



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

Dear friends,

First of all, thank you very much to those who brought items for the City of London Hygiene Bank Sunday. These will be gratefully received by those in need. Do think of bringing anything that you yourself might use or click [here](#) for the latest update on their requirements.

Rising prices affect all of us and one of the areas affected is that of concerts and other entertainments. Luckily, there are some high-quality events which are actually free. Laura and I recently attended a BBC recording of Choral Evensong which will be broadcast on Radio 3 on the afternoons of Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July. The recording, at St Giles, Cripplegate (by the Barbican), featured the wonderful BBC Singers (recently rescued from closure, thank heavens) including our own Nancy Cole. The Reverend Richard Coles officiated and it was good to meet him in person, having heard his voice for so many years on the radio. Tickets for these recordings, like those of all BBC programmes, are free of charge, subject to availability.

The same is true of the lectures provided by [Gresham College](#), founded in 1597. This remarkable institution enables anyone who is interested to hear leading academics in their fields talk about a vast range of subjects, from mathematics to climate change, music to astrophysics and the British Empire to heart health. Laura and I recall a fascinating talk on how people down the ages have established and affirmed their identity, which covered topics from passports to body tattoos. All Gresham College talks are recorded and available to watch online, so you don't even have to leave home to enjoy them. There are, then, still some good things to be had for nothing!

Best wishes and blessings to all,  
Cortland.

**Sunday Service Details for 9<sup>th</sup> July 2023  
The Fifth Sunday after Trinity**

**0915** Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula  
**1100** Choral Matins St Peter ad Vincula

**Psalm** 45:10–end

**Readings**

Genesis 24: 34–38, 42–49, 58–end and Matthew 11: 16–19, 25–end

**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: *I love to see the summer beaming forth*, by John Clare.**

**John Clare** (1793–1864), the son of a poor farm labourer, was commonly known in his time as ‘The Northamptonshire Peasant Poet’ for his celebrations of the English countryside and his sorrow at its disruption by the industrial revolution. His childhood was marked by deprivation, and the consequent malnutrition may have both stunted his physical growth and led to later chronic ill-health. Although he had critical views on both its liturgy and ministry, he retained throughout his life his loyalty to the Church of England. So, whilst in his youth he dodged services and dawdled in the fields during the hours of worship, he derived much help in later life from members of the clergy. His declining years were marked by mental instability: for example, he believed himself to be both William Shakespeare and Lord Byron. He was fortunate to find asylum in a relatively humane institution (by the standards of its day), where he finally died of a stroke aged 71. Perhaps his most famous poem, ‘*I am*’ is a sad contemplation of feeling misunderstood and deserted by his friends. This poem, however, shows him in happier mood, rejoicing in the simple pleasures of a rural summer.

***I love to see the summer beaming forth***

I love to see the summer beaming forth  
and white wool sack clouds sailing to the north.

I love to see the wild flowers come again  
and mare blobs stain with gold the meadow drain  
and water lilies whiten on the floods,  
where reed clumps rustle like a wind-shook wood  
where, from her hiding place, the moorhen pushes  
and seeks her flag nest floating in bull rushes.

I like the willow leaning half way o’er  
the clear deep lake to stand upon its shore.  
I love the hay grass when the flower head swings  
to summer winds, and insects’ happy wings  
that sport about the meadow the bright day,  
and see bright beetles in the clear lake play.

**John Clare (1793 – 1864)**

**Our Congregation**



On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July, Major General Jonathan Swift and Henrietta McGourty were married in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula.

**The Chapel Bell Tower**

Last week, scaffolding was erected around the Chapel's Bell Tower. There is damage to the rendering, which is now being repaired by Historic Royal Palaces.



### **Jigsaw**

A beautiful table set ready for dinner in the White Tower. This is in the Royal Apartments, next door to the Chapel of St John the Evangelist.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=08cf82e62b42>



### **Prayers**



Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very ill, amongst whom we name: Norma, Ann, Ros, Mark, Madeleine, Dan, Derek, Colin, Ian, Patti, Florence and Kofi.

**Please continue to pray for Ukraine:**

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine 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, Cortland.



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