



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

HM Tower of London

Dear friends,

This week's newsletter will be focusing on the Installation of the new Constable of the Tower of London, General Sir Gordon Messenger. It was a very moving, splendid and dignified ceremony and a wonderful evening altogether, which everyone present thoroughly enjoyed. We all wish the new Constable and his family our best wishes as he begins his period of office. We also look forward to seeing him and his wife in the chapel.



I would also like to express my warmest thanks to the many people who donated towards this year's Harvest Appeal. The money raised will be divided between the Tower Hamlets Food Bank and the UNHCR Children's Appeal for children affected by the floods in Pakistan.

The autumn colours are all around us, and the trees are starting to shed their leaves. At the same time, the nights are closing in and many people are beginning to put their central heating on. Please remember all those who find this time of year difficult and a source of great worry, especially as winter approaches. Not everybody finds the season of autumn appealing, in spite of its beauty, for these reasons.

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

Sunday Service Details

16th October 2022: The 18th Sunday after Trinity

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

Psalm 119: 97-104

Readings

Jeremiah 31: 27-34

Luke 18: 1-8

Collect for the 18th Sunday after Trinity

Lord, we beseech thee, grant thy people grace
to withstand the temptations of the
world, the flesh, and the devil, and with pure
hearts and minds to follow thee the only God; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Poem of the week

Laurie Lee was born in Stroud, Gloucestershire in 1914 and lived for the first twenty years of his life in the village of Slad. During his teens he played the violin in a local dance band and, after leaving school at 15, became an errand boy at a firm of chartered accountants in Stroud. He left home at 20 and got a job in London as a builder's labourer. He went to Spain in 1935, eking out a living as he travelled across the country by playing his violin, and then volunteered in the Spanish Civil War for the International Brigade. During the Second World War, he made documentary films for the GPO Film Unit in London and was caption-writer-in-chief for the Festival of Britain in 1951, for which work he was appointed MBE. He is perhaps most famous for his autobiographical trilogy, whose first volume, *Cider with Rosie*, describing his childhood in Slad, was published in 1959 to great acclaim. He also began writing poetry in 1944 and is remembered for his nature poems. *Field of Autumn* is one of his lesser-known poems, but is one I like and find particularly meaningful at this time of the year.

Field of Autumn

Slow moves the acid breath of noon
over the copper-coated hill,
slow from the wild crab's bearded breast
the palsied apples fall.

Like coloured smoke the day hangs fire,
taking the village without sound;
the vulture-headed sun lies low
chained to the violet ground.

The horse upon the rocky height
rolls all the valley in his eye,
but dares not raise his foot or move
his shoulder from the fly.

The sheep, snail-backed against the wall,
lifts her blind face but does not know
the cry her blackened tongue gives forth
is the first bleat of snow.

Each bird and stone, each roof and well,
feels the gold foot of autumn pass;
each spider binds with glittering snare
the splintered bones of grass.

Slow moves the hour that sucks our life,
slow drops the late wasp from the pear,
the rose tree's thread of scent draws thin –
and snaps upon the air.

Laurie Lee 1914–1997



The Constable's Installation



On Wednesday 5th October, we witnessed the Installation of the 161st Constable at the Tower of London, General Sir Gordon Messenger. The office of the Constable of the Tower is one of the oldest in England dating back to within a few years of the Norman Conquest, and is an honour given by the Monarch.

In this case, Her Majesty, The late Queen Elizabeth II, appointed General Messenger last summer but the Keys to the Tower, passed to the Constable during the ceremony, were The King's.

The Installation was a terrific spectacle, with a marching band, fanfares, soldiers drilled on parade and the Yeoman Body in full ceremonial dress.

General Sir Gordon Messenger is the first Royal Marine to hold the post, which has been recruited from senior ranks of the Army since 1784.

Also on parade were The Royal Marines, The Royal Marines Band, 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and The Honourable Artillery Company.



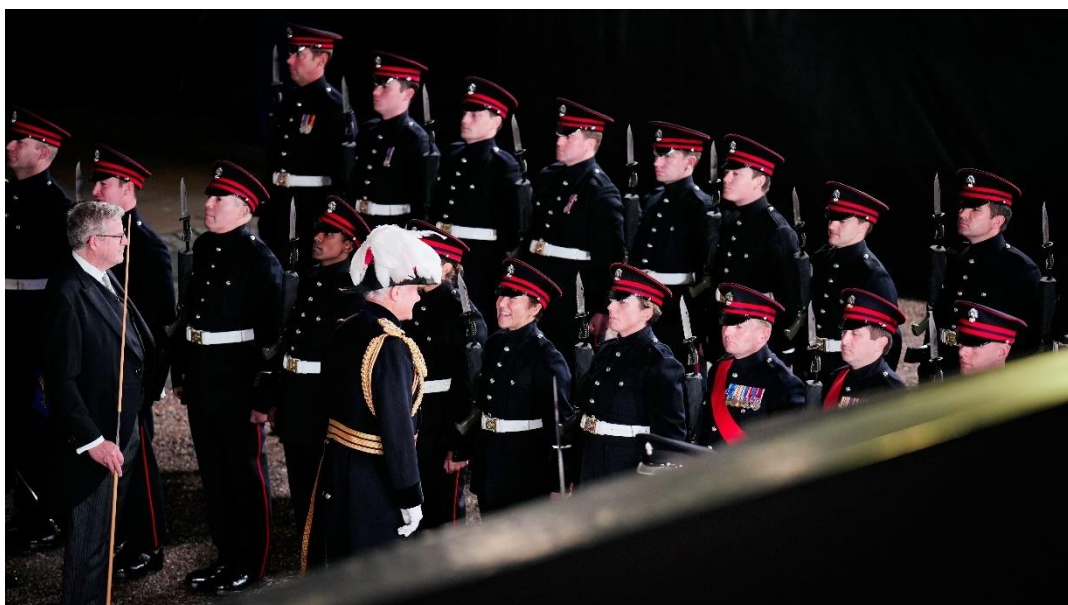


Historic Royal Palaces Curator Charles Farris gives a short history of the position of the Constable of the Tower in the video below.

<https://www.facebook.com/HRPalaces/videos/511143967501720>

You can still watch the Installation of the Constable on the Tower of London's Facebook page – please follow the link below to view.

<https://www.facebook.com/HRPalaces/videos/612097990459058>



The Constable accepting the King's Keys (the Tower's symbolic golden keys) and Custody of the Tower of London



Jigsaw

This week's Jigsaw is of the Chief Yeoman Warder Pete McGowran doffing his headdress and crying "God preserve King Charles".

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=0dec6d0970da>



Yeoman Gaoler Rob Fuller marching the Body of Yeoman Warders off the Broadwalk.



Events in the Chapel

LOVE BADE ME WELCOME – MUSIC AND POETRY

Wednesday 19th October



Join us for a vibrant and colourful concert at St Peter ad Vincula of music inspired by words of George Herbert, Christopher Smart, James Stevens and Sara Teasdale.

Enjoy classic English choral favourites by Benjamin Britten and Ralph Vaughan Williams, alongside distinctive works by Erik Ešenvalds and Samuel Barber.

The concert also includes the world première of *A Necklace of Anne Boleyn Poems*, written and performed by poet Rachel Long. This sequence of poetry was commissioned by the Chapel as part of its 500th anniversary celebrations in 2020.

Tickets available at –

<https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/whats-on/love-bade-me-welcome-music-and-poetry/#gs.e30bck>

Our Congregation

On Sunday 9th October, Henry Criard, son of Georgina and Julien, whom many will remember from their time at the Chapel, was baptised in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula.



Prayers

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

RIP

Audrey Howard.

Those who died in the explosion in Donegal and those who died in the nursery in Thailand.

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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