



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

Dear friends,

The week of the 30th October marks the start of two festivals: **All Saints' Day** (on 1st November) and **All Souls' Day** (on 2nd November).

In many churches, All Saints' Day is often translated to the nearest Sunday, and we are doing that on Sunday 29th October. The service for All Souls' Day will be at 1900hrs in the White Tower on 2nd November. If you would like someone remembered then, do give Debbie or me the name.

Over the years I have made a number of visits to the Holy Land. In July 2017 we made a chapel pilgrimage to the Holy Land, visiting Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Galilee and other important Christian sites, as well as Nablus and other sites on the West Bank. The awful events of the last few weeks: the dreadful terrorist attacks by Hamas in Israel on 7th October, the loss of life in Gaza, and the explosion at the Anglican Al-Ahli Hospital, described by Archbishop Naoum in Jerusalem as 'a dreadful and devastating massacre' have made us all weep. Many of us, myself included, feel utterly hopeless, and wonder what we can do. One thing we are asked to do, and, moreover, to do with earnest good will, is to pray, pray and pray for an end to the bloodshed and for the restoration of peace in the Holy Land and neighbouring territories. As Christians we are asked to be living stones built into a holy temple in Christ. This is the time for our prayers to move stone and mountain, that peace would come in the Middle East for all people, Jews, Muslims and Christians.

On Wednesday I attended the funeral of Paul Abram, my predecessor here at the Tower. It was a memorable occasion, very well attended, with excellent addresses and a moving service that expressed profound hope in the Resurrection.

With my warmest good wishes to you all, Roger.

Sunday Service Details 29th October 2023
The Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity and All Saints' Day

0915 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula

1100 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula
(Coffee after church)

Readings Revelation 7: 2-4 and 9-12. & Matthew 5: 1-12.

Collect for All Saints' Day O Almighty God,
who hast knit together thine
elect in one communion and fellowship, in the
mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant
us grace so to follow thy blessed Saints in all
virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those
unspeakable joys, which thou hast prepared for
them that unfeignedly love thee; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Poem of the week

Denise Levertov was born in Ilford in 1923 and died in Seattle in 1997. Her mother, Beatrice, came from North Wales, while her father, Paul Philip Levertoff, was born in 1878 in what is now Belarus. He came from a strict Jewish Hasidic family, but while studying in Germany, came across a copy of the Gospels translated into Hebrew and subsequently converted to Christianity. He met Beatrice in Constantinople in 1910 where he was working as a missionary and she was teaching at a mission school. They married in 1911 and lived in Warsaw until the outbreak of the First World War, when Paul was placed under house arrest as a Russian enemy alien for the duration of hostilities. After the war, Beatrice persuaded Paul to return with her to North Wales, while he prepared for ordination as an Anglican, and was then sent to a parish in Shoreditch. Denise, who was educated at home, decided to be a writer at the age of five, and when she was 12, sent some of her poems to TS Eliot, who replied with encouraging advice. Her first poem was published when she was 17 and her first book six years later. She married an American writer, moved to the USA and became a professor of English at several universities, becoming an American citizen in 1955. Her poetry included themes of politics, opposition to the Vietnam war and, later, religion. I have chosen here an excerpt from her 1961 poem *Matins*.

From *Matins*

Stir the holy grains, set
the bowls on the table and
call the child to eat.

While we eat we think,
as we think an undercurrent
of dream runs through us
faster than thought
towards recognition.

Call the child to eat,
send him off, his mouth
tasting of toothpaste, to go down
into the ground, into the roaring train
and to school.

His cheeks are pink
his black eyes hold his dreams, he has left
forgetting his glasses.

Follow down the stairs at a clatter
to give them to him and save
his sight.

Cold air
comes in at the street door.

Denise Levertov 1923 - 97

Our Congregation

On Sunday 22nd October, the 84 Ilford Parachute Regiment Association attended the 11am service.



Historic Royal Palaces

The Tower of London welcomes two new Yeoman Warders: YW Lisa Garland and YW Ryan 'Barney' Barnett.



YW Lisa Garland was born and raised in Halifax, West Yorkshire, and served for 22 years as an Air Traffic Controller in the Royal Air Force.

YW Barney Barnett is the first Royal Navy Aircraft Engineer to become a Yeoman Warder. YW Barnett served for nearly 26 years in the Royal Navy, within the Fleet Air Arm as an Aircraft Engineer.

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

Timed tickets 17:00-20:00 daily



This November, join us at the Tower of London for a stunning and immersive light and sound show, Crown and Coronation, before it begins its UK wide tour in 2024.

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.

See imagery and footage of monarchs and coronations past and the Crown Jewels regalia in exquisite detail, projected onto the famous White Tower, and then enjoy special access to see the Crown Jewels after hours, without the usual crowds.

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

Jigsaw

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=0aa934611boe>



Autumn Amaryllis from outside the Chaplain's house



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.

RIP

The Rev Paul Abram MVO.

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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