



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

Dear friends,

This Newsletter will go out on the 80th anniversary of D-Day. The Tower has marked this occasion with a short service on Tower Green, joining with people across the Nation and Commonwealth to mark the anniversary. The King and Queen will attend The Ministry of Defence and the Royal British Legion's commemorative event at the British Normandy Memorial at Ver-sur-Mer, and other members of the Royal Family will attend commemorative events held both in Normandy and in England. Our service has been recorded for the next Channel 5 series entitled *Inside the Tower of London*.

For many of us who are ex-service personnel (the Beefeaters, the Constable and other senior personnel who work in The Tower of London) these occasions have a special resonance, as we recall not only those who gave their lives on D-Day but also the continuing sacrifice and cost of war to all members of the armed services, and the real importance of always continuing to pray for peace, lasting peace.



These are some of the words I used at the service on Tower Green:

‘We are gathered here in the Tower of London, joining people from across the nation and commonwealth, to recall the D-Day Landings on the 6th June 1944; at which Allied forces invaded northern France by means of beach landings in Normandy 80 years ago today.

Codenamed ‘Operation Overlord’, the Allied landings on the beaches of Normandy marked the start of a long and costly campaign to liberate north-west Europe. Thirteen nations took part in the operation: 156,000 soldiers and 195,700 naval personnel, which resulted in over 10,000 casualties of whom there were 4,414 confirmed dead.

Of the five beachheads where troops landed, only two were linked on the first day; it took until the 12th of June for all five beachheads to be connected. Airborne forces played a critical part in preparing the ground assault.

Operation Overlord did not bring an end to the war in Europe, but it did begin the process through which victory was eventually achieved. Today we remember all those who gave of their life as part of Operation Overlord on D-Day 6th June 1944’.

Prayer on the 80th anniversary of D-Day

God our refuge and strength,
as we remember those
who faced danger and death in Normandy,
eighty years ago,
grant us courage to pursue what is right,
the will to work with others,
and strength to overcome tyranny and oppression,
through Jesus Christ,
to whom belong dominion and glory,
now and for ever.

Amen.



With my best wishes to you all, Roger.

Pictures of the D-Day Service at the Tower of London



**Sunday Service Details for 9th June 2024
The Second Sunday after Trinity**

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

Psalm 138

Readings

2 Cor 4: 13 -5:1
Mark 3: 20-end.

Collect for The Second Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, who never failest to help and govern them whom thou dost bring up in thy steadfast fear and love; Keep us, we beseech thee, under the protection of thy good providence, and make us to have a perpetual fear and love of thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Patronal Festival

6.30pm, Wednesday 17th July

Choral Evensong followed by a reception on Chapel Green

Guest Preacher:

Professor The Reverend Robin Griffiths-Jones, Master of the Temple

If you would like to attend, please email TowerOfLondonChapelAdministrator@hrp.org.uk in advance.

Roger's Garden – Clematis



Poem of the week

I couldn't help noticing in last Saturday's *Daily Telegraph* a mention of the poem *To His Love* by Ivor Gurney. Gurney was born in Gloucester in 1890. He won a scholarship to the Royal College of Music in 1911, but suffered from what was probably bipolar disorder for most of his life and had his first mental breakdown in 1913. His musical studies were interrupted after he enlisted in the First World War, where he was twice wounded. He suffered a further serious breakdown in 1918. By this time, he was already a prolific writer of poetry, plays and songs, as well as music, but his mental health continued to deteriorate and he was eventually institutionalised, at the request of his family, in 1922. He spent the last 15 years of his life in psychiatric hospitals, dying of TB in Dartford in 1937.

He is remembered both as a poet and as a composer, and is among 16 Great War Poets commemorated on a slab in Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey. This poem, *To His Love*, is about the death of a fellow soldier, and, as the critic and reviewer Lucy Thynne comments, it 'becomes gradually darker' as the poet tries to come to terms with loss and bereavement.

To His Love

He's gone, and all our plans
Are useless indeed.
We'll walk no more on Cotswold
Where the sheep feed
Quietly and take no heed.

His body that was so quick
Is not as you
Knew it, on Severn river
Under the blue
Driving our small boat through.

You would not know him now.....
But still he died
Nobly, so cover him over
With violets of pride
Purple from Severn side.

Cover him, cover him soon!
And with thick set
Masses of memorial flowers –
Hide that red wet
Thing I must somehow forget.

Ivor Gurney 1890 - 1937

Our Congregation

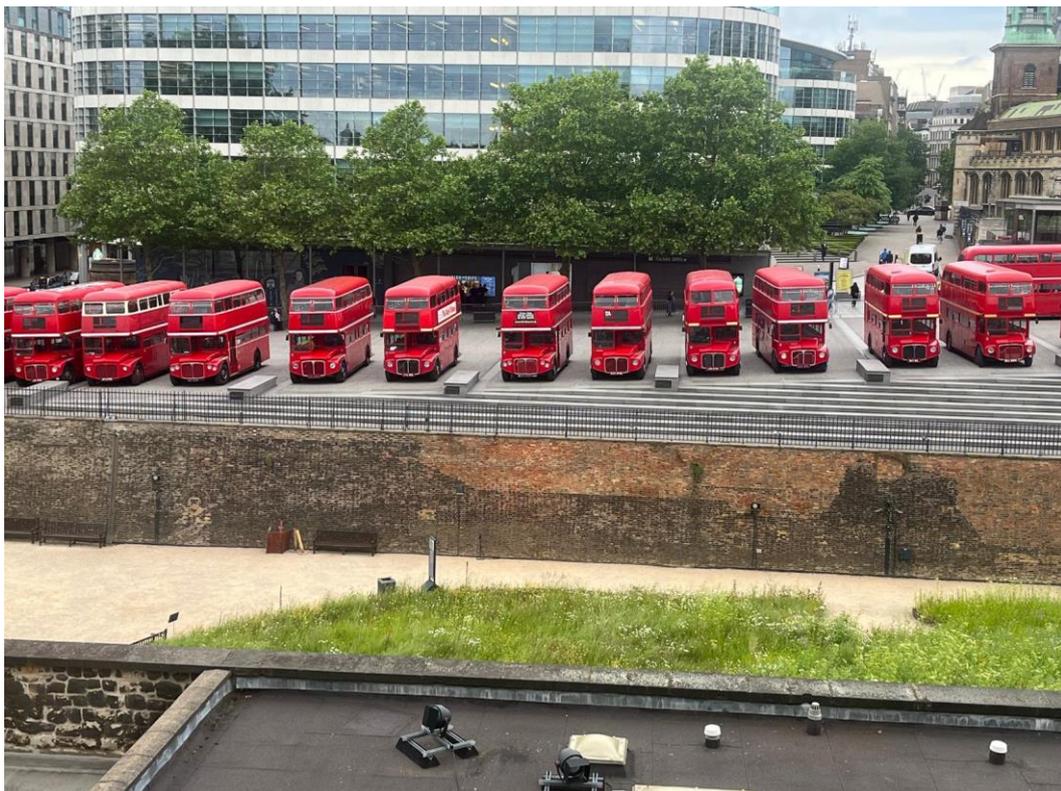
On Saturday 1st June, Keith and Marguerite were married in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula.



Tower of London – Jigsaw

A photo taken from the Chaplain's window. Fifteen Routemaster buses lined up on Tower Hill.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=22147f3be86b>



The Tower of London during WWII

This fantastic article **Tower at War** includes some fascinating stories about the Tower of London during the First and Second World Wars, as well as some photographs and videos from the time.

<https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/history-and-stories/the-tower-at-war/#gs.aerjr1>

The Tower of London played an important role in the First and Second World Wars. From training WWI recruits in the Tower moat including the Royal Fusiliers, to guarding the infamous Nazi prisoner of war Rudolph Hess, during each devastating conflict the Tower returned to its former role as a military store, barracks and prison. And it became, once again, a grim place of execution for enemies of the state. A total of 12 spies were executed behind the Tower's walls.

The Tower of London came under attack repeatedly during the Blitz. Several parts of the Tower sustained damage, including the Hospital Block, the Main Guard, and the Master of the Assay Office - part of the Mint which had been built in the eighteenth century. Meanwhile, the North Bastion was completely destroyed during an attack on 5 October 1940, killing two of its occupants - Yeoman Warder Samuel Reeves, and Lily Lunn.

Image: Old Hospital Block after being struck by a bomb. © Historic Royal Palaces Image Library / Yeoman Warder Archive



Image: Yeoman Warders Burrows (foreground), Stevens and Box can be seen 'digging for victory'
© Historic Royal Palaces Image Library / Yeoman Warder Archive

Image: The North Bastion after being struck by a bomb © Historic Royal Palaces Image Library / Yeoman Warder Archive



Prayers

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

Stanley, Claire, John, Dom, Barbara, Ann, Ros, Toby, 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, Roger.



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