



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

Dear friends,

Today (14th November) is the King's 75th birthday, and at the Tower we had a 62-Gun salute in his honour. In all my years here, I have never experienced such heavy rain! Everybody involved was soaked except for me, as, although in my full regalia, I sheltered under my umbrella. We wish His Majesty many happy returns of the day.



It was very good to read that he has marked his 75th birthday by launching his Coronation Food Project, in conjunction with the Felix Project. The aim of the project is to avoid food waste. Money donated has bought fridges and freezers to store food and then distribute it to those in need. If you would like to support this project but want to ask more about it first, this is the contact email address: [enquiries@coronationfoodproject.org](mailto:enquiries@coronationfoodproject.org)

I am pleased that we had a memorable and well-attended Remembrance Sunday on 12th November, with many people staying on for coffee after the service.



Advent Sunday is on 3rd December and there will again be a traditional Advent Carol Service preparing us for the Advent season and the lead-up to Christmas.

Finally, it is impossible not to be aware of all that is going on in the Holy Land. These difficult times have raised many hard questions with no easy answers. The deaths of so many innocent children and vulnerable adults is terrible. I believe the time has come for a break in fighting, a ceasefire, which would allow time for food, fuel, water and medical supplies to be brought in, for hospitals to be resupplied and for people and, especially, tiny babies to be moved to safer areas. The small Christian community in Gaza, along with Christians in Israel, have asked for our prayers and where possible, our practical help. Along with the war in Ukraine, events in the Middle East are a constant focus both of our prayers in the chapel and our own private prayers. We yearn for peace to come soon and for there to be long-term plans to address the future of all those who live in the Holy Land.

With my thoughts and prayers for everyone, Roger.

**Service Details 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023**  
**The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Trinity**

**0915** Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula

**1100** Choral Matins St Peter ad Vincula

**Readings**

Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-end

Matthew 25: 14-30

**Collect for the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Trinity**

**O Lord**, we beseech thee, absolve thy people  
from their offences; that through thy  
bountiful goodness we may all be delivered  
from the bands of those sins, which by our  
frailty we have committed: Grant this, O  
heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake,  
our blessed Lord and Saviour. **Amen**

**Poem of the week**

Elizabeth Barrett, better known as Elizabeth Barrett Browning, began writing verses at the age of four and more formal poetry when she was eleven. Educated at home, she read widely and in different languages. However, she fell ill at 15 with a serious illness causing intense head and spinal pain with loss of mobility. The illness overshadowed her entire life and she became increasingly dependent on laudanum and morphine to reduce the pain. Her fragile health was later made worse by a tuberculous condition. In spite of her physical condition, she was a prolific writer of poetry and prose and became one of the most widely-admired poets in both England and the USA, even being considered for the post of Poet Laureate in 1850, after the death of Wordsworth, though she lost to Tennyson. The poet Robert Browning wrote to her in praise of her work and once they were eventually introduced, a long courtship resulted. This, however, and their subsequent private marriage in London, had to be kept secret from her father, whom Elizabeth knew would strongly disapprove of the match. (Once he found out, Elizabeth was indeed disinherited, as were all her siblings who married.) The couple moved to Italy in 1846, soon after their honeymoon, and Elizabeth had a son at the age of 43. Her failing health led to her early death in 1861, and she was buried in the English cemetery in Florence.

In the sonnet I have chosen, which speaks powerfully to those of us who are getting older, Barrett Browning writes about mutual love, suggesting that although everything about a person might change with age and we will inevitably alter, becoming physically frail, real love is eternal. Such love is a miracle and there is none greater. This is, I believe, how God would see us.

### **If thou must love me..... Sonnet 14**

If thou must love me, let it be for nought  
Except for love's sake only. Do not say,  
"I love her for her smile—her look—her way  
Of speaking gently, —for a trick of thought  
That falls in well with mine, and certes brought  
A sense of pleasant ease on such a day"—  
For these things in themselves, Belovèd, may  
Be changed, or change for thee — and love, so wrought,  
May be unwrought so. Neither love me for  
Thine own dear pity's wiping my cheeks dry:  
A creature might forget to weep, who bore  
Thy comfort long, and lose thy love thereby!  
But love me for love's sake, that evermore  
Thou mayst love on, through love's eternity.

**Elizabeth Barrett Browning  
1806-61**

### **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 Kings House, <https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=0012993120c1>



## **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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