



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

Dear friends,

I begin this Newsletter on a sad note; the Reverend Paul Abram MVO, my predecessor here at The Tower of London from 1996 to 2007, died on September 28th in a hospice near his home in Odiham. Below is a short tribute to him. I have assured Paul's wife Jo, and the family, that they are all in our thoughts and prayers at this time.



Paul was born in 1936 and gave distinguished service throughout his long army career and time as a priest in the Church of England. His wife Jo supported him with great generosity and care in his ministry. After attending Keble College Oxford, Paul joined the Army as a National Service Officer with the East Yorkshire Regiment. After attending theological college, he was ordained and served his curacy in Redcar and then re-joined the Army, but this time in the RACHD (Royal Army Chaplains' Department) as a Padre. He served with the Airborne Forces, including a period as the Padre to the 3rd Battalion, Parachute Regiment, rising over time to be the Assistant Chaplain General, and Chaplain to the former Bishop of London.

On retirement from the military, he took up the post of Vicar of Salcombe, in Devon, but then was re-called and appointed to the Tower of London. He was awarded the MVO (Member of the Royal Victorian Order) by HM Queen Elizabeth II in 2007 when he left the Tower. Paul had an active retirement enjoying his large family and helping out locally wherever he could. He will be remembered with affection by many people and we pray he may rest in peace and rise in glory.

Chapel Pass: Can I remind you, if you are a regular (or irregular!) member of the chapel, that it will help you enormously (as well as the people on the gate), if you have a chapel pass? All we need is a passport photograph with your name on the back. Debbie will then make up a chapel pass. Either let me have the photograph when you see me in church or send it to Debbie.

Harvest Festival is on 15th October and we shall be collecting items for the London Hygiene Bank. <https://thehygienebank.com>

I am delighted that Laura Fransella (one of our Turkey Trotters) has written a short piece about her experiences of our pilgrimage to Turkey.

With my best wishes, thoughts and prayers for you all, Roger.

Personal reflections on the pilgrimage to Turkey

As Roger has already written, the Turkey pilgrimage gave us a wealth of cultural, historical, religious and intense visual and sensory experiences, whether of archaeological sites, mosques, beautiful landscapes and seascapes, the moving cemeteries at Gallipoli or the daily pleasure of delicious meals with fresh, colourful and abundant produce. I was struck by the ubiquity of lentil soup and by the fact that Turkish buffet breakfasts included everything we wanted, but also offered an extensive range of salads and cold vegetables (including chips!), with plentiful freshly-chopped herbs – and more lentil soup. Desserts were varied, with, of course, variations on the theme of baklava but also excellent Turkish rice pudding.

The Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia and the vast Topkapi Palace exceeded my expectations with the rich colours of the stunning tiles and decorations and their sheer scale – but there wasn't time to see everything in the Topkapi Palace. I was a little envious of two members of our group who decided to forgo the visit to the famous (but frankly disappointing) Grand Bazaar and chose instead to spend the afternoon visiting the splendid Topkapi Harem, with its 300 beautiful bedrooms and bathrooms, where the Sultans lived in private with their many concubines and families.

The animal-lovers in the group enjoyed the company of the many stray (but well-fed, friendly and docile) cats and dogs, who seemed entirely at home everywhere we went, and who occasionally accompanied us round sites and along beaches.

I found it very exciting to be in Asia Minor, the cradle of so many civilisations, and would love the opportunity to see more.



The Blue Mosque



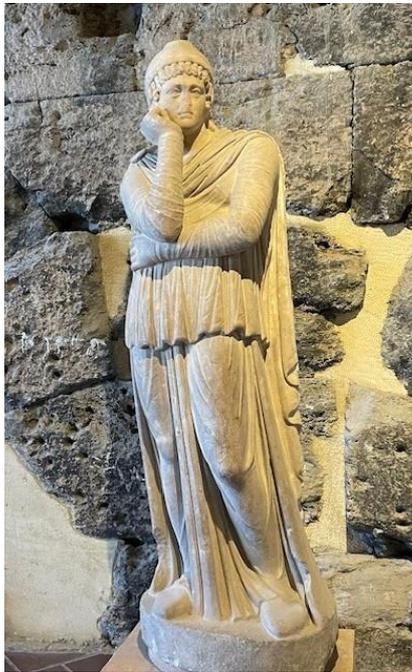
Hagia Sophia



Topkapi Palace



The grave of Roger's great-uncle Edgar at Gallipoli



A thoughtful woman at Hierapolis



The theatre in Ephesus where St Paul preached



The rigours of pilgrimage



Tracy (of garden fame) makes a friend

Poem of the week

James Joyce, regarded as one of the most influential and important writers of the 20th century, is perhaps best known for his novels *Ulysses*, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* and *Finnegans Wake*, as well as for his volume of 15 short stories entitled *Dubliners*. What is less well known is that his first published book, in 1907, was in fact a collection of poems called *Chamber Music*, which includes this week's poem. They were much admired by T.S Eliot and Ezra Pound. However, for some time after that, Joyce stopped writing poetry and it wasn't until he was in his 40s that he began writing poetry again. Some of Joyce's writing can be hard to understand because of his creative use of language, but his poetry is often clearer in its imagery. This poem, *Lean out of the Window*, which has also been set to music, is one that I particularly like.

Lean out of the Window

Lean out of the window,
Goldenhair,
I heard you singing
A merry air.

My book is closed;
I read no more,
Watching the fire dance
On the floor.

I have left my book,
I have left my room,
For I heard you singing
Through the gloom,

Singing and singing
A merry air,
Lean out the window,
Goldenhair.

James Joyce 1882-1941

Sunday Service Details for 8th October 2023 The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

0915 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula
1100 Choral Matins St Peter ad Vincula

Psalm 19: 7-end

Readings

Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20.
Matthew 21: 33-end

Collect for the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Lord, we beseech thee, grant thy people
grace to withstand the temptations of the
world, the flesh, and the devil, and with pure
hearts and minds to follow thee the only
God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Jigsaw

A sunny start to Autumn at the Tower.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=2d39039fcc09>



Prayers

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very ill, amongst whom we name: Norma, Ann, Ros, Mark, Dan, Ian, Patti, Florence and Kofi.

RIP

John McKegney (Priest) and The Rev Paul Abram MVO.

Please continue to pray for Ukraine:

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace,

for wisdom, discernment, and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of peace. Amen

With best wishes to all, Roger.



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