



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

Weekly Newsletter

Dear Friends,

I hope you are continuing to keep safe and well. Thank you for the kind emails and text to the team working together to put these emails out. This week would have been a special week for 'events' in the Tower and chapel. As I said on Monday in my 'Thought for the day' we recall Ascension Day, Beating the Bounds and Lilies and Roses; but today as I write this, we remember Queen Ann Boleyn who died on this day, the 19th May 1536. Again, flowers have been delivered in her memory to the Tower and I will pray for her tonight at Evensong, may she Rest in Peace.



This week's Newsletter is full of interesting things for you to read and follow. I am grateful to Martin and Paula Melville for their video and to Andy Howard Master of Wine for his wine recommendations - something to lift our spirits.

On hearing of the death of Byron in 1824, Tennyson said to his wife 'Byron was popular because he wrote vulgarly and he himself was popular, because he was Poet Laureate'. Tennyson wrote 'The Eagle' whilst on holiday in the Lake District staying with Wordsworth sister, critics have often speculated if Tennyson had Byron in mind when he wrote the poem?

The Eagle

He clasps the crag with crooked hands;
Close to the sun in lonely lands,
Ring'd with the azure world, he stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath the claws;
He watches from his mountain walls,
And like a thunderbolt he falls.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson.

Thought for the Day

From Canon Roger Hall -<https://youtu.be/RwQROPUIghQ>



Music for the Week, from Colm Carey

Gabriel Fauré (1845 - 1924) is best known for his setting of the Requiem, but in many ways, it doesn't best represent his work as a composer. He straddled the end of romanticism and beginning of modernism, and the rather sober Requiem does not do full justice to the wonderful colour, fantasy and expression found in his music. As well as writing much orchestral, chamber and piano music, Fauré wrote many beautiful songs, and this week we hear our own Zoë Brookshaw sing *Les roses d'Ispahan*. The text and translation of the song are below.

https://1drv.ms/v/s!AhDqHvjfZ_uephSuoUN0svqNBHuG?e=9Ygppt

Les roses d'Ispahan

Charles-Marie-René Leconte de Lisle

Les roses d'Ispahan dans leur gaine de mousse,
Les jasmins de Mossoul, les fleurs de l'oranger
Ont un parfum moins frais, ont une odeur moins douce,
Ô blanche Leïlah! que ton souffle léger.

Ta lèvre est de corail, et ton rire léger
Sonne mieux que l'eau vive et d'une voix plus douce,
Mieux que le vent joyeux qui berce l'oranger,
Mieux que l'oiseau qui chante au bord d'un nid de mousse ...

Ô Leïlah! depuis que de leur vol léger
Tous les baisers ont fui de ta lèvre si douce,
Il n'est plus de parfum dans le pâle oranger,
Ni de céleste arôme aux roses dans leur mousse ...

Oh! que ton jeune amour, ce papillon léger,
Revienne vers mon cœur d'une aile prompte et douce,
Et qu'il parfume encor les fleurs de l'oranger,
Les roses d'Ispahan dans leur gaine de mousse!

The roses of Isfahan

The roses of Isfahan in their mossy sheaths,
The jasmines of Mosul, the orange blossom
Have a fragrance less fresh and a scent less sweet,
O pale Leilah, than your soft breath!

Your lips are of coral and your light laughter
Rings brighter and sweeter than running water,

Than the blithe wind rocking the orange-tree boughs,
Than the singing bird by its mossy nest ...

O Leilah, ever since on light wings
All kisses have flown from your sweet lips,
The pale orange-tree fragrance is spent,
And the heavenly scent of moss-clad roses ...

Oh! may your young love, that airy butterfly,
Wing swiftly and gently to my heart once more,
To scent again the orange blossom,
The roses of Isfahan in their mossy sheaths!

Translations by Richard Stokes, from *A French Song Companion* (Oxford, 2000)

Wine recommendations – from Chapel Steward and Master of Wine Andy Howard

When Roger asked me to recommend a couple of wines for the weekly newsletter, I was more than happy to oblige. The main issue is coming up with just a few (so please excuse me for actually listing 5). It could have been ten times that number! For those of you who don't know me, I am a Master of Wine (still less than 400 of us in the world) and used to be wine-buyer at Marks & Spencer. For the past 6 years, I have been working for myself, developing a second career (much to my surprise) as a wine journalist. I write regularly for *Decanter* magazine/*Premium* and *Jancis Robinson*. My work means (pre-Covid-19) that I normally taste hundreds of wines per week. Tough but someone's got to do it! Hope you enjoy these (and always happy to recommend others). Please follow this link to see a review of the different wines and details of where to buy them.

[Andy Howard Wines Review for Newsletter.pdf](#)



Chapel Stewards Huw Lloyd, Morris Latham and Andy Howard

Jigsaw Puzzle

Reverend Cortland Fransella has made a jigsaw puzzle that you can do on your computer. This one is a picture of the White Tower and Tower Bridge. Enjoy!

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=3b331ddc13f3>

News from the Tower of London

You may have visited the Tower of London numerous times. However, some of you may have missed out on taking a Yeoman Warder Tour. Please follow the link below to take a private tour of the Tower of London with YW Scott Kelly.

<https://www.facebook.com/HRPalaces/videos/582042362496536/?sfnsn=scwspmo&extid=tVtyewziaY9aUu&id=n&vh=e>

or

<https://www.instagram.com/tv/CAQMXoBjcz/?igshid=1fszcb585c87q>

Book Review – A P.S. from Laura Fransella

My review of The Fortnight in September, by RC Sherriff, referred to a specific facsimile edition of the original title from 1931, but the name of the publishers, Persephone Books, (www.persephonebooks.co.uk) went astray. Their elegant version of the book, complete with lovely end-papers and a matching bookmark, can be ordered online for £13 (including postage) and is cheaper (but maybe not quicker) than Amazon.

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.

Martin and Paula Melville, who many of you will recognise from the 11am service in Chapel, give us an update on how they are spending their time in lockdown.

<https://youtu.be/iCgo7gwY-co>

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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