



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

Dear friends,

Last Sunday marked the start of Advent. It was a pleasure to see the chapel so full for our Advent Carol Service and to enjoy powerful readings and beautiful music. After church, a team of volunteers stayed behind to help decorate the chapel for the carol services which have already begun as I write this Newsletter. Thank you to the wonderful team who helped so much all Sunday afternoon.



### **Christmas Appeal**

**Spare Winter Coats:** I am hoping to collect 20 coats or jackets for a city-wide initiative to help keep those in need warm during this winter period. Coats and jackets can be any size (including children's); the charity simply requests that the coats should be clean and in good condition. If you think you can help, then please get in touch with me first by email ([Roger.Hall@hrp.org.uk](mailto:Roger.Hall@hrp.org.uk)) before bringing in a coat.

### **The London Hygiene Bank**

For the past six months, the chapel has been supporting this project, together with nearly all the churches in the centre of London. There is a box by the door of the chapel every Sunday morning, so do please drop in a few items each week if you can. These all add up, and will make a big difference to people who simply can't afford the normal hygiene items we take for granted. The following link gives details of what is needed, as well as how to donate. You could see this as a Christmas gift!  
<https://thehygienebank.com>

### **Food Bank**

The chapel will, as it has done every year, give a sizable cheque to the Food Bank, who are best placed to buy what is needed for those who need it most.

The Collect, or prayer, for the First Sunday in Advent starts with the words '*Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light...*' I hope that through supporting the above good causes, as well as others during this season, we may help some people move from darkness to light.

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

### **Sunday Service Details**

10<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### **The Second Sunday in Advent**

**0915** Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula

**1100** Choral Matins St Peter ad Vincula

Psalm 85: 1-2, 9-end.

**Readings** Isaiah 40: 1-11

Mark 1: 1-8.

### **Collect for The Second Sunday in Advent**

**Blessed Lord**, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience, and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **Our Congregation**

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, we held two weddings in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula. Congratulations to Arthur and Victoria, and James and Libby, and we wish them all the very best.



## Poem of the week

During Advent one of the great themes of the season is John the Baptist, the prophet and forerunner of Jesus. John had a difficult personality as his lifestyle challenged all those who met him. However, prophets are rarely known to be easy to live with....

Philip C. Kolin, born in 1945 in Chicago, was professor of English at the University of Southern Mississippi for 41 years, and is now professor emeritus. He has published more than 40 books, including nine collections of poetry. and many of his poems are influenced by his Roman Catholic faith. This poem, *John the Baptist*, published in 2021 in the journal *The Christian Century*, describes something of the character of John.

### **John the Baptist**

Out of the wilderness came this prophet of fire  
and repentance, his voice a flame igniting  
souls out of darkness to witness the Messiah.  
Wherever he went bonfires reddened the night air.

He wore a tunic of camel hair, and a rope  
cincture binding unruly flesh from  
appetite; he lived on locusts and burred  
cones. When he entered the Jordan

it flowed east, away from the sin-crusted west.  
Each wave was engraved with grace as he plunged  
sinners heavy with the world's woes under  
only to lift them up toward the light.  
But not the Pharisees. Stones would rise sooner.

When he announced Christ passing by,  
the birds of the air carried each honeyed syllable  
to every open heart and sin-ridden soul.

Philip. C. Kolin b. 1945

## Tower of London



The Christmas decorations are up around the Tower.  
Pictured are the Christmas trees lining Water Lane as you enter.

## **Jigsaw**

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=1ed64e942e89>



On Tuesday, the scaffolding on the Chapel Bell Tower was taken down, just in time for all of the Chapel's Christmas Carol Services! I thought it would make a challenging jigsaw for this week.

## **Prayers**

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

Norma, Ann, Mark, Dan, Ian, Patti, Florence and Kofi.

## **RIP**

Linda Jones, Derek Newman, Ros Loftus

## **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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