



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

Dear friends,

A time of Remembrance 11th November

Each year the country, along with the Commonwealth, remembers the war dead and, in particular, the millions who died in the First World War. The Royal British Legion has sold poppies since 1921 to raise funds for ex-service personnel. I have personally seen just how grateful its many recipients are for the support, help and friendship they have received, and continue to receive, from the Legion. The Red Poppy has become a ubiquitous symbol at this time of the year.

The Flanders poppy was first described as the *Flower of Remembrance* by Colonel John McRae, who had observed wild red poppies blooming between the simple crosses on the many makeshift graves of the fallen during the fighting in Flanders. McRae was a well-known professor of medicine at McGill University in Canada. He had served as a gunner in the South African War, and, at the outbreak of the First World War, wanted to join the fighting ranks. However, it was decided that his medical abilities were of more practical use, so he was sent to France as a medical officer with the Canadian Army Medical Corps instead. During the Second Battle of Ypres in 1915, when McRae was in charge of a small first-aid post, there was a lull in the fighting and he wrote in pencil, on a page torn from his despatch book, the poem now known as *In Flanders Fields*, which is reproduced here. McRae died in January 1918 of pneumonia and meningitis.

Our Remembrance Sunday Service details are below; please note the earlier start time of 1050.

With my best wishes, thoughts and prayers for you all, Roger.

Sunday Service Details for 12th November 2023

Remembrance Sunday

0915 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula

1050 Act of Remembrance Tower Green

Service details will be on a service sheet.



In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McRae 1872 – 1918



Poem of the week

Ruth Pitter, CBE FRSL, was a British poet, born in 1897 in Ilford, and was the first woman to receive the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 1955. She worked at the War Office from 1915 to 1917 and later at a furniture company in Suffolk where she lived until 1930. She became a friend of Richard and Ida Blair, the parents of Eric Blair, later George Orwell. She published 18 volumes of verse during her 70-year career as a published poet, but lived a life of quiet dedication to writing poetry in a traditional 19th - century style, never experimenting with verse form or exploring modernist themes, unlike her more famous contemporaries such as Eliot, Pound and Auden. Throughout her life the natural world played a key part in her thinking and writing. Pitter started publishing poetry in the 1920s but it was not until the publication of *Mad Lady's Garland* in 1934, with a preface by her friend Hilaire Belloc, that her poetry became widely proclaimed. Her admiration of the angry war poems of Siegfried Sassoon led to a friendship with him, and as well as later with C.S. Lewis, both of whom encouraged her to write about her own feelings of grief and sadness at the loss of so many young men, some of whom she had known. C.S. Lewis became a strong spiritual influence in her life and, as a result, she was confirmed and became a practising Anglican. Later in her life, she made broadcasts on poetry for the BBC, and was a regular contributor to the TV arts discussion programme *The Brains Trust*. This short poem 'For Sleep, or Death' is believed to have been influenced by the death of a friend's son during the First World War. I read it at the funeral of a young soldier who died during the troubles in Northern Ireland.

For Sleep, or Death

Cure me with quietness,
Bless me with peace;
Comfort my heaviness,
Stay me with ease.
Still in solitude
Send down like dew;
Mine armour of fortitude
Piece and make new:
That when I rise again
I may shine bright
As the sky after rain,
Day after night.

Ruth Pitter 1897 - 1992

Garden of Remembrance



On the evening of Monday 6th November, the Garden of Remembrance was opened with a small service outside on Chapel Green.

Pictured – Roger with YW Darren Hardy and the Bugler.

Chapel Christmas Carol Concert – 15th December

Tickets for the Christmas Carol Concert on the 15th of December will go on sale at 3pm on Thursday 16th November. If you'd like to purchase tickets, please follow the link below.

https://tickets.hrp.org.uk/hrp_b2c/palace.html?eventcode=TLCHAP



Crown and Coronation Light Show - Tower of London 17-25 November 2023

Timed tickets 17:00-20:00 daily

Historic Royal Palaces have partnered with Luxmuralis Artist Collaboration to create an immersive sound and light show that celebrates the spectacle, significance and shared experience of the Crown Jewels and Coronation Ceremony.

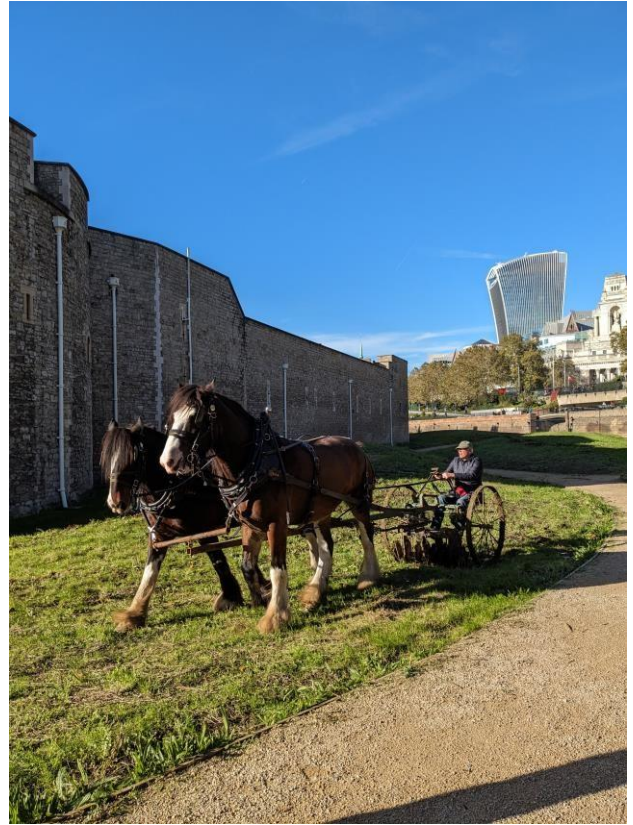
The splendour of Coronations and the Crown Jewels will be brought to life like never before in this unique event. From the reign of William the Conqueror to Queen Victoria, the show will feature stunning imagery spanning across the centuries projected onto our magnificent buildings.

<https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/whats-on/crown-and-coronation/#gs.6vicrf>

Jigsaw

The Hampton Court Shire Horses were at the Tower of London to prepare the ground for seed sowing in the Moat. (*Photos by Elowyn Stevenson, Tower of London Warden.*)

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=3d93b958ac8e>



Prayers

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

Norma, Ann, Ros, Mark, Dan, Ian, Patti, 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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