



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

Dear friends,

Next week the General Election will take place and we can all exercise our democratic right to vote. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued a statement in which they say:

'The coming General Election is a critical moment in the life of our nation, which will shape our future. This is a time for us all to ask important questions about what kind of country we want to build. The world and our nation face deep challenges – from questions of war and peace, poverty and injustice to the very future of the earth God has given us. Faced with such huge questions, our calling as Christians is to turn first to God in prayer. We are therefore inviting everyone who is willing to dedicate the next few days as a time not just to think about the big questions, but also to pray for our nation'

May I encourage you to take heed of the Archbishops' words; I believe we stand at a difficult crossroads both as a nation and in the world. If we are to take the words *'This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it'* seriously (Psalm 118, v.24), then each day is precious, each a valuable gift from God, and we should hope and pray that those we elect will sign up to the same selfless commitment.

Patronal Festival This year's Patronal Festival is on 17th July at 1830 and I'm delighted that we have **The Master of the Temple, Professor The Reverend Robin Griffith-Jones**, Historian and Theologian, as our preacher. At the time of writing, we are far short of our usual numbers for this special chapel occasion. Please see if you can come and join us, do bring a friend and let's see if we can celebrate our patron with a full chapel. Names please to Debbie, the Chapel Administrator. Thank you.

With my best wishes, thoughts and prayers, Roger.

Sunday Service Details for 30th June 2024 The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

0915 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula

1100 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula (Mass in D by Dvorak)

Readings

1 Peter 3: 8-15a

Luke 5: 1-11

Collect for The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by thy governance, that thy Church may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Poem of the week

The poem I have chosen this week, the second half of the ballad *One foot in Eden still, I stand*, was written by the Scottish poet Edwin Muir, and published in a poetry collection of the same name in 1956. Muir began life in the Orkneys before moving to Glasgow with his family because of poverty. For Muir, having to leave Orkney was like being expelled from the Garden of Eden, and this feeling haunted him all his life. His marriage to Willa Anderson in 1919, which he described as ‘the most fortunate event in my life’ probably restored his equilibrium, and a later conversion experience to Christianity in 1939 brought him back to his Christian roots. Muir believed Christianity to be as revolutionary as socialism. After travelling widely throughout Europe and beyond, the couple finally settled in America, where Muir became Norton Professor of English at Harvard University. Muir and his wife worked together on many translations, including works by Kafka.

This is an optimistic poem; behind it lie the scars of experience but the last sentence reveals the hope, faith and love which fall down upon us: *Strange blessings never in Paradise Fall from these beclouded skies.*

One foot in Eden still, I stand

Yet still from Eden springs the root
As clean as on the starting day.
Time takes the foliage and the fruit
And burns the archetypal leaf
To shapes of terror and of grief
Scattered along the winter way.
But famished field and blackened tree
Bear flowers in Eden never known.
Blossoms of grief and charity
Bloom in these darkened fields alone.
What had Eden ever to say
Of hope and faith and pity and love
Until was buried all its day
And memory found its treasure trove?
Strange blessings never in Paradise
Fall from these beclouded skies.

Edwin Muir 1887-1959.

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.

Our Congregation

On Saturday 22nd June, Rachel and Salvatore were married in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula. Rachel is the daughter of YW Humphries. Their daughter Liliana was also baptised in the Chapel.



Jigsaw

The Reflection Garden at St Paul's Cathedral.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=19694345f29c>



Tower of London

Shortly after midday on Tuesday 25th June, the HAC Regiment fired a 41-round gun salute for the State Visit to the UK of the Emperor and Empress of Japan.



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> .

Tracy's Garden – Fleur de Lys



Prayers

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very ill, amongst whom we name: Stanley, John, Dom, Barbara, Ann, Ros, Mark, Dan, Ian, Florence and Kofi.

RIP

Toby Bevans and Claire Mellish

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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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.