



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

Dear friends,



It was with great sadness that we learned on Monday that His Majesty the King has cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and all the members of the Royal Family at this testing time. Like so many, we were pleased to hear that the cancer has been caught early, and we hope that with successful treatment, we shall see the King out and about again doing what he does best, totally committed to serving his people in whatever way he can.

Occasionally, I remind people during services held here in the chapels, which are part of the family of the Chapel Royal, that it is our duty and joy always to pray for the King and members of the Royal Family at public services. I know that this means a great deal to many people; the Chapel Royal is there for the worship of God and to pray for the Royal Family, as it has done for many centuries.

This is the **Prayer for The King's Majesty** which is said at Matins, and you might like to use it at this time.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, high and mighty, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, the only Ruler of princes, who dost from thy throne behold all dwellers upon earth: Most heartily we beseech thee with thy favour to behold our most gracious Sovereign Lord, King CHARLES; and so replenish him with the grace of thy Holy Spirit, that he may alway incline to thy will, and walk in thy way. Endue him plenteously with heavenly gifts; grant him in health and wealth long to live; strengthen him that he may vanquish and overcome all his enemies; and finally, after this life, he may attain everlasting joy and felicity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Chapel notices:

The City Hygiene Bank continues to collect toiletries for those unable to afford to maintain a basic level of dignity. Do, please, bring an item or two each Sunday and leave the toiletries in the collection box just inside the Chapel.

Ash Wednesday (14th February):

There will be a service of Holy Communion with Ashing at 7pm in the White Tower.

Please make a note of the bread, soup and cheese **Lent lunches**, which will start on February 18th, following the 11am services. Further details to follow.

With all good wishes, thoughts and prayers, Roger.

Sunday Service Details 11th February 2024
Quinquagesima Sunday

0915 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula
1100 Choral Matins St Peter ad Vincula (The Royal Military Police attending)

Psalm 50: 1-6

Readings

2 Kings 2: 1-12

Mark 9: 2-9

Collect for Quinquagesima Sunday, or the Sunday Next before Lent.

O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings

without charity are nothing worth:

send thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our

hearts that most excellent gift of charity,

the very bond of peace and of all virtues,

without which whatsoever liveth is counted

dead before thee:

Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

‘Seven Last Words of Our Saviour on the Cross’
performed by the London Haydn Quartet

Tuesday 26th March 2024, 7pm

One of the world's leading period instrument string quartets, The London Haydn Quartet was born out of a passion for Haydn. They have received invitations to many of the world's most important concert series and venues, including the Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall and Sydney Opera House. Their complete series of recordings of Haydn's quartets on the Hyperion label have met with international critical acclaim.

Haydn's 'Seven Last Words of Our Saviour on the Cross' is one of his most enduring works. Originally an orchestral work commissioned for Good Friday, this popular transcription for string quartet was made by Haydn himself. Following the recent release of the London Haydn Quartet's recording of the work, the Tower of London presents them live in concert at the Chapel Royal of St. Peter ad Vincula.

Tickets available at – https://tickets.hrp.org.uk/hrp_b2c/palace.html?eventcode=TLCHAP



Poem of the Week

I came across the poem 'Litotes' this week whilst reading an article reflecting upon the war between Israel and Gaza, and the wider consequences for us all. Litotes is not a word we come across very often; it means a figure of speech or a form of verbal irony in which understatement is used to emphasize a point. Maggie Jackson is an award-winning American author, poet and journalist, known for her pioneering writings on social trends. She regularly speaks at major conventions and universities throughout the USA. Although not necessarily a feminist, she has always been an advocate for civil rights.

Litotes

'Something is broken here.....'
Spoken by an Israeli soldier,
waiting with his troops,
becoming battle-ready,
relying on the force of
comradeship, the power of
patriotism, the knowledge of
strategists and politicians.
He is willing to fight,
To lose his limbs or his life.
He is willing to kill those who
have killed his own kind,
and to be reckless in this game of war.

'Something is broken here,,,,'
His understanding insight,
Shared with a reporter,
and broadcast to the world,
is almost a whisper,
a fleeting cry of wisdom,
a cry once made from the heart of God
that goes unnoticed and unheard.
Humanity is broken here.

Maggie Jackson b. 1960.

Our Congregation

On Sunday 4th February, Beatrice Randall was baptised in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula.



Our Choir – Helena Cooke



I'm a freelance Mezzo-Soprano and Photographer, combining a varied mixture of solo and choral work with frequent photoshoots, mainly for other singers, and for various orchestras. Basically, my career often amounts to running around all corners of London most days of the week. It's tiring, it's uncertain, but crucially it's never boring!

Away from my career, my hobbies include swimming (preferably in a waterfall pool somewhere but I'll take anything), running, food and everything to do with it, and more. I am also chorus manager for the St Endellion Summer Festival, the happiest place in the world – where 200 professional and amateur musicians gather every summer to make music entirely for the love of it. Services, oratorio, chamber music, symphonies, and an opera (this year Wagner's Flying Dutchman) – all in a tiny church on the North Cornwall coast. It's magic, and unlike anything else.

I love singing at the Tower for a number of reasons. Firstly – a few strange family connections, my Mum and uncle both sung here as regular members of the choir (quite a while ago now) and my Dad's godfather was Lieutenant here in the 1970s! The choir here is wonderful, and it seems to be a particularly happy team at the moment. The music making is really nurtured by Colm and as a result, the quality

is higher than you can expect from a standard Sunday morning elsewhere. If we're singing Britten, Elgar, Brahms or excellent hymns, you'll probably see me smiling from the choir. And of course, another reason I enjoy singing here is the history, it's very surreal to be standing inches from Anne Boleyn's grave when we sing. It's nice to be able to tell friends who don't understand much of what I do that I sing at Tower of London every week – they're impressed by that!

Jigsaw

The Samuel and Maria Payler memorial, in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=3bc5613b4d78>



Hortensia tree in the Botanical Garden, Málaga

Sent in by the Rev. Cortland and Laura Fransella



Prayers

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

RIP

Clive Woodcraft

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, Roger.



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