



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

Dear friends,

We have reached that point in January when we start asking if it is still appropriate to wish each other a Happy New Year. In my choice of this week's poem, I have assumed that it is still just about acceptable, in order to share with you a versified New Year prayer by a well-known Victorian hymn-writer.

As I write, we are undergoing a really cold wintry snap, which might prompt some of you to look out a winter coat that you no longer need and feel able to donate to the charity we are supporting, which passes them on to those who lack warm outer garments. As Roger told the congregation last Sunday, the charity has already distributed more than 10,000 coats, making life just a little less unbearable for those most affected by the cold. Do bring your coat along to the chapel on Sunday morning and we'll do the rest. The need is real and urgent.

Thank you in advance.

With warm greetings,

Cortland.

**Sunday Service Details 21st January 2024
The Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

0915 Said Holy Communion, Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula
1100 Choral Matins, Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula

Readings

Genesis 14:17-20 and John 2: 1-11

Collect for the Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities,
and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Advance notice - Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Easter is early this year, falling on 31st March. Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday** (14th February) with a service of Holy Communion with Ashing at 7pm in the White Tower. All are welcome.

This year we shall be holding a **Lent Lunch** after the 11am service each Sunday. This will be a simple meal of soup, bread and cheese. On the basis of 20 people attending each Sunday, the plan is to ask five or six people each week to make four portions of soup to the same recipe and bring them to the Tower, where we will combine them in one soup warmer. The chapel will pay for the soup, bread and cheese but we are hoping for a donation of £5 per head, all of which will go to a charity. The maximum number each week will be 20 and we shall be asking you to sign up week by week. You may not be able to attend all these Lent Lunches, but please try to come along to least one. As well as being something special for Lent, it should also be fun.

Poem of the week: *Another Year is Dawning*, by Frances Ridley Havergal

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836 –79) was an English religious poet and hymnwriter, perhaps best known for her hymn *Take My Life and Let it Be*. She wrote hymn melodies and religious tracts, as well as works for children. Frances Havergal was born into an Anglican family at Astley in Worcestershire. Her father, William Henry Havergal (1793–1870), was a clergyman, writer, composer, and hymnwriter. Her brother, Henry East Havergal, was a Church of England priest and an organist.

When she was five, her father moved to the Rectory of St. Nicholas, Worcester. A short stay in Germany followed. Her academic achievements were extensive, embracing several modern languages, together with Greek and Hebrew. On her return to England, she was confirmed in Worcester Cathedral in 1853. She left Worcester in 1860, when her father resigned from St. Nicholas, and she lived at different periods in Leamington and at Caswell Bay, Swansea, with visits to Switzerland, Scotland and North Wales. She led a quiet life, not enjoying consistent good health and dying of peritonitis aged only 42 in 1879.

Her poem *Another Year is Dawning*, written in 1874, provides an insight into her life of dedication and her sense of service to God. For all her undoubted learning, she here shows herself able to express profound thoughts in simple and direct language, using a straightforward rhyme scheme. The poem was set to music by Samuel S. Wesley (1810 –76), the tune *Aurelia*, being probably more familiar to us as a setting of the hymn *The Church's One Foundation*, written by Samuel Stone in 1866.

Another Year is Dawning.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Father, let it be,
In working, or in waiting,
Another year with Thee;
Another year of leaning
Upon thy loving breast,
Another year of trusting,
Of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face;
Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of service,
Of witness for Thy love;
Another year of training
For holier work above.
Another year is dawning,
Dear Father, let it be
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for Thee.

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-79)



Our Choir

After a wonderful fourteen years in the Chapel choir, I finally sang my last service on Epiphany Sunday. I was pleased to be able to say goodbye to many of you, but sorry there are so many more of you that I missed.

You have been a huge support to me over the years, whether by showing your appreciation of the choir's work, always giving me (and my family) a friendly welcome, helping out when I've dared let my unruly boys near the chapel, providing delicious cakes and biscuits after services, or making sure the vegetarian canapés reached me!

My heartfelt thanks to all of you, and I hope we will stay in touch.

With my love and thanks, Eleanor.

Eleanor Clarke.



Jigsaw

This week's jigsaw brings you some sheep in snow.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=01a35145931a>



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.

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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