



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

Dear friends,

I want to begin by thanking everyone who has been in touch to ask about Barbara. At the time of writing, she is still in hospital, and it continues to be a worrying time for us all while we wait to get to the bottom of why she has been so ill. Your thoughts, prayers and messages have all been very much appreciated.

Next week we move into the excitement and drama of **Holy Week**. The week begins this Sunday, **Palm Sunday**, when we will meet outside the RRF HQ at **10.45**. First, the palms will be blessed and there will then be the procession of witness as we all sing 'All glory, laud and honour, to thee, Redeemer, King', led by a small band from the Honourable Artillery Company to the chapel. Do come and join us.

Holy Week 25th - 31st March 2024

Monday 25th March	2000 Compline, St Peter ad Vincula
Tuesday 26th March	1900 Concert: The London Haydn Quartet ' <i>Seven Last Words of our Saviour on the Cross</i> '
	2000 Compline, St Peter ad Vincula
Wednesday 27th March	2000 Compline, St Peter ad Vincula
Maundy Thursday 28th March	1815 Confirmation, White Tower 1900 Maundy Thursday Service, St Peter ad Vincula, with the Dean of the Chapels Royal, the Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally DBE
Good Friday 29th March	1900 Duruflé <i>Requiem</i> , St Peter ad Vincula
Easter Sunday 31st March	0915 Holy Communion, White Tower 1100 Holy Communion and State Parade, St Peter ad Vincula

This week is the most important and dramatic week of the Christian year and takes us into the darkness of the tomb and then back into the light of Christ. As I have pointed out with many of the poems I have chosen over the years, you need to experience it to understand it.

With best wishes, thoughts and prayers, Roger.



Easter Flowers

As in previous years, we are collecting money for Easter Flowers.

If you would like to donate towards the flowers, please bring either cash or a cheque with you on Sunday, or you can send a cheque to me at the address at the end of the newsletter.

Flowers are often given in memory of people who have died, and these names will be remembered at Easter.

Thank you.

Sunday Service Details 24th March 2024
Palm Sunday

0915 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula
1100 Choral Matins, meeting outside the RRF HQ at **1045am**

Psalm 118: 1-2, and 19-end.

Readings: Isaiah 50: 4-9a; Matthew 21: 1-11.

Collect for the Sunday Next before Easter

Almighty and everlasting God, who, of thy tender
love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son, our
Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and,
to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind
should follow the example of his great humility;
Mercifully grant, that we may both follow the example
of his patience, and also be made partakers of his
resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Poem of the Week

Seamus Heaney (1939-2013) was the eldest of nine children born into a farming family in Castledawson, Northern Ireland. After studying at Queen's University Belfast, he began teaching at St Joseph's College, Belfast, where writing poetry became an integral part of his life. He went on to hold professorships in both the USA and Oxford, and won innumerable prizes and awards, including the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1995. Some would argue that he was, at that time, the best-known poet in the world.

This poem, *Digging*, draws upon Heaney's life as a son of the land and of farming stock; his father and grandfather were both farmers and he loved returning to his origins on the farm. Digging is part of life on the land, and as he watched his father and grandfather at work, experiencing the smell, sound and sight of the earth, Heaney reflected on his own 'digging down' but with 'a squat pen' rather than a spade. For many of us, Lent has been a time of digging down into our very souls as we await the drama and excitement of Holy Week.

Digging

Between my finger and my thumb
The squat pen rests; snug as a gun.

Under my window, a clean rasping sound
When the spade sinks into gravelly ground:
My father, digging. I look down

Till his straining rump among the flowerbeds
Bends low, comes up twenty years away
Stooping in rhythm through potato drills
Where he was digging.

The coarse boot nestled on the lug, the shaft
Against the inside knee was levered firmly.
He rooted out tall tops, buried the bright edge deep
To scatter new potatoes that we picked,
Loving their cool hardness in our hands.

By God, the old man could handle a spade.
Just like his old man.

My grandfather cut more turf in a day
Than any other man on Toner's bog.
Once I carried him milk in a bottle
Corked sloppily with paper. He straightened up
To drink it, then fell to right away
Nicking and slicing neatly, heaving sods
Over his shoulder, going down and down
For the good turf. Digging.

The cold smell of potato mould, the squelch and slap
Of soggy peat, the curt cuts of an edge
Through living roots awaken in my head.
But I've no spade to follow men like them.

Between my finger and my thumb
The squat pen rests.
I'll dig with it.

Seamus Heaney 1939-2013

**'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



Our Congregation

On Sunday 17th of March, Wilfred Harris was baptised in the Chapel of St Peter. Many of you will recognise mum Camilla from her time singing with the Choir of the Chapels Royal here at the Tower.



Jigsaw

A busy day of being a tourist at the Tower has worn out some of the younger visitors!

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=0c7061f3b70d>



Prayers

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

RIP

Malcolm Weisman (Chaplain) and Charles Taylor (Priest)

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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