



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

Dear friends,

It is an understatement to say that we live in troubling times. We are bombarded by news. It can be difficult to decide what is actually going on and how and why things have happened. In the case of the Israeli-Palestine conflict, I found two interviews of great help in clarifying my own ideas. One followed another on the BBC Radio 4 'Sunday' programme broadcast on 15 October. The first was with the Islamic Scholar and Chair of the UK charity 'Muslims Against Antisemitism' Haras Rafiq, who explained how Hamas's ideology runs directly counter to true Islam. The second was with the journalist Jonathan Freedland, who described how the Hamas attacks on 07 October have profound historical resonances for all Jews. You can hear both interviews again on BBC Sounds, about 29 minutes into the programme: [Sunday - 15/10/2023 - BBC Sounds](#).

In addition to our continuing prayers for peace, some may wish to contribute financially to relieving the humanitarian disaster which has followed the terrorist attacks by Hamas. Given the suffering on both sides, you may feel that an appropriate channel might be the British Red Cross's Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories Appeal: [Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territory Appeal \(redcross.org.uk\)](#).

Meanwhile, of course, the violence continues in Ukraine, where humanitarian aid is still desperately needed. Contributions through the Disasters Emergency Committee are sure to be well spent: [Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal | Disasters Emergency Committee \(dec.org.uk\)](#).

We pray for all affected – especially for innocent civilians and children.

With all good wishes,

Cortland.

All Souls' Day 2023 will be celebrated on 2nd November in the White Tower at 1900hrs. Names of loved ones are now being collected to be remembered at the service. Please either send the names to Debbie or give them to me or to Roger when you come to the chapel.

**Sunday Service Details 22 October 2023
Twentieth Sunday after Trinity**

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

Psalm 99

Readings

Exodus 33: 12-end
Matthew 22: 15-22

Collect for the Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

O ALMIGHTY and most merciful God,
of thy bountiful goodness keep us, we beseech thee, from all things that may hurt us;
that we, being ready both in body and soul,
may cheerfully accomplish those things that thou wouldest have done;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Poem of the week

Here is another poem by John Clare (1793–1864), the son of a poor farm labourer, who was commonly known in his time as ‘The Northamptonshire Peasant Poet’ for his celebrations of the English countryside and his sorrow at its disruption by the industrial revolution. His childhood was marked by deprivation, and the consequent malnutrition may have both stunted his physical growth and led later to chronic ill-health. His declining years were marked by mental instability: for example, he believed himself to be both William Shakespeare and Lord Byron. He was fortunate to find asylum in a relatively humane institution (by the standards of its day), where he finally died of a stroke, aged 71. Back in July, I chose Clare’s poem ‘Summer’. Now that the unseasonal temperatures have finally dropped to what we would normally expect at this time of year, I thought that we might have his poem ‘Autumn’, which brings us a sense of peace amongst the current mayhem of the world.

Autumn

I love the fitfull gusts that shakes
The casement all the day
And from the mossy elm tree takes
The faded leaf away,
Twirling it by the window-pane
With thousand others down the lane.

I love to see the shaking twig
Dance till the shut of eve,
The sparrow on the cottage rig
Whose chirp would make believe
That spring was just now flirting by
In summer’s lap with flowers to lie.

I love to see the cottage smoke
Curl upwards through the naked trees,
The pigeons nestled round the coat
On dull November days like these,
The cock upon the dung-hill crowing,
The mill sails on the heath a-going.

The feather from the raven’s breast
Falls on the stubble lea.
The acorns near the old crow’s nest
Fall pattering down the tree.
The grunting pigs that wait for all
Scramble and hurry where they fall.

John Clare (1793–1864)

Our Congregation



On Sunday 15th October, we had a double Baptism in the Chapel of St Peter. Congratulations and blessings to William and Olivia West, to their parents and their friends.

Organ Cherubs - Jigsaw



This week's jigsaw brings you two chubby cherubs, carved by Grinling Gibbons, who adorn our organ in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=1727f4af6ea9>

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, Israel and Palestine:

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine, Israel and Palestine 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, Cortland.



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