



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

Dear Friends,

You may have already seen the important notice from Debbie that the exit from the Tower after the 0915 service now has to be via the East side of the Tower and out through the Middle Gate. This then avoids the Tower Opening Ceremony. Please do make a note of this if you attend the early service.

Debbie is also now beginning to collect names for the **Patronal Festival** on July 5th. Because of all the arrangements for Superbloom, we will need names for the gate this year.

Please come and join us on **Ascension Day** (May 26th) for the service in St Peter ad Vincula at 1800hrs, which will be followed by the Beating of the Bounds. The whole event will be over by 1930 hrs.

It was a pleasure to present Cortland, Colm and Christian with their Platinum Jubilee medals last Sunday. These medals can be worn from the Jubilee Weekend in June onwards. The Goodbox – that is, the contactless machine at the back of the chapel – is unfortunately broken. I am trying to get it repaired or replaced as soon as possible.

There will be lots of weddings, baptisms and other events in the Chapel over the next two months as summer approaches, and we will be thinking especially of all those taking part in such happy occasions. Please continue to use the prayer for Ukraine at the foot of the Newsletter.

With my best wishes, thoughts and prayers, Roger.

**Sunday Service Details**  
**15<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – The Fourth Sunday after Easter**

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

**Psalm 148**

**Readings**

Acts 11: 1-18

John 13: 31-35

**Collect for The Fourth Sunday after Easter**

**O Almighty God**, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Poem of the week**

Charlotte Mew is considered one of the greatest English women poets, and this poem, *'The Farmer's Bride'* is arguably her masterpiece. It is a dramatic monologue where a 19<sup>th</sup>-century farmer considers his relationship with his wife. It was a ground-breaking piece of work which shed light both on Mew's literary expertise and on her unique style of writing and use of language. Her life, which she kept very private, was full of tumultuous sorrow, loss, and upheaval from a very young age. She was the eldest daughter of seven children, but while she was still a child, three of her brothers died. Another brother and then a sister were committed to psychiatric hospitals where they spent the rest of their lives. Both Mew and her sister Anne, the remaining children, made the decision to renounce marriage, for fear of passing on what they believed to be a family disorder.

## The Farmer's Bride

Three summers since I chose a maid,  
Too young maybe—but more's to do  
At harvest-time than bide and woo.  
When us was wed she turned afraid  
Of love and me and all things human;  
Like the shut of a winter's day  
Her smile went out, and 'twadn't a woman—  
More like a little frightened fay.  
One night, in the Fall, she runned away.

“Out 'mong the sheep, her be,” they said,  
'Should properly have been abed;  
But sure enough she wadn't there  
Lying awake with her wide brown stare.  
So over seven-acre field and up-along across the down  
We chased her, flying like a hare  
Before out lanterns. To Church-Town  
All in a shiver and a scare  
We caught her, fetched her home at last  
And turned the key upon her, fast.

She does the work about the house  
As well as most, but like a mouse:  
Happy enough to chat and play  
With birds and rabbits and such as they,  
So long as men-folk keep away.  
“Not near, not near!” her eyes beseech  
When one of us comes within reach.  
The women say that beasts in stall  
Look round like children at her call.  
I've hardly heard her speak at all.

Shy as a leveret, swift as he,  
Straight and slight as a young larch tree,  
Sweet as the first wild violets, she,  
To her wild self. But what to me?

The short days shorten and the oaks are brown,  
The blue smoke rises to the low grey sky,  
One leaf in the still air falls slowly down,  
A magpie's spotted feathers lie  
On the black earth spread white with rime,  
The berries redden up to Christmas-time.  
What's Christmas-time without there be  
Some other in the house than we!

She sleeps up in the attic there  
Alone, poor maid. 'Tis but a stair  
Betwixt us. Oh! my God! the down,  
The soft young down of her, the brown,  
The brown of her—her eyes, her hair, her hair!

Charlotte Mew 1869 - 1928



## Platinum Jubilee Medals

On Sunday, Roger presented Reverend Cortland Fransella, Colm Carey and Christian Wilson with their Platinum Jubilee medals.



This week, the Tower Officers and Yeoman Warders were presented with The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal, in recognition of their close association with the monarch in this Jubilee year.





## Important dates for your diary

### Thursday 26th May

Ascension Day and the Beating of the Bounds. Following a short Evensong at 6pm, the congregation will make their way to Tower Hill where we will meet our friends from All Hallows by the Tower and 'beat our bounds' with ceremony and fun. This will again be recorded for the next programme about The Tower. Do come and join us.

### Sunday 5th June

Jubilee Weekend and State Parade for Whit Sunday.

### Tuesday 5th July

Patronal Festival with the former Bishop of London, The Rt Rev and Rt Hon The Lord Richard Chartres as our preacher.

## Historic Royal Palaces – Superbloom update

The seeds have been sown for HRP's mini Superblooms! Hillsborough Castle and Gardens, Hampton Court Palace and Kensington Palace will be joining in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations with a vibrant display of flowers.



## Jigsaw

Yeoman Warder Chris Clawson, with the Gurkha regiment on duty at the Tower.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=1457115d29c4>



## **Prayers**

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very poorly, amongst whom we name: Deborah, Heather, Pat, Sue, Mark, Madeleine, Vivienne, Judy, Dan, Derek, Ann, Bridget and Peter.

We pray for all those who have died and especially for those who have met violent deaths. May they rest in peace.

### **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 and prayers, Roger.



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