



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

Dear friends,

The other day I was stopped by someone who told me that he was working on a book about the theological implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI). He asked me if I could recommend any books by notable Christian writers on the subject. I admitted that I could not. It did set me thinking, however, as I have tried to follow some of the debates about the subject, in so far as I am able to keep up with them.

Some people argue that devices using AI will eventually (and possibly quite soon) evolve to the point at which they have consciousness and emotions, at which stage we should have to consider whether they could benefit, for example, from the provisions of human rights legislation. This I reject out of hand as nonsense. The fact that a machine, however sophisticated, might be able to interact verbally with human beings in such a way that they cannot tell that their interlocutor is a computer (the basis of the [Turing test](#)) in no way means that the machine has actually become human – only that we cannot tell the difference. The idea, for example, that pulling the plug on such a machine would be equivalent to murder, I find absurd. I therefore see no theological issues here.

Where I do see theological issues is in the uses to which AI might be put. We are already aware that AI can create images, videos and recordings which appear uncannily and convincingly genuine even though they are not (so-called ‘deep fakes’). Such creations can threaten the safety and wellbeing of individuals, communities and nations. They can be used to undermine democracy and as weapons of war (a form of cyber warfare). There is surely therefore a need for Christians to oppose such developments, which jeopardise justice, equality, welfare and human freedom. Large international IT companies pursue profit above all, but we need to stand up to the collateral damage from which we might suffer as a result of their developments. This can seem a challenge if we feel unable as individuals to influence their activities, but we can express our concerns through our political representatives when we sense that the fabric of society is under threat. AI can bring great benefits but it can also be used for sinister purposes. In the face of phenomena such as deep fakes, we need to remember the primacy of truth: “For ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Lots to think about!

With my best wishes,
Cortland.



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> .

**Service Details for Sunday 12th May 2024
The Sunday after Ascension Day**

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

Readings Acts 1:15-17, 21-end and John 17:6-19

Collect for The Sunday after Ascension Day

O God the King of glory,
who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven;
We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us,
and exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before,
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Chapel Spring Concert, 7pm, Wednesday 15th May 2024

Classical Connections: Pastoral Mass (Mozart) and Nelson Mass (Haydn)

Tickets available to buy at:

<https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/whats-on/chapel-royal-spring-concert/#gs.6yls6m>

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



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Franz Joseph Haydn.

Poem of the Week

William Butler ('WB') Yeats (1865-1939) is one of the greatest poets of Ireland and of the wider English-speaking world. He was a driving force behind the Irish Literary Revival, and, along with Lady Gregory, founded the Abbey Theatre, serving as its chief during its early years. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, and later served two terms as a Senator of the Irish Free State. He spent childhood holidays in County Sligo and retained a nostalgia for those days throughout his life. His father was an artist and the whole family had artistic leanings - his brother Jack became an esteemed painter, while his sisters Elizabeth and Susan Mary—known to family and friends as Lollie and Lily—became involved in the Arts and Crafts movement. When he was two years old, the family moved to London, where William later had undistinguished schooldays, not helped by his likely dyslexia. After seven years back in Dublin, where the young William mixed with his father's artistic circle, the family returned to London. His growing fame as poet led eventually to his receiving the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1923.

The Lake Isle of Innisfree is perhaps one of his best-known poems. It clearly shows his nostalgia for idyllic times in his youth. Yeats claimed that the inspiration for the poem came to him when he was walking down busy Fleet Street in 1888 (aged 23). Although he had grown up as a city boy in both Dublin and London, he retained a yearning for the peace of the Irish countryside. Innisfree is a small island in Lough Gill, in County Sligo.

Probably like many others, at school I learned and recited this poem, probably rather badly. Lines 2-4 of the first verse suggest to me that the poet has in fact been thinking about the island for some time and has quite a well-thought-out vision of how he would live there, even if only in fantasy. As I read it in later years, I have wondered if in the first line of the first verse the emphasis should fall on the word 'go' (as I always stressed it when a boy) whilst in the similar line which starts the third verse, the emphasis should be on the word 'now', suggesting that, having mused on the possibility for some time, the poet has now made up his mind actually to set off. In fact, of course, he did no such thing. What is more, Yeats [himself recited the poem](#) in a strikingly monotonous and stress-free manner. So much for fanciful personal interpretations!

The Lake Isle of Innisfree

I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

WB Yeats (1865-1939)

Tower of London – The first anniversary of the Coronation

On Monday 6th May at 1pm the HAC Regiment fired a 62-round gun salute at the Tower of London to mark the anniversary of the Coronation of HM King Charles III and HM Queen Camilla.



Chapel Sexton YW Terry ‘Basher’ Briggs was invited to 10 Downing Street for ‘Lessons at 10’ with Mrs Murty.

To mark the first anniversary of the Coronation of HM King Charles III and HM Queen Camilla, the students remembered the events of that historic day and even acted out some of the ceremonies at the Tower of London, including the Ceremony of the Keys.



Jigsaw

Poppy, one of the Tower of London's Ravens, stands guard.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=297c97488248>



Prayers

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

Barbara, Ann, Ros, Mark, 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, Cortland.



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