



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

## Weekly Newsletter



Dear Friends,

The good news is that there is a vaccine on the way and this is something for us all to give thanks for. Yes, there is a long way to go and rolling it out will take its time and have its complications but, it does begin to look as if 2021 might begin to emerge with a real sense of new hope.

All our usual carol services in December have been cancelled; making it feel quite different for me, the choir and those who take part in carol services throughout December. Many people who work in The Tower have also noticed the difference. But it does mean we can give more time to reflect upon the season of Advent without having Christmas trees, tinsel and 'Hark the Herald Angels' imposed upon us every day in December.

Please do think about supporting a charity this Advent as part of your preparations for Christmas. With hundreds of carol services cancelled many charities will suffer a loss of income and the most vulnerable in society will miss out. Advent reminds us of what we have, and can be most thankful for, and points towards the generous love of God which we reflect by loving our neighbour.

This news item touched the hearts of many people 'Children ripping bags open for food' -  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-55133081>

With best wishes and prayers for you all as '*we watch and pray for the coming of Christ*'. Roger.

I have chosen this short poem because it is a reflection upon the importance of gratefulness, especially when looking back on our lives.

### My Heart Leaps Up

My heart leaps up when I behold  
A rainbow in the sky:  
So was it when my life began:  
So is it now I am a man:  
So be it when I shall grow old,  
Or let me die!  
The child is father of the man:  
And I could wish my days to be  
Bound each to each by natural piety.

William Wordsworth 1770 - 1850

## Thought for the Day

From Canon Roger Hall

<https://youtu.be/ogCS8YJNpzI>

## Jigsaw Puzzle



<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=3bb6428229c2>

After a month of lockdown, this week the Tower is opening again to the public.

## Historic Royal Palaces

Hampton Court Palace's magnificent shire horses were out on Monday for their annual blessing ceremony.

Although this is a relatively recent tradition at the palace, the concept of blessing animals and ploughs dates all the way back to medieval times.

Usually the horses take this opportunity to show themselves off in front of our visitors, but of course this year everything is different, and with the palace closed Monday's ceremony sadly had to be a much more exclusive event!



## Wordsearch

Here is a Wordsearch with 16 types of plant or tree. 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.

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

ARAUCARIA  
 BLACKHAW  
 COLUMBINE  
 EUCALYPTUS  
 FOXGLOVE  
 GARLIC  
 HONESTY  
 ITCHWEED  
 JUNIPER  
 LAVENDER  
 MULBERRY  
 NETTLE  
 OSIER  
 POPLAR  
 ROCKET  
 SYCAMORE  
 VIBURNUM  
 WALNUT

## Solution to last week's Wordsearch

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

## **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, Fiona, Pat and Tony.

RIP Paul Kumble. Della Howard. Susan Doughty.

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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