. Go and look at it, and dream of the whole church being redecorated like that. How wonderful would that be!

St Mary-le-Tower cannot of course just be concerned with itself. Why would God ever bless a christian church which is just concerned with itself? I have no doubt that God is calling this church to engage with the community around it, here in the centre of Ipswich; and the work in Tower House is really just the beginning of doing this. The project was in fact blessed with the promise of a large and generous legacy within just a month of the PCC deciding to press ahead and take on Tower House in early 2014. It's just that none of us knew about it until a couple of years ago. Now, because of this legacy, Tower House is not in any way a financial burden on the rest of St Mary-le-Tower. How amazing is that!

Choral ministry with young people, welcoming all to this house of prayer, engaging seriously with the wider community, being part of the regeneration of Ipswich town centre; all these are both serious opportunities for St Mary-le-Tower to be faithfully fruitful. They are also serious challenges, and the clear message of our Bible readings today, is that St Mary-le-Tower cannot possibly hope to be fruitful in these things without God; without abiding in the true vine, without paying serious attention to what the vine-grower is doing, without being united, without being serious about prayer, without loving one another, without bearing with one another, without generous love in so many ways, without everyone faithfully playing their full part.

Closing Meditation

Here again are some key verses from John 15. Remember these words are addressed to whole church communities, not so much to individuals. The challenge of course lies in what each member needs to do and to be, in order that the whole church community may be what God calls it to be. Each verse is set out separately below, and I invite you to spend some quiet times reflecting on each one. Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.'

'Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.'

'If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.'

'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.'

'I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and your joy may be complete.'

CJ. 05:09:21