



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

Dear friends,



Unsurprisingly, this week's newsletter is full of reflections and photographs about the Coronation Weekend. I believe that it was yet another occasion when we, as a nation, have many reasons to feel a deep sense of pride. The Coronation Service itself was full of tradition, solemnity, awe and hope, as well as wonderful music and singing. Both the King and Queen were magnificent. The Archbishop of Canterbury, the many members of the clergy who were also involved, the staff of Westminster Abbey, and many others from different fields all performed their duties with humility, reverence and strength. Who can forget the beginning of the service, when that young Chapel Royal Chorister looked the King straight in the eye and reminded him that he is here to serve the King of Kings?

The Tower had a wonderful day on Saturday, despite the rain, and the chapel also played its part in the weekend's events. An almost full chapel on Sunday was followed by a jolly, festive and happy celebration of the Coronation Big Lunch, where we sat outside in warm sunshine. Thank you to everyone who played their part in contributing to the success of the day.

As I write this newsletter, I am reminded that Colonel Thomas Blood attempted to steal the Crown Jewels on 8th May 1671. His memorial is on the south wall of the chapel. After Coronation Day, when the Crown Jewels were so much in evidence at the Abbey, I'm very glad that the plot failed!

I hope you enjoy this newsletter which has a selection of photographs of the weekend's events. With my best wishes, thoughts and prayers for you all, Roger.

Ascension Day: 18th May 2023 at 1900 in the Chapel of St John the Evangelist

Sunday Service Details for 14th May 2023
The Fifth Sunday after Easter

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

Psalm 66: 7-end.

Readings

Genesis 8: 20 -9:17
John 14: 15-21

Collect for The Fifth Sunday after Easter

O Lord, from whom all good things do come;
Grant to us thy humble servants, that by thy holy
inspiration we may think those things that be good,
and by thy merciful guiding may perform the same;
Through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

The Coronation

The Constable and Governor of the Tower of London played a central role in the Coronation. The Constable was appointed Lord High Steward for the day and carried St Edward's Crown. The Governor carried The Queen Consort's Ring.



The Constable, Sir Gordon Messenger



The Governor, Brigadier Andrew Jackson

Gun Salute at the Tower of London

A gun salute fired by the HAC Regiment - Honourable Artillery Company - marked the Coronation. The Yeoman Warders and Tower Guard marched out, accompanied by members of the Welsh Guards. The HAC Band also performed and the ceremony was supported by the HAC Pikemen and Musketeers and the HAC Light Cavalry.



Lt General Sir George Norton



The Yeoman Warders

HRP Staff Party

Canon Roger and Sara Jackson judging the HRP Coronation cake competition.

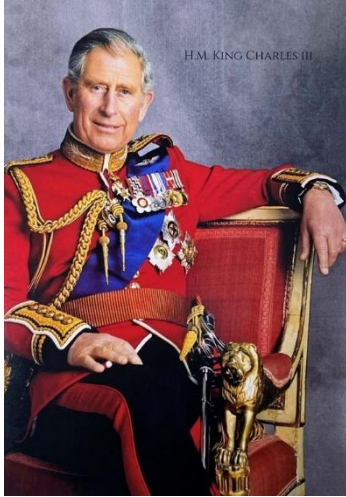


Chapel Coronation Big Lunch

Along with the rest of the nation, sixty members of the Chapel community, joined in the Chapel Big Lunch.



Online Coronation service



A special service celebrating the Coronation of HM Charles III was recorded in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula, and is available online.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/church-online/weekly-online-services>

Poem of the week

On 8th May 1930, John Masfield drafted a letter of acceptance to the Lord Chamberlain, concerning his forthcoming appointment as Poet Laureate. Other poets, including AE Housman, Rudyard Kipling and Walter de la Mare had also been put forward for selection but Masfield, then at the peak of his popularity, was strongly recommended by the Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald and duly appointed by King George V.

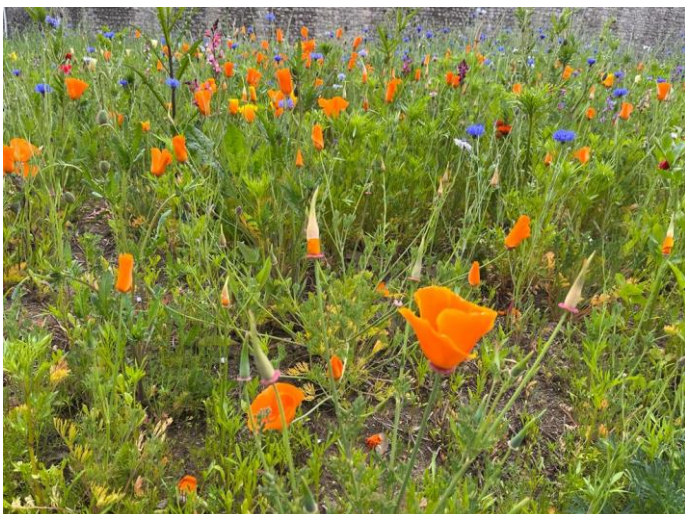
The Times commented that it was good to have as Poet Laureate a non-university man like Masfield, who was used to manual work and whose poetry could 'touch to beauty the plain speech of everyday life'. Masfield took his appointment very seriously and produced a large number of poems for royal occasions, as we saw in last week's Coronation poem. An Epilogue, which I have chosen this week, speaks to me of the joy of finding beauty, kindness, success and ultimately trust, where initially, this might have seemed unlikely.

An Epilogue

I have seen the flowers come in stony places
And kind things done by men with ugly faces,
And the gold cup won by the worst horse at the races,
So I trust, too.

John Masfield OM, 1878-1967

Flowers in the Tower of London Moat



Jigsaw

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=1ccb14774ae1>



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, Bridget and Veronica.

RIP

Christopher Perry, Martin Gough (Priest).

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, Roger.



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