



The Chapels Royal of St Peter ad Vincula and St John the Evangelist
HM Tower of London

Weekly Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Where would you like to go first when this is all over? Martin Randall writing in last Saturday's Telegraph said 'I want to return to somewhere that has been significant in my personal history of civilisation – even sooner, I will attend a choral service to hear one of the many church choirs that are one of the wonders of London – 'St Peter-ad-Vincula in the Tower of London'. I guess Martin speaks for many people.....?

Several good news stories, first the birth of Oliver to Lucy and Sean and the second, the video recording from Hugh and Karen Richards from Canada. Many of you will remember this family and all that they contributed to the life of the chapel. Beautifully produced by them, thank you. Lastly, we congratulate Captain Tom Moore. The Tower squirrel and a raven have now taken up almost permanent residence outside our house. Both are found sitting by the front door waiting for one of us to emerge, biscuit in hand, and feed them. Come back the visitors!

Captain (now promoted to Colonel) Tom Moore will be receiving the Freedom of the City at 10.30am Tuesday 12 May in the first ever 'virtual' ceremony. You can find the Press Release on the Corporation's website [here](#) and watch the live ceremony on YouTube via the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0DhZsmH39M>



Christina Rossetti 'Uphill'

Does the road wind up-hill all the way?

Yes, to the very end.

Will the day's journey take the whole long day?

From morn to night, my friend.

But is there for the night a resting-place?

A roof for when the slow dark hours begin.

May not the darkness hide it from my face?

You cannot miss that inn.

Shall I meet other wayfarers at night?

Those who have gone before.

Then must I knock, or call when just in sight?

They will not keep you standing at that door.

Shall I find comfort, travel-sore and weak?

Of labour you shall find the sum.

Will there be beds for me and all who seek?

Yea, beds for all who come.

Thought for the Day

From Reverend Cortland Fransella <https://youtu.be/nIoNF7Ckzi4>

Music for the Week, from Colm Carey

Allegro non troppo (Last movement), Symphony no.7, Op.60 'Leningrad' - Dimitri Shostakovich

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FaHCdJYkWdE>

With the commemorations of VE Day over the past week, my mind was drawn to Shostakovich's 7th Symphony, written during World War II. I recommend listening to the whole work if you can - it lasts about an hour and there are various versions on You Tube - but here is the last movement if you don't feel brave enough for the whole journey. I include a note below from the eminent British conductor Mark Wigglesworth, who talks about this music in a much more eloquent way than I ever could. If after reading this note your interest in Shostakovich is piqued, you might like to read 'The Noise of Time' by Julian Barnes.. Enjoy!

Follow this link for some more information - [Mark Wigglesworth on Symphony no.pdf](#)

Caption Time



Cyril the Squirrel proved quite popular with your caption responses – see a selection below.

From Roger to Koala - “Don't be afraid, Ben Stokes is subject to the lockdown”!
(*Martin Potter*)

St Cyril offers Fr Roger orthodox teaching in the faith. (*John Perry*)

'Cyril his new friend'. (*Val Whitehorn*)

'Who IS that furry creature with Cyril?' (*Peter Morgan*)

Tower Newsletter Print Deadline

Roving reporter Cyril the Squirrel brings the latest news and titbits to the Editor, just in time for the latest edition.

(*Marguerite Smith*)

News from the Tower of London

Please follow the link below for a video on how the Tower of London is coping with the lockdown – featuring some familiar faces, Chief YW Pete McGowan and our Chapel Clerk YW Matt Pryme.

<http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20200501-how-londons-beefeaters-are-coping-with-lockdown?ocid=ww.social.link.whatsapp>

Book Review From Laura Fransella - The Fortnight in September, by RC Sherriff , published by Persphone Books, ISBN 9781903155576

RC Sherriff may be best known for his play Journey's End, set in the trenches in 1918, but he was also a film script-writer and a novelist. If, during these uncertain times, you are feeling the need for a delightful and engrossing story (and, moreover in a beautifully-produced facsimile of the original 1931 publication), The Fortnight in September will distract you and transport you back to a very different and much safer world. As the Spectator review described the story at the time, 'Mr Stevens was a clerk. He lived in Dulwich, in a house with a garden cut short by the railway line. With him lived his wife, his grown-up daughter Mary, his nearly grown-up son Dick, and his schoolboy son Ernie. They kept a cat and a canary. Every September the family went for a

fortnight's holiday to Bognor. They always stayed in the same lodgings. Mr Sherriff takes us there with them, lets us stay the fortnight, and see them off at the end of it.' I can't improve on that plot summary. This is a highly enjoyable and impeccably-written book which I frequently give as a gift and which always makes me smile!

Our Congregation

Each week I am going to ask members of our congregation to produce a short video telling us something of their situation.

These will be people you recognise, and I hope it will be another way of us keeping in touch with each other.



The Richards family – Hugh, Karen, Emily & Lucy – give us an update on how they are doing over in Canada. Please follow the link below to see their beautifully produced video.

<https://youtu.be/7aNgy4lnnw>

We were delighted to hear from Rosemarie and Mark McGurk of the arrival of their first grandchild – Oliver James. Rosemarie and Mark are regular members of the congregation and through them, we pass on our congratulations to Lucy and Sean. Now the fun really begins!



The Chapel Team celebrating VE Day



Canon Roger Hall and Barbara joined their family and friends on Zoom for a VE Day quiz. Roger won the competition for best dressed!

Debbie and her husband Abs also joined a VE day themed quiz with their family via Zoom. They hung bunting and flags all over the house and dressed up in 1940s themed outfits (Abs especially enjoying being dressed as a fighter jet pilot)



Reverend Cortland Fransella and Laura were not to be outdone by anybody.



An Update from the First Love Foundation Food Bank, Tower Hamlets

- Last week they fed 342 families with 3 tons of food. That is a 700% increase on a normal week.
- They have also provided 100 hours of on-line advice
- FLF food bags have historically provided food for 5 days, this is being increased to 7 days from this week
- They have had to take on an additional 300 sq ft of storage space to cope with the volume which they are having to pay for. £9K per annum for this and so currently have an extra on-line appeal to raise funds
- They are trying to find ways of adding some fresh food to the bags of long-life goods, something they have never been able to do before
- One of their supporting partners, Unilever have donated a large amount of household cleaning products and toiletries

For more information please go to their website <https://www.firstlovefoundation.org.uk/>

A Prayer

Please continue to remember those on our sick list – some of whom are very poorly
Marian, Isabelle, Rustom, Jo, Rory, Lucy, Judy, Neil, Margaret, Leon, Susan, Theodore, John, Neil, Margaret, Noel, Denise, Hannah, Les and Susan.
Those affected by the coronavirus.

**God of love,
We ask for your blessing on
those who are ill,
those who are vulnerable
those who are worried about
themselves and those they love,
and for those who mourn.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

With best wishes and prayers, Roger.

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