



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

Dear friends,

It has not gone unnoticed by people in the congregation that there has been a steady stream of weddings and baptisms in the chapel since Easter. Last Sunday I baptised Poppy, whose parents I married; I have married and baptised many other members of the Velloso family. It was really wonderful to see so many familiar faces in the chapel, all affirming their faith and belief in Jesus Christ and reaffirming that faith together. I reminded them that children are a gift of God and therefore part of the people of God.

For most Christians, baptism is the way in which we enter into the household of God, but that is just the beginning of the journey of faith. Engaging in practices of prayer, worship, reading the scriptures, generosity, service and mutual encouragement, we deepen our relationship with God. God, in turn, then transforms us. Over time, we become people so steeped in God's word, including the '*Word made flesh*', that it becomes part of us.

A church or chapel full of people well informed in their faith can hardly fail to be attractive and welcoming. Please keep all those about to be, or recently baptised and married in the chapel, in your prayers.

The scaffolding outside the west door of the chapel is there because a piece of masonry from the top of the tower came away recently, and could potentially have caused a serious accident. This week a structural engineer has been assessing the damage to the tower and then a decision will be made as to the way forward. This will mean, however, that the scaffolding could be there for some time.

**Our Patronal Festival is on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July at 1830.** Please would you let Debbie know if you are attending?

The chapel closes after the Sunday service on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July and services will resume on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

Thank you all for continuing to donate to the City of London Hygiene Bank <https://thehygienebank.com>  
Your support is much appreciated.

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

**Dates for your diary:**

**Sunday 16th July** RAF Regiment Association at the 11am service. It will be Chief Yeoman Warder Pete McGowran's last Sunday.

**Wednesday 19th July 1830** Patronal Festival at St Peter ad Vincula. *If you haven't already done so, please let Debbie know that you plan to come.*

**Sunday 23rd July** The last Sunday before the summer break. Please stay for a glass of wine after church.

**Sunday Service Details for 16<sup>th</sup> July 2023**  
**The Sixth Sunday after Trinity**

**0915** Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula

**1100** Choral Matins St Peter ad Vincula

*(The RAF Association will be joining us, and it will be Chief Yeoman Warder Pete McGowran's last Sunday.)*

**Psalm 119: 105-112.**

**Readings** Genesis 25: 19-end

Matthew 13: 1-9 and 18-23.

**Collect for The Sixth Sunday after Trinity**

**O God**, who hast prepared for them that love thee such good things as pass man's understanding; Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Our Congregation**

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July, Poppy Velloso was Baptised in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula. Poppy joins a long line of Velloso's baptised or married in the Chapel.



## **Poem of the week**

This week I have chosen a poem by Leo Marks; born in 1920, he died in January 2001. He was a screenwriter, cryptographer and poet. Marks wrote an account of his experiences during WW2 called '*Between Silk and Cyanide: A Codemaker's Story 1941-1945*'.

On this day, the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 1940, (as I write this Newsletter), Marshal Philippe Pétain became head of the collaborationist regime of Vichy France, despite General de Gaulle's appeal to the people of France, the previous month, to resist the rule of the Germans. Pétain was sentenced to death for treason after the war, a sentence which was commuted to life imprisonment on the Île d'Yeu, where he subsequently died in 1951.

Leo Marks, when working as a cryptographer for the Special Operations Executive (SOE) in London, nurtured a passion for Ruth, the goddaughter of Sir Charles Hambro, the executive head of SOE. Marks wrote this poem after she was killed in an air crash in Canada and later gave it as a *code poem* to the Franco-British agent Violette Szabo for her to use when encoding her messages. She was parachuted into France on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1944, to co-ordinate the work of the French Resistance after D-Day, but was captured and handed over to the Gestapo in Paris for interrogation. Violette Szabo was then sent to Ravensbrück women's concentration camp, where she was executed in January 1945, at the age of 23. She was posthumously awarded the George Cross. The poem '*The Life That I Have*' was used in '*Carve Her Name with Pride*', the film about her life.

This poem always moves me, especially after my time as an army chaplain, and is one that I have used at the funerals of a number of soldiers killed in action.

### **Code Poem for the French Resistance (also called *The Life That I Have*).**

The life that I have  
Is all that I have  
And the life that I have  
Is yours

The love that I have  
Of the life that I have  
Is yours and yours and yours.

A sleep I shall have  
A rest I shall have  
Yet death will be but a pause  
For the peace of my years  
In the long green grass  
Will be yours and yours and yours.

**Leo Marks 1920-2001**

## **Agapanthus in St Katharine's Dock.**



## **Tower of London, the Constable's Reception**

On Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of July, the Constable of the Tower of London, Gen Sir Gordon Messenger, hosted the Constable's Reception. Guests enjoyed a tour of the newly presented Jewel House, the Royal Marines Jazz Ensemble performing on Tower Green and the Beating Retreat by The Band of HM Royal Marines Plymouth on the Broadwalk.



## **Jigsaw**

Two of the Yeoman Warders enjoying the Beating Retreat.



<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=oo cfadde26e2>

## Cartoon



## Prayers

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

## RIP

Dougie Dennis

### **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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