



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

Weekly Newsletter

Dear Friends,

We are now into the second week of Lockdown 2. Autumn is here – every morning I climb over a pile of leaves as I walk out of my front door. The pot plants are looking sad and it won't be long before a couple of hours of pruning is necessary. Again, The Tower is very quiet. I'm pleased to report that Jimmy is better, after three weeks of quarantine and regular testing, he is now out and about. The boiler men have been in and out of the chapel all week and as I write this – the chapel heating is being tested. Plans are well underway to produce a carol service that people will be able to download. Please read Colm's thoughtful contribution to this newsletter and as he says, we keep them and all of us in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

With best wishes and prayers, Roger

'**To Autumn**' is a poem in which John Keats explores ideas related to Autumn, and continues his interest in finding beauty in everyday occurrences that others may dismiss. Keats is an extremely well known and highly regarded Romantic poet, considered to be a member of the 'new' second wave Romantic movement.

To Autumn

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drowsed with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cider-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozings, hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,--
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-cricket sing; and now with treble soft
The redbreast whistles from a garden-croft,
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

Written September 19, 1819

John Keats 1795-1821



Jigsaw Puzzle

This week's jigsaw puzzle is of the autumn leaves at Kew Gardens.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=0b16c8d658a3>

Tower of London – Remembrance

Our Garden of Remembrance includes a cross for each Yeoman Warder commemorated on the Memorial Roll inside the Chapel, which bears the name of every Yeoman Warder who has passed away since the Duke of Wellington became Constable of the Tower in 1826.



Thought for the Day

From Reverend Cortland Fransella

<https://youtu.be/O-e3syCtskc>

Music from Master of Music, Colm Carey

Every valley shall be exalted, from the Messiah, reimagined...

Liz Lee and Chris Willis, vocals

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-fqIGofiX94>

Handel's Messiah: A Soulful Celebration was released in 1992. It is a re-imagination of Handel's magnum opus in a variety of modern musical styles. This track is the famous tenor aria **Every valley shall be exalted** as you've never heard it before.

A note from the Master of Music

I hope this finds you all well and safe!

It was with great joy that the choir received the news that we would be able to sing in the Chapel again from the beginning of October, albeit with reduced forces. The Chapel provides a musical and spiritual home for the musicians at the Tower who have freelance lives that can often be quite nomadic, and so belonging to a community is as important for many of the choir as the professional aspects of the job. Weekly services provide a natural rhythm to life for us all, mentally, physically and spiritually, and the interruption to this pattern yet again has been very hard for everyone. While individual choristers are being as stoic as possible about the ongoing situation, there is great fear and concern about the future, and it's not an exaggeration to say it is an existential crisis for some. Most have had ALL work cancelled, and with the uncertainty that reigns at present, it is difficult to see when any sort of normal working life can, and will, resume. Please hold everyone in your thoughts and prayers. I very much hope we will be back in the Chapel in December, seeing friendly faces, and doing what we love. Fingers crossed...

Colm Carey



Wordsearch

Here is a Wordsearch with 16 names of DIY items. Print it off and see if you can find them all. Words may run in any direction, including diagonals. You may find other real words in the grid but you do not get any credit for those! Solution next week.

F	R	E	K	S	B	W	O	U	D	C	H	Y	P	D
I	S	G	O	R	Y	M	N	D	R	K	P	I	K	R
L	C	R	A	S	P	G	X	I	V	M	U	S	T	I
J	R	C	E	W	A	H	U	X	A	Q	U	E	M	L
A	E	I	O	M	W	L	O	L	I	P	O	V	I	F
V	W	E	X	Y	M	W	C	Y	P	E	C	O	D	L
U	S	T	F	S	L	A	U	I	H	L	F	F	L	F
Q	S	M	I	B	Q	U	H	B	Y	I	W	Y	L	L
U	L	I	C	W	A	S	T	E	R	F	R	A	I	Z
N	I	A	L	S	R	E	M	A	G	U	A	L	R	I
W	A	V	U	T	E	L	L	A	M	D	V	U	D	B
I	N	I	T	A	L	L	Y	P	R	A	E	C	I	V
B	I	X	P	L	U	M	B	L	I	N	E	L	L	E
E	D	Z	I	B	R	E	P	A	P	D	N	A	S	J
P	L	U	N	Q	L	I	V	Y	A	M	B	I	P	Y

AWL
BRACE
CLAMP
DRILL
FILE
FRETSAW
MALLET
NAILS
PLUMBLINE
RASP
RAWLPLUG
RULER
SANDPAPER
SCREWS
SLEDGEHAMMER
VICE

Solution to last week's Wordsearch

S	C	O	L	A	N	D	E	R	T	Y	E	R	E	R
A	O	B	Y	P	O	R	F	Q	R	E	L	E	E	P
U	R	O	K	F	Y	R	E	Z	E	E	R	F	Z	E
C	K	Z	U	K	U	P	E	Z	E	Z	R	E	E	K
E	S	P	R	I	B	N	R	E	X	I	M	O	U	Q
P	C	W	E	C	L	Y	N	U	G	S	K	N	I	U
A	R	H	E	L	E	P	M	E	J	C	L	O	P	O
N	E	I	V	I	D	J	R	I	L	A	P	O	R	F
K	W	S	U	X	I	A	F	B	R	L	Y	P	Q	T
I	M	K	C	R	T	A	L	V	N	E	J	S	U	Q
N	I	S	O	O	J	A	K	T	E	S	R	E	I	X
J	W	I	R	F	R	E	X	U	V	K	E	L	R	I
E	Q	U	E	P	R	E	H	S	A	M	A	B	C	U
R	U	F	L	I	P	U	R	A	L	U	T	A	P	S
O	C	W	E	N	I	L	O	D	N	A	M	T	Y	T

Our Congregation



I am very pleased to report that Bernard Jackson (Chapel server for 50 years) is in good health. I saw him earlier this week.

Bernard is known to many people both in the chapel and The Tower and, I believe, has worshiped at The Tower longer than anyone else.

Keep safe and well Bernard.

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, Susan, Fiona and Pat.

RIP Paul Kumble

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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