



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

Dear friends,



This Thursday many of us will be exercising our democratic right to vote for councillors and for the next Mayor of London.

This short paragraph is not to suggest who you should be voting for, but to encourage you to vote. Around the world there are nations where voting is not a right, where women are not allowed to vote and where elections often appear to be rigged. That is not the case in our country. There have been places such as Bosnia, where I was an army chaplain, where people were not able to vote. There are several reasons why I would encourage you to vote. Firstly, I find it hard to accept arguments from people about our nation's policies when they don't exercise their right to vote for the very people who will lead our country; secondly, people have fought and died to enable us to live in a free society where voting is a right and thirdly, it has a lot to do with adult responsibility and taking seriously our adult duties one towards

another. Finally, I would like to feel that those issues about which Christian thinking has important things to say, such as how to help the poor and those in need and the type of society we want to live in are equally on the agendas of those candidates who take seriously the values and principles that I hold dear.

With warmest good wishes, Roger

**Service Details for 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
The Fifth Sunday after Easter**

**0915** Holy Communion (White Tower)  
**1100** Choral Matins St Peter ad Vincula

**Psalm 98**

**Readings** 1 John 5: 1-6  
John 15: 9-17.

**Collect for The Fifth Sunday after Easter**

**O Lord**, from whom all good things do come;  
Grant to us thy humble servants, that by thy holy  
inspiration we may think those things that be  
good, and by thy merciful guiding may perform  
the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Poem of the Week

I love John Dryden's poem *Happy the Man*, although there are those who might disapprove of its supposedly sexist language. (I myself don't see it as sexist: as with the language in the Book of Common Prayer I try to imagine the language as inclusive.) Dryden was born in 1631 and was an English poet, literary critic, translator and playwright who, in 1668, was appointed England's first Poet Laureate. In a world where we rush around with our busy schedules, Dryden reminds us that most of us have tried to do our best but 'what has been, has been' and that as long as we begin our day with good intentions and give the rest to God, 'tomorrow do thy worst, for I have lived today'. Tomorrow is a new day, with a fresh opportunity to work towards being the best we can.

### **Happy the Man**

Happy the man, and happy he alone,  
He who can call today his own:  
He who, secure within, can say,  
Tomorrow do thy worst, for I have lived today.  
Be fair or foul or rain or shine  
The joys I have possessed, in spite of fate, are mine.  
Not Heaven itself upon the past has power,  
But what has been, has been, and I have had my hour.

**John Dryden 1631 - 1700**

## The London Hygiene Bank



The chapel continues to support this project, together with nearly all the churches in the centre of London. Lack of basic toiletries can be shaming and humiliating and result in social isolation.

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 currently needed, as well as how to donate - <https://thehygienebank.com> .

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

Tickets are available to buy at:

<https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/whats-on/chapel-royal-spring-concert/#gs.6yIs6m>

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





## Tower of London



## Jigsaw

Photo of Tower Bridge taken by the Chaplain.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=0b91215b9deo>



## **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.

## **RIP**

Daniel Anjorin

## **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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