



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

Dear friends,

Happy New Year! I hope and trust that you all had a pleasant and happy Christmas, and I wish you every blessing for the New Year. It was good to welcome people back into church last Sunday, as we celebrated Epiphany Sunday. The start of the New Year is a time for me to ask gently if any of you might be willing to help out with a number of roles in the chapel. We are very grateful to our team of flower arrangers, readers, coffee and tea servers and Chapel Stewards. The more people there are on the rotas means, of course, helping less often. However, it also means that we may need to call on you if, for whatever reason, someone can't make it on the day they have agreed to help.

I was very sorry to learn of John Critchley's death just before Christmas. He was, for many years, a faithful member of our 0915 congregation, often arriving on his bike. His funeral is on 16th January and we are keeping Sandy (his wife), Chloe, Sam and the grandchildren in our thoughts and prayers.

If you are a regular member of the chapel community and do not yet have a chapel pass, please let me have a passport photo of you, with your name on the reverse, so that we can organise one.

I look forward to seeing many of you over the coming weeks, and send you all my very warmest good wishes.
Roger.

On this day: On 10th January 1645, Archbishop William Laud was taken from The Tower of London to be executed. He was a friend of Charles 1st and a high churchman, but the puritan Parliament of the day impeached him in 1640, and sent him subsequently to his death on Tower Hill.

Services Details, Sunday 15th January 2023

0915 Holy Communion in St Peter ad Vincula

1100 Choral Matins in St Peter ad Vincula

Psalm

40: 1 – 12.

Readings

Isaiah 49: 1-7.

John 1: 29- 42.

Collect for the Second Sunday after Epiphany

Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern
all things in heaven and earth; Mercifully hear
the supplications of thy people, and grant us thy
peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ
Our Lord. **Amen.**

Poem of the week

As we are in the season of Epiphany, I have chosen Journey of the Magi as this week's poem.

Here, T.S. Eliot retells the story of the biblical Magi who travelled to Palestine to visit the new-born Jesus, according to the Gospel of Matthew. It is a narrative, told from the point of view of one of the Magi; the poem expresses themes of alienation and a feeling of powerlessness in a world that has changed. The poem's dramatic monologue incorporates quotations and literary allusions to works by earlier writers such as Lancelot Andrewes and Matthew Arnold.

Although the poem is directly about one of the Magi, the poem is more generally about the pains of letting go of one way of life—one faith—and acknowledging the birth of another.

Journey of the Magi

‘A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.’
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.
But there was no information, and so we continued
And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.
All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for

Birth or Death? There was a birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.

TS Eliot OM, 1888-1965

The Chapel choir singing at the Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels, Marden.

In Marden there is a café run by a Ukrainian lady called Olga. She has been raising funds to support people in Ukraine (her own parents are in a village just outside Kiev) and has personally driven several shipments of supplies to the Polish/Ukraine border. Colm very much wanted to do something to help Olga and to support Ukraine, and to this end they organised a concert which involved the Tower choir, to raise funds. Thank you to all of those that attended and helped to raise money for this cause, at the time of writing they have raised over six and a half thousand pounds.



Our Congregation



On Sunday 8th January, Cleo Brown was Baptised in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula. Thank you to the family for sending in this lovely picture.

Tower of London

The Tower of London welcomed Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Wednesday 11th January.



Jigsaw

Cherry picker spying on the Chaplain and his wife.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=2d0482b89619>



Prayers

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

RIP

John Critchley, Heather Whittingham and Peter Sawford.

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, Roger.



Canon Roger J Hall MBE
Deputy Priest in Ordinary to HM The King
HM Tower of London
07908 413045
Roger.Hall@hrp.org.uk
Twitter @RogerHall53