



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

Dear friends,

Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

We are now in the Easter season, which is the fifty days between Easter and Pentecost. Just as throughout Lent we said the Ash Wednesday collect every day, so we now make the acclamation **Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!** every day in this Easter season. Imagine waking up in the morning saying '**Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**' before doing anything else?

The events currently unfolding in the Middle East give us all great cause for concern. Christians throughout the Middle East, whether in small communities or in larger ones in places like Israel, are asking us to keep them in our prayers. One place where Christians have lived and worked for many years is the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, which was founded by the Church Mission Society of the Church of England in 1882, making it one of the oldest hospitals there. Management of the hospital has changed hands between different churches in its long history. For three decades from the 1950s, it was managed by the Medical Mission of the Southern Baptist Church, when it was known as the Baptist Hospital (Mamdani in Arabic). The hospital is still commonly known as the Mamdani Hospital, or the Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital. The church has been run since the 1980s by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, who on its website describe the hospital as a sanctuary in Gaza. In October 2023, the hospital took a direct hit, leaving the place very seriously damaged and with many casualties. This example is one of many where our help and prayers are badly needed. Please remember all Christians in the Middle East in your prayers for peace in God's world.

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

**Service Details for Sunday 21st April 2024
The Third Sunday After Easter
Marathon Sunday**

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

Psalm 23

Readings 1 John 3: 16-end and John 10: 11-18.

Collect for The Third Sunday after Easter
Almighty God, who shewest to them that be in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness; Grant unto all them that are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Religion, that they may eschew those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Poem of the Week

Charles Kingsley, Church of England priest, Regius Professor of modern history at Cambridge, novelist, poet and social reformer, was born in 1819 in Devon. After his studies at Cambridge and then ordination, he became Rector of Eversley in Hampshire, Canon of Chester Cathedral and then Canon of Westminster Abbey. He was appointed personal chaplain to Queen Victoria in 1859, and became private tutor to her eldest son, the Prince of Wales. He was a friend of Charles Darwin and sympathetic to the idea of evolution, being one of the first to welcome the publication of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*. He is remembered for his poetry, hymns, books for children and particularly as an advocate of Christian Socialism, adult education, and sanitary reform. Whilst there are those who find his poetry somewhat sentimental and typically Victorian, his deep faith and love of nature sing out in his poems. The themes of rebirth and renewal in *Easter Week* are particularly relevant to the Easter season.

Easter Week

See the land, her Easter keeping
Rises as her Maker rose.
Seeds, so long in darkness sleeping.
Burst at last from winter snows.
Earth with heaven above rejoices;
Fields and gardens hail the sprig;
Shaugh and woodlands ring with voices,
While the wild birds build and sing.

You, to whom your Maker granted
Powers to those sweet birds unknown,
Use the craft by God implanted;
Use the reason not your own.
Here, while heaven and earth rejoices,
Each his Easter tribute bring –
Work of fingers, chant of voices,
Like the birds who build and sing.

Charles Kingsley 1819-75

Chapel Spring Concert, 7pm, Wednesday 15th May 2024 (£30)
Classical Connections: Pastoral Mass (Mozart) and Nelson Mass (Haydn)

Tickets available to buy.

<https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/whats-on/chapel-royal-spring-concert/#gs.6y1s6m>

Discover music by the giants of the classical era: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Franz Joseph Haydn.

The programme offers two highly contrasting Mass settings.

Mozart's *Missa Pastorale* (Pastoral Mass), written in 1770, was very popular in his own lifetime. Although composed when he was a teenager, the exuberance, joy and humour that characterised his later Mass settings was already clearly evident. Haydn's (so called) Nelson Mass could not be more different. Composed in 1798, the original title, *Missa in Angustiis* - Mass in time of Distress, is a relatable performance relevant to the present day.

Our Congregation

On Sunday 14th April, Roberta Blaszkowski was baptised in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula.



Confirmation

On Maundy Thursday, five members of the Chapel Congregation were confirmed in the Chapel of St John the Evangelist. The Confirmation service was taken by the Bishop of London and Dean of the Chapels Royal, the Rt Rev'd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE.



Songs of Praise – Sunday 21st April



The Reverend Cortland Fransella will appear in Songs of Praise this Sunday 21 April. The programme will cover the Reverend Mark Nam, a HK Chinese priest who received the Langton Award for Community Service (a Lambeth Award) in 2023, and The Reverend Cortland Fransella will be interviewed about the Lambeth Awards.

You can watch this at 1.25pm on BBC 2.

Jigsaw

Beautiful blossom outside the Beauchamp Tower.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=2cf261ccee73>



The London Hygiene Bank



The chapel has been supporting this project, together with nearly all the churches in the centre of London.

There is a box by the door of the chapel every Sunday morning, so do please drop in a few items each week if you can. These all add up, and will make a big difference to people who simply can't afford the normal hygiene items we take for granted. The following link gives details of what is needed, as well as how to donate - <https://thehygienebank.com>

Prayers

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very ill, amongst whom we name:

Ann, Ros, Mark, Barbara, Dan, Ian, 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, Roger.



1 Tower Green
HM Tower of London
EC3N 4AB
07908 413045
Roger.Hall@hrp.org.uk
Twitter @RogerHall53