



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

Dear friends,

Jürgen Moltmann, the leading German theologian of the 20th Century, who died on 3rd June at the age of 98, insisted that as Christians, we are required to engage with the world around us, however much events may sometimes seem to challenge our beliefs. In this pre-election period, for example, we might wish to consider the offers of the various parties and of our local candidates in terms of the issues that matter most to us. You may sometimes wonder whether there is an easily-available source of comment by Christian commentators on current affairs. If so, you may be interested in a website called '[Seen and Unseen](#)' which aims to provide 'Christian perspectives on just about everything.' It is produced by the Church of England's Centre for Cultural Witness. To give an idea of its content, it currently carries interviews with three politicians - one Labour, one Conservative and one Scottish National Party - exploring the significance for each of them of their own Christian faith. It has a wide range of articles on topics of interest to thinking people – from C S Lewis's Narnia to the morality of defection from one political party to another, and from celibacy in the Roman Catholic church to the enduring popularity of JRR Tolkien. You may not agree with all of its content, but it is always thought-provoking. If nothing else, it might prompt some interesting discussions. Why not have a look at it?

With all good wishes,

Cortland.

Sunday Service Details for 16th June

The Third Sunday after Trinity

0915 Said Holy Communion, Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula

1100 Choral Matins, Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula

Readings

2 Corinthians 5:6-10

Matthew 14: 22-33

Collect for The Third Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, we beseech thee mercifully to hear us;
and grant that we, to whom thou hast given an hearty desire to pray,
may by thy mighty aid be defended and comforted in all dangers and adversities;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Poem of the week

London, 1802 by William Wordsworth (1770-1850) seems a strange title for a poem addressed to the late poet John Milton (1608–74). This sonnet shows a Wordsworth who is critical of the current state of England and its people and looks back nostalgically to a happier time in English history. Wordsworth expresses the wish that Milton were still alive, because his country, England, needs him now. In Wordsworth's view, England has become stagnant and corrupt in all quarters: the church ('altar') has become unscrupulous, as have the army and England's military standing ('sword'), its writers ('pen'), and even the home ('Fireside'). Everyone – and Wordsworth includes himself here – has become selfish. Only Milton, it seems, can restore England to its former greatness, by reverting to the virtues that it has lost. The Milton that Wordsworth has in mind here is probably the author of *Areopagitica*, a prose polemic written in 1644, in which he championed the cause of a free press. Milton was also seen as being willing to undertake simple, humble tasks, without promoting his personal interests. So, Milton stands for humility and freedom of various kinds, at the service of others, in contrast with the self-seeking behaviour that Wordsworth perceived to be prevalent in his own time. Some may see parallels today.

London, 1802

Milton! thou shouldst be living at this hour:
England hath need of thee: she is a fen
Of stagnant waters: altar, sword, and pen,
Fireside, the heroic wealth of hall and bower,
Have forfeited their ancient English dower
Of inward happiness. We are selfish men;
O! raise us up, return to us again;
And give us manners, virtue, freedom, power!
Thy soul was like a Star, and dwelt apart;
Thou hadst a voice whose sound was like the sea:
Pure as the naked heavens, majestic, free,
So didst thou travel on life's common way,
In cheerful godliness; and yet thy heart
The lowliest duties on herself did lay.

William Wordsworth (1770-1850)

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.

Jigsaw

The White Tower, with views of the city's skyscrapers in the background.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=13dd3db8bdc2>



Wildflowers in the Tower of London Moat



If you have time to visit the next time you're at the Tower, it is very peaceful down in the moat among the wildflowers.

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.

RIP

Jürgen Moltmann, theologian. Dr Michael Mosley.

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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Donations to the Chapel

If you would like to make a one-off donation to Chapel Funds or to set up a Direct Debit, there is now an easy way to do this, by pointing your phone or tablet camera at the following QR Code:



As you will see, this takes you to a web page from our bank, where you can make a single donation or set up a Direct Debit and add Gift Aid if you are eligible. Thank you in advance for your generosity.