



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

Dear Friends,

I have asked Cortland to write a few words about what he's been up to during the lockdown. I continue to hope that you are all keeping safe and well, and hope you enjoy reading this week's newsletter. With best wishes and prayers, Roger.

Reverend Cortland Fransella



Greetings to all members of the Tower congregation. I am impatient to get back to worshipping with you in the Chapel but I fear that we shall all have to wait a while yet. Meanwhile, I spend part of my week putting together our online services and Thoughts for the Day and uploading them to YouTube. They may have a bit of a homespun look but until last March I had never used Zoom or video editing software in my life, so do bear with us. I normally work part-time at Lambeth Palace as the Archbishop's Awards Officer but, since September, I have also been Acting Chaplain to the Archbishop. Of course, this too is all done from home at the moment so I am mostly to be found in my study in front of my computer. Like most of you, I suspect, one of the things that I miss most is the music from our wonderful organists and choir. Laura and I normally go to quite a few concerts but now we watch them on YouTube and other platforms, sending in money to try to help keep our musicians in some sort of work. This lockdown is challenging but vaccination is under way and there really is light at the end of the tunnel, although it is a depressingly long tunnel. The key thing is for us all to remember that none of us are safe until all are safe, not only nationwide but also worldwide. I have faith in God's providence that we shall come out of this and may even be the stronger for it. So, keep washing those hands, wearing those masks, behaving sensibly and getting those jabs and we may all be back in the Chapel sooner than we think.

Thought for the Day

From Reverend Cortland Fransella
<https://youtu.be/IvVM4W5dMIM>

The Martin Niemoller poem shared in last week's **Thought for the Day** immediately reminded me of this poem by the Nigerian poet Niyi Osundare. Both poems prompt us to consider who will we speak out for? Osundare challenges the reader to consider the suffering of others, even when this suffering does not seem to impact directly on our lives.

Not my Business

They picked Akanni up one morning
Beat him soft like clay
And stuffed him down the belly
Of a waiting jeep.
What business of mine is it
So long they don't take the yam
From my savouring mouth?

They came one night
Booted the whole house awake
And dragged Danladi out,
Then off to a lengthy absence.
What business of mine is it
So long they don't take the yam
From my savouring mouth?

Chinwe went to work one day
Only to find her job was gone:
No query, no warning, no probe –
Just one neat sack for a stainless record.
What business of mine is it
So long they don't take the yam
From my savouring mouth?

And then one evening
As I sat down to eat my yam
A knock on the door froze my hungry hand.
The jeep was waiting on my bewildered lawn
Waiting, waiting in its usual silence.

Music for the week, from the Master of Music

For the newsletter this week we have an aria by Tchaikovsky sung by our own Will Searle. Will writes -

This aria from Eugene Onegin by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky represents the high point of happiness in the entire opera. About half an hour into Act One, it seems like this may be a delightful rom-com as the effusive poet Lensky pops over to the next-door estate to continue the wooing of his childhood sweetheart Olga. He can't resist reaffirming his dedication and reminding her about some previous frolics in a glade somewhere and she is eventually overwhelmed by his declarations. Unfortunately, in another offstage part of the garden, the introspective and dark attraction between Onegin and Tatyana is only just beginning its journey to the party where the naïve Lensky, affronted by Onegin's provocative flirting with Olga, challenges his friend to a duel and subsequently loses his life. However, in these gloomy January days, maybe we should forget about all that and let Lensky have his moment of utter Romantic indulgence! The English translation I've added will come on if you click the subtitles button at the bottom of the screen (white box with dotted lines) and select English (United Kingdom) - I hope you enjoy it.

Ya Lyublyu Vas (Eugene Onegin) - Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840 - 93)
Will Searle, tenor

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmhTUZSZaZE&ab_channel=WillSearle

Jigsaw Puzzle

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=137c2b19e072>



Christian Unity

If you are interested in following up Canon Roger's service on 24 January about Christian Unity, you might like to look at the Church of England's central online service for the same day, which you can find here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tf_D_6Z1Seg.

It features Chemin Neuf, a Roman Catholic-led ecumenical community which, amongst other things, looks after the Chapels at Lambeth Palace for the Archbishop of Canterbury and supports there the Community of St Anselm, whose members have worshipped with us several times.

If you would like to make a donation, or catchup on your giving, the easiest way is online at:

<https://www.thechapelsroyalhmtoweroflondon.org.uk/donate/giving-by-direct-debit/>

By donating online this means that you can Gift Aid your donation.

Or alternatively you can make a bank transfer to: The HM Tower of London Chapels Royal Foundation

Sort Code 40-52-40 Account number 0027597

Wordsearch

Here is a Wordsearch of 16 words for commercial premises or their proprietors. Print it off and see if you can find them all. Words may run in any direction, including diagonals. You may find other real words in the grid but you do not get any credit for them! Solution next week.

L	I	Q	U	F	I	S	H	M	O	N	G	E	R	E
A	H	U	P	A	G	R	U	C	H	E	M	I	S	T
Z	A	A	W	K	R	E	Q	U	I	S	P	X	U	V
I	I	C	B	R	U	P	U	X	I	S	O	R	V	I
P	R	T	H	E	F	A	I	K	L	E	V	E	I	R
E	D	R	E	A	R	R	K	V	O	T	Y	L	U	O
T	R	N	E	K	N	D	L	E	K	A	J	B	S	N
T	E	S	E	T	R	D	A	F	H	C	Y	B	E	M
E	S	Y	B	W	N	A	L	S	P	I	B	O	K	O
R	S	S	U	S	S	I	M	E	H	L	Y	C	Y	N
D	E	T	T	O	X	A	R	R	R	E	C	O	R	G
N	R	E	C	F	L	E	G	P	E	D	R	I	D	E
U	B	N	H	E	B	L	O	E	R	P	I	V	E	R
A	Z	G	E	R	W	U	R	J	N	Y	U	T	E	R
L	U	Y	R	E	N	O	I	T	A	T	S	S	T	A

BUTCHER
 CHANDLER
 CHEMIST
 COBBLER
 DELICATESSEN
 DRAPER
 FISHMONGER
 GROCER
 HABERDASHER
 HAIRDRESSER
 IRONMONGER
 LAUNDRETTE
 NEWSAGENT
 PRINTER
 STATIONER
 SUPERMARKET

Solution to last week's Wordsearch

T	W	I	N	G	L	I	F	R	O	O	B	J	I	K
E	S	P	U	N	G	Y	M	I	R	A	T	T	Y	X
K	E	F	R	E	R	O	Y	E	E	N	D	U	S	P
N	I	W	X	A	R	E	E	H	G	A	B	V	I	T
I	R	E	B	A	B	K	E	B	G	N	A	R	F	R
K	I	X	O	D	Y	B	L	I	O	R	D	M	I	U
O	N	V	L	I	H	U	I	T	D	Y	G	K	I	K
L	Q	U	S	O	R	P	G	T	E	R	E	E	P	R
O	U	A	T	P	L	N	U	O	B	C	R	I	V	O
U	E	L	O	M	I	A	R	Z	O	U	N	K	Y	P
Q	U	E	R	D	Y	G	F	I	O	L	Y	D	F	I
U	L	K	D	O	N	K	L	F	P	I	A	Z	E	S
E	F	A	W	D	I	U	O	E	U	O	A	B	I	K
R	P	E	E	R	E	V	I	F	T	R	O	M	B	O
F	O	N	K	Y	P	O	N	K	Y	I	G	H	T	Y

A Prayer

Please continue to remember those on our sick list – some of whom are very poorly

Isabelle, Rustom, Jo, Rory, John, Lucy, Judy, Neil, Fiona, Pat, Tony, Anthony, Bob and Ernie.

RIP for all those who have died from the coronavirus

Those affected by the coronavirus.

God of love,

We ask for your blessing on

those who are ill,

those who are vulnerable

those who are worried about

themselves and those they love,

and for those who mourn.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With best wishes and prayers, Roger.



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